Sid Shields (Glasgow) – active 1911-22
This is the first issue of The Old-Timer and it is my intention to produce three or four such issues per year. The main purpose of the magazine is to present historical information about the many thousands of professional boxers who were active between 1900 and 1950. The great majority of these boxers are now dead and I would like to do something to ensure that they, and their exploits, are not forgotten. I hope that in doing so I will produce an interesting and informative magazine. The Old-Timer will draw heavily on the many thousands of fight records that I have produced and will be unashamedly statistical in content. The career stats for most of the boxers referred to will be recorded within each article and a number of detailed fight records for some of the more interesting boxers will be regularly included. I also intend to reproduce a considerable number of high quality photographs and images in each issue to illustrate the stories and boxers about whom I write.

There were many great boxers during the first fifty years of the twentieth century including Jimmy Wilde, Len Harvey, Freddie Mills, Benny Lynch, Teddy Baldock and Jock McAvoy. Although I will obviously refer to men such as these it is not my intention to dwell on them. Their stories have been told before, often very regularly, and many of them have had specific books published about them. This magazine will concentrate instead upon the lesser lights, the fighters who were idols and heroes within the towns and cities that produced them and who were the backbone of the sport but who are now almost completely forgotten. There are many thousands of these men and if I can do something to preserve the memory of a few of them then this magazine will be worthwhile.

By far the most valuable resource available to the modern boxing historian is Boxing News magazine which was first published in 1909 and for which weekly copies have been produced ever since. Between 1909 and 1940 the magazine was known simply as 'Boxing' and I have in my collection virtually every copy during this period. The Old-Timer will pay homage to 'Boxing' and I will draw considerably upon information from it. In an attempt to recreate something of the feel of the early copies of this wonderful publication I have commandeered some of the very striking headings that were used in the very early copies and I will occasionally use them. The ‘Editor’s Ideas’ is just one example of this.

There is a huge amount of boxing material that never made the pages of ‘Boxing’ however. Much of this I have located in the endless visits that I make to libraries up and down the United Kingdom. I will draw equally heavily on this material in The Old-Timer.

My prewarboxing website was launched in 2003 and since that date I have directly helped over one hundred families to learn more about their boxing ancestors and frequently they have helped me to learn a lot more about the personal lives of these boxers. One of the most useful aspects of this magazine will be to amalgamate boxing history with family history so that the articles and features contained within are made more interesting. There are some examples in this first issue.

Some readers may be disappointed in the lack of material in the Old Timer on post war boxers. I will say that the magazine will always concern itself primarily with the pre war boxing scene as that is the period that I am most interested in. However as my research expands beyond 1950 I will start to write more about boxing in the period between 1940 and 1970 and future articles will reflect this.

I am particularly open to suggestions about potential stories to be included especially if anyone can contribute new and interesting information about a long forgotten boxer or contest.

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Wembley 1924 – Britain’s most enterprising boxing promoter suffers financial ruin

In 1913, after Frenchman Georges Carpentier had clubbed British Heavyweight Champion Bombardier Billy Wells to the canvas at the National Sporting Club in 73 seconds, writer F Hurdman Lucas opined ‘Weep, oh ye Britshers, e’en as we all must, for this blow is the greatest of all’. He explained that at no time in its illustrious past had British Heavyweight boxing been at such a low ebb.

After the tremendous conflagration that spread across Europe between 1914 and 1918 had concluded, British boxing fans were optimistic that a new champion might redeem national pride and step forward to reclaim national honour. Carpentier returned to London in 1919 to put paid to these hopes, crushing the new British Champion, Joe Beckett, in 75 seconds. Did these extra two seconds represent an improvement in British fortunes since 1913, or had things got even worse? In 1920 Beckett defeated ex World Champion Tommy Burns, then aged 39, in seven rounds but was then slaughtered by American Frank Moran in 2 rounds. Beckett managed to beat Moran in a return in 1922 and this re-ignited hope that a British Heavyweight Champion might eventually beat Carpentier. They fought again at Olympia, London on Oct 1 1923 and the report of the contest taken from ‘Boxing’ stated that “The M.C. waited until the men retired to their corners before he shouted his final speech through the megaphone. And then the gong went. Inside three seconds Beckett was on the floor. Inside ten seconds the towel had come in from his corner. It is true that the Frenchman delivered at least two punches. Some spectators asserted that he sent in four or five. The first looked like a left tap to the point of the chin. The second was that poisonous right – and a peach of a punch at that. Beckett went down like – well, like Beckett”. Surely British Heavyweight boxing had now reached its true nadir.

Or had it? Beckett immediately retired, although despite his relatively disappointing career boxing had made him a rich man. The vacant title was contested by Frank Goddard, a previous Beckett victim, and Jack Bloomfield. Goddard and Bloomfield had Goddard on the canvas twice in the second round. Goddard was nailed by Bloomfield a third time whilst he was still on the floor from the second knockdown. Referee Joe Palmer had no option but to disqualify Bloomfield, who by this time was a certain winner. The new champion was described by the editor of ‘Boxing’ as “far worse than he has ever been in his life, worse even than it was possible to believe that any man with the faintest pretensions to boxing could be”. Unfortunately, the winner of this contest had been guaranteed a match with Carpentier and ‘on last Wednesday’s performance Goddard might conceivably last longer than fifteen seconds in front of the Frenchman, but who would bet that he would last a full round?”.

At the same time as these contests were taking place the American Jack Dempsey looked invincible as World Heavyweight Champion. The gulf between British and French Heavyweight boxing looked bad enough, but Dempsey versus Goddard was an utterly inconceivable notion. Many people still thought that Britain, the place where boxing was born, still occupied a premier place on the world stage and that it could compete against the likes of Tex Rickard for the really big contests. One of these men was Major Arnold Wilson.

Wilson was a first world war hero. He had won the Military Cross and had twice been mentioned in despatches. He had crawled out into no mans land under fire in order to save the lives of two wounded soldiers. Before the war he was part of the Liverpool consortium that opened the Stadium on July 6th 1911. This venue, situated in Pudsey Street, became world famous and was known as the ‘graveyard of champions’. After the war Wilson worked closely with promoter C.B. Cochrane on some of the major London shows before he branched out on his own as a big-time promoter in the metropolis. He promoted the farcical match between Carpentier and Beckett at Olympia in 1923.

In 1923 Wembley Stadium opened its doors for the first time. Primarily a football stadium, Wembley was also used for the 1924 British Empire Exhibition and it was during the summer of 1924 that Wilson leased the premises to stage an international heavyweight contest that, he hoped, would fill the stadium to capacity and make himself a fortune. The stadium was designed to seat more than 100,000 people and Wilson thought that a heavyweight contest between a top-flight American and Jack Bloomfield would arouse sufficient interest to fulfil his plan. The Exhibition was drawing in crowds from all over the country, many of whom were being brought to London by special trains, and Wilson sought to capitalise on this captive audience. Wilson had greatly overestimated public interest in the contest and the promotion finished him as a major promoter, ruined him both financially and took considerable toll on his health. What were the reasons for this?

Firstly Bloomfield was really only a Light-Heavyweight. In 1921 he contested the British Middleweight Title and when he fought Goddard For the Heavyweight Title in 1923 he was
supposedly outweighed by 35lbs. Although he had fought in the States he had hardly set the place on fire and to the average Britisher he was not a household name. The American that Wilson matched with Bloomfield was Tommy Gibbons. This boxer had never before fought in Britain, or even Europe, and although he had recently fought a no decision affair against Georges Carpentier, who was obviously very well known in Britain, most Britishers would never had heard of him. He was most well-known for his 1923 Heavyweight title contest with Jack Dempsey, an awful contest in Shelby, Montana, in the veritable backwaters of US boxing. He was also aged 33 and in boxing terms therefore an old man. To expect to fill the Stadium with this contest was optimistic to say the least.

Wilson’s plan to encourage the Exhibition visitors who may not have been boxing fans by setting low prices for admission was a risky strategy. He gambled that the London fight fans would naturally be drawn to the contest, especially if prices were low, but he also gambled that he would make his money from the majority of the spectators would be attending the bout as part of the Exhibition ‘experience’ or through curiosity. ‘Boxing’ predicted that this would be a successful strategy and also hinted at the need to revive the fortunes of British boxing as compared to the America ‘Even if it be argued that only a moderate percentage of these Exhibition visitors will be fight fans, as generally recognized, it is considerably more than probable that this opportunity of seeing a really big fight at most moderate prices will not be neglected.

When one is on the spot one does not, as a rule, let a good thing pass by one. There is going to be a crowd at Wembley next Saturday in any case, it is up to all of us to see that it shall be a record crowd. America has been setting up so many records of late that it is time that we established a few on our own account’.

Gibbons purse was reputedly £10,000 ($50,000) plus training expenses. Bloomfield earned around £6,000 for the contest and it has been estimated that the total financial outlay for the event was approximately £27,000. This was really big money in 1924. In order to cover costs Wilson probably felt that 50,000 spectators paying an average of 10 shillings each was all that was needed and anything above 50,000 spectators would guarantee his profit.

The weather on the day was gloriously sunny and the event had attracted considerable advance publicity. Despite this only 27,000 people turned up and whole sections of the Wembley stadium were completely empty. Whatever optimism there may have been that Bloomfield could beat Gibbons were quickly dispelled. After an even first round, within which Bloomfield had defended effectively and traded blows equally, the second round was a disaster for him. He started to mix it with Gibbons very early in the round and this was a foolish policy, no doubt brought about by Bloomfield’s over-confidence. Towards the end of the round he was caught by a left hook and the follow-up right and left sent Jack to the boards. Upon rising he was an open target and he was put
down twice more, the final time for keeps. The bell saved him however, and after some feverish work from his seconds he was sent out for the third. The round did not last long. After being put down for '8' almost immediately after the round commenced Gibbons turned to referee Eugene Corri and appealed for him to stop the bout, Corri waived him back into the fray and so Gibbons measured Bloomfield for one final punch which brought the bout to its conclusion.

Such an easy conquest put British Heavyweight Boxing even further back into the mire. It ended Bloomfield’s career as he never fought again and it also ended the promotional career of Major Arnold Wilson. ‘Boxing’ lamented this latter loss particularly ‘Our chief regret is that our one really enterprising promoter has come to grief, and there would not, at the moment, appear to be anyone ready to fill the vacancy. A promoter of Major Wilson’s calibre, or enterprise, however, is one of our surest needs. There are a number of quite interesting bouts awaiting promotion, while there are a still larger number of quite promising boxers, ready for cultivation into lost-laurel recoverers – whose future adventures and improvement will suffer most melancholy interference, unless we can produce some promoter willing to take them in hand’.

There were no more really big promotions between world class Americans and leading Britishers until four years later in 1928 when Mickey Walker was brought across the Atlantic to defend his World Middleweight Title against Tommy Milligan. The effects of the 1924 disaster did not subside until well into the 1930s when, once again, British promoters felt confident enough to regularly stage such huge promotions.

Jack Bloomfield retired after this contest, with any pretensions towards him acquiring world class status well and truly exposed. He took part in only 38 contests but he boxed for the British Title at three different weights, Middle, Light-Heavy and Heavyweight. He held the British and British Empire Light-Heavyweight titles at the time of his retirement. His brother Joe fought in an eliminator for the British Middleweight Title in 1928 losing on a twelfth round disqualification to Billy Adair (Bethnal Green) before retiring in 1930 after 104 contests.

Major Wilson never promoted a major boxing event again and he died in January 1952.

Gibbons tees Bloomfield up for an overhand right

Bloomfield seeks to evade a Gibbons attack to the body

Packed at ringside, but Wembley has whole tiers of the 5s 9d seats completely empty. This press photograph was probably taken from the most advantageous position to make the crowd look bigger than it was. The Stadium is bedecked for the British Empire Exhibition.
They died in the war

Allan Porter of Salford

Standing in a forward trench near Bullecourt just before 6.20 am on 20 November 1917 the 7th/8th battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers were ready to go over the top in the latest important battle on the Western Front. They would probably not have known that their attack was merely a feint for a much greater battle to be fought seven miles to the south at Cambrai.

One of these soldiers knew all about the importance of the feint when attacking an opponent for he had fought over 50 contests in the boxing ring and had achieved considerable success. At zero hour Allan Porter stepped out into no man's land alongside his comrades and advanced towards Tunnel Trench, the objective of the attack.

This was to be his final walk.

Prior to this the path of his life had taken him along a hard road. Born in early 1892 in Salford, Manchester to Joseph, a bricklayer, and Elizabeth Porter he was the third of 5 children. At the age of 17 he commenced a short ring career which though successful, ended tragically and brutally within only three years, almost costing him his life.

Porter had his first contest in the winter of 1909 for promoter Martin Lane at the Central Boxing Academy in the Palatine Buildings on Deansgate, Manchester. The club moved early in 1910 across the city to Fairfield Street and it was here that Porter became a favourite. A featherweight, Porter was blessed with exceptionally long reach, the ability to box and with hitting power. He was boxing 15 rounders at the top of the bill within fourteen months. Having only lost one of his previous 17 contests he was matched against Nat Williams of Liverpool in July 1911 in a rubber contest at the old Liverpool Stadium. This famous venue had opened a fortnight before and on the night that Porter made his debut there the top-liner was an international heavyweight contest between George ‘Boer’ Rodel and Sam McVea. Rodel lasted only 2 mins and 40 secs before being carried back to his corner spark out. The arena was packed to the rafters with 3000 in attendance and Porter and Williams fought a rugged duel, with both men down in the last round.

The decision was given to the local and it met with a mixed reception. Porter returned to winning ways when he stopped tough Londoner Fred Halsband at the International Hall, Liverpool in his next fight. After a losing 20 rounder against another Liverpudlian, Jim Lewis at Widnes, Porter returned to the Liverpool Stadium to lose by disqualification to Jack Matthews of Hanley. Matthews was the father of Stanley Matthews, perhaps the greatest footballer of his generation. Jack was a barber who was renowned for the exhuberance of his waxed moustache. After a crushing one round defeat at Plymouth to Young Lippo, Porter rehabilitated himself with some good results before he journeyed south to make his London debut in early 1912.

He boxed three times in the capital against very stiff opposition. He made his first appearance at the Ring, Blackfriars, when acting as a late substitute against Fred Housego of Paddington. He used his straight left to good effect and despite tiring towards the conclusion of the contest he well merited his points victory. His win proved popular with the patrons who had expected this unknown late substitute from the north to take a pasting. George Groves(Canning Town) for whom Porter had substituted was at this time one of England’s leading Bantamweights and a contender for Digger Stanley’s title and he was matched with Porter at the Ring in late February 1912. Groves was too good for the Northerner and the bout was stopped by referee and promoter Dick Burge after Porter had been knocked down and with one of his eyes slowly closing.

Porter’s third London contest could not have been tougher. He moved across river into London’s East End to take on Ted Kid Lewis at Premierland in a 10 rounder on March 16th 1912. The fight report in ‘Boxing’ is brief but it suggests that Lewis won easily. Porter then took a four month rest before returning to action back in his native Lancashire. After outpointing Jim Lewis in a return at Liverpool Stadium he then beat tough fellow-Mancunian Briney McGuinness and black
American Kid Fitzgerald before taking on Seaman Arthur Hayes at Manchester.

Ten years older than the 20 year-old Porter, Hayes was a top-line performer at this stage of his career and he had contested the British Featherweight Title in 1910 against Jim Driscoll. To Porter he administered a severe beating, the ‘Boxing’ reporter stating that ‘From the 5th round Hayes drove Porter from pillar to post and hit him where and when he liked. Porter was certainly game, and persevered against hopeless odds, but the punishment dealt out to him was so heavy as to cause the referee to intervene in the un lucky 13th round, as he was hanging on the ropes helpless’. After only ten days Porter was back in the ring to fulfil an engagement at the Liverpool Stadium against George Mackness of Kettering. Mackness had lost his previous five contests and ordinarily would have posed little problem for Porter but the beating handed out by Hayes had finished him. Within a minute of the start Mackness had Porter pinned in a corner where he inflicted rough treatment. In the second round Porter appeared nervous and by the fourth, after being knocked down he was ‘none too steady on his pins’. The referee stopped the bout in round seven and Porter was ‘unable to walk to his dressing quarters, owing to having collapsed on his return to his corner. Three doctors were immediately in attendance upon him, and, responding to treatment, he partially revived, but was thought advisable to have him removed to the infirmary’. He later had a relapse and again fell unconscious. He was found to be suffering from concussion and he finally came around in the evening of the following day. Mackness was detained by police and charged with causing grievous bodily harm as he had struck Porter two blows whilst the latter was in a state of collapse.

A week later ‘Boxing’ reported that Porter ‘is still lying at the Royal Infirmary. His progress towards recovery is only slow, and some time must elapse before he will be able to return home. He is in a private ward at the expense of the Stadium’. He was eventually discharged but never fought professionally again.

Five years later, somewhere behind the lines on the Western Front Porter fought in a six rounder against Staff-Sgt Clements, a man 20lbs heavier. This, his very last contest ended in a points defeat. He won 35 of 54 contests and beat some extremely good men along the way. His early promise was unfulfilled for when he met the very best he was found wanting. Nevertheless he was one of the north’s first line featherweights at a time when the north had much to offer at this weight including Billy Marchant, Nat Williams, Johnny Robinson, Jim Lewis, Jerry Delaney, Tommy Mitchell, Dom Vairo, George Ruddick and Mick Gordon.

As Porter made his way across no-mans land the general attack was proving very successful as German resistance was minimal. Tunnel Trench was quickly secured and the men pressed on to their next objective. In only one place did the assault encounter any serious opposition and this was on the left flank where Porter and his Fusilier comrades suffered great losses due to machine gun fire from strongly held German emplacements. It took over an hour to subdue this resistance and by that time Porter and many others had ‘gone west’. His body was never found and his name, along with 34,715 other allied troops who have no known grave and who died in the same sector of the Western Front, is to be found on the Arras memorial.

His brief life had been snubbed out in the mud and today Allan Porter is remembered by virtually no-one. I salute him.
During the first 50 years of the twentieth century Scotland produced a number of outstanding flyweights with Benny Lynch and Jackie Paterson being the two greatest. Three other outstanding boxers all held the British title between 1915-29 these being Tancy Lee, Elky Clark and Johnny Hill. Beneath these five exceptional men there were very many more excellent 8stoners that held or contested the native title. When the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) was established in 1929 it inaugurated a series of official area councils that were responsible for the licensing and organisation of boxers and boxing. They also held the responsibility for area championships. Prior to 1929 the process of establishing area champions was unofficial and haphazard. This article will attempt to clarify the line of Scottish Flyweight titleholders between 1910 and 1929 and will comment upon the relative merits of the champions and challengers during this period.

There were many claimants prior to 1910 but the first Scottish Flyweight title contest that I can find within the period of interest occurred on Monday February 27 1911. This bout took place at the Victoria Athletic Club, Glasgow, between Adam Kid Cunningham (Glasgow) and Walter McDonald (Glasgow). This club was established in 1910 and occupied the premises of the former Caledonian Athletic Club on Dalmarnock Road, it featured regular boxing until its demise in 1928. Cunningham and McDonald appear to have contested the vacant title before a full house and after a scientific contest, during which both were on the canvas, Cunningham knocked McDonald out in round nine. Shortly thereafter McDonald sailed to the United States to continue his career. After a run of 6 contests without a win Cunningham defended the title for the first time in July 1912 and was knocked out by Johnny Best(Glasgow) in 11 rounds at the National Athletic Club in Bridgeton, Glasgow. Cunningham had some trouble making the weight and was greatly troubled by Best’s persistence in attacking with body blows. Cunningham also toured the United States and he came across Walter McDonald there in 1912.

After returning to Scotland Cunningham boxed on sporadically into the 1920s. Johnny Best made his first defence in November 1912 against Aberdonian Bobby Stevenson. Prior to the contest Stevenson appears to have been undefeated, I have traced 11 contests for him with 9 wins and 2 draws. His inexperience told against the champion and he was well behind when he was finally knocked out in the 20th and last round. Interestingly Stevenson suspected some jiggery-pokery had occurred at the weigh in as he claimed that Best was significantly overweight for this contest.

Twelve days later Stevenson entered the ring in his home town at the Olympia Theatre against Glasgow’s Billy Padden and won a tight contest on points. Padden held two victories over Best and so this win re-established Stevenson’s potential as the natural challenger. Three weeks later at the same venue he defeated Young Hislop(Glasgow) and this set up a return with Best at the Olympia on December 20th. The contest was a 20 x 2 minute round affair and despite having Best in great trouble in the 12th round he was rapidly dealt with in the 13th.

Best was a small, stocky and thick-set boxer who proved to be a good champion winning all of his successful championship fights by the knockout. After defeating Stevenson for the second time he racked up wins against Londoners Stoker Hoskyne(Lambeth) and Johnny Hughes (Bloomsbury). He was in line for a £100-a-side contest at The Blackfriars Ring against Bill Ladbury(Greenwich) when he took on Tancy Lee at 8st 4lbs in April 1913. This bout was expected to be easy for Best but for some reason he appeared to be weak and lethargic and he was outclassed from the start and finally stopped after 17 rounds. Lee went on to become the British Flyweight Champion in 1915 and the British Featherweight Champion in 1917 and was one of Scotland’s most exceptional boxers. The bout with Ladbury was cancelled and two months later Ladbury became British Flyweight Champion. During 1914 Best twice met Sid Shields (Glasgow) in 10 rounders. He lost the first bout by
Shields often claimed the Scottish Flyweight Title and I suspect that it was his victory over Best in the first of these non-title affairs that led to his claim.

After Best appears to have forfeited the title there were a number of good 8 stone in Scotland to contest the vacant title. Chief amongst these were Sid Shields, Billy Padden, Jim Blackley(Edinburgh), Dan McGrady(Govan), Walter Buchan(Leith) and Jim Easton(Glasgow). However it was the emerging Walter Ross(Glasgow) who came to the fore. Aged 18 he met Sid Shields in a contest for the vacant title on Aug 7 1916. Ross was described as a wonder boxer whose ‘attack, defence, judgement of distance, footwork, ringcraft and generalship are excellent in every degree’. However in Shields he was meeting a seasoned professional of far greater experience. Since being crushed by Jimmy Wilde in March 1915 Shields had fought 27 times but he had won only nine of these bouts and so the contest with Ross was a pretty even match. Ross confirmed his promise by punching out a clear victory over 20 rounds and taking the title at the Victoria AC. Ross was undefeated in his next 7 contests and, amazingly, he won five of them via disqualification. By this time he was a soldier and he struggled to make the 8 stone limit. Defending his title for the first time against Pat McKay(Glasgow) in 1917 he was badly beaten in a great surprise, retiring in the 13th round. The bout took a lot out of him and delayed his return to regimental duty. Ross went on to become British Bantamweight Champion in 1919. Contests for the Scottish Flyweight Title then became considerably harder to trace and there were some champions about whom very little is known. Information about McKay, for instance, is obscure. I have only been able to trace 5 contests for him and all of these took place in 1917. There is no trace of him losing his title in the ring and I suspect that he dropped out of the game, possibly after joining the army.

The title was vacant until after the war, by which time Packy Connors(Bridgeton) lay claim to the title. Again, I have been unable to trace Connors’ victorious championship contest but he defended his title against Johnny Muir(Glasgow) on Oct 24 1921 losing on points over 20 rounds. Johnny Muir is even more of a mystery. My records on Scottish boxing in this period are reasonably good but I have only ever found one contest for Muir and that is this title victory. Having won the title and then seemingly left the sport and his title became vacant during 1921-22.

On Jan 15th 1923 Jim Blackley(Edinburgh) and Willie Woods(Bridgeton) met for the vacant title at the National AC. Blackley had recently won an important Flyweight competition at Glasgow and had won 21 of 37 contests. Woods had been a pro for 2 years and had won 12 of 20 bouts including a points victory over Elky Clark. Evenly matched, the bout started off at a great pace and was nip and tuck until the end of the 4th when Blackley was poleaxed by a right hander. The gong saved him but he was an easy target in the 5th when Woods
weeks after Lemmon’s victory over Docherty at the Scottish Stadium in Govan, Walter Tweedlie (Wishaw) outpointed Freddie Tennant (Dundee) for the vacant title at Dumfries. Tweedlie was a real veteran, aged 35 and a pro since 1924, he was a journeyman who did extremely well to succeed Benny Lynch. He lost the title in a rematch with Tennant and immediately retired with a 24-17-5 record. Tennant had a 15 year career and had 177 contests (74-73-30). He successfully defended against Snowball Frame (Burnbank) in 1939 before losing to Jackie Paterson, another all-time Scottish great. Like Lynch, Patterson went on to win the British and the World Flyweight Titles and after relinquishing the Scottish title he was replaced as champion by Billy Cinton (Croy) who beat Hugh Cameron (Glasgow) for the vacant title in 1940 and then lost it to him in a rematch the following year.
Scottish Flyweight Title contests 1910 - 1941

Feb 27 1911 Adam Cunningham(Glasgow) KO9 Walter McDonald(Glasgow) Glasgow Victoria AC 20
Jul 2 1912 Johnny Best(Glasgow) KO11 Kid Cunningham(Glasgow) Glasgow National AC 20
Nov 11 1912 Johnny Best(Glasgow) KO20 Bobby Stevenson(Aberdeen) Glasgow 20
Dec 20 1912 Johnny Best(Glasgow) KO13 Bobby Stevenson(Aberdeen) Aberdeen Olympia 20
Aug 7 1916 Walter Ross(Glasgow) WP Sid Shields(Glasgow) Glasgow Victoria AC 20
Jul 2 1917 Pat McKay(Glasgow) WR13 Walter Ross(Glasgow) Glasgow National AC 15
Oct 24 1921 Johnny Muir(Glasgow) WP Packy Connors(Bridgeton) Glasgow Victoria AC 20
Jan 15 1923 Willie Woods(Glasgow) KO5 Jim Blackley(Edinburgh) Glasgow National AC 20
May 15 1923 Willie Woods(Glasgow) WP Elky Clark(Glasgow) Parkhead Physical Culture School 20
Apr 25 1927 Jim Campbell(Glasgow) WP Pacy Cassidy(Govan) Glasgow National AC 20
Oct 26 1928 Walter Lemmon(Clydebank) Wtt12 Hugh Docherty(Dumbarton) Govan Scottish Stadium 15
Nov 30 1928 Jim Campbell(Glasgow) WP Walter Lemmon(Clydebank) Glasgow Scottish Stadium 20
Feb 22 1929 Jim Campbell(Glasgow) WP Walter Lemmon(Clydebank) Govan Scottish Stadium 20
Jul 4 1930 Walter Lemmon(Clydebank) WS10 Alex Boyes(Parkhead) Glasgow Shawfield Park 15
Aug 29 1930 Jim Maharg(Glasgow) WP Walter Lemmon(Clydebank) Glasgow White City 15
May 8 1931 Jim Maharg(Glasgow) WP Jim Campbell(Glasgow) Glasgow Firhill Park 15
Dec 8 1932 Jim Campbell(Glasgow) Wdsq8 Jim Maharg(Glasgow) Govan Scottish Stadium 15
May 16 1934 Benny Lynch(Glasgow) WP Jim Campbell(Glasgow) Glasgow Olympic Sports Ground 15
Jun 27 1934 Benny Lynch(Glasgow) WP Jim Campbell(Glasgow) Glasgow Cathkin Park 15
Jan 29 1938 Abe Tweedie(Wishaw) WP Fred Tennant(Dundee) Dumfries 15
Jul 6 1938 Fred Tennant(Dundee) KO10 Abe Tweedie(Wishaw) Dundee 15
Jan 18 1939 Fred Tennant(Dundee) WS11 Snowball Frame(Burnbank) Dundee Caird Hall 15
May 31 1939 Jackie Paterson(Glasgow) WS11 Fred Tennant(Dundee) Dundee Ice Rink 15
Aug 24 1940 Billy Clinton(Croy) WS7 Hugh Cameron(Glasgow) Perth 15
Dec 14 1940 Billy Clinton(Croy) WS12 Fred Tennant(Dundee) Dundee Premierland 15
Aug 23 1941 Hugh Cameron(Glasgow) KO1 Billy Clinton(Croy) Glasgow 15
They died in the ring

Dick Roughley of Barnsley

Dick Roughley was only 20 years old when he died. Like many boxers of the period he was the major breadwinner within his family. He supported his widowed mother, partly through the money he earned in the ring and partly from the wages he earned as a collierman at Barnsley Main colliery. He lived at Commercial Street, Barnsley and his boxing manager was ex-pro and fellow Barnsley man, Charlie Glover. Roughley was a boxer who revelled in a fight and who relied on his strength, rather than boxing science, to beat his opponents. As a consequence he took a lot of punishment.

On November 13th 1927 Roughley was matched with Charlie McDonald (Sunderland) in a 15 round contest at the top of the bill on an Albert Heslop promotion at the National Sporting Club in Mill Street, Leeds. Heslop had been promoting both indoor and outdoor shows at this venue since 1924 and he was a very fair man who paid his boxers the same amount, win or lose. After a fairly even start McDonald started to take over the contest in the middle rounds and he had Roughley on the floor twice in the later stages of the contest. In the 15th and last round McDonald punched Roughley from pillar to post and applied a great deal of heavy punishment. The referee, Ben Green (Leeds) applied the closure before the end of the round. At this point Roughley walked to his corner, sat on the stool, and then got up to join McDonald in the centre of the ring where they shook hands. He then staggered, spun around and fell with his head against the ropes. The doctor in attendance, Dr Levey, and Roughley’s seconds then spent half an hour trying to revive him before he was removed to Leeds Infirmary. His condition became critical overnight, and he remained unconscious for 52 hours before he passed away.

At the inquest the Leeds coroner Sir William Clarke declared that the cause of death was ‘concussion with a slight haemorrhage’ and no blame was attached to either McDonald, Heslop or Green. A committee was quickly formed to raise funds for Roughley’s mother and his siblings and at the Leeds NSC promotion the following week £34 was raised. Before the contests commenced, in what must have been a very moving ceremony, the crowd stood in silence as the ringside bell tolled ten.

Collections were taken all over the country. £14 4s 7d was raised at the St James Hall, Newcastle, where Roughley had fought twice earlier in the year (once against Charlie McDonald). £100 was raised by the patrons of Premierland, in the heart of London’s east end. Just seven weeks before his death Roughley made his debut in the capital by acting as a late substitute at Premierland and giving local favourite Billy Adair a drubbing over 15 rounds. Ten days later they were rematched at the same venue and Roughley stopped Adair in nine. The Londoners liked the look of Roughley and this was reflected in the size of their collection. In McDonald’s home town at the Holmeside Stadium, Sunderland on November 19th Harry Lem (Leicester) was disqualified in the main event. His purse was £12 and from this £7 was deducted and added to the Roughley fund. The Stadium promoters, the Black brothers, added another £5 to this and a further collection was taken from the crowd.

Roughley was just another scrapper, amongst the many thousands active at the time, and although ring deaths were not uncommon during this period, I have always been particularly touched by his demise. I hope that this little tribute does something to keep his memory alive.
In June 2007 I met up with George Lawson of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. George is the son of a very good fighter from the 1930s, George Lawson of Hull. We discussed George’s boxing career at some length and reflected on the days when Hull was a boxing centre of some importance.

Hull is a large city on the east coast of northern England. For centuries it has been a major fishing port and during the twentieth century it also had very busy dockland. This connection with the sea has meant that, over the years, the town has been exposed to sailors and merchants from all over the world and this is reflected in the diversity of many of the fighters who have fought there. It will be seen from an accompanying article that Sam Minto had his first contests here before the first world war, after arriving in the city from the West Indies.

Hull has produced a number of boxers of the first rank and before the war these included Con O’Kelly, Jack Carrick, George Lawson, Ike Bond, George Darley, Stan Squires, Billy Rewston, Sid Gould, Harry Moody and Percy Wilson. During the 1940s and 1950s men like Frankie Jackson, Sammy Shaw, Peter Morrison, Stan Gossip, Les Rendle and Johnny Borrill were the main standouts. Since the 1960s Hull has produced men of the calibre of Roger Tighe, Ricky Beaumont, Jackie Turner, Tony Bagshaw, Brian Husband, Chris Clarkson, Tony Foster, Steve Pollard, Kevin Toomey and Peter Waudby.

Today Hull’s most celebrated boxer is probably Tony Booth, veteran of over 150 contests and the first Hull boxer to contest a British Title when he lost in 6 rounds to Crawford Ashley in 1998. Unlike many of the boxers who have had over 100 contests these days, Tony has actually managed to win quite a lot of them.

Before the first world war there were a large number of different venues in Hull that staged professional boxing. These included the New Olympic Club, the City Athletic Club (promoter William Corlyon), The Empire Theatre, the Hull Ring, The Assembly Rooms, the Circus Hall (promoter Mr Swan), the Skating Rink and the Rugby League Football Ground (Hull KR). Percy Wilson and Ike Bond were the major bill toppers from the city at that time and other frequent top liners included Jerry Thompson (Grimsby) and Joe Heathcote (Wigan).

After the war regular boxing commenced at the Madeley Street Baths, near the fish docks, and promotions occurred at this venue until well into the mid 1930s. Mr E Holloway was the initial promoter here and one of his major stars was Middleweight Harry Moody. Once Moody had retired from the ring he became a big time fish merchant in the city and he made a lot of money. He remained interested in boxing and by the 1930s he became principal promoter at the Baths regularly bringing the best boxers to Hull including British Champions Jack Hood, Al Foreman, Gipsy Daniels, Reggie Meen, Bert Kirby and Nel Tarleton. In the 1920s and 1930s boxing also took place at the Hull National Sporting Club, the White City, the Metropole Hotel, the Wenlock Barracks and the Lyric Theatre.

George Lawson and his partner John Taylor promoted at East Hull Baths in the late 1930s until the late 1940s when they handed over the promotorial reins to Eddie Mainprize.

During the 30 years between 1950 and 1979 there were less than ten shows in Hull as boxing went into decline in the city. Promoter and ex-pro Sid Gould lost money in the 1960s promoting local heavyweight Roger Tighe at the City Hall and there were only two shows throughout the 1970s. The following decade saw a revival of fortunes as 16 shows were held at a variety of venues. The real turning point came in the 1990s when there were over 60 shows in the city at venues including the KC Sports Arena, the Willerby Manor Hotel, the City Hall, the University Hall, the Ennerdale Leisure Centre and three hotels, the Country Park, Quality Royal and the Grange Park. Future World Heavyweight Champion Lennox Lewis boxed at Hull in his fourth pro contest in 1991. There has now been boxing in every year at Hull since 1987.

So far this century there have been a steady stream of shows, mainly at the KJC Sports Arena and today Hull is, once again, a thriving boxing town.
Hull fighters

Sammy Shaw

Percy Wilson
George Lawson of Hull – a boxer, trainer and promoter and one of Hull’s finest

George Lawson was born in September 1908 in Spivey Street, East Hull, the son of a coal merchant and boxing fan. His father encouraged all of his sons to box from an early age and as he showed considerable promise Lawson became the protégé of old Con O’Kelly, the 1908 Olympic Heavyweight Wrestling Champion and a household name in the city. Three of O’Kelly’s pupils won national schoolboy honours, George Hart, Lawson and O’Kelly’s son, who was also called Con. Young Con went on to become a top class heavyweight who boxed at Madison Square Garden against Jim Maloney and who also boxed Ernie Schaaf and King Levinsky. George Hart died of a heart attack after collapsing in the ring during a contest at Hull in 1924 when aged around 16. George Lawson became a top-flight lightweight during the 1920s and 30s who lost a close decision to Jim Learoyd for the Northern Area title in 1931.

After turning professional in 1924 George was spotted by Gus Platts of Sheffield, who at this time was an active referee on the Northern circuit. Platts had been British and European Middleweight champion for a three month period in 1921. He liked the look of young Lawson and he invited him to Sheffield so that he could manage his career. Lawson arrived in Sheffield in late 1926 and boxed a trial bout in a public workout with flyweight Tiny Smith at the Red Lion Hotel on Duke Street. He was sent to live with a Sheffield bookmaker and boxing fan, Bill Cohen who was responsible for George’s fitness and roadwork. Cohen liked a drink and as Lawson ran the five miles along the road Cohen took the bus and met him at their destination, the pub.

Lawson trained assiduously in Platts gym above his pub, the Blue Boar on West Bar and before long was winning contests at the Edmund Street Drill Hall. In one of these early bouts he fought and beat George Adams(Sheffield) but in the process picked up a cauliflower ear. Lawson and Adams became lifelong friends after this bout and they died within months of each other over 50 years later. In March 1927 Lawson was invited to take part in an eight round contest at the National Sporting Club in Covent Garden, London. Such an invitation meant that Lawson was a most promising prospect and one that ‘Headquarters’ wanted to have a look at. He knocked out Harry Kent(Tonbridge) in 7 rounds to win this important bout. After the contest he was introduced to the club’s principal guest, Ted Kid Lewis. Lawson later recalled that his principal memory of the evening was just how beautiful were the women who formed the bulk of Lewis’ retinue.

He lost his unbeaten record in his next bout when boxing against Pop Newman, a middleweight. Quite what Platts was doing putting in his lightweight protégé with a man of Newman’s class, weight and experience is impossible to fathom but Lawson was badly beaten over the full 10 round course. In his next contest, a cut eye loss to Eddie Donoghue(Middlesbrough) he learned a valuable lesson. In the dressing room after the contest Eddie explained that in evading a straight left he had dropped his head and caught Lawson thereby inflicting the eye injury. After Lawson stated that an accident like this was bound to happen in the ring, Eddie added that it was no accident, “when you get to my age George, you will be able to do that as well. Instead of slipping the straight left over your left shoulder, let it come over your right shoulder and then drop your head. Your opponent will come right onto you and you can catch him a beauty with your head”.

Lawson held five of his opponents in the highest regard. The first of these was Jim Learoyd. After beating and drawing with Learoyd their first two contests Lawson the lost the remaining five. The most important of these was the Northern Area Lightweight title fight in June 1931 at the Hull City football ground on Anlaby Road. Around 10,000 spectators turned up to watch a close contest that could have gone either way but went to Learoyd after a closing rally which proved enough for him to retain his title. I have traced 260 contests for Learoyd and he was one of the great northern boxers in the 1930s.

Chuck Parker was described by Lawson simply as a ‘gentleman’, just about the highest accolade one could give a man in the 1930s. They met twice in the summer of 1930, Lawson won one bout and the other was drawn. Parker became Northern Area Welterweight Champion in 1935 and boxed Dave McCleave for the British title in 1936. He won 103 of 164 contests in a long career.

Frank Depledge of Sheffield was described by Lawson as the best young fighter he had ever seen. Unfortunately Depledge died of Tuberculosis in the summer of 1933 aged only 21. He won 60 of the
76 bouts I can trace for him. Along with George Adams another early opponent, Angus Hogarth (Sheffield), was held in the highest esteem. To begin with Lawson and Hogarth did not like each other and their two contests were needle matches. But the respect they held for each other’s ability led to lasting friendship. This one of the great values of boxing, particularly at that time, two men don’t like each other, they fight, they earn respect and then they like each other. Their personal feelings are transformed by the sport in which they are engaged.

After retirement in 1934 Lawson opened up a gym in East Hull where he sparred with, trained and then promoted young hopefuls on the shows which he ran at the East Hull Baths. He formed a partnership with John Taylor, a Rugby League hooker with Hull Kingston Rovers. For years they promoted under the banner ‘Lawson-Taylor Promotions’ and as well this they ran a dance hall, the Chinese Lantern, and Lawson was also an on-course bookmaker at most of the Northern race meetings and at the Hull greyhound stadium. Between them they did very well.

With the outbreak of war in 1939 Lawson joined the Army and quickly became a Sergeant in the Army Physical Training Corps. He boxed all over the country in exhibition contests at factories, military bases and drill halls in order to raise money for the war effort. These shows were known as ‘Black and Whites’ and a frequent opponent was Wally Cromey, a former top class amateur and ISBA champion. In 1933 Cromey was beaten by Harry Mizler in the ABA Lightweight semi-final at the Royal Albert Hall.

The introduction of entertainment tax in 1952 meant that promoting was a risky business in the small halls and Lawson-Taylor Promotions ceased to operate after this time. Lawson bought a newsagent which he and his wife ran although he continued to operate as a bookmaker. In the 1960s he opened a couple of betting offices and became the landlord of the Grapes Hotel in Hull. After suffering a stroke in 1971 he retired and for they next 7 years he took life more easily. One day in 1978 after having a pint of beer he left the pub to go home for his lunch and after spotting a friend across the street he waived to him and then fell down dead. He never knew serious illness and had a full and active life. In my opinion, along with Con O’Kelly and Jack Carrick he was one of the top three boxers to come from Hull in the 1920s and 1930s.
Jimmy Wilde – a regular destroyer of Bantamweights and Featherweights

Whilst perusing the recent biography on Jimmy Wilde produced by Gareth Harris I started to think about just how phenomenal this little man was. It is easy now to think of him as just another flyweight, one of many British flyweights who have won the World title. People ask was he better than Benny Lynch? Would he have beaten Jackie Paterson or Walter McGowan? Both questions miss the point about Wilde. What made him truly remarkable was the fact that although he had to fight in the flyweight class, as that was the lowest weight class in his day, by today’s standards he wasn’t a flyweight at all. In fact his natural fighting weight (around 7st 2lbs) was considerably below the current Light-Flyweight level and he would even be conceding weight to some of today’s Straw-weights, yet he spent a large part of his career knocking out Bantamweights and Featherweights.

Wilde was notoriously reticent about revealing his weight for his contests and it was frequently kept secret. When he beat Johnny Rosner(USA) in 1916 he weighed around 7st 2lbs. He knocked out future British Bantamweight Champion Tommy Noble in 1916 when conceding between 18lbs and 20lbs. Noble was no mug either, he toured the United States extensively in the 1920s meeting all of the top men and rarely losing within the distance. Against future World Bantamweight Champion Joe Lynch(USA) in 1919 Wilde took a close verdict when fighting with a 14lbs disadvantage. Joe Symonds outweighed Wilde by 15lbs when they contested the British Flyweight Title in 1916 but was stopped in 12 rounds. For me, though, one of his most remarkable feats was to give featherweight Joe Conn around 2 stone and 4 inches in height in 1918 and to comprehensively out-box him before stopping him in the 12th.

Conn was never the British Featherweight Champion although in his very next contest he met Tancy Lee(Paisley) for the title and lasted until the 17th round. Before the Wilde contest he had won 12 on the trot and amongst these victims were three men who at one time held a British title, Sid Smith, Tommy Noble and Curley Walker. He had also beaten Welsh feathers Danny Morgan(Tirphil) and Idris Jones(Ammanford) inside the distance and both of these men were of the highest order.

The idea of matching Jimmy Wilde with Joe Conn came from promoter Jack Callaghan. The show was
held at Stamford Bridge, the home of Chelsea football club in London’s west end. It was not a natural match and I suspect that it was carefully contrived to allow Wilde to demonstrate to a large London audience just how versatile he was in being able to beat a man 30% heavier than he was. Conn was a dangerous protagonist but ‘pound for pound’ not in Wilde’s class.

Wilde prepared for the contest in training quarters at Camberley, Surrey and Conn trained a short distance away at Egham. Both were in the peak of condition when they entered the ring at 4 o’clock on that Saturday afternoon nearly 90 years ago. Conn was described by ‘Mirror of Life’ reporter J. Frank Bradley as having skin with a ‘peculiar yellowish tinge’ whilst Wilde’s was ‘a healthy looking pink’. The promoter had allowed wounded ex-Servicemen into the show for free and between 3,000 and 5,000 of them had taken him up on his offer. The soldiers swelled the crowd to around 10,000. Already 4 inches the shorter Wilde chose to fight in a crouch whilst Conn stood bolt upright. The height difference to many of the observers would have seemed to be a foot or more and the difference in weight was obvious for all to see. The accompanying photographs show this very clearly.

Wilde assumed the attack immediately and Conn was forced onto the retreat where he tried to defend himself with the use of the long left. In the third round Conn attacked and yet Wilde still took the honours with evasive tactics that caused most of Conn’s attacking blows to miss the target. The contest proceeded with first one, and then the other mounting an attack and Conn connected on a number of occasions with some quite telling blows. By round seven Wilde was staring to look distressed and Conn’s heavier blows were starting to make a difference. The 8th was a bad round for Jimmy and his eye was cut in the 9th. This general pattern continued into the 10th but then from nowhere Wilde scored with a hard right and Conn fell to the canvas ‘like a stricken ox’. He got up at nine but was put down a further four times before the round ended. With Conn at his mercy Wilde hit him at will during the 11th and 12th rounds and after being down a further seven times the referee finally stepped in and rescued him.

This contest showed just how Wilde could turn a contest completely around with the severity of his punching. He had Conn down eleven times in all and although he failed to put him down for the count this is probably because of Conn’s 2 stone advantage in weight. Although he got up every time he was beaten senseless when the contest ended, his extra weight proving to be no advantage to him whatsoever.

Joe Conn ended his career in 1925 with a 68-31-6 record from 106 contests.

Wilde’s career ended in 1923 following losses to Pete Herman, to whom he conceded over a stone, and finally to Pancho Villa for the World Flyweight title. In my opinion Wilde was not only the best British Flyweight of all time but pound-for-pound one of the greatest of all British boxers.
This issue’s star picture. Joe Conn(Bow), 2 stone heavier and 4 inches taller than his opponent, Jimmy Wilde at Stamford Bridge Football Ground, Chelsea, London on Aug 31 1918. Despite gaining the ascendancy in the middle rounds Conn was despatched in the twelfth after having been on the floor eleven times.
Jimmy Wilde
The Mighty Atom
The Ghost With a Hammer in His Hand
The Tylorstown Terror
1892-1969
Sam Minto was born in Barbados in the West Indies some time around 1883. He was often billed from the USA but I am pretty sure that he never lived there. In the period after the First World War black boxers were frequently billed as being from Africa, the West Indies or the USA. Little attempt was made to bill them correctly. Sam’s early contests took place in Hull and I think it likely that he arrived in Hull on a ship, found himself some lodgings and then set about trying to earn money. He may have boxed before his UK debut in some other country but I have never seen any evidence of this. He had his first in June 1909 and the last recorded contest that can be traced took place in March 1937. Minto boxed for nearly 28 years therefore and over 300 contests have been traced for him.

He boxed extensively on the booths where, as well as taking on all-comers, he had a number of legitimate 10 and 15 round contests and it is also claimed that he toured South America as a boxer. I am certain that many of Sam’s contests will never be found and I suspect that he took part in between 400 and 500 professional contests.

He was phenomenally busy. For instance in 1928 when he was aged in his mid 40s I have traced 49 contests for him. These were all 10, 12 and 15 round affairs and most of them went the distance.

He had a 28-13-8 record in this year and so he was clearly no trial-horse, amongst the 28 men that he defeated were Nipper Plant(Hanley), Pop Newman (Leicester), Bert Cannons(St George’s), Dave Danahar(Bethnal Green), Kid Haycox(Mansfield) and Jim Blake(Bethnal Green). Most of these boxers were a little short of top rank calibre but they were all fighters who regularly topped the bill in boxing halls up and down the country.

He boxed reasonably regularly in Britain between June 1909 and June 1910 but then there are no further contests for him until June 1911. I think it unlikely that he stopped boxing for this period. It is far more likely that he packed his bags and moved elsewhere, perhaps in Europe, where he continued to ply his trade. Gaps like this are frequent in his record. There are no contests on his record between July and November 1911 and between March 1913 and January 1914. I have only found one bout for him in 1915 and two in 1916. He also appears to have relocated elsewhere between March 1925 and February 1927 although I have traced a contest for a Kid Minto of Panama at Carlisle in March 1926. I suspect that this could be Sam, perhaps having returned from South America, and prior to journeying elsewhere.
Towards the end of his career he had his own boxing booth and during the late 1930s and throughout the 1940s he took this booth all over Britain. He frequently boxed himself even though by this time he was nearly 60. The late Bob Hartley, the author of that fine History and Bibliography of Boxing Books (1988) was a professional boxer himself during the 1930s and he stated that he boxed and beat Minto in the 1940s.

My record for him includes 302 bouts, with 129 win, 131 losses, 38 draws, 1 no decision and 3 contests for which I have been unable to trace the actual result.

According to Northampton historian Sid Green, Minto died alone in his flat some time in the 1960s and the only person at his funeral was the policeman who found his body. He was an extremely popular and well loved man during his lifetime, especially amongst the boxing fraternity who did not get to hear of his death until some time later. Had they known of his demise one can rest assured that his funeral would have been a very well attended affair. May he rest in peace.

He seems to have settled permanently in Britain upon his return in February 1927 and I have traced nearly 160 contests for him in the ten years between 1927 and 1937. Many of these were fought when Sam was approaching 50 years of age.

Another prominent and very active black boxer in Britain at this time was Billy ‘Flutey’ Green, who was based in Cardiff but was usually billed from the USA or the West Indies. Sam and Flutey often appeared on the same bill and I strongly suspect that they also boxed under each others names. Sam Minto also appeared under different names, including the name Sam Armstrong, and as a consequence his record is difficult to compile.

During the 1930s Sam travelled all over the UK fighting in boxing hinterlands either at the top of the bill or often in supporting ten rounders. He very often acted as a substitute. A glance at his record for 1932 shows him fighting in Harrow, Bournemouth, Adwick-le-Street, Mansfield, Retford, Worcester, Stamford, Barnsley, Wembley, Lincoln, Southend, Aldgate, Ipswich, Diss and Camden Town.

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Needle Match between Local Rivals

Premierland Sep 14th 1925

Johnny Curley v Phil Bond

Lambeth is situated right in the heart of London on the south side of the River Thames and is adjacent to Southwark, Bermondsey, the Borough and Walworth, all fertile breeding grounds for boxers in pre-war years. During the nineteenth century the population within this part of London had increased tenfold largely due to the influx of rural labourers and their families seeking work in the new industrial factories and the displaced Irish seeking to escape the great famine of the 1840s. Boxers from this area were sometimes known as ‘South-Siders’ and the great arena in which they fought was the Ring, Blackfriars which held shows up to three times per week between 1910 and 1939. Although the most intense rivalry existed between boxers from the south of the river and those from the East-End there was also considerable competition between ‘South-Siders’ themselves. Lambeth had produced many great boxers including Ted Pritchard, Matt Wells and Gunner Moir, all of whom claimed or held British titles, but in the 1920s the two outstanding men were the featherweights Johnny Curley and Phil Bond.

Curley was the older of the two, born 9 Nov 1897, and a professional since 1912. He started his career as Ginger Curley and was the brother of Harry Curley who had had over 100 contests and topped the bill at The Ring in a number of 20 rounders. Johnny Curley fought for ten years before he achieved real prominence but in 1924 he was overlooked when eight men were selected to contest eliminator s for the vacant British title. Some of these men were clearly inferior to Curley and had indeed lost to him. George McKenzie(Leith) emerged as winner of this competition and became the British champion. Later in the year Curley met McKenzie at the National Sporting Club in a 15 round contest made at 9st 2lbs and he clearly outpointed him. He
Beat Curley fair and square and he trained hard. Meeting, was a non-title affair. However, he meant to doubt Bond was disappointed that this, their first evidence, as witness when Bond held out a helping hand that it should be – the sporting spirit being much in hooks to his rival's jaw. The boxing hereabouts was all body, but he was not too successful in his efforts, for Curley down. There was plenty of feeling now, both inclining to show spirit. Then came the trouble! They were in tight grips in the eleventh, and before breaking clear away went into a fierce close-range rally. Shots were wild and going perilously low, so Mr Palmer endeavoured to call a halt to warn them, and even had the gong sounded. Neither heeded, and in a fierce slam Bond suddenly fell to the boards, as if he had been hit low, but he only squirmed about for a few seconds or two, and then sprang to his feet and rushed at Curley, evidently with every intention of annihilating him. Under a hurricane of blows the champion had of necessity to defend himself, and they were fighting fiercely with all discretion cast to the winds even after the gong had signalled the end of the round. Mr Palmer then got in and gave them a severe lecture, which he repeated before they entered upon the 12th round; but they had no sooner got to grips than Bond began a wild slam in order to smash Curley down. There was plenty of feeling now, both on the part of the combatants and their supporters, and a real, rough fight took place. The referee endeavoured repeatedly to separate them, but Bond had then completely lost his head, and was slashing anywhere and anyhow. Such was the nature of the ‘all-in’ affair that the supporters of each man climbed the ropes – probably with every good intention of calming the batters, but only increasing the uproar, which bordered on pandemonium. The champion turned round to go to his corner and ‘did a grin’. That did it again! Away came Bond like a madman, swinging and slashing fiercely with Curley coming back to have a go. It was now a sight to witness. Supporters, boxers, and officials were all ‘at it’ – some endeavouring to restore order and some only making it worse. The boxers were still having their ‘all-in’ careering around the square amidst the others, and Bond was almost out before the round closed. The bell clanged, still they fought, the referee was hurled aside, still they fought – and fought, until, at long last, they were dragged apart by a number of people. When the referee could at last be heard he declared the affair ‘no-content’ – a regrettable termination to what had every promise of being a good bout.

Bond turned professional in 1919 and had developed an excellent record by 1924 when he was one of the eight men selected for the championship tourney but he was outpointed by McKenzie in his opening contest. By 1925 he had firmly re-established himself and going into the match with Curley he had won his previous nine. Both Curley and Bond had an exceptional punch and were natural featherweights. Bond was tall and had a long reach and was a fine exponent of the straight left. Curley was also a fine boxer but he often got drawn into brawls and rough-house tactics.

The rivalry between the pair was intense and rather surprisingly the match between them took place at Premierland, the home of boxing in London’s East End. This was a natural contest for The Ring but I suspect that the size of the purse being offered by the Premierland promoter Victor Berliner drew both men across river. The contest was to be fought over 20 3 minute rounds for a £500 purse with £200 side-stakes at 9st 2lbs. The ‘Boxing’ reporter stated that the two men had a friendly agreement that should one of them win the title then they would then defend against the other and no doubt Bond was disappointed that this, their first meeting, was a non-title affair. However, he meant to beat Curley fair and square and he trained hard.

Admission prices were raised to reflect the size of the purse and yet the venue was packed when master of ceremonies Lew Cohen made the introductions. This is the report of the contest as it appeared in ‘Boxing’. ‘After some cautious sparring, they got going in good style, Bond doing a lot of good work with the left hand, to the face especially, in the second round. Curley endeavoured to get in close with two hands going to the body, but he was not too successful in his efforts, for Bond stood well up to his work, and clipped away with crisp hooks and jolts. Curley took time to settle down, but in the fourth round he got in some nice stinging left hooks to his rival’s jaw. The boxing hereabouts was all that it should be – the sporting spirit being much in evidence, as witness when Bond held out a helping hand to Curley when the latter had slipped to the boards, and again when Johnny repaid the complement in the 5th round when Phil careered through the ropes. Bond used his right full-force in the sixth round, but he lacked precision, and failed to connect on the correct jaw-spot, and from that point Curley began to improve and to take the upper hand. The champion rocked his rival’s head with two heavy rights in the 7th, and later shook him up with some heavy rib-ticklers when making him miss with some terrific right-swings. Things went on well right into the tenth round when Curley who was now scoring well with crisp hooks
Bond claimed that he had been hit low in the eleventh round and there is no doubt that he completely lost his head. He also appears to have reacted badly to Curley’s attempts to further antagonise him by face-pulling. The outcome of the contest is even more remarkable given the displays of sporting conduct earlier in the bout. Today an event like this would lead to all sorts of repercussions but in 1925 with no official body to govern and police the sport, there seem to have been little or no penalties imposed.

Curley went on to successfully defend his Featherweight title in 1926 against Johnny Cuthbert before he lost it the following year to Harry Corbett (Bethnal Green). He boxed on until 1931 retiring after 174 contests. Bond almost immediately stepped up to lightweight but he failed to make an impression in this division being beaten by top-liners Teddy Baker (Bermondsey) and Jack Kid Berg (Whitechapel). He was knocked out by Harry Corbett in 1927 and immediately retired. He had 84 contests (57-20-5).

Bond and Curley never had a second contest and Curley did not honour their agreement to fight each other for the title.
The 100 Club

Ric Sanders (Leicester)

‘He had over 200 fights and he was never knocked out’ is the sort of claim that is frequently made today by the relatives of boxers who were active in the 1920s and 1930s. Whilst it is well known that many boxers from this period had a large number of contests, often well over one hundred, the vast majority of men had nothing like this number. I have compiled over 30,000 records for boxers who fought between 1900 and 1950 and only 3,500 of them had 40 or more contests. The number who had one hundred or more currently stands at 660. This number will certainly grow as my research into the period before 1909 is extended, and particularly as I unearth more contests from the 1920s and 1930s, but I do not think that the figure will extend beyond 800. It is these 800 boxers who form my ‘One Hundred Club’ and about whom I will write extensively in The Old-Timer.

Analysing all boxers who turned professional between 1910 and 1939 it will be seen that the peak years were between 1924 and 1932 when in each year between 35 and 50 boxers turned professional who went on to have 100 contests of more. There was a dramatic tailing off from 1933 when, by the time these boxers were racking up a large number of contests, the war interrupted their careers. A similar pattern can be observed in the period immediately before the first world war.

Today there are a considerable number of boxers who have exceeded 100 contests, and in some cases 200 contests. There was a time, back in the 1970s, when it was felt that this would never happen again. If one studies the records of the ‘100 club’ boxers of the period 1900-1950 and compare them with those of today there is one stark and telling difference – most of those today are journeymen and they rarely seem to win. Peter Buckley, for example, won 31 from 286, and Miguel Matthews 15 from 110. I mean no disrespect to today’s boxers but the pre war men were winners. Of the 660 fighters from this period nearly 500 of them won more contests than they lost.

The man who had by far the most recorded contests is Len Wickwar of Leicester. The Guinness Book of Records identifies him as the most active professional boxer of all time and states that he had 464 contests. I have found 473 in a career that started in 1928 and ended in 1947. Wickwar was managed by George Biddles, a manager who appears to have gone to great lengths to ensure that his stable were kept busy. Of the four boxers who had the most contests that I can trace, three of them were managed by Biddles; the aforementioned Wickwar, George Marsden(Nottingham) with 355 and Tiger Bert Ison (Leicester) with 324 (The fourth boxer was Billy Bird of Chelsea with 333). Even in the 1940s and 1950s Biddles boxers tended to be very active in comparison with their rivals. Four men managed by Biddles during this period all exceeded 100 contests, these being Johnny Carrington( Nottingham), Jeff Tite(Spratton), Roy Davies(Spratton) and Ric Sanders(Leicester), and it is Ric Sanders who I have chosen to inaugurate the ‘100 club’.

The number of boxers turning professional between 1910 and 1939 who went on to have one hundred or more contests.
Being a Biddles boy meant being kept busy. Often travelling to far-flung arenas around the country, and often appearing as a late substitute, the Biddles boys certainly earned their money. George Biddles was active in the fight game from the 1920s, when he established the Spinney Hill Club in Leicester, until the 1970s when his man Jack Bodell was blitzed in 64 seconds by Irish Jerry Quarry. He bowed out of the game in the mid 1970s and died in 1980. After the war he picked up from where he had left off in the 1930s and had a large stable of men including Sanders.

Ric Sanders, a southpaw, was active for only five years, between 1945 and 1950, but within that time he had 103 contests, of which he won 68. He mixed in the best company and held the North Midlands Welterweight Championship from 1949 until his retirement. His first contest, a 6x2 minute rounder at the Road and Rail Transport Club in Leicester, was at the top of the bill and Sanders spent most of the rest of his career in this privileged position. After 4 wins he was matched with stablemate George Marsden(Nottingham), a man who was having his 349th contest. The contest took place at the Cossington Street Baths, Leicester, on a bill promoted by their manager George Biddles, and it was a thriller. Down twice for long counts in the first half of the fight Sanders eventually clawed his way back and narrowly outpointed the 34 year old Marsden over 10 rounds. In a rematch four weeks later an equally good contest resulted in Sanders winning again, this time more convincingly. Sanders came to London to make his debut in the capital in 1946 having won 18 from 25. At the Mile End Arena in the summer of 1946 he beat Phil Volante (Birmingham) on a seventh round cut eye stoppage. In the summer of 1947 he became a great favourite at the Liverpool Stadium with victories over locals Gordon Ashun, Jimmy Molloy and Dick Shields and Glaswegian Joe Cassidy. By 1948, however, he had reached his limit. A consistent victor over those just short of top quality, beating the likes of Eric Hall(Cambridge), Phil Close(Rotherham) and Alf Taylor(Warrington), when up against top-notchers like Stan Hawthorne(North Shields) and Ginger Stewart(Hamilton) Sanders was found wanting and suffered inside the distance defeats.

He had a series of contests in London in late 1948 appearing five times at the Romford Road Baths in West Ham where he won three bouts but lost twice to South African Piet Van Staden. He won his area title in 1949 at Walsall Town Hall by outpointing Ken Page of Selston over 12 rounds. Later that year Sanders achieved the best win of his career when he stopped reigning British Welterweight Champion Henry Hall(Sheffield) in six rounds at Newcastle. Hall was cut early in the first round and Sanders played repeatedly upon this until the referee called ‘enough’ with Hall virtually unable to see. A run of eight straight defeats culminating in a 30 second knockout loss to Mancunian Johnny Downes in 1950 spelt the end for Ric and he retired from the game aged 25.

Sanders training at the Jolly Angler Gymnasium in Leicester with trainer and ex pro Albert Ginger Taylor in the background
In the early summer of 2005 I had the very considerable pleasure of meeting George Merritt at his home in Goodmayes, London. George was one of the last of the really good boxers from the 1930s and sadly he passed away on 31st May 2007 aged 92.

Originally from Silvertown, in the heart of London’s dockland, George and his brother Curly both had well over 100 professional contests and beat Welshman Arnold Kid Sheppard eight out of eight. Arnold and George became good friends as a result of these contests.

Once his career was over George stayed in boxing and during the 1960s he promoted five times at the Roundhouse, Dagenham and once at the Winter Hall Baths, East Ham. Whilst not making any money from these shows he was happy to put something back into the game, particularly at a time when small hall boxing in East London was at a low ebb. Amongst those who fought on these bills were Bobby Kelsey(West Ham), Danny Wells(Dagenham), Al McCarthy(Romford), Dave Arnold(Romford), Billy Ball(West Ham), Joey Burns(East Ham) and Tony Moore(Stepney).

George had a wonderful collection of memorabilia from his boxing days and it was most enjoyable for me to pick my way through the mass of programmes, handbills and full-size posters of his contests jogging his memory and reminiscing about those far off days.

George and Curly used to train together in a makeshift gymnasium that they built at the back of the family greengrocer’s shop opposite the Tate and Lyle factory which dominated Silvertown. Here, they learnt their trade together, and their natural competitiveness and energy meant that their spars frequently spilled over into real slugfests. Curly was older than George and was an established pro by the time George had his first contest in 1932. I have published George’s record in full in the records section and even though I have traced 141 contests I reckon that there are at least 30 more that may never be found as they were simply not recorded in any newspaper at the time. From the bouts that I have found one can see that George was no mug at all. He beat Con Flynn(Islington), Bill Curran (Walton) and Harry Davis (Bethnal Green) and beat Welshman Arnold Kid Sheppard eight out of eight. Arnold and George became good friends as a result of these contests.

According to his daughter, Georgina, he was given a week to live in January, suffering from pneumonia, but he survived for another five months despite also contracting MRSA and other infections. He amazed the nursing staff with his strength and they stated that he had been an inspiration to them. When he died his fists were clenched tightly as if ready for another contest.

Goodbye George – it was an honour have met you.
Alf Reed (Canning Town)

One of Edwardian London’s leading Lightweights

During the Edwardian era Britain’s greatest international rivals in the boxing ring were not Americans or Australians but the French. There had been a long standing assumption that when it came to the pugilistic art the British were the best. Boxing, however, had grown in popularity in France and by the outbreak of the first world war boxers like Georges Carpentier, Charles Ledoux and Eugene Criqui were beating the best men that Britain could put before them. Although British wins in Paris were not infrequent at this time many British boxers journeyed over to Paris and simply ‘lay down’ in front of their French opponents. There was considerable outrage and a lot of suspicion about the way in which many of these men capitulated early and did not box to their true form. One man who bucked this trend and who twice licked international opponents in Paris was Alf Reed, one of London’s best lightweight boxers of the day.

Born on October 31st 1883, the son of a coal porter in the heart of London’s dockland, Reed was a relatively short squat boxer who was noted for his clever footwork and for his ability to box or fight depending on the situation. He also had a hard punch, notably his left hook, with which he scored a number of clean knockouts. Most of his early contests were for promoters Harry Jacobs and Jack Woolf at the Wonderland in Whitechapel and he soon graduated to 15 round status.

With the exception of the National Sporting Club, Wonderland was London’s premier fight venue, staging contests of international importance on Saturday evenings throughout the Edwardian age. It was the perfect place to ‘get noticed’, to learn the fistic trade and to graduate up the ladder towards Championship class. The arena survived until 1911 when it was gutted in a mysterious fire, shortly after Jacobs and Woolf fell out with each other.

In 1903 Reed won a rather magnificent belt upon which is inscribed ‘Presented By Mr Joe Smith for the Featherweight Championship won by Alf Reed 1903’. I have been unable to trace the contest to which this belt relates but Alf kept this belt all his life and it is still in the family today.

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Reed met Seaman Arthur Hayes (Hoxton), Young Joseph (Aldgate) and Jack Goldswain (Bermondsey) in early contests at Wonderland and by 1910 he had become sufficiently good to embark upon a run of 21 contests without defeat. Unbeaten throughout the whole of 1911, it was in this year that Alf started to journey to distant places to fight the cream of the local talent. He drew with American Sam Johnson at the Mill Field, Pontypridd and outpointed Jack McKinnon (Glasgow) at the Victoria AC, Glasgow. In November he journeyed to Paris to take on French Lightweight Champion Edouard Brochet. Also on the bill that night was Stoker Green (St Johns Wood) about whom the French correspondent of ‘Boxing’ wrote ‘So long as such men as Stoker Green come over to Paris so long will the prestige of English boxers go down. It is bad enough to be beaten squarely by Frenchmen, but when it comes to lying down before them then it is high time to check such a state of things’. Alf more than made up for this when he comfortably outpointed the French champion over 10 rounds. Around about this time Reed was signed up by the management of the new East End arena, Premierland, for a series of contests over the course of 1911. The terms of the contract meant that he was to appear exclusively at Premierland, and nowhere else in London. He had 14 contests at Premierland throughout 1911-12 and won 10 of them. His
contract did not prohibit him from fighting abroad, however, and in February 1912 he went back to Paris to tackle the Swiss Lightweight Champion, and future European Welterweight Champion, Albert Badoud in another 10 rounder at the Salle Wagram. Badoud was the firm favourite but once again Alf put on a grand show. He outboxed Badoud in what appeared to be a huge upset and was well worthy of the decision. Unfortunately the judges disagreed and the bout was declared a draw. Yet again his performance did a lot to regain English prestige in the French capital.

At this time Alf was working as a coal-shoveller at London docks. He may also have been a professional footballer at this time for there is a photograph of Alf in football attire taken at the old West Ham Memorial Ground during the 1903/04 season and on his marriage certificate he gave his occupation as professional footballer. It has been impossible to ascertain whether or not Alf ever played for the first team, but it very likely that he played for the reserves.

His boxing career was coming to a close by 1913 and he had another 16 contests, mainly at the Ring and at Premierland before he hung up his gloves in 1915. Included amongst these contests were victories against Frenchmen Henri Piet and Constant Pluyette. Piet was the French Welterweight Champion when he was beaten by Alf and he certainly seemed to fight at his very best when taking on European opponents either in Paris or London, although he was less fortunate against Fernand Quendreux who knocked Alf out in two rounds at the Ring in the summer of 1913.

After retiring from boxing Alf became a licensee and he ran a number of pubs until his death. He started out at the Durham Arms in Canning Town, from where he ran a boxing gym in the basement. He then moved to the Yorkshire Grey in Stratford, the White Swan in Covent Garden and then finally the Cherry Orchard in Croydon. The Durham Arms, the Cherry Orchard and the White Swan are all public houses today. Whilst at the White Swan Alf took to bed at 9.30 every evening so as to be up for 4.30am to serve beer to the porters in the fruit and vegetable market.

Alf married Ellen Arnold in 1908 and they had five children. Two of the children were boys and they both boxed. One of them, Leslie, became a professional boxer in 1938 and he was billed as Alf
Reed of Covent Garden. He caused quite a stir at the beginning of his career with a series of inside the distance victories against decent opposition. He won his first four bouts, two of them at The Ring and two of them at Earl’s Court. He was being built up in the press as a real comer ‘with his father’s punch’ but in his fifth contest he was beaten by Henry Kitson (Ipswich) who had recently been a sparring partner for World Champion Henry Armstrong at Clacton-on-Sea. Armstrong was in training for his contest with Ernie Roderick. Kitson, a farm worker, stood toe to toe with Reed and they traded blows evenly until the third when Reed had to retire with a cut eye.

After nine contests (5-3-1) the war interrupted his career and he joined the army. He was unfortunate to be taken prisoner by the Japanese in the far east and he became a prisoner of war in the Number 1 camp at Thailand. (It is believed that this was the notorious Changi camp, from where men were sent to work on the Bridge over the Kwai river). After the war ended Leslie returned to London and with his brother, Arnie, went into the dancehall business in London’s west end. He later became a licensee like his father and he died in 1996 aged 79.

Alf Reed did not live to see his son return from the war, for he had died aged 57 in 1941. He is buried in Thornton Rd cemetery in Croydon.

My thanks go to Gary Dewey for help with this article. Gary is married to Kathryn Tyler, the great grand-daughter of Alf Reed (Canning Town)
Boxers Records

Alf Reed (Canning Town)

71 contests - won 47 lost 16 drew 8

Feb 1 1904 Alf Greer (St Luke's) WP Wonderland 6
Apr 25 1904 J Fitzpatrick WP Canning Town 15
Jul 11 1904 Bert Adams (Spitalfields) WP Canning Town 6
Aug 13 1904 Boss Edwards (Marylebone) LP Wonderland 6
Sep 3 1904 Driver Beck (ASC) KO4 Wonderland
Sep 8 1904 Fred Delaney (Woolwich) WP Canning Town 6
Oct 1 1904 Cpl. Simmonds (R. Engineers) WP Wonderland 6
Nov 7 1904 Boss Edwards (Marylebone) WP N.S.C. 6
Dec 10 1904 Smm Arthur Hayes (Hoxton) LP Wonderland 10
Mar 20 1905 Young Joseph (Aldgate) LP N.S.C. 10
May 13 1905 Alf Wood (Bradford) WP Upton Park 6
Sep 16 1905 Seaman Moriarty (Chatham) WP Wonderland 6
Nov 4 1905 Gunner Hart (Borough) WP Wonderland 6
Nov 13 1905 Nied Kiley (Marylebone) WP Wonderland 6
Apr 7 1906 Young Joseph (Aldgate) WP Wonderland 6
Aug 18 1906 Bert Adams (Spitalfields) WP Wonderland 6
Dec 17 1906 Young Joseph (Aldgate) WP Canning Town 10
Jan 12 1907 Young Joseph (Aldgate) WP Wonderland 6
Feb 2 1907 Young Joseph (Aldgate) LP Wonderland 10
Jan 13 1908 Jack Ward (Gloucester) LP N.S.C.
May 30 1908 George Moore (Barking) WP Wonderland 6
Jun 30 1908 Jack Goldswain (Bermontsey) LP Wonderland 6
Dec 12 1908 Jack Ward (Gloucester) WP Wonderland 6
Sep 27 1909 Albert Jacobs (Mile End) LP Southwark Kings Hall 10
Oct 11 1909 Jasper Carter (West Hartlepoo) Ldsq5 Southwark Kings Hall 10
Sep 28 1910 Fred Dyer (Cardiff) LKO5 Gloucester Gess Pavilion
Oct 8 1910 George Proctor (Walworth) WP Wonderland 6
Oct 22 1910 Dick Lee (Kentish Town) KO6 Wonderland 10
Nov 5 1910 Bert Langford (Deptford) WR1 Wonderland 6
Nov 19 1910 Young Lilly (Bermontsey) KO2 Wonderland 10
Jan 21 1911 Sid Stagg (Deptford) DR Wonderland 10
Jan 30 1911 Bert Langford (Deptford) KO2 Lambeth South London Palace 6
Feb 6 1911 Jack Meekins (Battersea) WP Wonderland 6
Mar 11 1911 Harry Rudge (Holloway) KO7 The Ring 10
Mar 13 1911 Sid Stagg (Deptford) WP Wonderland 6
Mar 20 1911 Sam Johnson (USA) DR Pontypidd Mill Field AC
Apr 15 1911 Cpl. Baker (Royal West Kents) WP Wonderland 10
Apr 24 1911 Sid Stagg (Deptford) DR The Ring 10
May 27 1911 P.O. Roche (HMS Juno) WP The Ring 10
Nov 19 11 Brook (France) WP Paris France
Dec 11 1911 Jack McKinnon (Govan) WR6 Glasgow Victoria AC
Dec 31 1911 Sam Lucas (Walthamstown) WP Premierland 10
Jan 20 1912 Wally Pack (Bermontsey) DR Premierland 10
Feb 1912 Albert Badoud (Switzerland) DR Paris France Salle Wagram 10
Feb 3 1912 Wally Pack (Bermontsey) KO3 Premierland 10
Feb 17 1912 Sid Stagg (Deptford) DR Premierland 10
Mar 9 1912 Albert Bayton (Sheffield) WS4 Premierland 10
Mar 30 1912 Sid Stagg (Deptford) LP Premierland 10
May 18 1912 Battling Taylor (South Africa) WS3 Premierland 10
Jun 15 1912 Jack Meekins (Battersea) WR7 Premierland 10
Jul 6 1912 Jack Langdon (USA) WP Premierland 10
Sep 28 1912 Young Joseph (Aldgate) LP Premierland 10
Oct 12 1912 Tom Tees (Walworth) WP Premierland 10
Nov 16 1912 Sgt. Blake (Gloucester Regt.) WS5 Premierland 10
Dec 14 1912 Frank Wheeler (Plumstead) KO5 Premierland 10
Jan 18 1913 Charlie Passey (Wembley) WP Premierland 10
Feb 24 1913 Johnny Connelly (Glasgow) WS8 Glasgow Victoria AC
Jun 28 1913 Eddie Eison (St James) LKO1 Premierland
Aug 30 1913 Fernand Quendreux (France) LKO2 The Ring 10
Oct 6 1913 Arthur Duncan (Holloway) DR The Ring 10
Nov 8 1913 Tom Tees (Walworth) KO2 The Ring 10
Jan 24 1914 Constant Pluyette (France) WP The Ring 10
Feb 21 1914 Bob Hayes (Northampton) LKO2 The Ring 10
Mar 2 1914 Tom Tees (Walworth) DR The Ring 10
Apr 11 1914 Pte. Maskill (Queens Bays) Ldsq6 The Ring 10
May 2 1914 Harry Jones (Cardiff) WR3 Premierland 10
Jun 15 1914 Henri Piet (France) Wdsq9 The Ring 20
Oct 5 1914 Will Brooks (Aberavon) WP The Ring 10
Nov 5 1914 Billy Williams (Bethnal Green) WP The Ring 10
Oct 4 1915 P.O. Roche (Royal Navy) KO6 The Ring 10
Feb 1 1915 Bert Medlock (Blackfriars) LP The Ring 10

Dick Roughley (Barnsley)

26 contests - won 13 lost 11 drew 2

Jan 23 1926 Billy Wright (Muxborough) LP Barnsley 8
Oct 10 1926 George Tootles (Hunslet) WP Leeds Stadium 10
Oct 31 1926 Cliff Hartley (Castleford) DR Leeds Stadium 10
Dec 5 1926 Ted Summers (Leeds) WS8 Leeds NSC 10
Jan 17 1927 Bob Carvill (Brigg) LP Cleethorpes Pavilion 10
Jan 31 1927 Dan Cresswell (Mansfield) WR3 Sheffield Edmund Rd Drill Hall 10
Feb 11 1927 Joe Woodruff (Accrington) KO14 Preston Marathon Stadium 15
Mar 7 1927 Bill Sofley (Poplar) Ldsq8 NSC 8
Mar 11 1927 Jim Pearson (Bamber Bridge) WP Preston Marathon Stadium 15
Mar 25 1927 Billy Stevens DR Govan Scottish Street 15
Mar 28 1927 Ted Lewis (Wigan) WR4 Tyne Dock Coliseum 15
Apr 5 1927 Bill Sofley (Poplar) LKO2 Manchester Free Trade Hall 15
Apr 11 1927 Charlie McDonald (Sunderland) LS8 Newcastle St James Hall 15
May 9 1927 Joe Higginbottom (Oldham) WS6 Newcastle St James Hall 15
May 21 1927 Gunner Ainsley (Wingate) LP Sunderland Holmeside 15
Jun 4 1927 Joe Woodruff (Accrington) LP Mexborough Plant Hotel Green 15
Jun 18 1927 Ernie Stephenson (Wombwell) KO11 Preston Marathon Stadium 15
Jul 2 1927 Gunner Ainsley (Wingate) LP Middlesbrough Theatre Royal 15
Aug 18 1927 Tom Connolly (Belfast) WP Belfast
Sep 25 1927 Hal O'Neill (Pendleton) KO3 Salford Adelphi AC 15
Sep 29 1927 Billy Adair (Bethnal Green) WP Premierland 15
Oct 9 1927 Billy Adair (Bethnal Green) WS9 Premierland 15
Oct 18 1927 Albert Johnson (Manchester) Ldsq6 Manchester Free Trade Hall 15
Oct 24 1927 Ben Marshall (Newport) LR11 NSC 15
Nov 13 1927 Charlie McDonald (Sunderland) LS15 Leeds NSC 15
Allan Porter(Salford)

54 contests - won 35 lost 16 drew 3

Dec 11 1909 Ruddick(Broughton) WP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 10
Dec 20 1909 Jim Corris(Salford) WP Salford Athletic Club
Jan 22 1910 Vivian Bethel(Oldham) LP Salford Athletic Club 6
Jan 27 1910 Darkey Whitehead(Salford) WP Preston Fulwood Barracks 6
Mar 5 1910 Darkey Whitehead(Salford) WP Warrington Orford Barracks 6
Apr 2 1910 Matt Travis(Portsmouth) WP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 10
Apr 5 1910 George Ruddick(Broughton) WP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 10
Apr 9 1910 George Marsden(Manchester) WP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 10
Apr 19 1910 Jim Halley(Bolton) WP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 10
May 17 1910 Tinsley(Hull) KO7 Manchester Central Boxing Academy 10
May 10 1910 Billy Brierley(Beswick) WR8 Manchester Central Boxing Academy
Jun 7 1910 Nat Williams(Liverpool) LP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 10
Jun 28 1910 Fred Hall(Manchester) LP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 10
Jul 6 1910 J Worrall WP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 6
Aug 17 1910 Jack Whitehead(Pendleton) LP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 12
Sep 13 1910 Paddy Norris(Salford) WR5 Manchester Central Boxing Academy
Sep 24 1910 Driver Knox(Dublin) WP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 15
Oct 7 1910 Bob Hindley(Miles Platting) KO3 Blackpool Kings Hall 8
Oct 8 1910 Driver Knox(Dublin) WP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 15
Oct 18 1910 Jim Corris(Salford) WP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 8
Oct 25 1910 Dandy Moore(Barbados) WR4 Manchester Central Boxing Academy 10
Nov 5 1910 Arthur Upton(New Brighton) WP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 15
Nov 19 1910 Snowball(Birkenhead) WP Manchester Central Boxing Academy 15
Mar 11 1911 Teddy McGuinness(Manchester) LP Ashton-under-Lyne Barracks 15
Mar 20 1911 Kid Kelly(Bradford) WP Oldham 10
Apr 11 1911 Charlie Milestone(Chester) KO8 Accrington Barracks 15
Apr 3 1911 Mick Gordon(St Helens) WP Blackpool Arbury's Baths 10
Apr 24 1911 Young Sharkey(Leeds) WR1 Manchester City AC
May 19 1911 Jack Matthews(Hanley) WR10 Manchester City AC 15
May 15 1911 Mick Gordon(St Helens) DR Liverpool International Hall 15
May 18 1911 Nat Williams(Liverpool) DR Liverpool Arena 20
May 22 1911 Jack Matthews(Hanley) DR Manchester City AC 15
Jul 8 1911 Alex McKenzie(Glasgow) Wdsq Newcastle St James Hall 10
Jul 20 1911 Nat Williams(Liverpool) LP Liverpool Stadium 10
Aug 11 1911 Fred Halsband(St George's) WR9 Liverpool International Hall 15

Sep 28 1911 Jack Matthews(Hanley) Ldsq14 Liverpool Stadium 15
Sep 29 1911 Young Lippo(Plymouth) LKO1 Plymouth Cosmopolitan Gym 15
Oct 16 1911 Young Snowball(Liverpool) KO8 Liverpool International Hall 15
Nov 19 1911 Teddy McGuinness(Manchester) LP Ashton-under-Lyne Barracks 15
Nov 4 1911 J Simpson(Blackburn) WP Blackburn Palace Theatre
Nov 25 1911 Paddy Connor(Widnes) WR5 Nelson Carr Rd Rink
Jan 13 1912 Tommy Mitchell(Chesterfield) Ldsq14 Liverpool Stadium 15
Feb 12 1912 Norman Fitchett(Cheadle) WP Stockport Armoury 15
Feb 1 1912 Fred Housego(Preston) WP The Ring 10
Feb 26 1912 George Groves(Canning Town) LS8 The Ring 10
Mar 16 1912 Ted Kid Lewis(St George's) LP Premierland 10
Jul 25 1912 Jim Lewis(Liverpool) WP Liverpool Stadium 10
Aug 12 1912 Kid Fitzgerald(USA) Wdsq6 Colne
Aug 12 1912 Briney McGuinness(Manchester) WR4 Manchester White City
Sep 9 1912 Seaman Arthur Hayes(Hoxton) LS13 Manchester 15
Sep 19 1912 George Mackness(Kettering) LKO7 Liverpool Stadium 10
Nov 15 1912 Young Lippo(Plymouth) LKO1 Plymouth Cosmopolitan Gym 15
Oct 16 1911 Young Snowball(Liverpool) KO8 Liverpool International Hall 15
Nov 19 1911 Teddy McGuinness(Manchester) LP Ashton-under-Lyne Barracks 15
Nov 4 1911 J Simpson(Blackburn) WP Blackburn Palace Theatre
Nov 25 1911 Paddy Connor(Widnes) WR5 Nelson Carr Rd Rink
Jan 13 1912 Tommy Mitchell(Chesterfield) Ldsq14 Liverpool Stadium 15
Feb 12 1912 Norman Fitchett(Cheadle) WP Stockport Armoury 15
Feb 1 1912 Fred Housego(Preston) WP The Ring 10
Feb 26 1912 George Groves(Canning Town) LS8 The Ring 10
Mar 16 1912 Ted Kid Lewis(St George's) LP Premierland 10
Jul 25 1912 Jim Lewis(Liverpool) WP Liverpool Stadium 10
Aug 12 1912 Kid Fitzgerald(USA) Wdsq6 Colne
Aug 12 1912 Briney McGuinness(Manchester) WR4 Manchester White City
Sep 9 1912 Seaman Arthur Hayes(Hoxton) LS13 Manchester 15
Sep 19 1912 George Mackness(Kettering) LKO7 Liverpool Stadium 10
May 17 1917 Staff/Sgt. Clements LP France 6

George Lawson(Hull)

88 contests - won 45 lost 30 drew 13

Feb 2 1926 Arthur Hewitt(Hull) WR2 Hull Madeley St Baths 6
Mar 2 1926 Butcher Ryder(Leeds) DR Hull Madeley St Baths 10
Mar 22 1926 Bobby Walton(Bridlington) KO2 Hull Madeley St Baths 6
Sep 20 1926 George Darley(Hull) WS3 Hull Wenlock Barracks 6
Nov 15 1926 Young Lobb(Scunthorpe) WR3 Hull Madeley St Baths 10
Jan 17 1927 Duggy Hall(Barnsley) WP Sheffield Edmund Rd Drill Hall 6
Jan 31 1927 Angus Hogarth(Sheffield) WP Sheffield
Feb 7 1927 Sid Wilson(Castleford) WS4 Hull Madeley St Baths 10
Feb 14 1927 Jeb Bradley(Whittington Moor) WP Chesterfield Skating Rink 10
Mar 7 1927 George Adams WP Sheffield Edmund Rd Baths 10
Mar 28 1927 Harry Kent(Tonbridge) KO7 N.S.C. 8
May 14 1927 Pop Newman(Leicester) LP Sheffield Pheasant Inn grounds 10
May 22 1927 Eddie Donoghue(Middlesbrough) LS3 Leeds NSC 15
Jun 30 1927 George White(Liverpool) LP Liverpool Stadium 10
Jul 16 1927 Frank Keegan(Stainforth) Ww14 Liverpool Pheasant Inn grounds 10
Jul 30 1927 Billy Jones(Wales) DR Sheffield Pheasant Inn grounds 10
Aug 6 1927 George Hobson(Sheffield) KO3 Sheffield Pheasant Inn grounds 10
Aug 13 1927 George Hobson(Sheffield) KO1 Sheffield Pheasant Inn Grounds 8
Mar 22 1932 Fred Mars(h/Grimsbv) KO3 Hull
Jun 5 1932 Billy Sheldon(Newcastle) LS11 Rotherham 12
Nov 7 1932 Arthur Evitt(Manchester) KO2 Hull
Nov 28 1932 Howard Powell(Sheffield) WP Hull 12
Dec 5 1932 Fred Fox(Sheffield) WS6 East Hull 12
Jan 2 1933 Butcher Ryder(Leeds) DR Hull 10
Jan 23 1933 Howard Powell(Sheffield) WR7 Hull 12
Mar 27 1933 Jack Fisher(Chelseafield) WP Beverley 10
Nov 27 1933 Bob Parkin(Durham) KO4 Hull
Oct 9 1934 Billy Wakefield(Barnsley) WP Hull 10
Nov 6 1934 Jimmy Griffiths(Barnsley) LP Hull 10

Young Lippo(Plymouth)

62 contests - won 43 lost 14 drew 5

Dec 27 1907 Sam Scott KO6 Plymouth Cosmo Gym
Jan 23 1908 Bert Slack(Halloway) DR Plymouth Cosmo Gym 20
Jan 31 1908 Driver Deck WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Feb 14 1908 Jack Foy(Marylebone) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Feb 28 1908 Jimmy Hicks(Forest Gate) KO8 Plymouth Cosmo Gym
Mar 13 1908 Harry Brown WS14 Plymouth Cosmo Gym
Mar 27 1908 Harry Gregson WS7 Plymouth Cosmo Gym
Apr 10 1908 Jim Lewis(Liverpool) KO7 Plymouth Cosmo Gym
May 8 1908 Wally Morgan(Paddington) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Jun 5 1908 Bert Slack(Halloway) KO8 Plymouth Cosmo Gym
Jul 3 1908 Harry Brown WS4 Plymouth Cosmo Gym
Jul 17 1908 Alf Wood(Bradford) KO1 Plymouth Cosmo Gym
Aug 7 1908 Jack Foy(Marylebone) WS7 Plymouth Cosmo Gym
Sep 3 1908 Boss Edwards(Marylebone) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Oct 2 1908 Arthur Ellis(South Africa) KO3 Plymouth Cosmo Gym
Oct 30 1908 Young Lilly(Bermondsey) KO2 Plymouth Cosmo Gym
Nov 20 1908 Darkey Haley(Leytonstone) WP Plymouth 15
Feb 5 1909 Willie Hook(Liverpool) WS3 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Feb 26 1909 Ted Moore(Tidal Basin) WS7 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Apr 23 1909 Dick Knock(Leicester) LP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Jun 4 1909 Sam Kellar(Algiate) KO2 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Jul 2 1909 Jim Lloyd(Liverpool) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Jul 31 1909 Jasper Carter(West Hartlepool) LKO3 Newcastle
Victoria Grounds 15
Sep 1 1909 Dick Knock(Leicester) LP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Sep 24 1909 Darkey Haley(Leytonstone) LKO2 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Nov 5 1909 Sam Light(Maylebone) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Nov 12 1909 Sam Light(Marylebone) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Dec 10 1909 Bill Lewis(Bethnal Green) KO1 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Jun 7 1910 Jack Foy(Marylebone) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Feb 4 1910 Jack Foy(Marylebone) LP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 20
Mar 11 1910 Cpl. Darley(West Kent Regt.) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Jun 24 1910 Seaman Savage(Royal Navy) LP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Sep 9 1910 Georges Forest(France) KO5 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Sep 23 1910 Louis de Ponthieu(France) WR3 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Oct 14 1910 Young Brooks(Aldgate) LP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Dec 2 1910 Jim Lloyd(Liverpool) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Mar 10 1911 Young Brooks(Aldgate) LP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Apr 24 1911 Bert Slack(Holloway) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Sep 29 1911 Allan Porter(Salford) KO1 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Nov 10 1911 Seaman Parsons(Royal Navy) WR9 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Dec 2 1911 Paul Til(France) LP Paris France Wonderland 10
Apr 8 1912 Seaman Arthur Hayes(Hoxton) LP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
May 3 1912 Wally Pickard(Newmarket) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Jun 14 1912 Eugene Tricky(France) WDsq13 Plymouth Cosmo Gym
Sep 6 1912 Jack Daniels(St George's) LP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Sep 27 1912 Mick Gordon(St Helens) DR Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Oct 4 1912 Mick Gordon(St Helens) DR Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Feb 21 1913 Sam McKeown(Exeter) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Apr 18 1913 George Buswell(Fulham) KO10 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Feb 13 1914 Pte. Sampson(Royal Marines) WR9 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Mar 6 1914 Pte. Sampson(Royal Marines) KO12 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
(West of England Lightweight Title)
Sampson died after contest
Apr 17 1914 Lucien Vinez(France) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
May 29 1914 Andre Dumas(France) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Jul 4 1914 L/Cpl. Rhodes(19th Hussars) KO1 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Apr 24 1916 Sapper Ben Callicott(Plymouth) LP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
(West of England Lightweight Championship)
May 19 1916 Joe Starmer(Kettering) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
May 29 1916 Charlie Hardcastle(Barnsley) LKO8 N.S.C. 15
Jun 23 1916 Billy Jones(Mountain Ash) WP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Jul 28 1916 Bob Cotton(Bermondsey) DR Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Aug 18 1916 Tommy Mack(Bermondsey) DR Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Dec 15 1916 Driver George Buswell(RFA) WR12 Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
May 24 1918 Fred Jacks(Aldgate) LP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15

Joe Conn(Bow)

106 contests - won 68 lost 31 drew 6

Dec 13 1911 Nipper Barton WP Judaeans AC 6
Jan 3 1912 George Gray WP Judaeans AC 6
Jul 28 1912 Jim King(Poplar) LP Judaeans AC 6
Mar 19 1913 Tom Cooper(Bermondsey) DR The Ring 6
Mar 31 1913 Harry Brooks(Aldgate) LP Judaeans AC 6
Apr 13 1913 Nipper Josephs(Aldgate) LP Judaeans AC 6
May 18 1913 Jim King(Poplar) LR4 Judaeans AC 6
Nov 10 1913 Jim Spring(Bermondsey) LS2 The Ring 6
(8st 6lbs competition 1st series)
Nov 24 1913 Ted Mason(Lambeth) LR6 The Ring 6
Jan 29 1914 Bill Porter(Marylebone) WP The Ring 6
Mar 1 1914 Joe Pinkus KO1 Judaeans AC 6
May 9 1914 Joe Lipman(Mile End) LR3 Premierland 6
Aug 22 1914 Johnny Stanley(Fulham) WP Premierland 6
Sep 5 1914 Ted Fielder(Walworth) WR4 Premierland 6
Sep 28 1914 Fred Fletch(Kentish Town) WS5 The Ring 6

Oct 3 1914 Joe Dixon WS5 West London Stadium 6
Oct 17 1914 Johnny Stanley(Fulham) DR Premierland 6
Oct 22 1914 Young Coucher(Marylebone) DR West London Stadium 6
Oct 26 1914 Joe Hutchinson WS3 West London Stadium 6
Oct 31 1914 Danny Elliott(Bermondsey) WP Premierland 6
Nov 16 1914 Jack Parkyn(Barnsby) DR The Ring 6
Dec 7 1914 Jim Hayes(Bermondsey) LP The Ring 6
Dec 9 1914 J Marshall WP Kennington Lambert's gymnasium 6
Dec 19 1914 Mike Winters(Marylebone) WP West London Stadium 10
Dec 28 1914 Jim Ransford(Walworth) WP The Ring 6
Jan 4 1915 Jim Wall WP The Ring 6
Jan 6 1915 Johnny Honey(Highgate) WP Kennington Lambert's gymnasium 6
Jan 18 1915 Danny Elliott(Bermondsey) WP N.S.C. 6
Feb 22 1915 Harry Moyse(Bermondsey) WS1 N.S.C. 6
Mar 19 15 Young Josephs' nipper(Aldgate) LP Kennington Lambert's gymnasium 6
Apr 19 1915 Bob Finch(Covent Garden) WP N.S.C.
Jun 8 1915 Charlie Webb(Mile End) WP Stepney Social Club 10
Jun 19 1915 Pte. Culham(Queens Regt.) WS2 The Ring 6
Jul 15 1915 Jack Lyons(Kings Cross) WS6 West London Stadium 10
Jul 19 1915 Driver Harvey Noble(Catford) WR4 The Ring 10
Aug 16 1915 Harry Curley(Lambeth) WP The Ring 15
Sep 6 1915 Tommy Noble(Bermondsey) DR The Ring 15
Oct 2 1915 Billy Fry(Tylorstown) LP The Ring 15
Oct 21 1915 Charlie Richardson(Hampstead) WS9 The Ring 15
Nov 11 1915 Johnny Marshall(Bermondsey) WP The Ring 10
Nov 27 1915 Kid Davis(Newmarket) WP Stratford Harrow Football Ground 15
Jan 1 1916 Sid Whatley(Walworth) WS5 Plymouth Cosmo Gymnasium 15
Mar 25 1916 Tom Wells(Poplar) WS4 The Ring 15
Apr 17 1916 Charlie Lordan(Lambeth) WR1 The Ring 15
May 27 1916 Kid Davis(Newmarket) WR Stratford Harrow Football ground 15
Jun 1 1916 Sid Whatley(Walworth) WS5 West London Stadium 10
Jun 5 1916 L/Cpl. Charlie Preston(East Surrey Regt.) WP N.S.C. 10
Jun 19 1916 Arthur Ireland(St Pancras) LP The Ring 15
Aug 10 1916 Sid Whatley(Walworth) LP The Ring 15
Dec 4 1916 Steve Hearne(Tooting) WS13 The Ring 15
Jan 15 1917 Tom Cherry(Poplar) WS7 The Ring 10
Feb 22 1917 Sid Whatley(Walworth) LP The Ring 15
Mar 26 1917 L/Cpl. Bert Harding(Menby) WP The Ring 15
May 10 1917 Kid Davis(Newmarket) Wt14 The Ring 15
May 12 1917 Billy Phillips(Penrygraig) WP Stratford Harrow Football ground 15
May 28 1917 L/Cpl. Harry Curley(Lambeth)) WP The Ring 20
Jun 11 1917 Ernie Proudlove(St Helens) WR7 The Ring 15
Jul 16 1917 Francis Rossi(Pontypridd) DR The Ring 20
Aug 20 1917 Francis Rossi(Pontypridd) LP The Ring 20
Sep 3 1917 Tommy Noble(Bermondsey) WP The Ring 20
Oct 15 1917 Sid Smith(Bermondsey) Wt14 The Ring 4
Nov 19 1917 Jack Josephs(Pontypridd) WP The Ring 20
Dec 3 1917 Tommy Noble(Bermondsey) WP The Ring 20
Jan 14 1918 Danny Morgan(Tyrlphys) WS8 The Ring 20
Feb 4 1918 Curley Walker(Bermondsey) WP The Ring 20
Feb 11 1918 Danny Morgan(Tyrphil) WP The Ring 20
Mar 18 1918 Fred Jacks(Aldgate) WP The Ring 20
Apr 15 1918 Danny Morgan(Tyrlphys) WP N.S.C. 20
Apr 29 1918 Billy Fry(Tylorstown) WP The Ring 20
Jun 13 1918 Idris Jones(Manmonford) WS9 Liverpool Stadium 15
George Merritt (Silvertown)

141 contests - won 59 lost 52 drew 30

May 23 1932 Len Warren (Cheshunt) LP Edmonton Alcazar 6
Jun 6 1932 Len Mealey (Holloway) WP Edmonton Alcazar 6
Jun 9 1932 Battling Sykes (USA) W S3 Ilford Skating Rink
Jun 23 1932 Tommy Fox (Bromley) LP Ilford Skating Rink 6
Jun 27 1932 Pat Flanagan (Islington) LP Edmonton Alcazar 6
Jul 7 1932 Tommy Fox (Bromley) LP Ilford Skating Rink 8
Sep 8 1932 Jack Bishop (Hoxton) LP Ilford Skating Rink 8
Sep 29 1932 Tommy Fox (Bromley) LP Ilford Skating Rink 6
Oct 3 1932 Dave Flynn (Dublin) DR Holborn Stadium Club 4
Oct 10 1932 Johnny Smith (Holloway) WP Edmonton Alcazar 6
Oct 17 1932 Harry Howard (Poplar) DR Plumstead Baths 6
Oct 24 1932 Ernie Cordell (Islington) WS4 Edmonton Alcazar 6
Oct 30 1932 Mike Sullivan (Hoxton) DR Ilford Skating Rink 6
Oct 31 1932 Ernie Buck (Tottenham) WM Edmonton Alcazar 6
Nov 3 1932 Jack Bishop (Hoxton) DR East Ham Social Club 8
Nov 7 1932 George Williams (Kings Cross) WP Edmonton Alcazar 6
Nov 14 1932 George Cunningham (Stoke Newington) LP Edmonton Alcazar 6
Dec 29 1932 Tom Newman (Cheshunt) WP East Ham Central Baths 8
Mar 20 1933 Harry Howard (Poplar) LP Holborn Stadium Club 6
May 8 1933 Harry Howard (Poplar) WP Holborn Stadium Club 6
May 11 1933 Harry Howard (Poplar) DR East Ham 6
May 27 1933 Len Mealey (Bethnal Green) WP The Ring 6
Jun 17 1918 Curley Walker (Bermondsey) WP The Ring 15
Aug 31 1918 Jimmy Wilde (Tylorstown) LS12 Chelsea Stamford Bridge 20
Oct 21 1918 Tancy Lee (Paisley) LKO17 N.S.C. 20 (British Featherweight Title)
Mar 10 1919 Walter Ross (Ponyrydd) W Twl13 The Ring
Aug 11 1919 Dick Moss (Leeds) KO2 The Ring 20
Oct 6 1919 Dick Ross (Ponyrydd) NC17 N.S.C. 20
Jan 10 1920 George Hinds (Whickham) KO4 The Ring
Feb 7 1920 Charlie Stone (Taffs Well) KO9 The Ring
Feb 28 1920 Idris Jones (Ammanford) W Twl13 The Ring
Mar 27 1920 Tommy Phillips (Neath) WR7 The Ring
Apr 19 1920 Tommy Ryan (Australia) WP N.S.C. 20
May 15 1920 Louis Ruddick (Leeds) WS14 The Ring
Jun 24 1920 Alf Wye (Hoxton) WR3 Mile End People's Palace
Jul 9 1920 Curley Walker (Bromley) WR6 Mile End People's Palace
Jul 15 1920 Arthur Wynns (Belgium) LS14 The Ring
Oct 18 1920 Kid Lees (Oldham) LP Wallsend Tyneside Stadium
Dec 24 1933 George Bissett (Stratford) LP Stratford Broadway
Oct 18 1920 Kid Lees (Oldham) LP Wallsend Tyneside Stadium
20 Dec 14 1933 George Alexander (Canning Town) LP East Ham Baths
8 Nov 13 1933 Newsboy Kirk (Euston) DR Eltham Parish Hall 8
Nov 20 1920 Ernie Rice (Hounslow) LS9 The Ring
Dec 6 1920 Billy Fry (Tylorstown) Ltwl12 N.S.C.
Jun 11 1921 Ben Callicott (Plymouth) Ltwl11 The Ring
Sep 7 1922 Ben Callicott (Plymouth) Wdsq15 The Ring
Sep 14 1922 Harry Mason (Leeds) LP Premierland 15
Dec 26 1922 Charlie Webb (Bow) WP The Ring 15
Jan 4 1923 Mike Honeyman (Canning Town) LP The Ring 15
Feb 19 1923 George Carney (Bromley) WS6 Bowl Drill Hall 15
Mar 5 1923 Bob Jackson (Tillbury) LP Bowl Drill Hall 15
Mar 13 1923 Jack Davies (Wednesbury) WP Manchester Free Trade Hall 15
Mar 22 1923 Idris Jones (Ammanford) LS15 Liverpool Stadium 15
Oct 5 1923 C.P.O Jim Cartledge (Plymouth) LP Plymouth Cosmo Gym 15
Dec 30 1923 Mike Honeyman (Woolwich) LS9 Premierland 15
Mar 30 1924 Charlie Evans (Bow) Ltwl3 Premierland
Feb 8 1925 Arthur Tyrell (Birmingham) LS9 Hackney Manor Hall 12
Oct 28 1932 Mike Sullivan (Hoxton) WP East Ham Baths 6
Nov 7 1932 George Cunningham (Stoke Newington) LP Edmonton Alcazar 6
Dec 29 1932 Tom Newman (Cheshunt) WP East Ham Central Baths 8
Mar 20 1933 Harry Howard (Poplar) LP Holborn Stadium Club 6
May 8 1933 Harry Howard (Poplar) WP Holborn Stadium Club 6
May 11 1933 Harry Howard (Poplar) DR East Ham 6
May 27 1933 Len Mealey (Bethnal Green) WP The Ring 6
Jan 3 1935 Jack Richards(Westbourne Park) DR Whitechapel Arena 12
Jan 14 1935 Jim Bloomfield(Westbourne Pk) DR Holborn Stadium Club 12
Jan 21 1935 Billy Jones(Pontypridd) WP Edmonton Alcazar 12
Feb 3 1935 Charlie Ward(Canning Town) DR Hackney Devonshire Club 12
Feb 18 1935 Joe Davis(Bethnal Green) LP Holborn Stadium Club 12
Feb 19 1935 Billy Jones(Wales) WP Margate Winter Gardens 12
Mar 10 1935 Tommy Williams(Twickenham) LP Hammersmith Stadium Club 12
Mar 25 1935 Dave Penfield(Chatham) LP Edmonton Alcazar 12
Apr 16 1935 Alf Paolozzi(North Shields) WP Poplar LCC Tramways Club 12
May 5 1935 Alf Paolozzi(North Shields) LP Hammersmith Stadium Club 12
May 26 1935 Mike Sullivan(Hoxton) DR Becontree Merry Fiddler's sports Grd 12
Nov 7 1935 Mike Sullivan(Hoxton) DR West Ham Baths 10
Nov 24 1935 George Alexander(Canning Town) DR Canning Town Marina Club 12
Nov 28 1935 Billy Reynolds(Newcastle) WSS East Ham Central Baths 12
Jan 6 1936 Teddy Hayes(Canada) LP Hackney Devonshire Club 12
Jan 16 1936 Billy Reynolds(Newcastle) WP East Ham Baths 12
Jan 30 1936 Harry Howard(Poplar) LP East Ham Baths 12
Feb 18 1936 Harry Howard(Poplar) WP Poplar Tramways Sports Club 12
Mar 4 1936 Harry Howard(Maidstone) DR Folkestone Marine Gardens 12
Mar 27 1936 Dave Penfield(Chatham) LP Hackney Devonshire Club 10
May 17 1936 Charlie Chamberlain(Poplar) WR4 Mile End Arena 8
Jun 20 1936 Boyo Cassidy(Kilburn) DR Hendon Stadium 12
Jun 21 1936 Harry Howard(Poplar) WP Becontree Merry Fiddler's Sports Grd 12
Jul 20 1936 Boyo Cassidy(Ireland) DR Holborn Stadium Club 12
Aug 23 1936 Con Flynn(Islington) LP Becontree Merry Fiddler's Sports Grd 12
Sep 13 1936 Arnold Kid Sheppard(Wales) WP Mile End Arena 12
Sep 28 1936 Con Flynn(Islington) LP Holborn Stadium Club 12
Oct 4 1936 Chris Benson(Old Ford) LP Hackney Devonshire Club 12
Oct 27 1936 Boyo Pat Cassidy(Ireland) DR Reading Palm Lodge 12
Nov 9 1936 Ronnie Barber(Yarmouth) WR7 Mitcham Baths 12
Dec 7 1936 Arnold Kid Sheppard(Cardiff) WP High Wycombe Town Hall 12
Jan 3 1937 Tommy Williams(Twickenham) LP Hammersmith 12
Jan 11 1937 Arnold Kid Sheppard(Cardiff) WP Plumstead Baths 12
Jan 18 1937 Frank Meachem(Leyton) DR Walthamstow Drill Hall 12
Feb 22 1937 Dave Penfield(Chatham) DR Plumstead Baths 12
May 23 1937 Les Croxton(Canning Town) LP Mile End Arena 12
Jun 14 1937 George Alexander(Canning Town) WP Holborn Stadium Club 12
Sep 20 1937 Arnold Kid Shepherd(Cardiff) WP Holborn Stadium Club 12
Oct 4 1937 Arnold Kid Shepherd(Cardiff) WP Walthamstow 12
Nov 22 1937 Dusty Welland(Chatham) LP Holborn Stadium Club 8
Jan 10 1938 Arnold Kid Sheppard(Cardiff) WP Holborn Stadium Club 12
Jan 12 1938 Steve Curly Fay(High Wycombe) WS10 Luton Sports Stadium 10
Jan 17 1938 George Alexander(Canning Town) LP Plumstead Baths 12
Jan 31 1938 Con Flynn(Islington) WP Holborn Stadium Club 8
Feb 21 1938 Bill Curran(Walton) WR11 Plumstead Baths 12
Apr 11 1938 Con Flynn(Islington) LS7 Holborn Stadium Club 12
Aug 25 1938 Bill Curran(Walton) LP Mile End Arena 12
Sep 23 1938 Johnny Hughes(Worthing) WP Mile End Arena 12
Sep 29 1938 Bill Curran(Walton) LS10 East Ham Palais de Danse 12
Oct 31 1938 Johnny Hughes(Worthing) LR2 Deptford Arena 12
Dec 5 1938 Arnold Kid Sheppard(Cardiff) WP Herne Bay Pier Pavilion 12
Dec 30 1938 Pat Howard(Finsbury) WP Hackney Devonshire Club 12
Jan 2 1939 George Darlow(Highgate) LP Holborn Stadium Club 12
Feb 9 1939 George Darlow(Highgate) DR Kentish Town Baths 12
Feb 13 1939 George Darlow(Highgate) LS4 Holborn Stadium Club 12
May 12 1939 Pat Day(Canning Town) WP Hackney Devonshire Club 12
Jun 29 1939 Arnold Sheppard(Cardiff) WP Mile End Arena 12
Jul 16 1939 Dave Penfield(Chatham) WP Mile End Arena 12
Aug 7 1939 Johnny Collins(Ireland) WP Alexandra Palace 6
Aug 17 1939 Harry Davis(Bethnal Green) WP Mile End Arena 12
Aug 21 1939 George Bennett(Greenwich) WP Deptford Arena 12
Sep 28 1939 Morry Josephs(Battersea) WP Hackney Devonshire Club 8
Oct 23 1939 Dick Bradshaw(Portsmouth) WP Holborn Stadium Club 6
Nov 6 1939 Dick Bradshaw(Portsmouth) LP Holborn Stadium Club 8
Dec 11 1939 Dusty Welland(Chatham) LP Holborn Stadium Club 6
Dec 18 1939 Norman Snow(Northampton) LS8 Northampton 10
Jan 14 1940 Jack Clarke(Cambridge) WP Hackney Devonshire Club 6
Jan 15 1940 Billy Bird(Chelsea) LP Southampton Sports Drome 10
Jan 21 1940 Paddy Roche(Ireland) LP Hackney Devonshire Club 8
Feb 21 1940 Jimmy Johnson(RAF) WP Holborn Stadium Club 8
Apr 14 1940 Billy Jones(Cwmbrac) WR6 Hackney Devonshire Club 8
Apr 21 1940 Harry Davis(Bethnal Green) LP Hackney Devonshire Club 8
Feb 28 1945 Marine Jimmy Brun(ARM) LP Queensberry Club 8

Ric Sanders(Leicester)

103 contests - won 68 lost 28 drew 7

Dec 4 1945 Johnny Battles(Bradford) WP Leicester Rail & Road Trans Club 6
Dec 18 1945 Alf Rackham(Derby) KO6 Leicester Transport Club
Jan 7 1946 Eric Hall(Cambridge) DR Ipswich 8
Jan 15 1946 Benny Norman(Doncaster) KO6 Leicester Cossington St Baths 10
Jan 29 1946 George Marsden(Nottingham) WP Leicester Cossington St Baths 10
Feb 8 1946 Bob Barlow(Heage) WP Derby Kings Hall 8
Feb 26 1946 George Marsden(Nottingham) WP Leicester 8
Mar 6 1946 Sailor Archie Smith(Stony Stanton) WP Brierley Hill 10
Mar 8 1946 Al Gamage(Crewe) WP Ardwick Stadium 10
Mar 11 1946 George Fordham(Stepney) WP Ipswich 10
Mar 12 1946 Phil Volante(Birmingham) DR Birmingham 8
Apr 1 1946 Norman Twigger(Bedworth) LP Birmingham 8
Apr 15 1946 Tommy Shaw(Conventry) KO4 Birmingham 8
Apr 18 1946 Phil Volante(Birmingham) DR Brierley Hill Town Hall 10

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Feel free to write to me or to email me with comments about the magazine, suggestions, questions or anything at all to do with pre-war boxing.
‘Health and Strength’ and ‘Boxing’ series Post Cards

Young Lippo (Plymouth)

Each month I will reproduce a copy of a post card from either the ‘Health and Strength’ or the ‘Boxing’ series that were popular before the First World War. I have a large collection of these and they provide a wonderful photographic record of the most popular performers in British rings at that time,