

Fattorini

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since 1827



By Appointment to
Her Majesty The Queen
Manufacturer of Insignia, Honours and Awards
Thomas Fattorini Ltd
Birmingham

History of the Lord Lonsdale Challenge Belt

Originally introduced by Hugh Lowther (5th Earl of Lonsdale) in 1909, the **Lord Lonsdale Challenge Belt** is the oldest belt to be awarded in the sport of Boxing.

As the first President of the National Sporting Club, Lord Lonsdale launched the belt as the new prize trophy for the British Champion at each weight division. The first being won in 1909 by Freddie Welsh - Lightweight.



Hugh Lowther (5th Earl of Lonsdale)

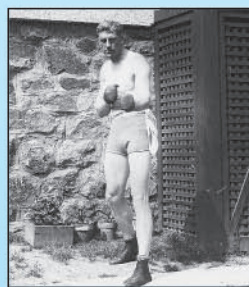


Freddie Hall Thomas
(AKA Freddie Welsh)

"Bombardier" Billy Wells from London's East End was the first British Heavyweight to win the Lord Lonsdale Challenge Belt back in 1911 where he defeated Ian Hague with a knockout in the sixth round. He defended the title thirteen times, a record that stood for many years, before losing against Joe Beckett in February 1919. The Lord Lonsdale Challenge Lonsdale Belt that he won was the original heavyweight belt and is crafted from 22 carat gold. It is reported this belt is kept at The Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich, South East London. (not on display to the general public).

A total of 22 Lord Lonsdale Challenge Belts were issued by the National Sporting Club until the British Boxing Board of Control began its governance in 1929 and began awarding the belts. The belts then became the property of any champion who won three title fights in a division.

Heavyweight Henry Cooper won three Lord Lonsdale Challenge Belts outright in his seventeen year professional career.



Billy Wells (AKA The Bombardier)



Henry Cooper



Past Winners of the Lord Lonsdale Challenge Belt

Under the governance of the National Sporting Club;
The first holders of the Lord Lonsdale Challenge belts were :

Flyweight	-	Sid Smith (1911)
Bantamweight	-	Digger Stanley (1910 – retained)
Featherweight	-	Jim Driscoll (1910 – retained)
Lightweight	-	Freddie Welsh (1909 – retained)
Welterweight	-	Young Joseph (1910)
Middleweight	-	Tom Thomas (1909)
Light Heavyweight	-	Dick Smith (1914 – retained)
Heavyweight	-	Bombardier Billy Wells (1911 – retained)

In the early 1930s governance was taken up by the
British Boxing Board of Control. They began issuing the belts from
1936 onwards, the first holders being :

Flyweight	-	Benny Lynch, 1936
Bantamweight	-	Johnny King, 1937
Featherweight	-	Johnny McGrory, 1936
Lightweight	-	Jimmy Walsh, 1936
Welterweight	-	Jake Kilrain, 1938
Middleweight	-	Jock McAvoy, 1937
Light-heavyweight	-	Jock McAvoy, 1937
Heavyweight	-	Tommy Farr, 1937





Manufacturing the Lord Lonsdale Championship Belt

Manufacturing a **Lord Lonsdale Championship Challenge Belt** is a time consuming and challenging process. The individual parts are die stamped from sterling silver and are all machined and hand finished by Thomas Fattorini Ltd.

There are in total nine different dies and seven clipping tools used to produce the various components. Due to the depth of many of the stampings these are completed using multiple 'strikes' where the silver is struck, heat treated, re-positioned and struck again as required. Each belt takes between five – six hours to stamp and clip the parts required.

Once clipped our silversmiths carefully hand finish each of the twenty four individual components and craft the chain links. Once this section has been completed, they make and attach the main centre panel, which holds the large hand painted enamel portrait of Lord Lonsdale.

With the centre piece attached to the chain links, manufacture of the two panels (which hold the two smaller hand painted sections) begins. Thomas Fattorini silversmiths spend a minimum of forty hours working on the hand finishing and assembly of each belt.

With the frame of the belt completed, our specialist painters begin the intricate process of hand enamelling the world famous centre and two smaller panels. The painter begins with a flat white coat onto which he builds the various colours, layer by layer.

Enamel colours all fire at different temperatures, and the craftsman must therefore begin with the colours which take the highest firing temperatures. The enamel is carefully fired many times to eventually produce the finished item and this is completed over several days and weeks.

Once the hand painted panels are in place, the belt is hand polished and 24ct Gold plated.

Finally, we fit the distinctive red, white and blue hand stitched ribbon and another Lord Lonsdale belt is complete.



Die Stamping



Finishing



Silversmithing



Component Assembly



Enamel Preparation



Enamel Painting



Ribbon Stitching

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Die Stamping



Finishing



Silversmithing



Component Assembly

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Manufacturing the Lord Lonsdale Challenge Belt (cont)

With the frame of the belt completed, our specialist painters begin the intricate process of hand enamelling the world famous centre and two smaller panels. The painter begins with a flat white coat onto which he builds the various colours, layer by layer.

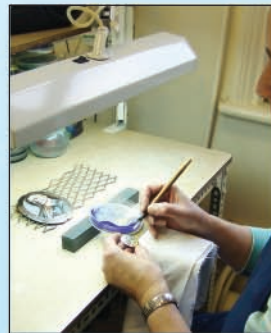
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Enamel Preparation



Enamel Painting



Ribbon Stitching



The Finished Belt

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