# The Dreadnought



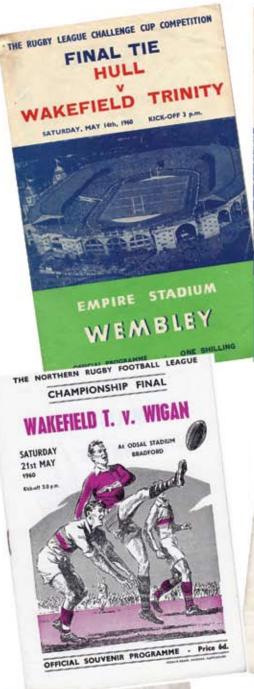
Year 3, Volume 3 .... Derek 'Rocky' Turner Special Tribute ... August 2015

# **DEREK TURNER (1932-2015)**

One of Trinity's legends and Hall of Famers, Derek Turner sadly passed away on Friday 31st July after a long illness. He was 82 years old



# 'Rocky's' Trinity Memorabilia Gallery



THE RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION FINAL TIE HUDDERSFIELD WAKEFIELD TRINITY

KICK-OFF 3 p.m.



EMPIRE STADIUM WEMBLEY

YORKSHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP FINAL Huddersfield v. Wakefield T. SATURDAY 29th OCTOBER

THE RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION FINAL TIE WAKEFIELD TRINITY WIGAN

SATURDAY, MAY 11th Kick-off 3 p.m.



EMPIRE STADIUM







# THE TEAMS

E	F. DYSON		- Fall Back
2	A. BROWN		Wing Threequarter
3	B. CURRY		- Centre Threequarter
4	E ASHCROFT	-	Centre Threequarter
\$	A. BREEN		Wing Threequarter
6	D. LOCKWOOL	0	Out-hulf
7	T. SMALES		_ Scrow-bulf
à.	E. SLEVIN		- Frep Forward
9	D. CLOSE		- Hooker
10	K. NOBLE		Front Row Forward
11	D. DEVEREUX		Second Row Forward
12	K. BOWMAN		Second Row Forward
14	D. VALENTINE		Loos Forward -

÷	P CHICKES	W
2	Description of the second	_ Wing Threequarter
3	A. SKENE	Centre Threequarte
4	N. FOX	Centre Threequarter
5	J. ETTY	Wing Threequarter
6	H. POYNTON	
7	K. ROLLIN or K. HO	LLIDAY Scrum-ball
	J. WILKINSON	- Prop Forward
9	G. OAKES	- Hooke
10	L. CHAMBERLAIN	- Front Row Forward
II.	B. HRIGGS	Second Row Forward
12	A. FIRTH	Second How Forward
13	D. TURNER	Loose Forward
(2)	owen. Hunder and G. T. L. S	mithson, Leeds

ARTHUR CLUES

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

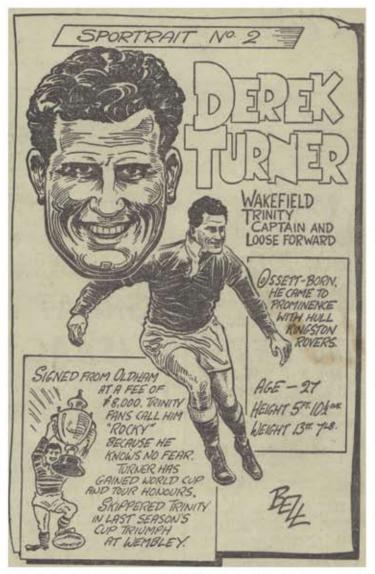
Official Supplier to Great Britain and the Austrard New Zealand R.L. World Cup Teams

134, Woodhouse Lane

LEEDS, 2

Tel. 25695

# 'Rocky's' Trinity Gallery II







# TURNER, VINES SHOW WIGAN HOW IT'S DONE





## MATCH to REMEMBER

Whitehaven 10 Wakefield Trinity 21 19th March 1960: RL Challenge Cup Rd3

Turner had been inspirational throughout the whole 1959-60 cup campaign, constantly leading from the front. Anyone who witnessed the terrific cup run in 1960 will have noted Turner's influence. After two tough matches at St. Helens and Widnes in the first two rounds, Trinity were drawn away at Whitehaven in the quarter finals and 18,500 crammed into the Recreation Ground. It was a tense battle but Turner led by example scoring two crucial tries when the result was in the balance and roared his team forward. Whitehaven kept in touch with regular penalty goals, but Turner's tries were perfectly timed, leading Trinity into their first semi final for





thirteen years. Featherstone were defeated in the semi finals and Turner achieved his personal ambition of playing at Wembley and leading Trinity to a 38-5 victory over Hull, the club's first Wembley triumph for fourteen years.

## Quote: Malcolm Sampson 2010

I made a break at Whitehaven and the gap opened and I dropped the ball. Turner chastised me in such a way that I never dropped another ball in my whole career! Turner then made another break and passed to me; I could see the gap open up and I raced half the length of the field to score!

# urner hero of WAKEFIELD TRINITY ...... 21.

10 points,

Trinity Team:

D.Metcalfe. F.Smith (1T),

A.Skene (1T),

N.Fox (3G), J.Etty.

H.Poynton,

K.Holliday,

J.Wilkinson,

D. Wakefield,

M.Sampson (1T),

D. Vines,

A.Firth,

D. Turner (2T)





# 'Rocky's' Trinity Gallery III



# 'Rocky's' Trinity Gallery IV



#### The Yorkshire Years

"Rocky's" county representative career spanned nine years, earning nine appearances in that time. In an era when changes were made regularly at representative level his county appearances were rather low compared to his international appearances.

His first appearance came as a twenty one year old, on the back of some fine performances for Hull KR, making his debut in October 1954 against Lancashire in the Championship decider at Odsal, Bradford, Yorkshire winning 20-10.

He had to wait another three years for his second appearance when, whilst part of the successful Oldham pack, he travelled to the Boulevard, Hull defeating Cumberland, 27-18. His fellow Roughyed, and future Trinity club mate, John Etty was also on the wing.

A year later, Yorkshire defeated Lancashire 16-15 at Leigh with Derek forming a strong Yorkshire back row, alongside Harry Poole (Hull KR) and Geoff Gunney (Hunslet). The Wigan winger, Mick Sullivan scored a couple of tries for Yorkshire against formidable opposition, that included Eric Ashton and Alex Murphy in the back line and Mick McTigue and Vince Karalius in the forwards.



After his transfer to Trinity he gained another six appearances with another couple missed through injury. The Australian Kangaroos were demolished at York, 47-15, in 1959 with a pack featuring Jack Wilkinson (Wakefield), Milan Kosanovic (Bradford), Don Robinson (Leeds), Brian Briggs (St.Helens), Harry Poole (Hull KR) and Turner with many past, present and future Trinity forwards on display. Neil Fox scored a Yorkshire record of 23 points with ten goals and a try.

Consistency prevailed with the Yorkshire selectors and Derek played the next four successive 'White Rose' games, twice appearing is a side that featured five Trinity players (an equal county record which was set by Trinity in 1945). One of these was a 23-11 victory over New Zealand at Hull KR with Fred Smith, Neil Fox, Jack Wilkinson and Albert Firth fellow 'Dreadnoughts' in the side. The same quintet played a week later in a shock 8-23 loss to Cumberland at Wakefield.



The Yorkshire back row alternated over the next couple of years and Derek missed selection altogether in 1962-63 with Terry Clawson (Featherstone), Brian Briggs (Wakefield), Fred Ward (Hunslet) and Harry Poole (Hull KR) occupying the back row births.

He was back in the frame the following season but had to pull out of the Lancashire game at St.Helens, injured, but was back in the pack for the visit of the 1963 Australian Kangaroos. He was selected as captain on this, his last county, appearance, as Yorkshire defeated Australia 11-5 at Hull KR.

Yorkshire County Appearances					
Year	Opposition	Venue	Result		
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1954	Lancashire	Bradford	W. 20-10		
11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1957	Cumberland Hull W		W. 27-18		
29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1958	Lancashire	Leigh	W. 16-15		
28 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1959	Australia	York	W. 47-15		
31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 1960	Lancashire	Wakefield	L. 20-21		
14 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1960	Cumberland	Whitehaven	W. 43-19		
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1961	New Zealand	Hull KR	W. 21-11		
11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1961	Cumberland	Wakefield	L. 8-23		
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1963	Australia	Hull KR	W. 11-5		

1954 whilst at Hull KR, 1957-58 whilst at Oldham, 1959-63 whilst at Wakefield

## The International Years

Derek Turner's international career lasted eight years starting in the mud of Odsal in 1956 and finishing in the heat of Perpignan in 1962 and incorporated twenty four test matches, two World Cups, 12 GB tour games, an England cap and an RLXIII appearance.

Although his full test career started in late 1956, Derek's Oldham form earned him the loose forward birth in a Monday night tour game in the October, when the league selected a XIII to play the 1956 Australian Kangaroos and he partnered Arthur Clues and Harry Bath, two of the greatest Australian imports in history, in the back three, the home side winning 19-15.

He was then given his test debut at Odsal in the second test on 1st December, but the Odsal conditions affected any fine British play and the Australians won 22-9.

# GB Debut Team: The team that afternoon was:

Frank Mortimer (Wakefield), Billy Boston (Wigan), Phil Jackson (Barrow), Alan Davies (Oldham), Mick Sullivan (Huddersfield), Ray Price (Warrington), Jeff Stevenson (Leeds), Alan Prescott, capt (St. Helens), Tommy Harris (Hull), Brian Shaw (Hunslet), Don Robinson (Leeds), John Grundy (Barrow), Derek Turner (Oldham) Scorers: Try: Stevenson, Goals: Mortimer (3)

Attendance: 23,634



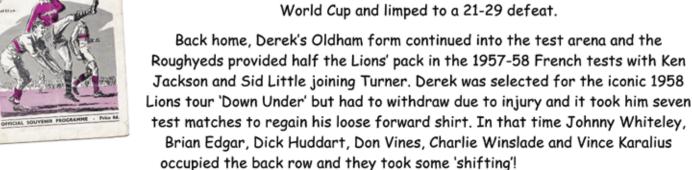
He held onto the loose forward shirt for the third and final test at Headingley and was instrumental in GB regaining the Ashes, scoring in a 19-0 win. Derek went onto play in eleven successive GB test

matches, which was quite a feat with the constant changing of teams in the late 1950s. These included six tests against the French in 1957, scoring twice at Headingley in January and picking up another try in both the winter tests at Toulouse and Leeds ten months later.

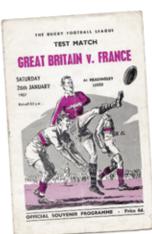
This run also saw selection for the 1957 World Cup squad 'Down Under'. GB easily defeated France, 23-5 in the Sydney rain with 'Rocky' being 'the star in the match, standing wide in the rucks and confusing the French defenders'

(quote from History of the RL World Cup). Just two days later, GB had to play Australia and 57,955 attended a Monday afternoon game but injuries to star British backs led to a 6-31 mauling. By the time GB played New Zealand, Australia had already won the









The move to Belle Vue revitalised his international career and he returned in the First Test of the 1959 Ashes series with a try in the 14-22 defeat at Swinton. Four of the Lions pack were dropped for the following test as Great Britain went on to retain the Ashes with Johnny Whiteley replacing Turner in the loose forward birth.

With Trinity in top form in early 1960, Neil Fox, Jack Wilkinson and Turner were all selected for the winter test series with France, but strangely, Fox was dropped for the 1960 World Cup squad, in England, later in the year, with Wilkinson and Turner becoming the second and third Trinity players, along with Don Robinson (1954), to gain a World Cup winners medal. Derek played in the New Zealand and Australian games; the Australian game classed as a World Cup Final as it was a winner takes all game in the Odsal mud. It was not a classy affair and tempers frayed regularly but with a British pack of Wilkinson, Joby Shaw, McTigue, Brian Shaw, Karalius and Turner, the Aussies came off second best, both in the result (10-3 to GB) and the physical confrontations.

Yet again Derek was selected for the first test of series when he appeared at loose forward against the 1961 touring Kiwis but after a dismal 11-29 loss, seven changes were made, including four in the pack and Turner made way for Whiteley again. He then missed selection for the next four tests, including the spring French tests but was

then selected as vice captain for the 1962 Lions tour to Australia and New Zealand, as deputy to Eric Ashton

-- See separate section for 1962 tour --

On his return home, Turner only played once more for Great Britain, his 24<sup>th</sup> and last cap came at Perpignan as the management handed out six new caps, only for France to win 17-12. With defeat, there were six more changes and 'Rocky's Great Britain career was over. A month before this last test match, the rugby league had brought back an England international side and Turner and Neil Fox teamed up in an 18-6 win at Headingley to add to his representative record



ENGLAND

HEADINGLEY - LEEDS



#### Great Britain in France

(Derek's last test match, December 1962)

B: Laurie Gilfedder Warrington), Ken Bowman, (Huddersfield) Bill Martin (Workington),
Mick Sullivan (St.Helens), Bill Drake (Hull), Ken Gowers (Swinton), Derek Turner (Wakefield)
F: Peter Flanagan (Hull KR), Tommy Smales (Huddersfield), Eric Ashton (Wigan),
Frank Myler (Widnes), Bill Burgess (Barrow), Neil Fox (Wakefield)

# The 1962 Tour 'Down Under'



The 1962 Lions were to be classed as one of the most successful to leave these shores and Derek was joined by fellow Trinity players, Neil Fox, Harold Poynton, Gerry Round and Jack Wilkinson on the plane, although they all travelled separately from the rest

of the squad due to their late cup and championship finals.

Despite arriving late, Derek was involved in the 'Battle of Sydney' when he was warned on several

occasions for rough play in the New South Wales game at Sydney Cricket Ground in front of over 60,000. Two days later he played at Newcastle and finished the game at scrum half after various injuries. Next up was the First Test and a thumping 31-12 Lions win at the SCG in front of 69,990, Derek having a storming game, making constant breaks and setting up an early try.



A visit to Queensland saw Derek sent off in the state tour game at Brisbane, but the following day he scored an astonishing hat trick of tries against Toowoomba when he replaced the injured Gary Cooper at stand off after half an hour. After tour games in Cairns and Townsville, Derek was devastated to miss the Second Test due to injury. He returned for the third test but controversy raged when an injured Australian forward, Dud Beattie decided to provoke Derek into a fight and both were sent off just before the hour mark. The Lions lost 17-18 but retained the Ashes after victories in

the first two test matches. One match remained for Derek in Australia and 57,895 crammed the SCG to see the Lions defeat St George Dragons, 33-5.





Derek took over the captaincy of the tour on the New Zealand leg after Eric Ashton was flown home injured and he led the test team for the first time in the Auckland mud, but were outplayed 0-19. Unfortunately, Derek was dismissed for a third time on tour, in controversial circumstances for 'over vigorous tackling', against a NZ XIII in Christchurch. Initially he refused to leave the field but with the game won, 31-17 he departed. He then led the Lions to a record 81-14 victory over the Bay of Plenty before the final test against the Kiwis. Despite another loss, 8-27, against a very depleted team, it proved a momentous occasion for the Trinity club with all five players playing in the test match, a club record.

The team then had to travel home, via South Africa, where they played three games against 'international teams' dubbed RL South Africa. In all Derek played in sixteen tour games, scoring nine tries, including four test matches



.,	•			T 5 1:
Year	Opposition		Venue	Result
1 <sup>s†</sup> Dec 1956	Australia	2 <sup>nd</sup> Test	Bradford	L. 9-22
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1956	Australia	3 <sup>rd</sup> Test	Swinton	W. 19-0
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan 1957	France	1 <sup>st</sup> Test	Leeds	W. 45-12
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar 1957	France	2 <sup>nd</sup> Test	Toulouse	D. 19-19
10 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1957	France	3 <sup>rd</sup> Test	St.Helens	W. 29-14
15 <sup>th</sup> June 1957	France	World Cup	SCG, Sydney	W. 23-5
17 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1957	Australia	World Cup	SCG, Sydney	L. 6-31
25th June 1957	New Zealand	World Cup	SCG, Sydney	L. 21-29
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 1957	France	1st Test	Toulouse	W. 25-14
23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 1957	France	2 <sup>nd</sup> Test	Wigan	W. 44-15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 1958	France	3 <sup>rd</sup> Test	Grenoble	W. 23-9
17 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1959	Australia	1st Test	Swinton	L. 14-22
6 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1960	France	1st Test	Toulouse	L. 18-20
26 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1960	France	2 <sup>nd</sup> Test	St.Helens	D. 17-17
24th Sept 1960	New Zealand	World Cup	Bradford	W. 23-8
1st Oct 1960	Australia	World Cup	Bradford	W. 10-3
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1960	Rest of the World	World Cup Friendly*	Bradford	W. 33-24
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1960	France	1st Test	Bordeaux	W. 21-10
28th Jan 1961	France	2 <sup>nd</sup> Test	St.Helens	W. 27-8
30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1961	New Zealand	1 <sup>st</sup> Test	Leeds	L. 11-29
9 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1962	Australia	1st Test	1 <sup>st</sup> Test SCG, Sydney	
14th Jul 1962	Australia	3 <sup>rd</sup> Test	SCG, Sydney	L. 17-18
28th Jul 1962	New Zealand	1st Test	Auckland	L. 0-19
11th Aug 1962	New Zealand	2 <sup>nd</sup> Test	Auckland	L. 8-27
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 1962	France	1 <sup>st</sup> Test	Perpignan	L. 12-17
	England Ir	nternational Appearance		
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1962	France	International	Leeds	W. 18-6
	RL XIII I	nternational Appearance		
29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1956	Australia	1956 Tour Game	Leigh	W. 19-15

1957 GB Tour Appearances					
	Team Played for	Opposition		Venue	Result
9 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1957	British XIII	Western Australia	World Cup Friendly	Perth	W. 66-5
1st July 1957	British XIII	Queensland	World Cup Friendly	Brisbane	W. 44-5
8 <sup>th</sup> July 1957	Northern Hemisphere XIII	New Zealand	World Cup Friendly	Auckland	W. 34-31
20th July 1957	British XIII	French XIII	South African Exhibition	Benoni	W. 64-41
24th July 1957	British XIII	French XIII	South African Exhibition	Durban	W. 32-11
27th July 1957	British XIII	French XIII	South African Exhibition	East London	W. 69-11

1962 GB Tour Appearances					
27 <sup>th</sup> May 1962	Western NSW	Tour Game	Bathurst	W. 24-10	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jun 1962	NSW	Tour Game	SCG, Sydney	W. 33-28	
4th Jun 1962	Newcastle	Tour Game	Newcastle	L. 18-23	
9 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1962	AUSTRALIA	1st Test	SCG, Sydney	W. 31-12	
16 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1962	Queensland	Tour Game	Brisbane	W. 22-17	
17 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1962	Toowoomba	Tour Game	Toowoomba	W. 36-12	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jun 1962	Far North Queensland	Tour Game	Cairns	W. 33-31	
24th Jun 1962	North Queensland	Tour Game	Townsville	W. 47-14	
14th Jul 1962	AUSTRALIA	3 <sup>rd</sup> Test	SCG, Sydney	L. 17-18	
18 <sup>th</sup> Jul 1962	St. George Dragons	Tour Game	SCG, Sydney	W. 33-5	
28 <sup>th</sup> Jul 1962	NEW ZEALAND	1st Test	Auckland	L. 0-19	
Aug 1962	Maoris XIII	Tour Game	Wellington	W. 35-5	
Aug 1962	New Zealand XIII	Tour Game	Christchurch	W. 31-17	
Aug 1962	Bay of Plenty	Tour Game	Rotorua	W. 81-14	
11th Aug 1962	NEW ZEALAND	2 <sup>nd</sup> Test	Auckland	L. 8-27	
Aug 1962	Auckland	Tour Game	Auckland	L. 13-46	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug 1962	RL South Africa	Tour Game	Pretoria	W. 49-30	
25 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1962	RL South Africa	Tour Game	Durban	W. 39-33	
31st Aug 1962	RL South Africa	Tour Game	Johannesburg	W. 45-23	

The beginning of Wakefield Trinity's glory years of the 1960s can be traced to a date in March 1959 with the purchase of a local loose forward, Derek Turner, who had been missed by the club many years earlier. The man known throughout the rugby league world as 'Rocky' for his fearless, tough and no-nonsense approach would lead Trinity to seven trophy wins over the next five years and become one of the giant figures in the game's history.

-- This is our tribute to a legend --

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# The Early Years

Derek Turner was born on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1932, hailed from the Peacock Estate in Wakefield and played his youth rugby at his Cathedral Boys School, which was situated by the old Wakefield market. During his teenage years he played his rugby league at the amateur junior clubs of Alverthorpe Youth Club, Balne Lane and Shaw Cross aswell as rugby union at Ossett. He played in the centres in these early years but the Trinity junior coaching staff, at the time, did not think Turner was big enough or good enough, so he signed for Hull Kingston Rovers in 1951.



# 'Rocky's' International Scrapbook



# Photo Key:

1: v NZ 1961 A

2: v Australia 1956 7

3: v France 1957 →

4. v France 1962 (team) **4** 

5: v Australia 1962 ♥

6: v Australia 1959 N

