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FISH BEATS BIG EATER

20-stone Wee Willie Howard has a lot of fame in Slough. He measures five feet round the waist and boasts the biggest appetite in Britain. For a bet of £20 he undertook to eat a giant skate, a fish of 14 stone, and five inches longer than Willie is tall. When it was cooked he surrounded himself with a gallon of beer and settled down to a long lunch. Of course a fair portion of the fish wasn't included in the snack - nobody expected the champ to eat the bones and head and all the rest that's always thrown away. Still, it was plateful nobody else would have taken on.

Willie gamely stuck to it, but to the general disappointment he gave up; not, as he hastened to say, because he had to, but because the skate wasn't cooked properly. Before leaving the market he bought a couple of fish, to take home for his tea.