

# The Dreadnought



The Dreadnought  
is the official newsletter of  
'Trinity Heritage' ...  
... all things Wakefield  
Trinity history

Year 4, Volume 7 ... July 2016

Welcome to the July 2016 edition of the 'Dreadnought'. The idea of the newsletter is to remember and celebrate Trinity's history and heritage in the form of articles, photos, stories and memorabilia.

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'All Roads Lead to Leigh' ...

That was the call in our very first RL Challenge Cup campaign in 1897 when we drew Leigh away in our inaugural Challenge Cup tie. It seems rather appropriate that our forthcoming Challenge Cup semi final tie, one hundred and nineteen years later, will be played at Leigh so in celebration of our twentieth Challenge Cup semi final tie we take a look at our semi final history.

**THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

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Challenge Cup Semi-Final

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**FEATHERSTONE R. v. WAKEFIELD T.**

At  
ODSAL STADIUM  
BRADFORD

WEDNESDAY  
11th APRIL  
1962

Kick-off 6.30 p.m.

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAMME - Price 1/-

1909

### Wakefield Trinity 14 Wigan 2

(Attendance: 18,000 at The Cliff, Broughton)

We reached our very first Rugby League Challenge Cup semi final at our fourteenth attempt. We had reached five previous quarter final rounds, but 1909 saw the first victory with a 19-0 win over an Albert Goldthorpe-led Hunslet after earlier wins at Bradford (13-3) and Leigh (9-3) in the previous rounds. The semi final against Wigan was due to play on a Saturday afternoon in April. But, in controversial scenes the Northern Union made them play their league game at Salford the night before. They sent their full team who 'hardly made a tackle all night' in a 0-53 loss. They then returned home on the train, were back on the train in the morning to Broughton near Manchester and had the 'last laugh' beating the 'invincible' Wigan, 14-2 and won the cup a fortnight later. Wigan were also made to play St Helens on the Friday night, too, losing 5-8, but put in their reserve side and were subsequently fined £25!

Wigan, the most expensive team in the league, were hot favourites with their international three quarter line of Jim Leytham, Bert Jenkins, Lance Todd and Joe Miller. Trinity played the same team as the previous evening, minus Joe Taylor who had broken a finger. In the first half, half back, Tommy Newbould scored a tremendous individual try with a Jimmy Metcalfe drop goal giving Trinity a 5-2 half time lead. Trinity kept the pressure on on the second half with captain, Harry Slater, bluffing the opposition before putting winger Ernest Bennett over in the corner. A couple of Metcalfe goals and a Dave Holmes drop goal sealed the win. This was one of the greatest wins in Trinity's short league history characterised by a superb back display. The players each receive £5/5 for the win, with a £1 bonus being added to each cup win after starting with £2/5 in the first round. This £5/5 is the equivalent of approximately £450 in today's market.

#### Team:

Jimmy Metcalfe, Ernest Bennett, Ezra Sidwell, Dave Holmes, Billie Simpson, Tommy Newbould, Harry Slater, Dickie Beaumont, AK 'Nealy' Crosland, Herbert Kershaw, George Taylor, James Auton, Jack Walton

1912

### Oldham 17 Wakefield Trinity 0

(Attendance: 11,061 at The Cliff, Broughton)

If the 1909 semi final was ranked as one of the best games in the club's history, the 1912 semi final was ranked as one of the worst with newspaper headlines 'screaming' "Debacle", "Very Disappointing", "Beaten all over the Field" and a "Shocking Display". Rewind two months and Trinity had started the cup run with a fine 10-2 win over Leeds followed by a 13-2 win at Keighley. The quarter final took them to Wilderspool and a 3-3 draw brought a Belle Vue replay and a tremendous 10-5 win over Warrington, with Herbert Kershaw outstanding. But, by mid-April, injuries and suspensions caused a major re-shuffle with forward, Kershaw in the centre and a young scrum half replacement with the resultant poor performance against Oldham. The Trinity following was also low due to the recent coal strikes at the time with subsequent limited trains to

Lancashire

(Note: the wages for the game are shown on the right, all players receiving 15 shillings for the loss)

*Some Final A 19 12*

*Oldham at Broughton April 13 1912*

	Wages	Fines	Ref
Land	15		
Lynch	15		
Kershaw	15		
Newbould	15		
Simpson	15		
Fellowes	15		
Newbould	15		
Auton	15		
Crosland	15		
Taylor	15		
Slater	15		
Burton	15		
Taylor	15		
Sidwell	15		
Beaumont	15		
Sumner	7	30	9
Stokes	66		
Land + Stokes			44
25 fines @ 15/-			375
			419

#### Team:

Leonard Land, Billie Lynch, Tommy Poynton, Herbert Kershaw, Billie Simpson, Tommy Newbould, Charles Fellowes, James Auton, Joe Taylor, Jack Walton, George Taylor, AK 'Nealy' Crosland, Arthur Burton

**1913**

**Huddersfield 35 Wakefield Trinity 2**

(Attendance: 23,000 at Thrum Hall, Halifax)

If Trinity were 'brilliant' in 1909, 'shocking' in 1912, they were just totally outplayed in 1913. At this time, Huddersfield were classed as the 'Team of All Talents' and were on their way to a league and cup double. Trinity had defeated Elland, 6-2, Bradford, 5-2 and York, 7-3 in an uninspiring cup run with slightly lower crowds than expected. Only 6,500 attended the York quarter final tie at Belle Vue, whereas 35,000 attended the Huddersfield v Wigan tie.

Again, injuries hampered Trinity's end of season form and they entered the semi finals with no regular half backs, with Newbould and Slater missing along with Ernest Bennett, Herbert Kershaw and Arthur Burton. Johnson and Smales were the reserve team half backs, Stephenson was a winger playing in the forwards with Mills and Dixon being recent debutants. Both Fartown wingers, Albert Rosenfeld and Stan Moorhouse scored hat tricks in the nine-try rout in a team that also consisted of seven internationals, including GB Lions, Harold Wagstaff, Douglas Clark and Ben Gronow. Smales kicked Trinity's solitary goal.

**Team:**

Leonard Land, Billie Simpson, Billie Lynch, Tommy Poynton, John Mills, Ben Johnson, Charles Smales, George Taylor, Harry Stephenson, Billie Beattie, Albert Dixon, AK 'Nealy' Crosland, James Auton

**1914**

**Wakefield Trinity 3 Broughton Rangers 3**

(Attendance: 10,000 at Athletic Ground, Rochdale)

**Replay**

**Wakefield Trinity 5 Broughton Rangers 0**

(Attendance: 7,656 at Thrum Hall, Halifax)

Another year and another semi final and for the only time in the club's history, they reached three successive Challenge Cup semi finals. Swinton had been defeated 2-0 in the first round followed by a classic second round win, 9-8 at home to Leeds, coming back from 0-6 down with twelve men, after Tommy Newbould had been sent off, and sealed with a 57 yard penalty by Billie Beattie in the last five minutes.

The quarter final saw second placed Wigan visit Belle Vue and a powerful forward display finished by a Crosland try saw a 9-6 win.

The semi final took them to Rochdale and a John Mills try brought a replay in a dour 3-3 draw with Broughton Rangers. The replay at Fartown three days later was marred by dreadful weather with wind and rain keeping the attendance down to less than eight thousand but a try to Featherstone-born stand off, Bruce Howarth and a Land conversion took them into their second final, which was one step too far with a 0-6 loss to Hull after Herbert Kershaw was sent off

**Team:**

Leonard Land, Ben Johnson, Tommy Poynton, Billie Lynch, John Mills, Bruce Howarth, Jonathan Parkin, Arthur Burton, Albert Dixon, Billie Beattie AK 'Nealy' Crosland, Ernest Parkin, Herbert Kershaw

For the replay, Parkin was injured, Kershaw moved to scrum half and George Taylor was in the forwards