

Andy Peace

Born: 28th January 1945

Died 29th June 2009

Andy was born in Lochore and joined the 'Boys Club' club when it moved from the old Institute Hall to the rather grand new venue of Lochore House.

Boxing had become very popular again in the mining villages of Fife, probably because television had started to show a lot of the amateur shows, especially the national championships and the internationals where quite a few Fifers participated. People like Alex Spangles Hunter, Jimmy Gibson and Alf Barker became well kent faces.

Thanks mainly to Charlie Rae, the Lochore Boxing Club was formed in 1957/58 and soon had about twenty kids from about eleven years upwards. Andy was one these youngsters and it was obvious even then he was a wee bit special.

After winning many national and local titles Andy's first really big moment came when he was boxing for Scotland against England in a televised bout and he knocked out Billy Deare of Coventry Irish in the third round, a win that saw him described as 'the one round KO king'.

His best year came in 1966 when he won the Scottish ABA Welterweight title despite boxing with only one good eye from the first round. That same year he represented Scotland in the Commonwealth Games in Jamaica winning a Bronze Medal.

He turned professional in 1969 and had a decent record, against some good opponents, of nine wins and one draw out of sixteen contests. But after losing on points to Don McMillan in Bedford in 1971 Andy decided to retire.

After retirement Andy just couldn't leave boxing and decided to do his bit to encourage boxing in Fife. Perhaps he wanted to repay in some way the people who helped and encouraged him when he started out all those years ago. He founded and ran the Exit Boxing Club in Glenrothes where he developed and nurtured some outstanding ring talent in the 1980's and 1990's.

By Jim Robertson