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Committing three pages in Tuesday's paper to Coleraine boxer "Duck" Jones trying to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics highlighted that this sport isn't as popular as it was decades ago either.

For decades after the war Hamilton had several popular boxing gyms – including the Hamilton City, the YLA and best-known, Tommy Moore's in the Drill Hall.

Tommy mentored "Butch" Pollock who went on to win a state title. His other fighters included Wayne Jolly, Johnny Lovett, Greg Williamson, Johnny Raymond, Tim & Jamie Taylor and Barry Pollock.

Back then there were regular district tournaments, often for charity. There was a typical one at Heywood in 1962 which brought fighters from far and wide. The Spec wrote...

Local champion Nulla Austin knocked out experienced professional Bobby Lee of Queensland in the fourth round of an action-packed fight at Heywood on Friday night.

The fight was the main bout of the second of a series of three fight nights in aid of local High School funds. About £70 (\$140) was raised.

An unexpected addition to the program was a fight resulting from a dressing room challenge thrown out by Alan Lovett and accepted by Barry Annett, of Hamilton. Although out of condition and embarrassed at one stage by a pair of split shorts, Annett was on top from start to finish.

Tony Jolly, of the Hamilton YLA gymnasium, was too good for Ron Foster, Fitzroy, and won on a tko in the second round.

Jolly has a string of recent victories to his name and a bout between him and Dennis Groves, of the Hamilton City Gym, will be a natural if it could be arranged.

Other Hamilton boxers to show out were Richard Jones, of the HCG, whose opponent threw in the towel after being knocked out of the ring onto the apron twice in the second round; and Geoffrey McPherson and Neville Osborne, also of the HCG, who won their bouts on points.

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A mis-remember. The comment last week that the late Reg Pepper used to pop into our office regularly to promote the Yulecart Show was off-beam, we're advised.

Reg's special interest was the Tahara Gymkhana.

Brief comments: Text 0418 328 199

Long comments: Letters to PO Box 416 or specnews@spec.com.au