

Welcome to the December 2015 edition of the 'Dreadnought'.

For this edition we have put together a timeline history of the club from its establishment in 1873 to the modern day era ... 142 years of Wakefield Trinity as a rugby club. We have attempted to stay with 'on field' events; matches, records, players etc. and the events at Belle Vue and attempted to stay away from 'off field' politics

1872 to 1899

1872		The Holy Trinity club established by John Henry Dixon
1872	Nov, Dec	Wakefield Trinity formed by the 'Young Men's Society' of Holy Trinity Church
1872	Dec	First rugby match played by a Wakefield Trinity club, opponents Wakefield
1873	Feb	First official Trinity match (all players were members) v Wakefield on 8th February 1873
1874	Jan	Trinity played home matches at Manor Field, off Vicarage Street
1874	Oct	Trinity moved grounds to College Grove, home of Wakefield Cricket Club
1877		Trinity moved grounds to Belle Vue (not the present stadium, but a field across the road)
1878		Wakefield's biggest ever public crowd (approx 3,000) watched Trinity v Halifax in the Yorkshire Cup
1878	Feb	Harry Hayley becomes the first Trinity player to represent Yorkshire
1879	Mar	Belle Vue hosts a Yorkshire v Middlesex county game
1879		Trinity win their first ever trophy, the Yorkshire RU Cup, beating Kirkstall at Halifax
1879	Apr	Trinity move grounds, across the road, to Belle Vue playing Birch of Manchester in a Hospital Charity Match
1879	Apr	Trinity wear red and blue for the very first time in that inaugural Belle Vue game
1879	Dec	Over 15,000 watched a Trinity v Halifax Yorkshire RU cup tie at Belle Vue
1880		Teddy Bartrum becomes rugby's first professional player (was paid as club's secretary)
1880		Trinity beat Heckmondwike to retain the YRU Challenge Cup
1880	Jan	Barron Kilner becomes the first Trinity player to represent England (v Ireland)
1881		Trinity beat Dewsbury to win the YRU Challenge Cup
1882	Feb	Trinity travelled to Ireland on a two match tour
1883		Trinity beat Halifax to win the YRU Challenge Cup
1885		New club premises at Holly Lodge, Lord Rodney Yard opened
1887		Trinity beat Leeds St Johns to win the YRU Challenge Cup
1888	Oct	Trinity play the Maori tourists from New Zealand
1889		Trinity player 'Teddy' Bartrum banned 'sine die' by the RFU for professionalism
1895	Sept	Trinity became founder members of Northern Union (rugby league)
1895	Sept	Trinity's first NU game: Bradford 11 Trinity 0
1895		Trinity sign ex-England rugby union captain, 'Dickie' Lockwood
1895	Nov	Bill Walton becomes Trinity's first NU county player for Yorkshire (v Cheshire at Headingley)
1896		Belle Vue closed for three weeks due to crowd trouble
1897	Mar	Trinity's first NU Challenge Cup match was a 0-0 draw at Leigh. Replay won 13-4
1897	Aug	Trinity sign future goal kicking legend, Jimmy Metcalfe from Featherstone
1898	Sept	New ground developments opened at Belle Vue, including a cycle track

The 1900s

1901	Mar	A new ground record of 20,195 attended the Trinity v Bradford Challenge Cup tie
1902	Jan	Jimmy Metcalfe becomes the first player to kick a hundred goals for the club
1902	Apr	Belle Vue hosts its first RL Challenge Cup semi final, Broughton Rangers defeating Hunslet in front of 14,000
1903	Apr	Trinity become Second Division Champions, winning their first trophy in 17 years, and first as a Northern Union club
1906	Dec	Belle Vue hosts its first Yorkshire Cup Final, Bradford defeating Hull KR, 8-5
1907	Oct	Trinity played the touring New Zealand All Golds, drawing 5-5
1907	Dec	Ernest Bennett becomes the first player to score a hundred tries for the club
1907	Dec	Belle Vue hosts the touring All Golds for a second time, NZ playing Yorkshire
1908	May	Belle Vue hosts the 1908 RL Championship Final, Hunslet beating Oldham
1908		Belle Vue hosts a Yorkshire v Australia Wallabies RU tour game
1908	Nov	Belle Vue hosts its first Yorkshire Cup Final, Halifax beating Hunslet 9-5
1908	Dec	Trinity played the touring Australian Kangaroos, winning 20-13; the great Dally Messenger playing at Belle Vue
1909	Jan	Tommy Newbould becomes Trinity's first England international, playing against Australia at Huddersfield
1909		The nickname 'The Dreadnoughts' was first used
1909	Apr	Trinity produced a major shock in defeating Wigan, 14-2 in the NU Challenge Cup semi final
1909	Apr	Trinity win their very first NU Challenge Cup Final, beating Hull 6-0 at Headingley in front of 24,000
1909	Apr	Trinity established a club points scoring record, beating Bramley 67-10 Jimmy Metcalfe becomes the first player to kick 11 goals for the club in a match, in the Bramley match above
1909	Apr	Belle Vue hosts the England v Wales international;
1909	Dec	the only time the ground has hosted a major international

The 1910s

1910	Apr	Tommy Newbould and Harry Kershaw become Trinity's first tourists, being selected for the inaugural NU tour to Australia & New Zealand
1910	Apr	Trinity become Yorkshire League champions for the first time
1910	May	Trinity finish 4th in the league and play their first RL Championship play off game (losing at Oldham in the semi final)
1910	Jun	Tommy Newbould becomes Trinity's very first GB international (classed as Northern Union) (stand off half, v Australia at Sydney Cricket Ground)
1910	Dec	Trinity win their first NU (rugby league) Yorkshire Cup Final, beating Huddersfield 8-2 at Headingley
1911	May	Trinity finish 3rd in the league, their highest ever league placing; winning the Yorkshire League again
1911	Apr	Billy Simpson scores 34 tries in the 1910-11 season, which would stay a record until 1957
1911	Nov	Belle Vue hosts the Yorkshire Cup Final, Huddersfield beating Hull KR 22-10
1913	May	Trinity sign 18 year old, Jonathan Parkin from North Featherstone
1913	May	Belle Vue hosts the 1913 RL Championship Final, Huddersfield defeating Wigan, 29-2, in front of a 17,000 crowd
1914	Apr	Billy Beattie selected for the 1914 NU Tour to Australia, but declined the offer due to work commitments
1914	Apr	Trinity reach their second NU Challenge Cup Final, but are defeated 0-17 by Hull at Headingley
1914	Jul	The outbreak of the First World War, with Trinity halting all fixtures until 1919
1915	May	Belle Vue hosts the 1915 RL Championship Final, Huddersfield defeating Leeds, 35-2
1917		Trinity's captain, Billy Beattie is killed in action on the Western Front, one of six Trinity first team players who suffered this fate
1919	Jan	Jonathan Parkin selected as club captain on the resumption of first team action

The 1920s

1920		Trinity appointed their very first full time secretary, Mr JA Quinn
1920	Feb	Belle Vue's ground attendance record is broken when 21,000 attend a Trinity v Huddersfield Challenge Cup game
1920	Oct	Trinity produced their very first match day programme, 'Wakefield Trinity Gazette'
1920	Jun	Jonathan Parkin becomes Trinity's third ever NU (GB) tourist to Australia & NZ
1920	Jul	Jonathan Parkin scores a hat trick of tries in the Northern Union's 31-7 1st Test win over NZ in Auckland
1921	Jan	Trinity suffer their biggest ever defeat, 11-69 at Hull (which would last until 1987)
1921	Feb	Belle Vue's record attendance is broken when 30,676 watch Trinity's RL Challenge Cup tie, v Huddersfield
1921	Sept	Trinity sign their very first overseas player, Australian, Albert Rosenfeld from Huddersfield
1921	Oct	Jonathan Parkin captains Yorkshire for the first time in the County Championship
1921	Oct	Trinity play the touring Australian Kangaroos, being defeated 3-29
1921	Dec	Belle Vue hosts the 1921 touring Kangaroos for a second time, against Yorkshire
1921	Oct	Jonathan Parkin becomes Trinity's first international captain, leading England against Australia at Highbury, home of Arsenal FC
1921	Nov	Jonathan Parkin captains Great Britain for the first time, against Australia in the Second Test at Hull
1921	Nov	Jonathan Parkin scores five tries in a single game for Yorkshire against Cumberland
1922	Feb	AK 'Nealy' Crosland plays his 533rd, and last Trinity first team game. A club record
1922		Jonathan Parkin granted a club benefit after ten years service to Trinity
1922	Dec	Bernard Gould becomes Trinity's first Welsh international, playing against England at Herne Hill in London
1923		A 'Supporter's Club' was set up for the very first time
1923	Apr	Belle Vue, hosted its one and only RL Challenge Cup Final with Leeds defeating Hull, 28-3 in front of 29,335
1924	May	Jonathan Parkin selected as GB captain on their Lions tour to Australia and NZ. Charlie Pollard was also selected to tour
1924	Sept	The new East Stand was opened and is still there to this day
1924	Sept	Trinity sign ex-GB centre and future 'RL Hall of Famer' Billy Batten from Hull
1924	Sept	Future international, and Hall of Famer, Bill Horton is signed from Knottingley and debuts alongside Batten
1924	Nov	Trinity win the Yorkshire Cup Final for the second time, defeating Batley, 9-8 at Headingley
1925	Apr	Belle Vue hosts the RL Challenge Cup semi final with Hull KR defeating Leeds 7-6
1926	Dec	Trinity reach the Yorkshire Cup Final, being defeated by Huddersfield, 3-10
1926	Dec	Trinity host the touring New Zealand Kiwis, being defeated 24-29
1927	Apr	Trinity reach their first RL Challenge Cup semi final in thirteen years, falling to Oldham, 3-7 at Wigan
1928	Mar	Ted Bateson scores six tries against Castleford, a new individual club record
1928	May	Jonathan Parkin makes his third tour to Australia & NZ, second as captain. He was accompanied by Bill Horton
1928	Jul	Two Trinity players represent Great Britain for the first time; Jonathan Parkin, as captain, and Bill Horton, in the 2nd Test v Australia in Sydney
1928	Nov	Belle Vue stages its fifth Yorkshire Cup Final, Leeds beating Featherstone Rovers 5-0
1928	Nov	Trinity defeated Bradford Northern 68-7, a new club points scoring record
1929	Sept	Trinity defeated the touring Australian Kangaroos, 14-3
1929	Nov	Belle Vue hosts the 1929 touring Kangaroos for a second time, against Yorkshire

The 1930s

1930	Jan	Jonathan Parkin retires from international rugby after 17 GB tests and 12 England caps
1930	Apr	Jonathan Parkin buys out his own contract and signs for Hull Kingston Rovers
1930	May	Belle Vue hosted its fourth RL Championship Final; 30,350 watching Huddersfield and Leeds draw 2-2; a new ground attendance record
1931	Apr	Charlie Pollard equals Jimmy Metcalfe's 11-goal-in-a-match goal kicking record, v Castleford
1931	Dec	Charlie Pollard kicks his 654th, and last goal for the club; a new club record until Neil Fox passes it thirty years later
1932	May	Bill Horton, Ernest Pollard and Gilbert Robinson all travel to Australia & NZ for the Lions Tour
1932	Nov	Trinity are defeated 0-8 by Leeds in the Yorkshire Cup Final at Huddersfield
1932		The developed West Stand is re-opened at Belle Vue
1932	Apr	A new crowd record of 36,359 watched Huddersfield beat Leeds, 30-8, the RL Challenge Cup semi final
1932	Apr	Trinity lose the other RL Challenge Cup semi final, 4-9 to Swinton
1932	May	Belle Vue hosts its fifth, and last, RL Championship Final; 19,396 watching Huddersfield play St Helens
1932	Nov	Three Trinity players represent England for the first time; Ernest Pollard, Len Higson & Mick Exley v Wales at Headingley
1933	Mar	The ground attendance record is broken again when 36,359 attend the Leeds v Huddersfield Challenge Cup semi final
1933	Sept	Trinity play under floodlights for the first time when they visit new club, London Highfield
1933	Oct	Trinity host the touring Australian Kangaroos for a fifth time, being defeated 6-17
1933		Trinity take on their very first coach. Joe Jones was employed as the Reserve team coach
1933	Sept	Four Trinity players represent Yorkshire for the first time; Ernest Pollard, Len Higson, Mick Exley & Bill Horton v Australia at Headingley
1933	Dec	Bill Horton becomes the first Trinity player to play in France whilst representing England against Australia in Paris
1934	Feb	Future Hall of Famer, Herbert Goodfellow, a 17 year old scrum half was signed from Sharlston
1934	Mar	Belle Vue stages its fifth RL Challenge Cup semi final in a row, Hunslet defeating Huddersfield 12-7
1934	Oct	Trinity played Leeds three times in the Yorkshire Cup Final, eventually losing 0-13 after 5-5 and 2-2 draws
1935	Jan	Mick Exley toured France with a RL XIII representative side playing Lyon, Grenoble and Roanne
1935		Joe Jones becomes Trinity's very first first team coach
1935	Apr	Ernest Pollard breaks the points-in-a-season record with 207
1935	Oct	Bill Horton represents Yorkshire for the 20th and last time. He is Trinity's most capped county player
1936	Mar	Belle Vue's biggest ever attendance (37,906) attend the RL Challenge Cup semi final; Leeds defeating Huddersfield 10-5
1936	May	Mick Exley is selected for the Great Britain tour to Australia & New Zealand
1936	Oct	Trinity are defeated 2-9 by York in the Yorkshire Cup Final at Headingley
1937	Apr	Trinity reach the RL Challenge Cup semi final, falling to Keighley 3-5 after an initial 0-0 draw
1937	Oct	Trinity host the Australian Kangaroos, being defeated 10-17
1938	Apr	Herbert Goodfellow, Harry Wilkinson & Mick Exley are all selected for a Northern RL XIII to play France in Pau
1938	Apr	Loose forward, Len Bratley breaks two forward try scoring records; 15 in a season and 5 in one match (v Huddersfield)
1939	Apr	Hooker, Sam Lee becomes the first player to kick 100 goals for the club in a season. He finished with 111 in 1938-39
1939	Sept	The outbreak of the Second World War causes the Government to halt all organised sport. Trinity play in an Emergency Yorkshire War League

The 1940s

1940	Jun	Trinity are defeated 9-12 by Featherstone Rovers in the first wartime Yorkshire Cup Final
1942	Oct	Harry Wilkinson plays his 96th consecutive game; still a club record
1945	May	Trinity reached the Wartime Championship semi final, being defeated by Halifax 11-17
1945	Sept	Trinity defeat Leeds, 71-0; their highest ever victory. Their 17 tries was also a match day record
1945	Oct	Five Trinity players represent Yorkshire for the first time; D.Baddeley, R.Rylance, H.Goodfellow, H.Wilkinson & L.Bratley v Cumberland at Headingley
1945	Nov	Trinity reach the first post-war Yorkshire Cup Final, going down to Bradford Northern, 2-5
1946	Jan	Six Trinity players play in the Tour Trial for the GB Lions' Australian tour; with only Harry Murphy being selected
1946	May	Trinity play at Wembley Stadium for the first time and win the RL Challenge Cup for the first time since 1909, defeating Wigan, 13-12
1946	May	Captain, Billy Stott, wins the inaugural Lance Todd Trophy as man of the match in the Wembley cup final
1946	May	Trinity win the Yorkshire League Championship as well as competing in the RL Championship semi final for the first time since 1911 (losing to Huddersfield, 3-8)
1946	Sept	A tragic accident causes the death of Trinity centre, Frank Townsend, in a league game at Featherstone
1946	Nov	Trinity win the Yorkshire Cup for the first time since 1924, defeating Hull, 10-0 at Headingley
1947	Apr	In rugby league's first all-ticket match, Trinity lose 0-21 to Leeds in the RL Challenge Cup semi final at Huddersfield (35,136 attendance)
1947	Apr	Trinity sign Dennis Boocker; the clubs first Australian signing, direct from an Australian club (Newtown Bluebags)
1947	Nov	Trinity defeat Leeds 8-7 to win the Yorkshire Cup Final, after an initial 7-7 draw
1947	Dec	Trinity entertain the touring New Zealand Kiwis, being defeated 3-30
1948	Feb	Trinity play extra time for the first time after a 17-17 aggregate Challenge Cup draw against Salford (eventually winning 33-17)
1948	Feb	27,330 attend Trinity's home Challenge Cup tie against Bradford Northern, a new post-war Belle Vue record
1948	Sept	Trinity are defeated 19-26 by the touring Australian Kangaroos
1949	Apr	Len Bratley, scores his 94th and last Trinity try, a club record for a forward
1949	Apr	Harry Wilkinson plays his 618th, and last, first team game. A club record



Trinity's 1946 Wembley winning team

The 1950s

1950	Apr	Trinity host a French team for the first time, defeating a Combined Bordeaux & Villeneuve XIII, 36-7
1950	May	Harry Murphy selected for his second tour to Australia & New Zealand with the Great Britain Lions
1951	Oct	Trinity win the Yorkshire Cup, defeating Keighley 17-3 at Headingley
1951	Dec	Belle Vue hosts the 1951 touring Kiwis, against Yorkshire
1952	Jan	Trinity take part in the very first televised match, away at Wigan
1952	Apr	Don Robinson becomes Trinity's first junior international, representing England under 21s against France
1952		William 'Paddy' Armour becomes the club's first qualified physiotherapist (he would stay in the role for 21 years until 1973)
1952	May	Trinity's A Team complete a League Leaders & Yorkshire League Championship double
1952	Nov	Although not initially being granted a game against the 1952 touring Kangaroos, they eventually played, losing 8-58 to Australia
1954	Nov	Don Robinson becomes a World Cup winner after representing Great Britain in France (GB beat France, 16-12, in the final)
1955		The famous white shirt with the red and blue band is worn for the first time
1955	Nov	Trinity play in an 'ITV Cup' in London, going down to Warrington at QPR's Loftus Road
1955	Dec	Trinity host the touring Kiwis, going down 16-27 to New Zealand
1956	May	Trinity's A Team, lead by Jack Booth, complete a Yorkshire League Championship and Yorkshire Cup double
1956	Dec	The great Clive Churchill plays at Belle Vue, as a young Trinity side defeat the touring Australian Kangaroos, 17-12
1956	Nov	Full back, Frank Mortimer plays twice for GB in test matches against Australia, kicking three goals on each occasion
1957	Apr	Frank Mortimer breaks the club goals (112) and points (239) in a season record
1958	Apr	Neil Fox establishes three club records, points in a match (31), goals in a season (124) and points in a season (344)
1958	Oct	Trinity reach the Yorkshire Cup Final, losing 20-24 against Leeds
1958	Dec	Trinity venture to South Africa for three new signings, although only Alan Skene would be a long term success in the Trinity jersey
1959	Apr	Neil Fox breaks his own goals (146) and points (370) in a season record
1959	Apr	Fred Smith breaks the club try scoring record (38) held by Billie Simpson since 1911. He did this with another record, scoring 7 tries in a match against Keighley
1959	Nov	Trinity meet the touring Kangaroos for the tenth time, beating Australia, 20-10
1959	Dec	Three Trinity players represent GB in a test match for the first time; Gerry Round, Neil Fox & Jack Wilkinson against Australia (3rd Test)
1959	Dec	Derek Turner, Neil Fox, Don Vines, Jack Wilkinson & Gerry Round all represent Great Britain against Australia in the 1959 Ashes Test Series



Trinity's 1951 Yorkshire Cup winning team