

THE HISTORY OF THE "IRON GAME"

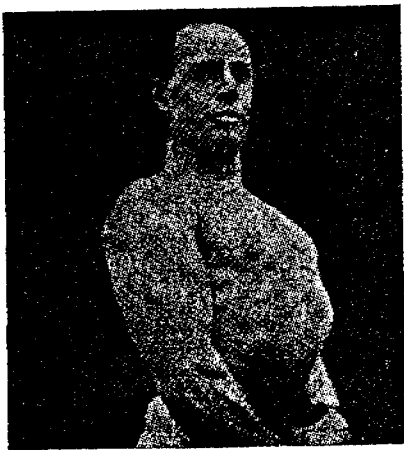
CHAPTER 48

W. A. PULLUM BECOMES CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS IN 1914

HISTORY both inspires and depresses. It inspires when it teaches lessons that benefit posterity, and it depresses when it proves, as it does time and time again, that men will continue to commit errors that brought their predecessors to disaster.

Lifters have been, for example, inspired to emulation by the example of W. A. Pullum, who brought himself from a tubercular patient to a man who, in his day, broke more weightlifting records than any other man in history. In addition, during a comparatively short amateur life, he won more British Amateur Championships than most have won in the course of twenty years of amateur competitive endeavour. In Pullum's day, many committed errors in seeking causes elsewhere for his and his pupils' successes. Lifters, to this day, seek reasons for lack of success but refuse to accept the lessons that the experiences of such men teach.

So far as British Amateur Championships



Edwin Hewkin (Sheffield) runner-up in the 11st. British Professional Championship in 1914. Reproduced from an old copy of *Health & Strength*.

were concerned, 1914 was a peak year destined to be exceeded only by the 1920 successes. In 1914, the Camberwell Club scored 25 out of a possible points on the basis of winner 3, runner-up 2, and third 1. In 1920, however, the Camberwell Club reached its final peak by scoring no less than 27 out of a possible 35.

In 1914 W. A. Pullum won three British Amateur Championships. History was repeated in 1920 when C. V. Wheeler also achieved that distinction by winning the 11st., 12st. and heavyweight championships. That, however, is another story to be recounted later.

AMBITIOUS BAWLA PROGRAMME in 1914

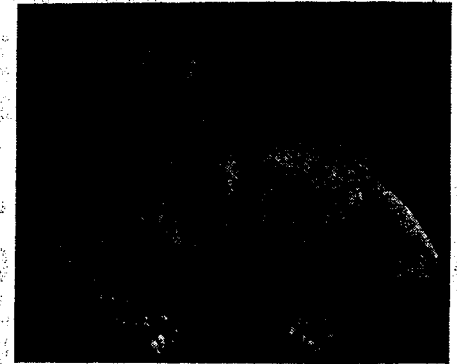
1914 opened auspiciously with the Camberwell Club leading the way in the holding of titles and records following their successes in 1913. Plans were afoot for further onslaughts with W. A. Pullum determined to add further to his laurels on even more ambitious lines. The policy of changing the lifts annually had, by 1914, become firmly established. Indeed, the main opposition to retention of lifts used in previous championships came from the provincials who reasoned, falsely as it transpired, that a change would reduce the lead by Londoners and give them the chance of catching up arrears.

Consequently, the Camberwell Club, with its policy of training on all the forty-two recognised BAWLA feats of strength, knew that any change, drastic as it might seem to others less versed in the intricacies of lifts newly introduced to championships, could serve only to benefit those who were better instructed and better led. The consequences of such changes tell their own story. Thus "Health & Strength" of the 10th January 1914 issue, headed the "World of Weights" with the announcement "The Amateurs mean business in 1914. So do the Professionals . . .". This belief was fostered by the more ambitious plans of the BAWLA which included, in

BAWLA JAN 1951

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HISTORY OF IRON GAME

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addition to the usual British Amateur Championships at class weights, National Handicap Championships open to lifters of all weights to discover the "Champion of Champions".

The plans were to organise and hold National Handicap Championships in the Spring and the Autumn. The former series of meetings duly took place but the latter, alas, was cancelled following the outbreak of the First Great World War, 1914/1918. I would stress, at this stage, that the BAWLA although deservedly acquiring increased prestige following its growth and success during 1911, 1912 and 1913, nevertheless still lacked experience of legislation and control and, indeed, even lacked knowledge of certain mathematical laws.

Consequently, the terms laid down for acceptance by the competitors in those "Champion of Champions" championships did not conform to statistical and mathematical laws. Champions were handicapped by 30 lbs. and runners-up to those champions were handicapped by 15 lbs., and the totals lifted (after allowing for the handicaps) were divided precisely by the lifters' bodyweights to arrive at the respective order of merit.

In those days it was believed that a heavier man should lift as much in proportion to his bodyweight as a lighter man and, therefore, challenges were hurled around, particularly by lighter men against heavier lifters.

The absurdity of this can now be realized by comparisons between say, Namdjou, the 1950 Bantamweight World's Champion, who lifted 275½ lbs. on the "Two Hands Clean & Jerk with Barbell" as against Davis's lift of 374½ lbs. on the same lift in the Heavyweight Championship. Davis, on the 1914 Formula, would be required to jerk no less than 472 lbs. to equal Namdjou's feat.

These days, of course, we have the Austin formula to arrive at comparisons of merit between lifters of varying bodyweights. Even this formula, valuable as it has proved

itself to be during the past 25 years, nevertheless is far from perfect. Austin himself admitted his formula to be an empirical one and, therefore, still liable to revision in the light of additional scientific knowledge.

A NEW METHOD OF CALCULATING MERIT

I venture to assert, in this connection, that a perfect formula will never be devised

J. W. Schofield (Hebden Bridge, Yorks) 11st Professional champion of Britain in 1914. Reproduced from an old copy of Health & Strength.

because of the impossibility of supplying an equation providing simultaneously for variations in height in addition to easily ascertained differences in bodyweights. I believe, however, that a better and more equitable formula can be formulated, and, indeed I have already prepared one for publication in the near future. This new method, incidentally, will give heavier men a better chance than hitherto has been their fate in securing place gains against their lighter rivals.

It should also be noted that my formula is not an empirical one but based upon known scientific laws which, although not my own (I would not be so foolish to claim credit), nevertheless appear to have escaped the attention of weightlifters for many generations.

RESULT OF THE 1914 SPRING HANDICAP

The lifts chosen to decide this "Champion of Champions" contest were as for the 1913 Championships but without the O.H. Swing or Snatch. Thus the lifts were: One Hand Clean, Two Hands Clean & Push with Barbell, and the Two Hands Continental Jerk with Barbell.

Pullum was the winner decisively on the formula decided upon but, fortunately for historical record, he would have won clearly upon the Austin Formula and on my own new method. Fortunately, too, the runner-up and the third man would have gained their places irrespective of the application of the Austin or my own formula.

The totals with position gained are shown as under:—

Position	Name	Bodywt.	Total Lifted
1st	W. A. Pullum	123½ lbs.	589 lbs.
2nd	T. W. Clarke	153½ lbs.	662 lbs.
3rd	J. G. Palme	125½ lbs.	511 lbs.
4th	H. Capsey	112 lbs.	417 lbs.
5th	S. J. Young	149½ lbs.	547½ lbs.
6th	Stanley Pullum	118½ lbs.	415½ lbs.
7th	J. Firth	136 lbs.	487 lbs.
8th	H. Jackson	140 lbs.	490 lbs.
9th	T. W. Crawford	146 lbs.	488½ lbs.
10th	E. Dale	154 lbs.	513 lbs.
11th	T. Taylor	125½ lbs.	403 lbs.
12th	G. Mackay	138½ lbs.	445 lbs.
13th	A. Jones	108½ lbs.	342½ lbs.
14th	R. Stamp	123 lbs.	374 lbs.
15th	G. Rees	210 lbs.	601 lbs.

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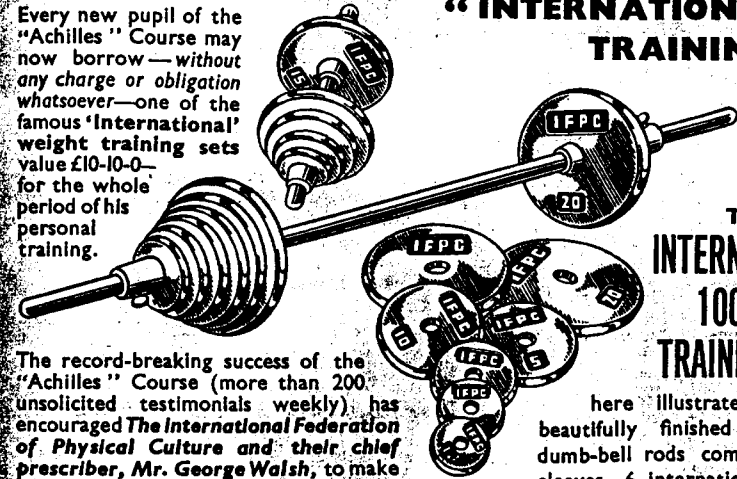
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B.A.W.B.
JAN
1951

HISTORY OF IRON GAME

(from page 40)

The falsity of the calculations, however, can be detected in the position allocated to G. Rees whose place, on a modern calculation, would have been approximately equal to that of Stanley Pullum's. It is interesting to note that of the 15 successful finalists (selected from numerous centres distributed throughout the country) no less than 10 were from the Camberwell & London Weight-lifting Club which, at that point in time, had combined under the direction and control of W. A. Pullum.

THE 11st. PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OF GREAT BRITAIN

This was a Championship which I witnessed on Whitsun Saturday, May 30, 1914, at the International Sports Club, Windmill St., W.1—and, I submit, it deserved a better attendance and greater support and publicity.

Great play has been made during the past 30 years as to differences between audiences at professional, as compared with those attending amateur, championships. Well, professional displays have attracted large audiences, as I can certify. On the other hand, championships and contests between amateur celebrities have attracted larger audiences—at times almost equalling those now normally expected at "Health & Strength" Annual Displays.

The 11st. 1914 Professional Championship, however, was certainly not successful from the point of view of gate money. Believe me, I attended as a small lad scarcely expecting to secure admittance and prepared to sacrifice the last of my small pocket money to do so. I was ushered in and offered a choice of any of the numerous seats still vacant on the left hand side as I entered. I saw T. W. Clarke, the famous 11st. British Amateur Champion from the Camberwell Club, also in attendance on the opposite side of the 2/4d. seats. And, believe me still further, he and I continued to sit on opposite side completely alone and I did not have the temerity to transfer my position of splendid isolation for his company.

The two rivals—J. W. Schofield and Edwin Hewkin—were splendid specimens of muscular manhood. The weights they lifted, too, were extraordinary, even surpassing those of the amateur champion of the same class weight—the reason for his attendance becoming evident to me as the match proceeded.

Even to me, comparatively uninitiated as I was at that time, the differences between the two became obvious. Schofield was the superlative, careful and well trained scientific lifter. Hewkin was the powerful strong man who disdained science and was apt to rely upon sheer brute strength to elevate weights

and to recover from the awkward situations—with the result that I, at least, expected.

Schofield's Clean of 207 lbs. with his extraordinary low position—squatting with elbow well below the height of his knees and the upper arm resting against the top of his right thigh—was a revelation to me of possibilities I had not previously encountered. The strength, too, which enabled him to recover from such a tiring position with the Bent Press to follow, was also something for me to marvel at and to ponder over for many moons to come.

Schofield's lift of 254 lbs. "Two Hands Anyhow with Barbell and Ringweight", too, was performed in the "Arthur Saxon Style"—Barbell bent pressed with the right hand and the small bell picked up with the left. Hewkin evidently could not perform in this style and chose to jerk one weight in continental style. Regrettably, as has happened in so many contests (both professional, amateur, and in many sports), Hewkin sustained an injury to his shoulder which compelled him to abandon attempts on the "One Hand Anyhow" which, however, could not have altered his position of runner-up.

Monte Saldo was much in evidence as the backer, guide and friend to Schofield, whereas Hewkin's backer, Edward Aston, was unavoidably on tour in the provinces—leaving Hewkin to battle alone against superior forces, physical and mental. Details of the championship were:—

J. W. Schofield		Edwin Hewkin	
138 lbs.	Left Hand Snatch	148½ lbs.	
*207 lbs.	Right Hand Clean	173 lbs.	
*207 lbs.	One Hand Anyhow	—	
	Two Hands Anyhow		
*254 lbs.	with B. & R.		
	T.H. Continental		
	Jerk w. B.	257 lbs.	
	T.H. Clean & Jerk		
212 lbs.	w. B.	*257 lbs.	
1,018 lbs.		835½ lbs.	

* British Records

The next instalment will deal with the winning of three British Amateur Championships by W. A. Pullum.

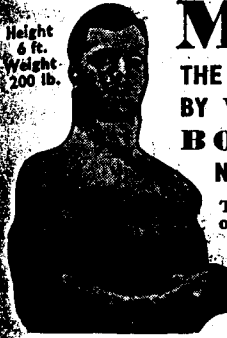
ROUND AND ABOUT

(from page 17)

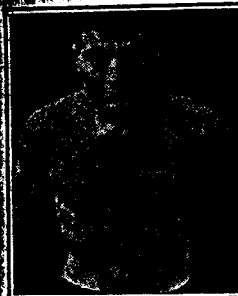
still making good totals; A. Karplins, a heavyweight of limited experience, who recently made 740 at a club display, and J. Dearn, runner-up in the 11 stone class, SE Counties championships.

Those in the Gravesend area interested in joining a club should contact Harry at his address or at the club premises, next to the "Globe," Milton Place, Gravesend.

Height
6 ft.
Weight
200 lb.



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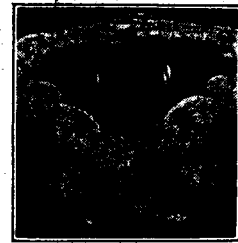
MAXICK (1909) demonstrating one of his many unique discoveries—the isolated contraction of the abdominal leaflet. One of the strongest men of all time he is teaching Philosophy and Body-Building in South America.

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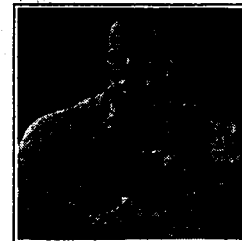
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R. J. Kelsall.

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