

LIVERPOOL

STADIUM

GRAND FINAL NIGHT

Thursday, March 5th, 1931.

1911 1931



Under the direction of - - - - - **JOHNNY BEST.**



SOUVENIR PROGRAMME.

THREEPENCE.

Harry Hughes & Co., Printers, 37-39, Vaughan Road, Liverpool.

FOREWORD.

To MY PATRONS,

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for the support given to my promotions during the last two years.

Whatever success I have made during that period has been made possible by the continued patronage given to my shows during a time when unemployment and money were very scarce.

I think it has been proved that Liverpool has a Boxing Public that will support the boxing game if the matches are good ones.

The Boxing Game is by no means a sentimental one, but, I have no doubt in my mind many here to-night feel just a little sad at the breaking up of many friendships formed through the "Thursday Night Habit" of attending the Stadium.

I know this break will only be a temporary one for I hope to see Liverpool with a Permanent Boxing Hall before long.

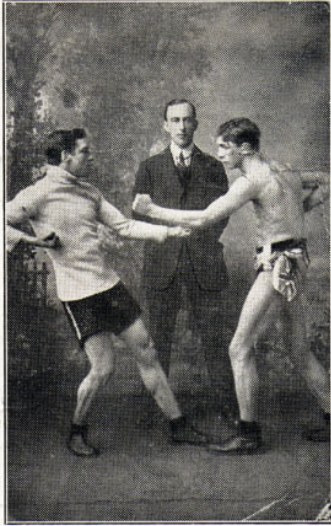
I am, in the meantime, carrying on at the TOWER, NEW BRIGHTON, an Ideal Boxing Hall, where I hope to stage a Few Important Contests in the near future.

If any of my Patrons can come along I shall be glad to see them, and, no doubt, they will spend a pleasant evening at this Hall.

In conclusion let me again thank the Press, Boxers, Boxers' Managers, and everyone who has worked hand-in-hand with me to put Liverpool on the Boxing Map.

Yours sincerely,

JOHNNY BEST.



A photo taken before the opening of the Stadium, of Major Arnold Wilson, Nat Williams and Johnny Best. When Arnold Wilson founded the Stadium, boxing was at its lowest ebb in Liverpool.

The advent of the Stadium had a wonderful effect on the game and in a few years Liverpool had a reputation all over the world.

Major Wilson repeated the process when he opened out in London and his shows at Albert Hall and Olympia attracted many notable Society people and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales saw most of the big contests there. There is not the slightest doubt that 'Arnold Wilsons' entry into the boxing game marked a new era in the history of the noble art.

Nat Williams is probably one of the cleverest Featherweights Liverpool has produced. During a period when there were a number of exceptionally clever boxers Nat held his own. He boxed a draw with Kid Lewis, Johnny Basham, Jerry Delaney who was killed during the war and was undefeated.

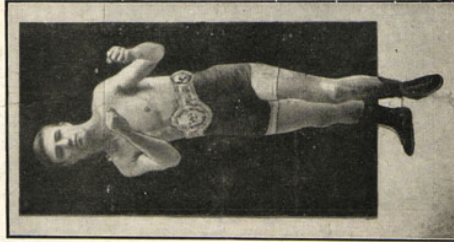
Nat took a trip to Australia and his first contest was with Herb McCoy, the Lightweight Champion of Australia. Nat created a sensation by outpointing him over 20 rounds. He is now on the Stadium Staff as Chief Second.

A few Famous Boxers who have appeared at the Stadium



SEAMAN HAYES

Seaman Hayes a great Featherweight of 20 years ago. Stopped Nat Williams at N.S.C. in 1893 but Nat defeated Hayes at the Stadium in a return 20rds contest on points.



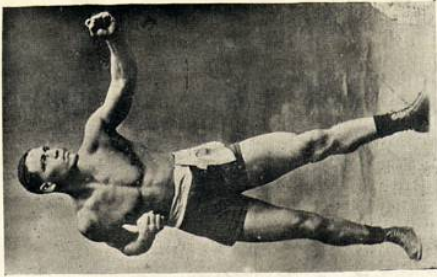
DIGGER STANLEY

Digger Stanley defeated Ike Bradley on points in this hall (20 rds contest) after a great struggle.



BENARD

Benard took part in a contest here with Joe Borrell, America, which is still quoted as one of the greatest Middleweight contests seen in Liverpool. Borrell won on points.



JOE JEANNETTE
 Joe Jeannette who k.o. Geo Rodel the South African Heavyweight in the 1st round at Stadium in 1911.



TANCY LEE
 Tancy Lee who often appeared here k.o. Jimmy Wilde at N.S.C. but Wilde reversed the decision in a return by k.o. Lee.



PAT O'KEEFE
 Middleweight Champion and Lonsdale Belt Holder. Appeared here several times.

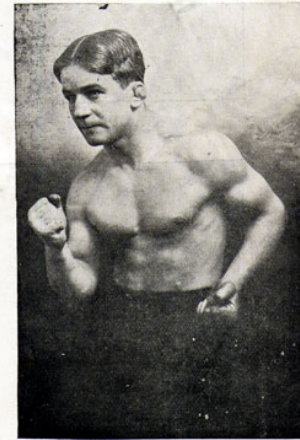


BANDSMAN DICK RICE

Boxed Bombadier Billy Wells here on two occasions, lost on points after having Wells down for a count in the 1st in a 20rd contest and in second contest Wells k.o. him inside 5 rounds.



JOHNNY BASHAM



BADDOUD

V.

Boxed on two occasions, Basham winner on points and Badoud by k.o. return contest.



FREDDIE WELSH

Freddie Welsh boxed several times at the Stadium and had a narrow escape from defeat in his contest with Eddie Beattie, Scotland, who had Welsh down for a count of 9. Welsh won on points.

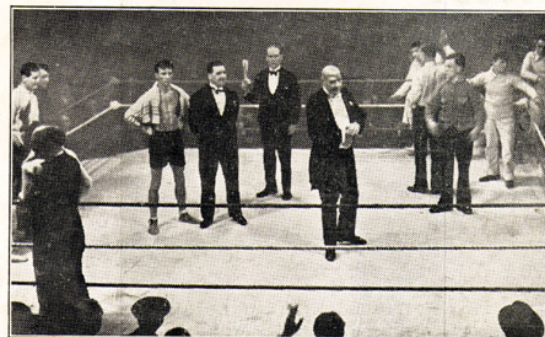


JOHNNY SUMNER

Dixie Kid k.o. Johnny Sumner in 2 rds at 10st. 2lb. weigh in at Ringside. Dixie Kid boxed one of the greatest contests seen at the Stadium against Harry Lewis the American Middleweight who knocked the Dixie Kid out.



DIXIE KID



Liverpool Stadium, Thursday, November 6th, 1930.

The last scenes of the British Featherweight Championship and Lonsdale Belt Contest

JOHNNY CUTHBERT and NEL TARLETON.

RESULT A DRAW.

Photo:—LORD LONSDALE making a speech at the close of the Contest.



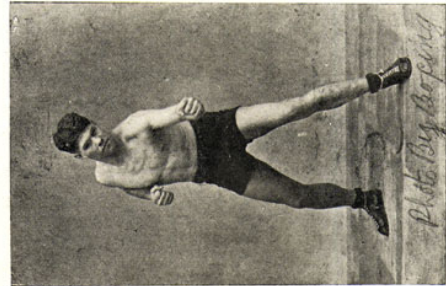
TOMMY NOBLE

Tommy Noble gave Jimmy Wilde a great fight here, had Wilde down for 9 and only a wonderful display of courage enabled Jimmy to survive the round. Wilde re-covered and k.o. Noble.



HUGHIE MEEGHAN

Popular Australian Welterweight who boxed Johnny Summers.



FRANK GODDARD

Frank Goddard who k.o. Arthur Towaley after a terrific contest at the Stadium.



ALF. HOWARD.

Liverpool's Sensation Fighter always provides the "fans" with thrills win or lose. Won European Lightweight Title from FRANCES SYBILLE.

Recently at this hall lost on points to Gustave Roth the European Welterweight Champion, in a contest voted by the critics as one of the best seen at the Stadium.

Still young, and may yet win the Welter Title.



NEL TARLETON.
LIVERPOOL.

Nel Tarleton is a local product.

Born January 14th, 1906. Started boxing at the age of 13 at the Everton (Red Triangle, winning the 6st. 5lb. 7st. 6lb; and 8st. 6lb., Championship of Liverpool in the first year of boxing. Won the Bantam Weight Championship of Northern Counties three years in succession from 1921-24, also semi-finalist in the all English Championships the same years. Won the Colonel Sugden Cup open to all England in 1922-3 and 1923-4. Turned professional in December, 1925, made a tour of America in 1929, beating Archie Bell, Ex-Bantam Champion of the world, in the first fight.

Boxed a draw with Johnny Cuthbert for Lonsdale Belt and Featherweight Championship at this Hall on November 6th, 1930.

RECORDS OF FIGHTS.

AMATEUR—300: lost 4.

IN ENGLAND (Professionally)—71: Won 36; Lost 5; Drawn 3.

AMERICAN TOUR—9: Won 6; Lost 2; Drawn 1.



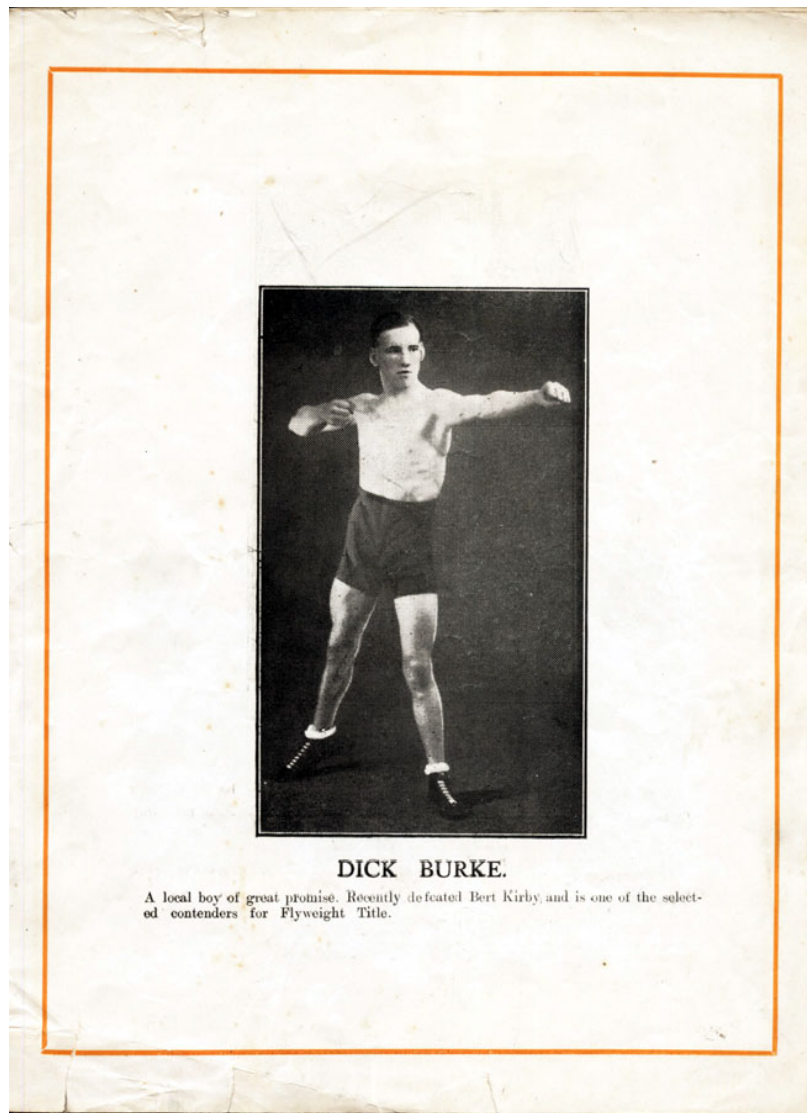
DOM VOLANTE

A product of Liverpool who is probably the most colourful boxer in Great Britain. Lost to Johnny Cuthbert last May, at Olympia for Lonsdale Belt after one of the greatest contests seen in London for many years.

Undefeated during his American tour and his contest with Harry Carlton at Madison Square Gardens last year, which Dom won, is still quoted in American Sporting papers as "the contest of the year."

Defeated three Lonsdale Belt Holders in Johnny Cuthbert, Johnny Curley and Harry Corbett. Always ready to lend a hand to any good cause.

Harry Otty



1929-06-20	Paddy Dowling	Liverpool, Merseyside, En	W DQ 3
1929-07-11	Paddy Dowling	Liverpool, Merseyside, En	W KO 3
1929-08-15	Alf Shaw	Liverpool, Merseyside, En	W TKO 2
1929-09-05	Spike Bradley	Liverpool, England	W TKO 8
1929-09-19	Willie Sharkey	Liverpool, England	W TKO 8
1929-10-10	Jackie Quinn	Liverpool, England	D PTS 15
1929-10-31	Percy Dexter	Liverpool, England	L PTS 15
1930-02-20	Percy Dexter	Liverpool, Merseyside, En	L PTS 15
1930-03-27	Young Jim Driscoll	Liverpool, England	W KO 3
1930-04-10	Johnny McGurn	Liverpool, England	W PTS 15
1930-04-24	Bert Ison	Liverpool, England	W PTS 15
1930-05-19	Jackie Quinn	Liverpool, England	W PTS 0
1930-06-26	Tommy Kirk	Liverpool, England	W PTS 15
1930-07-17	Joe Myers	Liverpool, England	W PTS 15
1930-08-14	Joe Myers	Liverpool, Merseyside, En	L PTS 15
1930-10-09	Joe Myers	Liverpool, England	W PTS 15
1930-10-23	Tommy Brown	Liverpool, Merseyside, En	W TKO 2
1930-12-11	Young Siki	Liverpool, England	D PTS 12
1931-01-01	Young Siki	Liverpool, England	W PTS 12
1931-01-29	Johnny Gibson	Liverpool, England	W TKO 2
1931-02-12	Bert Kirby	Liverpool, England	W PTS 15
1931-05-14	Spike Bradley	Liverpool, England	W KO 7
1931-06-11	Percy Dexter	Liverpool, England	W TKO 7
1931-10-01	Johnny Peters	Liverpool, Merseyside, En	W PTS 12
1932-06-13	Kid Johns	Liverpool, Merseyside, En	W KO 1
1932-11-10	Cuthbert Taylor	Liverpool, Merseyside, En	W PTS 12
1932-12-29	Billy Gannon	Liverpool, Merseyside, En	D PTS 15
1933-11-09	Johnny McMillan	Liverpool, Merseyside, En	L TKO 1
1939-11-30	Harry McAuley	Liverpool, England	W TKO 5

Harry Otty

Jan	1	Liverpool	Stadium	15	Fred Webster	Kentish Town	WS10	Harold	Higginson	Liverpool
Jan	1	Liverpool	Stadium	12	Dick Burke	Liverpool	WP	Young	Siki	Liverpool
Jan	1	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Benny Howells	Wrexham	WP	Ernie	Sherratt	Liverpool
Jan	1	Liverpool	Stadium	6	Frank Hughes	Shotton	WP	Jack	Wilkie	Liverpool
Jan	8	Liverpool	Stadium	15	Dom Volante	Liverpool	DR	Ginger	Jones	Ammanford
Jan	8	Liverpool	Stadium	12	Tom Bailey	Liverpool	WP	Jack	Glover	Barnsley
Jan	8	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Bert Wallace	Liverpool	WP	Joe	Cowley	Doncaster
Jan	8	Liverpool	Stadium	6	Alan Perry	Wallasey	WP	Johnny	Mack	Birkenhead
Jan	15	Liverpool	Stadium	15	Alf Howard	Liverpool	KO3	Jack	Haynes	Birmingham
Jan	15	Liverpool	Stadium	15	Jim Crawford	Wrexham	WS9	Arly	Hollingsworth	Sheffield
Jan	15	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Teddy Talbot	Warrington	WP	Ernie	Sherratt	Liverpool
Jan	15	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Tug Wilson	Liverpool	WS4	Joe	Brown	Bootle
Jan	15	Liverpool	Stadium	6	Jimmy Lomax	Warrington	WP	Tony	Butcher	Liverpool
Jan	22	Liverpool	Stadium	15	Jock McAvoy	Rochdale	WP	Charlie	McDonald	Sunderland
Jan	22	Liverpool	Stadium	12	Joe Rostron	Heywood	WP	George	Porter	Nottingham
Jan	22	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Stan Higson	Liverpool	DR	Cyclone	Ovey	Oldham
Jan	22	Liverpool	Stadium	6	Tommy Rose	Liverpool	KO2	Young	Stewart	Birkenhead
Jan	22	Liverpool	Stadium	4	Frank Brown	Liverpool	WP	Tony	Butcher	Liverpool
Jan	29	Liverpool	Stadium	15	Teddy Brown	Forest Hall	Wdsq10	Dom	Volante	Liverpool
Jan	29	Liverpool	Stadium	12	Dick Burke	Liverpool	WR2	Johnny	Gibson	London
Jan	29	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Bert Wallace	Liverpool	WP	Benny	Howells	Wrexham
Jan	29	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Jack Coney	Southport	WP	Alan	Perry	Wallasey
Jan	29	Liverpool	Stadium	6	Kid Kennedy	Liverpool	KO5	Young	Powell	Chester
Feb	5	Liverpool	Stadium	15	Alf Howard	Liverpool	WR5	Alex	Thake	London
Feb	5	Liverpool	Stadium	12	Tom Bailey	Liverpool	WR3	Ivor	Pickens	Caerau
Feb	5	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Ernie Sherratt	Liverpool	WP	Teddy	Talbot	Liverpool
Feb	5	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Joe Goodall	Manchester	WR3	Dick	Doolan	Liverpool
Feb	5	Liverpool	Stadium	6	Mick Howard	Liverpool	KO5	Bob	McCann	Liverpool

Harry Otty

Feb	5	Liverpool	Stadium	6	Jimmy Lomax	Warrington	WP	George Boyce	Birkenhead
Feb	12	Liverpool	Stadium	15	Dick Burke	Liverpool	WP	Bert Kirby	Birmingham
Feb	12	Liverpool	Stadium	12	Harold Higginson	Liverpool	DR	George White	Liverpool
Feb	12	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Jack Mallon	Liverpool	WR7	Spud Murphy	Manchester
Feb	12	Liverpool	Stadium	6	Frank Hughes	Shotton	WP	Dyke Archer	Manchester
Feb	12	Liverpool	Stadium	4	Paddy Jones	Shotton	WP	Tug Wilson	Liverpool
Feb	19	Liverpool	Stadium	15	Nel Tarleton	Liverpool	WS12	Ernest Mignard	France
Feb	19	Liverpool	Stadium	12	Jim Crawford	Wrexham	WP	Arthur Boddington	Wellingboro
Feb	19	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Benny Howells	Wrexham	WP	Bert Wallace	Liverpool
Feb	19	Liverpool	Stadium	6	Ossie Parry	Wrexham	KO1	Al Brown	Liverpool
Feb	19	Liverpool	Stadium		Tom Rose		KO5	Sid Rose	
Feb	26	Liverpool	Stadium	15	Gustave Roth	Belgium	WP	Alf Howard	Liverpool
Feb	26	Liverpool	Stadium	12	Tommy Bailey	Liverpool	WR10	Billy Evans	Ystrad
Feb	26	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Cyclone Ovey	Oldham	KO2	Tommy Burge	Liverpool
Feb	26	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Dick Doolan	Liverpool	WP	Young Martin	Liverpool
Feb	26	Liverpool	Stadium	6	Young Simpson	Wrexham	WP	Billy Jones	Shotton
Mar	5	Liverpool	Stadium	15	Dom Volante	Liverpool	WS8	Teddy Brown	Forest Hall
Mar	5	Liverpool	Stadium	12	Bert Wallace	Liverpool	WP	Benny Howells	Wrexham
Mar	5	Liverpool	Stadium	10	Billy Bryon	Walkden	WP	Frank Hughes	Shotton
Mar	5	Liverpool	Stadium	6	Ossie Parry	Wrexham	WP	Johnny Driscoll	
Mar	5	Liverpool	Stadium	6	Billy Cook		WP	Stan Higson	
May	14	Liverpool			Dick Burke	Liverpool	KO7	Spike Bradley	Leeds
May	14	Liverpool		12	Tommy Rose	Liverpool	WP	Cope Hampston	Leeds
May	14	Liverpool			Billy Gannon	Liverpool	Wdsq4	Joe Humphreys	Liverpool
May	14	Liverpool			Ginger Foran	Liverpool	WR2	Danny Weston	Liverpool
May	14	Liverpool		6	Jimmy Lomax	Warrington	WP	Young Taylor	Liverpool
May	21	Liverpool			Dom Volante	Liverpool	WR9	Billy Granelly	Pontypridd
May	21	Liverpool		12	Bert Wallace	Liverpool	DR	Ernie Sherratt	Liverpool
May	21	Liverpool			Paddy McGrath	Liverpool	KO2	Jim Stewart	Liverpool
May	21	Liverpool		10	Tommy Eustace	Widnes	DR	Sam Brooks	Liverpool
May	21	Liverpool			Charlie Campbell	Liverpool	WS1	Ivor Flynn	Liverpool

Harry Otty

May	28	Liverpool	15	Tommy	Rose	Liverpool	WP	Young	Siki	Liverpool
May	28	Liverpool		Stan	Higson	Liverpool	WS7	Joe	Greenwood	Bolton
May	28	Liverpool		Ginger	Foran	Liverpool	KO1	Kid	Kelly	Manchester
May	28	Liverpool	10	Ted	Ledsham	Birkenhead	WP	Bob	Foster	Birkenhead
May	28	Liverpool	10	Dick	Doolan	Liverpool	DR	Young	Martin	Liverpool
Jun	4	Liverpool		Ginger	Jones	Ammanford	WR7	Paddy	McGrath	Liverpool
Jun	4	Liverpool	12	Billy	Bryon	Walkden	WP	Ernie	Sherratt	Liverpool
Jun	4	Liverpool	10	Young	Taylor	Liverpool	WP	Jimmy	Lomax	Warrington
Jun	4	Liverpool	10	Ernie	Roderick	Liverpool	WP	Tony	Butcher	Liverpool
Jun	4	Liverpool		Barney	Duane	Warrington	WS3	Young	Taylor	Liverpool
Jun	11	Liverpool		Dick	Burke	Liverpool	WR7	Percy	Dexter	Sheffield
Jun	11	Liverpool	10	Ginger	Foran	Liverpool	WP	Teddy	Snowball	Southport
Jun	11	Liverpool	10	Kid	Kennedy	Liverpool	WP	Young	Naylor	Wigan
Jun	11	Liverpool	10	Gunner	Harkness	Hoylake	WP	Les	Mack	Liverpool
Jun	11	Liverpool	6	Cyclone	Ovey	Oldham	WP	Jack	Humphreys	Liverpool
Jun	18	Liverpool	15	Tommy	Rose	Liverpool	WP	George	Marsden	Nottingham
Jun	18	Liverpool	12	Ernie	Sherratt	Liverpool	DR	Nipper	McFarlane	Bolton
Jun	18	Liverpool	10	Ernie	Roderick	Liverpool	WP	Young	Martin	Liverpool
Jun	18	Liverpool		Danny	Weston	Liverpool	WR3	Charlie	Campbell	Liverpool
Jun	18	Liverpool		George	Green	Liverpool	WS2	Dave	Craig	Liverpool
Aug	20	Liverpool	15	Jim	Pearson	Bamber Bridge	WP	Ian	Ritchings	Manchester
Aug	20	Liverpool	15	Johnny	McGurn	Liverpool	WP	Tom	Wilson	Bradford
Aug	20	Liverpool	10	Jim	Holland	Liverpool	WP	Billy	Fay	Manchester
Aug	20	Liverpool	10	Jack	Thompson	Liverpool	WP	Trevor	Bills	Manchester
Aug	20	Liverpool		Sandy	Carr	Liverpool	WS1	Tom	Garwood	Manchester
Aug	27	Liverpool		George	White	Liverpool	WS6	Jack	Murphy	Morecambe
Aug	27	Liverpool	15	Johnny	McGurn	Liverpool	WP	Fred	Bebbington	Salford
Aug	27	Liverpool	10	Jimmy	Dean	Liverpool	WP	Jim	McAllister	Manchester
Aug	27	Liverpool		Larry	Boner	Liverpool	WR3	Jim	Holland	Liverpool
Aug	27	Liverpool	6	Sandy	Carr	Liverpool	WP	Sam	Aarons	Manchester
Sep	3	Liverpool		Frank	Carberry	Liverpool	Wdsq9	Al	Kenny	Salford

Harry Otty

Sep	3	Liverpool		Charlie Smith	Birkenhead	WS3	Jim Belcher	Liverpool
Sep	3	Liverpool		Johnny Booth	Liverpool	WR6	Billy Jones	Birkenhead
Sep	3	Liverpool		Dave Taylor	Liverpool	Wdsq8	Young Cooper	Birkenhead
Sep	3	Liverpool		Chris Butler	Liverpool	KO6	Nat Stewart	Birkenhead
Sep	10	Liverpool		Tommy Maloney	Oldham	WS8	Joe Brown	Bootle
Sep	10	Liverpool	15	Albert Higgins	Wrexham	WP	Roland Bowcock	Oldham
Sep	10	Liverpool		Frank Ross	Oldham	KO1	Tom Capper	Birkenhead
Sep	10	Liverpool	10	Trevor Bills	Manchester	WP	Tommy Woods	Oldham
Sep	10	Liverpool		Young Costello	Liverpool	KO1	Wal Davies	Wrexham
Sep	17	Liverpool	15	Jim Pearson	Bamber Bridge	WP	Frank Ogden	Salford
Sep	17	Liverpool		Andy Byrne	Manchester	WS9	Tom Wilson	Bradford
Sep	17	Liverpool	10	Cyril Helme	Bamber Bridge	WP	Jack Owen	Manchester
Sep	17	Liverpool		Wilf McCoy	Bamber Bridge	WS3	Bert Whiteside	Manchester
Sep	17	Liverpool	6	Tony Butler	Liverpool	WP	Sandy Corr	Liverpool
Oct	1	Liverpool	15	Nel Tarleton	Liverpool	WP	Johnny Cuthbert	Sheffield
Oct	1	Liverpool	12	Dick Burke	Liverpool	WP	Johnny Peters	Battersea
Oct	1	Liverpool		Harold Higginson	Liverpool	WS5	Jack Mallon	Liverpool
Oct	1	Liverpool	8	Tommy Hyams	Kings Cross	WP	Billy Gannon	Liverpool
Dec	17	Liverpool		Alf Howard	Liverpool	WS6	Harry Jenkins	London
Dec	17	Liverpool	10	Ernie Roderick	Liverpool	WP	Tom Bailey	Liverpool
Dec	17	Liverpool	6	Nat Williams	Liverpool	WP	Dave Taylor	Liverpool
Dec	17	Liverpool	6	Young Taylor	Liverpool	WP	Jimmy Dean	Liverpool

Above contests are from the final year (1931) at the old Liverpool Stadium (Pudsey Street), and cover January 1st to March 5th, 1931. Bouts from May to December, 1931 were held at several venues around the Merseyside area.



After the old Stadium on the corner of London road and Pudsey Street closed in March 1931, promoter Johnny Best attempted to keep the fight scene in Liverpool alive by holding cards at various venues in and around the city. Halls in Southport, New Brighton and Everton (at the Lyric Theatre on Everton Brow – later destroyed in the German bombing raids on Liverpool), were utilised, but few had the atmosphere of the Pudsey Street venue.

After a good deal of hard work Best succeeded in securing a site – and the money – to erect a purpose built venue near Liverpool city centre. The ‘new’ Liverpool Stadium was the only purpose-built boxing venue in the country and Best ran shows there on a regular basis for many years (there will be more on the new venue in a further piece on Liverpool boxing in the near future).

The old stadium was converted to a cinema and still stands to this day. Currently named the ‘Odeon Liverpool’ the old stadium started its new life as one of the great Paramount Theatres. With a full stage, a Compton organ, a large cafe and an elaborately decorated auditorium with 2,670 seats in stalls and single balcony, the Paramount was the pre-eminent cinema in the city. It opened on 15th October 1934 and was the largest cinema in the Merseyside area. It cost 240,000 pounds to convert and was designed by Frank T Verity and Sam Beverley.

The cinema was decorated in 1930s art nouveau style with unusual metal grilles either side of the proscenium arch topped by drapes. Lighting was entirely indirect. It was taken over by Odeon in 1942 and almost immediately renamed.

The decorative features were entirely destroyed in 1968 when the stalls and balcony were separated to form two individual cinemas seating 989 in screen 1 (the extended balcony) and well over 1,000 in the huge stalls (screen 2). Odeons 3 and 4 were created by sub-dividing screen 2 in 1973 with the front portion retaining 595 seats and the new auditoria at the rear containing 167 seats each. A large bar in the former circle foyer was in 1979 converted to Odeon 5 with 148 seats. The facade has also been covered with sheet metal cladding and there are few traces of its former glory.