

Arnold Parsons

A Champion in wrestling from Walthamstow

Photographs & text by courtesy of Alan Parsons [email] - Dec. 2013

SIDELIGHTS ON SPORTSMEN

ARNOLD PARSONS
Wrestling Champion

INTRODUCING Britain's feather-weight amateur wrestling champion, Arnold Parsons, of Walthamstow, aged 19. Fair-haired, Arnold stirred the wrestling world over a year ago with a series of convincing wins to gain the Southern Counties championship.

He carried—or threw—all before him in the "catch-as-catch-can" conscious Midlands, then defeated the Scots champion for the National title.

Last March the British Amateur Wrestling Association decided he was good enough to travel with the home team to Brussels. There he further enhanced his prestige with a win over the Belgian champion, Baur.

The Continentals, who never feared much opposition from British wrestlers anyway, really took notice. Baur, incidentally, has since accounted for the French champion, Brunettina.

Arnold told the "Guardian" that he would not be going with the British team to Paris to-morrow, when he should have met Brunettina. "I fractured my arm while training last week," he said, "and I'm not sure to be fit for the contest at Sweden next month."

Asked if his ambition was to emulate his world-famous coach, George MacKenzie, of the Ashdown Club, who won championships for over 25 years, Arnold replied, "Well, I certainly admire George, but my real ambition is to represent Great Britain in the 1948 Olympic Sports."

Son of Leading-fireman F. Parsons (N.F.S.) and Mrs.



Parsons, of 17, Corbett-road, the young champion is a panel-beater with a Wanstead firm. At the age of 12 he was an agility adept and went to the renowned British welter-weight champion, Fireman Len Cotland, of Sunset-avenue, Chingford.

The Chingford wrestler was so impressed by the rapidity with which the boy assimilated the technique of wrestling that he devoted much time to developing his style.

Apart from doing a little weight-lifting, Arnold has little time for any other hobbies. He trains four nights a week at either the Palmerston Club, Walthamstow, or the Ashdown Club. He was a student at the Coppermill-lane School.

An official of the B.A.W.A. told me great things are expected of Arnold. A speedy recovery of his arm injury will enable him to participate in the National Championships later this year.



LEFT

A. PARSONS.

BRITISH BANTAM-WEIGHT
CHAMPION. 1945

BRITISH FEATHER-WEIGHT.
CHAMPION 1946

BRITISH FEATHER-WEIGHT.
CHAMPION. 1948

INTERNATIONAL.
ENGLAND v BELGIUM. 1946
LONDON CHAMPION 1949
FINALIST. G^B BRITAIN 1949.
BRITISH OLYMPIC. REP. 1948
ENGLAND v EIRE 1948.
EMPIRE GAMES. REP. 1950

RIGHT.

L. COTLAND. (TRAINER)

BRITISH. WELTER-WEIGHT
CHAMPION.

1949 EASTERN MIDLANDS. SOUTHERN AREAS.
EASTERN MIDLANDS.

Persons Interested
in Wrestling, Weight Lifting, Body Building, etc,
which is under the supervision
of Qualified Instructors
will be welcomed to the Club any Monday or Friday
from 7.30 p.m.

We Sincerely Trust
This Display of Our Activities will encourage the
Youth of Walthamstow and surrounding districts
to indulge in these healthy and manly exercises.

The Object of the Club
is to endeavour to
Build Healthy Bodies
Hence—Clean Minds.

Full particulars can be obtained from:-
Mr. H. S. HOW, 20, Silverdale Road, Highams Park, E. 4.
Telephone: LARKWOOD 1051

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Palmerston Wrestling Club.

President: — ERNEST GRUHN, Esq.
Vice-President — GEORGE WILSON, Esq.
Affiliated to the
British Wrestling and Weight Lifters' Associations.

PROGRAMME

of
**Wrestling, Weight Lifting, Balancing,
Body Building,**

to be held at the Headquarters
of the Palmerston Club

Friday, 22nd February, 1946 at 7 p.m.

at the
MARSH STREET SCHOOLS.
(YOUTH CENTRE)

HIGH STREET, WALTHAMSTOW, E. 17.

ADMISSION PROGRAMME — ONE SHILLING.

PROGRAMME

WRESTLING.

Catch as Catch Can Style.

M.C.:- A. WARREN.

Referee:- H. S. HOW. Comper:- R. BLANKS.

Special Feather Weight Match.

W
ARNOLD PARSONS V. ALBERT BUCKLAND
(Walthamstow) (Islington)
British Feather Weight Prospective Champion
Champion

Exhibition.

LIONEL WILLS V. LEN COTLAND
(Both Former Welter Weight Champions)

Light Weight Match.

GORDON MUSGROVE V. DUNCAN CAWS
(Walthamstow) (Islington)

Feather Weight Match.

MORRIS BENJAMIN V. DOUGLAS LEWIS
(Walthamstow) (Walthamstow)

These Four Youths have only been Wrestling a short time
and are making rapid progress.

A Contest consists of 3 bouts of 10 minutes each duration.
A Fall terminates a Bout, if no Fall is registered,
the Bout is decided on points.

WEIGHT LIFTING.

Under Olympic Weight Lifting Rules.

Referee:- L. WELHAM.

260 lb.
WRIGHT. Olympic Match. PAUL 175
ROBERT WATKINS V. LEN TALBOT
GEORGE KIRKLEY V. NORMAN JELLISS

The above Men are Prospective Champions.

Norman Jellis is about to create
A British Body Press Record during the Coming Season.

Demonstration of Training by

County Champion Weight Lifters

Commentary by LEN TALBOT.
Observe the Splendid Body of this Athlete.

THE FOUR ACES

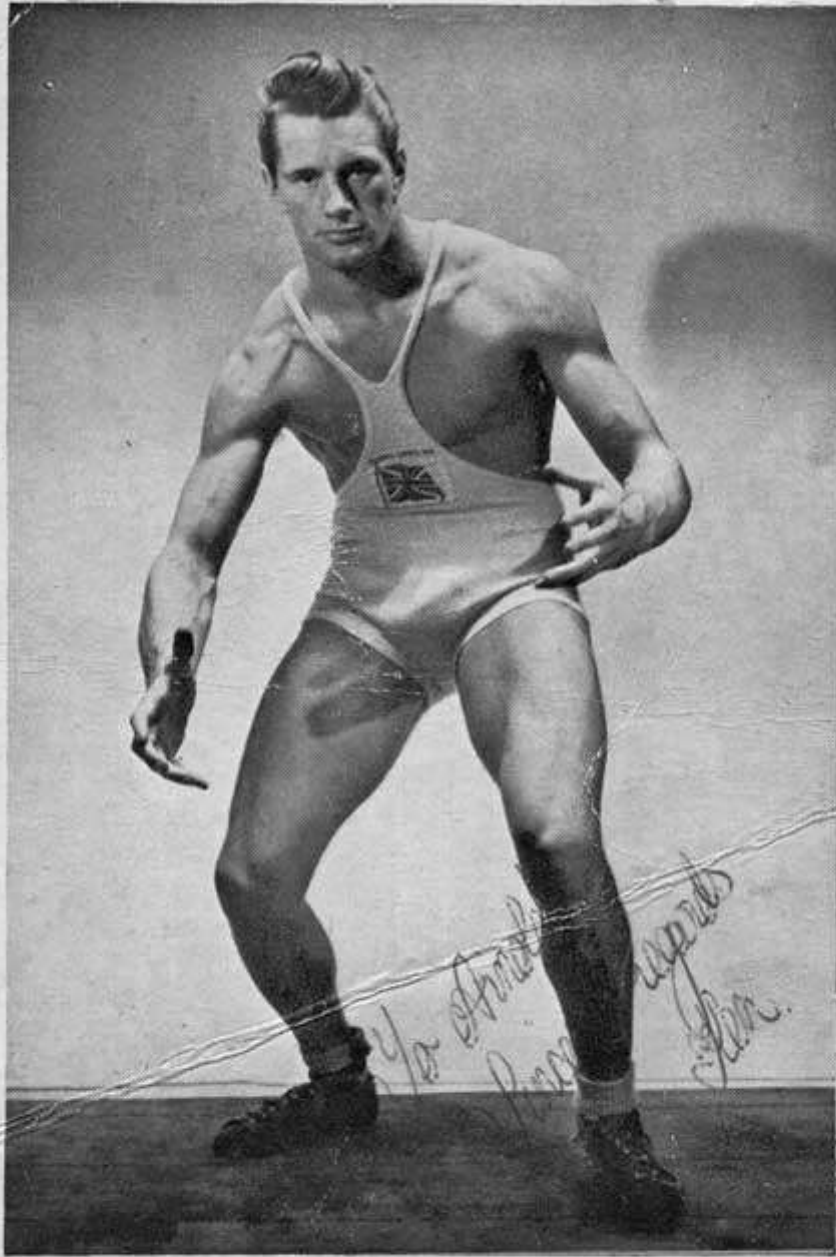
The Strongest Acrobatic Handbalancers
in London.

All the Performers are connected to the Promoting Club.

Photos taken at Walthamstow Fire Station, Len Cotland (trainer) (British welter weight champion) & Arnold Parsons wrestling, Arnold Parsons going on to represent England in the Olympic Games.







KEN RICHMOND

British Heavyweight Champion, 1949

Irish Heavyweight Champion, 1949

Olympic Games, 1948

Empire Games, 1950

This is Ken Richmond who strikes the gong on the start of the rank films, friends with Arnold parsons. Before he died, he revealed to friends a closely guarded secret that the gong was a papier-mache stage prop.