

## WELSH WORLD'S BOXING CHAMPION.

Mehegan Just Beaten in Light-Weight Contest at National Sporting Club.

### WELSH'S ELUSIVENESS.

In their contest for the light-weight championship of the world, for a purse of £1,000 given by the National Sporting Club, and stakes of £1,000 a side, Freddy Welsh last night just beat Hughie Mehegan, of Australia, on points in twenty rounds.

It was a superb exhibition of latter-day boxing, not pretty because most of the effective work was done at close range. But both men were so fit and so cunning and elusive that in many respects it was the most brilliant display seen for years at the club.

Although they were nearly always at one another's heads down, there was not so very much holding, but they got to close quarters, thumped one another or tried to, for they covered up so smartly that it was difficult to find a spot on which to land a counting blow.

Some people seemed to think it would be a contest of styles, but they had not seen Mehegan whip Wells at the Ring a few weeks ago. Then in the clinches you could see Welsh's head go up as Mehegan upper cut him in the clinches. Welsh's head did not go up like that, but he felt the weight of Mehegan's glove more often than was pleasant. I'll warrant.

It was the meeting of two great exponents of the same style, and the cleverer and the more elusive man won, but I should think Mehegan hurt Welsh a good deal more than Welsh hurt him.

It was a battle in two stages. By his marvellous footwork and better judging of distance Welsh held a clear lead in the first rounds. I thought Mehegan had a shade the best of the second half, but not nearly enough to level matters up. In an endurance spin I think Mehegan would have won.

He is the more rugged fighter and, although he has plenty of artistry and ringcraft, he is not quite such a master of the science as his conqueror. But what must he



WELSH.



MEHEGAN.

have learnt last night? He can congratulate himself on having made Welsh pull out the finest battle of his career to just one win.

When the men weighed at two o'clock Mehegan scaled 125 lb. and Welsh 124 lb. It seemed to me that Welsh had a slight pull in height and reach, but Mehegan is such a pronounced croucher that it may not have been so. Mehegan would offer his head to Welsh to punch, and Welsh would tap him on the ear, or, of course, what time Mehegan would try to find an opening for a vicious counter with the right. Once or twice Welsh got in a couple of taps, and before Mehegan could bring the right to bear on his opponent's body landed a smashing blow with his own right.

I have never seen Welsh use the straight left so well or make so much use of the ring as he did last night. Mehegan was generally carrying the fight to him. Welsh would land with the left, generally lightly on the jaw. Mehegan would counter with the right for the ribs, and as often as not find Welsh show a gasp. He scored the first round. And then would come the clinch, or close quarter work. It was hardly clinching, and there would not be a lot of it. And right up to the end of the gruelling twenty rounds both men were on their toes, trying hard, showing dazzlingly fast footwork. Mehegan always menacing the knock-out, and never looking like getting it. A superb admixture of boxing and wrestling.

So Freddy Welsh is world's champion, and we do hold undoubted sway in the light-weights, in spite of the Welshes and other claimants. Welsh was a good winner, but coming away I could not help feeling more than a touch of sympathy for the man who had come so far, had beaten Welsh, the then English light-weight champion all ends up, only to go down before the man who had wrestled the honour back from Wells between the two contests.

During the bout neither man was off his feet; indeed, neither looked like going down, and they shook hands and walked to the ringside together, facing the referee, before Mr. Bettinson announced the decision.

There was a lot of measuring up in the first round, but Welsh's speed was very much greater than that of the Australian. He landed and got away, and when it came to a clinch he had none the worse of it. He scored the points with both hands at long range. In the second Mehegan tried to force the fighting, and there was seen the wonderful cunning of Welsh and his splendid elusiveness. But Mehegan landed one fine smashing left on Welsh's left eye and the trace of it remained to the end.

### MEHEGAN ATTACKING.

Welsh led and landed time and again, and got well out of close quarters in the third round, but in the fourth Mehegan forced the pace and kept Welsh in clinches in which the Australian had, if anything, a trifle the best of the exchanges.

Welsh smashed in a heavy right to the nose in the fifth round, but he caught such a thump from Mehegan's left that he was glad to get a time. Still, he had none the worse of the round. Mehegan was out for a fight in the sixth, and in his defence we saw the best of Welsh. He landed lefts and rights to the head, but napped a few hard body blows himself.

Defence and clean, quick hitting on the part of Welsh characterised the seventh and eighth rounds, which were clearly Welsh's, but less interesting from the fact that they were always head down to one another. Welsh showed the best of his ringcraft, and his footwork got him out of a lot of trouble in the ninth, in which Mehegan played for heavy work.

Welsh did not have so much the best of the tenth round. Mehegan hitting him hard with the left in the face, and at the close it was 7 to 4 on Welsh. The eleventh was a fine round, both men hitting very hard and landing, too. In the twelfth Mehegan hit the best of matters, landing lefts and rights in Welsh's face without much response, and Welsh had to cover up and clinch before the end of the round to avoid punishment.

Then Mehegan tried to fight in the fourteenth, and Welsh showed us almighty ringcraft to keep out of the way of the impetuous Australian, who had a time. Still, he had none the worse of the round. Mehegan was out for a fight in the sixteenth, and in his defence we saw the best of Welsh. He landed lefts and rights to the head, but napped a few hard body blows himself.

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## RACING AT HAYDOCK AND PLUMPTON.

Rathnally, Still Backward, Defeated in the Wigan Steeplechase.

There was plenty of steeplechasing yesterday, Haydock Park entertaining the northern division and the popular little meeting at Plumpton catering for the southern and metropolitan folk. The programmes worked out well.

Visitors to Haydock had a glimpse of that famous horse Rathnally, a prospective winner in the general judgment of a Grand National Steeplechase—one whose name indeed is always coupled with that of Jerry M. in their expected rivalry for the great honours at Liverpool next spring.

But it was now probable that Rathnally is far from fit, and he got well whacked in the Wigan Steeplechase. Olga's Pride indeed made a much better show. This fine mare led for the greater part of the journey, but in the end was decisively beaten by Lord Rivers.

Sore Joss, a very speedy timber-topper, captured the Gaswood Hurdle, in which the co-favourite, Shikaree, unfortunately disappointed his backers. That old Denmark has not lost his speed was obvious by the style in which he dashed away towards the close from Knights of Avon, Finchale and others in the County Steeplechase.

Moorgate's task in the Maiden Hurdle might have been altogether different had not Chauton run out, and though he got back the incident lost him a lot of ground. Dirlston did much better than the equally well-fancied Limitation in the Maiden Steeplechase, and De Kintyre, who did such wonders with a small stable during the last flat-race season, won the Lowton Hurdle with his own three-year-old, Quasimodo.

That sturdy five-year-old, Dark Collar, improves on hard work. For the third time within four days he was put out for a race and the Sussex Handicap Hurdle at Plumpton, the 10th, penalty incurred by his success at Lingfield Park making his burden 12st. 10lb. Nevertheless, he made short work of his opponents, of whom the greatest failure was Macdowry, a three-year-old that has jumped into notoriety through the excellent form displayed at Newbury.

Custom House, a most unreliable customer, refused on getting remounted after a fall in the Middleton Chase, much to the discomfiture of those who had laid odds on him. Shookfield also came to grief—an unexpected thing by his supporters, within view of his winning performance last Saturday, and Lynch Pin led from start to finish.

Eagerness secured a popular win in the Punch Bowl Hurdle and Lacken's road to success in the Stayers Steeplechase was considerably cleared when King Peveroy dropped in his jacket, the water-jump being very close. A close struggle for the Three-Year-Old Hurdle, won by Grive in a good finish, by a neck from Master Bowes, the latter only a head in front of Countershaft, while Glinka was very close up, fourth.

### SELECTIONS FOR HAYDOCK PARK.

1. O.—LARA. 2.30.—KATHA.  
1.50.—REPP. 3.0.—GALLIVANT.  
2.0.—CARRIGRUE. 3.50.—SKYLARK VII.

#### Special Selection.

LARA. GREY FRIARS.

### HAYDOCK PARK PROGRAMME.

1.0.—ST. HELEN'S H'CAP CHASE, 70 sows; 3m.

Olga's Pride	6 12 7	aBorough Marsh	4 10 5
aLara	4 11 2	Trus as Steel	4 10 4
aAlthrey	4 11 0	Borough	4 10 0
Flying Shuttle	4 11 0	aMaiden Law	4 10 0
Lowfield	5 10 10		

1.50.—SATURDAY'S H'CAP CHASE, 70 sows; 2m.

Miss Bun	6 12 7	Kilballyowen	5 11 9
Trus as Steel	4 12 5	Lady Maeve	5 11 9
Clifton Hill	4 12 3	Carrot	5 11 7
Wiseacre	6 12 3	aSorbet	5 11 6
aPort Mead	6 12 1	St. Anne's	5 11 1
Master Robin	6 12 0	Creepers II.	4 11 6
Davy Jones	4 11 13	Repp	5 11 4
aAllegretto	6 11 12	Kouang Siu	4 11 4
aDisturbance	6 11 11	aRoyal Jester	5 11 4
Cherry Cap	4 11 11	aPickersett Lad	4 11 3
Grey Park	4 11 11	Carroff	5 11 3
Lord Mac	4 11 11	Footlights	4 11 2
45	4 11 10		

2.0.—HAYDOCK PARK H'CAP CHASE, 150 sows; 2m.

Perfect	5 11 8	aLegalite	5 10 6
aFlying	5 11 8	Carroff	5 10 6
aCarrigue	4 11 8	Harley Ewig	5 10 0
aRathnally	4 12 8	aVarsity	4 10 0

2.30.—JUVENILE S. HURDLE, 70 sows; 11m.

Katha	10 12	aVeira	10 7
Nancy Jones	10 7	Brigand's Daughter	10 7
Modder River	10 7	aHarbottle Lassie	10 7
Dusky Bride	10 7	Dick Brodher	10 7
Idyllic	10 7	Camilla	10 7

3.0.—NEWTON H'CAP HURDLE, 70 sows; 2m.

Braemir	4 12 7	aNever Fear	5 11 5
Loup Chien	4 12 2	Peterloo	5 11 3
Climax	4 11 13	Closwood Back	5 11 3
Bough and Ready	4 11 12	aThe Paddy	5 11 0
Garlandstown	5 11 13	Red Shah	5 11 0
aMiss Pictou	4 11 11	Polynices	4 10 10
aGallivant	6 11 10	Beau Idea	5 10 9
aBlick	4 11 8	Pinkeen	4 10 6
Bitter Cherry	4 11 7	Beau Moon	4 10 6
Scarlet Button	4 11 6	Spanish Coin	4 10 5
Memento	4 11 5	aWar Horse	4 10 0

3.30.—CLUB MAIDEN S. CHASE, 100 sows; 2m.

Thermometer	6 11 12	Red Cockade	4 10 12
Wavecrest	5 11 8	Fredith	disq.
aSkylark VII.	5 11 7	Aftermath	disq.
Lord Marcus	4 10 12		

YESTERDAY'S WINNERS AND PRICES

Race	Price	Horse	Jockey
Maiden (11)	7 to 1	Moorgate	W. Burke
County (8)	4 to 1	Denmark	V. Mason
Gaswood (6)	9 to 4	Sore Toes	E. Chadwick
Makerfield (6)	5 to 2	Dirlston	E. Raine
Lowton (9)	8 to 1	Quasimodo	C. Horan
Wigan (3)	5 to 6	Lord Rivers	F. Mason

PLUMPTON.

Middleton (4)	3 to 1	Lynch Pin	S. Avila
Punch (6)	2 to 1	Eagerness	T. Willmot
Sussex (8)	4 to 1	Dark Collar	S. Avila
Stayers (3)	11 to 10	Lacken	Mr. G. H. Heasman
Three-Year-Old (9)	6 to 1	Grive	W. Rogers
Ovingdean (4)	9 to 4	Wad	S. Walkington

### THE WORLD OF SPORT.

In a fifteen rounds boxing contest at the Blackfriars Ring last night, Dal Thomas beat Bob Scanlon on points. Nottingham Forest have secured the signature of Robert Reid, an inside left, of Larkhall United, a Lancashire junior club.

Mr. James Dover, at one time a trainer of Hsley, and son of James Dover, the trainer of Lord Lyons, Achievement and other noted winners, died on Saturday after undergoing an operation at St. Mary's Hospital, London.

Newman (receives 2,250) and Aiken (receives 1,500) began the eighth heat of the billiards tournament at Soho-square yesterday. Scores: Newman, 3,058; Aiken, 2,761. Leicester-square the scores were: Repe, 10,630; Imman, 10,257.

George Goswell, the Bangor-on-Dee trainer, whilst hunting on Saturday had a fall, which lacerated the muscles of his left leg. He was, however, able to attend Haydock Park yesterday afternoon, and hobnobbed about with the aid of two sticks.

## STAGE V. MUSIC HALLS.

Teamis Completed for "Daily Mirror" Pudding Match on Friday.

### CAPTAINS' SPORTING WAGER.

Both the Stage and the Music Halls' teams for Friday's great Christmas pudding fund match for poor children are now complete, and only fine weather is required to make the contest, which will take place at the Fulham ground, a great sporting and financial success.

The Stage team was completed on Saturday, and the Music Hall side has been completed by the inclusion of Mr. Harry Fairfax, who is a good forward and a sketch artist on the Moss tour. The sides will be—

#### STAGE.

C. Aubrey Smith.  
Alec Fraser.  
George Barrett.  
Fred Rowe.  
Ronald Adair.  
Louis Goodrich.  
Evan Thomas.  
Vincent Lawson.  
Norman Trevor.  
Basil S. Foster.  
S. Welsh.

#### HALLS.

Goal. F. R. Hale.  
Backs. Percy Campbell.  
Herbert Burton.  
Halfbacks. Dennis Drew.  
Frank Clifford.  
Frank Henry.  
Forwards. Bombardier Wells.  
Harry Renior.  
George Robey.  
Lawrence Gordon.  
Harry Fairfax.

Practically every man on both sides is well known as a football favourite, and many of them are stars whose names are household words.

George Robey was challenged by Mr. Foster to play for a pudding. Yesterday Mr. Hale, speaking of the side bet, said he would try and not cost George more than he could help. "I've never let more than ten through," he said. Just fancy, ten extra puddings for the fund! Foster ought to find the net time or two, Lawson has scored in every match, Sammy Welsh is the old Southampton winger, and Norman Trevor and Evan Thomas will find the net if the Halls' defence gives them the slightest chance.

But there should also be some goals, and therefore puddings, at the other side. George Robey himself should be good for a couple. Bombardier Billy Wells, who won a big professional sprint a few weeks ago, and he may assist, and Lawrence Gordon can get goals for eating. So with such an incentive there may be much excitement before the end.

### CHARMING SOUVENIR PROGRAMME.

The programme will be illustrated, and it is hoped that a photograph of every player will be printed in it. As it will also contain the counterfeits of some half dozen charming actresses, it will be a souvenir to cherish. It will also contain a few cheery words from the players saying why they like to help the fund for the kiddies.

Just a few words about the players. Basil Foster, of the Stage team, the captain, is playing in "The Sunshine Girl" at the Gaiety, and so is George Barrett; Norman Trevor made a great hit in "The Tide," produced at the Queen's Theatre on Saturday evening; Aubrey Smith is leading at the Duke of York's; Louis Goodrich and Alec Fraser are both popular players in "The Girl in the Taxi," and Vincent Lawson ("Jells"), Sammy Welsh ("Autumn Manoeuvres"), Ronald Adair ("The Monk and the Woman," an old Stoke footballer, are all well known. Mr. George Robey's side includes Robert Hale ("Everybody's Doing It"), Bombardier Billy Wells, the great boxer, Dennis Drew, a popular baritone, with a fine repertoire of Devonshire songs, and Herbert Burton, who played football for Everton, Bolton Wanderers and Queen's Park Rangers at one time and has been with Burton in rehearsing for the Bedford pantomime of "Dick Whittington."

Mr. George Goswell will be the Stage's linesman; a famous theatrical star will kick off; a host of London's most charming actresses will sell programmes; and the ball used in the match will be autographed by players and officials and sold to the highest bidder. There is covered accommodation for nearly 10,000 people on the ground at 1s., 2s., or 5s. a head, and 20,000 more at 6d. each can help swell the one fund of the year which only aims at giving the poorest children one great glad day. The Duke of Devonshire, Lord Kinnaird, the Duke of Argyll, and Mr. Charles Alexander and Mr. Walter Hildard, who is playing at the Willesden Hippodrome this week, are first reserves for the Stage and the Halls respectively.

### PALACE WIN LONDON CUP.

West Ham Beaten in Replayed Final at Tottenham by 1 to 0.

At Tottenham yesterday the Crystal Palace won the London Challenge Cup, beating West Ham United by one goal to none, on the run of the play, they deserved the trophy. Last week the sides played a goalless draw at New Cross, and yesterday's struggle was again very close and keen.

Early in the game the Palace forwards looked like giving a scoring display and scoring many goals, but they were luck with their shots most splendidly, sending the ball just too high. West Ham seldom attacked during the first twenty minutes or so, but once the Palace were very lucky, Bulcock being able to breast the ball away when Robinson would have been completely beaten by a header from corner kick.

The Palace forwards fell away, and for the greater part of the match it was a test of the defences. Collyer and Bulcock were especially good in their kicking and well-judged tackling, but Rothwell and Irvine were not far behind them.

Crystal Palace, who scored in the first half through Williams, seemed to miss Hewitt, and Smith was not in his best form, but the West Ham defenders deserve every credit for their fine show. At half-back Randall and Askey were nearly always in the picture. Apart from Askey and Smith, who started nearly all the United attacks, the West Ham forwards were disappointing. Denyer, Hillsdon and Dawson all being too slow to be successful against quick-tackling opponents.

The defence of both sides was so strong that the goal-keepers had little to do, but Hughes would have had a good time had the Palace forwards been luck with their shots in the early part of the game. The attendance numbered 5,252, and the gate receipts amounted to £150 11s. 6d.

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### OXFORD ROUTED AT EDINBURGH

Playing in a snowstorm, Oxford University, without L. G. Brown and F. H. Knott, lost the last game in their Scottish tour, the Academicals beating them at Edinburgh by 1 goal and 7 tries to 1 goal.

The home forwards played well, despite the bad conditions, and soon got two tries. Afterwards Macintosh got over for Oxford, but before the interval Penny scored another try for the Academicals. In the second period the home side had matters all their own way, Crabbe, Cade, Watson, Scott and Maxwell scoring.

### TO-DAY'S RUGBY MATCHES.

Newcastle: Northern v. Oxford University.  
Dublin: Dublin University v. Cambridge University.

W. B. Hynes (United Services) will take the place of A. L. Kewney in the English team in the international trial match at Headingley on Saturday next.

In a fifteen rounds eliminating contest for the middle-weight championship Private Harris beat Jerry Thompson at the National Sporting Club last night on points.

The appeal of J. G. Gray against the verdict awarded John Roberts, the ex-champion, for £1,500 damages and the costs of the action, was dismissed yesterday in the Court of Appeal.

## DRAW FOR THE ENGLISH CUP.

Six Matches for London in First Round—Some Great Games.

### DERBY V. ASTON VILLA.

The draw for the first round of the English Cup was made at the offices of the Football Association yesterday afternoon, when the sides fortunate enough to get through the qualifying stages went into the hat with the fifty-two clubs excused the preliminary rounds, and came out in the following order:—

Fulham v. Hull City.	Wolves v. Shrewsbury Town
Liverpool v. Bristol City.	or London Caledonians.
Everton v. Stockport.	Sunderland v. Clapton C.
Blackburn v. Northampton.	Blackburn v. Northampton.
Bristol Rovers v. Notts Co.	Bristol Rovers v. Notts Co.
Bradford v. Barrow.	Oxford Com. v. Arsenal.
Manchester C. v. Birmingham.	Oldham v. Bolton Wand.
Leicester Fosse v. Norwich.	Stoke v. Reading.
Crystal Palace v. Glossop.	Leeds City v. Burnley.
Southampton v. Bury.	Plymouth v. Preston.
Walsall or Halifax v.	Derby v. Rangers.
Queens Park Rangers.	Manchester U. v. Coventry.
South Shields v. Gainsboro.	Chesterfield v. Notts Forest.
W. Bromwich v. West Ham.	Huddersfield v. Sheffield U.
Rochdale or Darlington.	"Spurs" v. Blackpool.
Swindon.	Spennymoor or Gillingham.
Newcastle U. v. Bradford C.	Sheffield Wed. v. Grimsby.
Sheffield Wed. v. Grimsby.	Portsmouth v. Brighton.
Portsmouth v. Brighton.	Cheltenham v. Southampton.

London is particularly favoured by the draw, for no fewer than six games will be played in or around the metropolis. Fulham, first out of the hat, have Hull City for opponents. Middlesbrough play Millwall at New Cross, Glossop visit the Crystal Palace, and Crystal Palace, Tottenham and Chelsea are at home to Woolwich, Blackpool and Southend respectively.

The three First League clubs should get through the first round easily enough, and as Fulham have already beaten Hull City at Craven Cottage this season they will start favourites against the Yorkshire team on January 11. Still the Tigers are great Cup fighters, as Tottenham have found on occasions.

It is to be hoped that Millwall will find their proper form before they are called on to meet Middlesbrough, for the Weasiders have done exceptionally well away from home this season. Still if Millwall go under London may still have six clubs in the second round, as the Palace will beat Glossop, and the Rangers should be good enough to win at Walsall or Halifax.

First League sides are drawn together in three instances, and the game between Derby County and Aston Villa is perhaps the pick of the thirty-two ties. Last season Derby County extinguished the hopes of Newcastle in the first round, and, well as the Villa are playing at present, a similar fate probably awaits them.

### NEWCASTLE V. BRADFORD CITY.

Another great game can be looked for at Newcastle, where Bradford City and the United will re-fight their Cup final of 1911. On that occasion Bradford won by a goal to nothing after a drawn game at the Palace, but I fancy Newcastle, with the advantage of playing at home, will get their revenge.

Six of the ties First League sides will be opposed by members of the Second Division, and the seniors have choice of ground in five instances. Manchester City and Birmingham, the leaders in their respective divisions, will meet at Hyde-road, and the game will give us a good idea of the difference between First and Second League football. Clapton have to make the journey to Sunderland, and although the First League have dropped five points at home this season, I do not