

**1927**

**Oldham 7 Wakefield Trinity 3**

(Attendance: 18,000 at Central Park, Wigan)

Jonathan Parkin's Trinity exploits are well known and the barren years of the 1920s with only one domestic honour to show, but 1927 was the nearest he would come to the Challenge Cup Final. Jonty had led Trinity brilliantly throughout the 1920s and three home ties in the 1927 competition took them into the first semi final in thirteen years. Wins against Wigan Highfield (13-5), Halifax (7-3) and Batley (10-6), in front of an 18,000 quarter final crowd set them up with Oldham who were just four places above them (tenth) in the league table. But the 'Weather Gods' did not look down favourably on Trinity again with a 'dismal, wretched, rainy day' greeting the teams. Despite this, Trinity led 3-0 at half time after Archie Siswick intercepted an Oldham pass and Ted Bateson finished off the move with a fine try. But in the second half, Charlie Pollard missed various good goal attempts and Alf Higgs scored the decisive Oldham try and with two goals, Oldham moved into their third consecutive final.

**Team:**

Charlie Pollard, Ted Bateson, Tom Davies, Archie Siswick, Joe Jones, Joe 'Sandy' Pearce, Jonathan Parkin, Bill Horton, Jenkyn Waters, Len Higson, Tom Coles, Ted Glossop, Bob White

**1932**

**Swinton 7 Wakefield Trinity 4**

(Attendance: 22,000 at Athletic Ground, Rochdale)

The 1932 semi final was both frustrating and slightly controversial, but ultimately another semi final defeat after previous round victories over Bradford Northern, Warrington and Dewsbury. Jonty Parkin had now retired but Trinity were developing a fine pack of forwards with internationals and future Hall of Famers, Bill Horton, Mick Exley and Harry Wilkinson leading by example.

The semi final was frustrating as Trinity did not take their chances and on three or four occasions, bad passes and dropped balls squandered good try scoring chances, plus Gilbert Robinson was held up over the line. Two Ernest Pollard penalties saw Trinity take a 4-0 half time lead but two penalties and a try in the second half saw Swinton home 7-4. It was controversial as the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute penalty that took Swinton from 5-4 to 7-4 ahead, was missed but the referee gave the goal!

**Team:**

Harold Owen, Ted Bateson, Gilbert Robinson, Ernest Pollard, Freddie Smart, Sammy Herberts, Joe 'Sandy' Pearce, Harry Field, William Moss, Mick Exley, Bill Horton, Harry Wilkinson, Len Higson

1937

### Keighley 0 Wakefield Trinity 0

(Attendance: 39, 998 at Headingley, Leeds)

### Replay

### Keighley 5 Wakefield Trinity 3

(Attendance: 14, 440 at Fartown, Huddersfield)

Trinity were the real 'Giant Killers' of the 1937 Challenge Cup run. When the draw was made for the first round, sixteenth place, Trinity welcomed second-placed, Leeds to Belle Vue. 19,229 packed Belle Vue to see a 50<sup>th</sup> minute Milner penalty as the only score as Trinity triumphed, 2-0. Next stop was Thrum Hall as Halifax were defeated, 5-4 with long striding loose forward, Alf Watson scoring the decisive try in front of 20,000. New cup favourites, Warrington were the quarter final opponents who were fourth in the league and 22,075 attended Belle Vue despite three days of heavy snowfall. Captain Bill Horton missed the game as he was stuck in Bristol in the snow but the game star was Alf Watson who set up the winning try by outpacing three or forwards, through the snow and mud and set up a move that went through the hands of Milner, who kicked for Malpass for Sammy Herberts to drop on the ball over the line. Milner kicked the goal for a 5-0 and into the semi finals.

When Trinity drew eighteenth placed, Keighley in the semi finals, there must have been dreams of Wembley but a drab 0-0 draw in front of almost 40,000, in glorious weather, at Headingley saw a midweek replay at Fartown. Keighley scored first through Bevan and Carter replied but goal kicks won the day with Keighley's one successful attempt sealing a 5-3 victory



#### Team:

Billy Teall, JC Milner, Johnny Malpass, Wilf Whitworth, Freddie Smart, Sammy Herberts, Herbert Goodfellow, Harry Wilkinson, Cliff Carter, Bill Horton, Mick Exley, Alan Flowers, Alf Watson

For the replay, Tommy Ryan replaced Milner on the wing



The 1937 Challenge Cup semi final team at Headingley

Back: Freddie Smart, Cliff Carter, Alf Watson, Bill Horton, Alan Flowers, Mick Exley, JC Milner,  
Front: Wilf Whitworth, Billy Teall, Harry Wilkinson, Herbert Goodfellow, Johnny Malpass, Sammy Herberts



1941

**First Leg: Halifax 11 Wakefield Trinity 2**

(Attendance: 7,752 at Thrum Hall, Halifax)

**Second Leg: Wakefield Trinity 10 Halifax 5**

(Attendance: 7,000 at Belle Vue, Wakefield)

Throughout the war years, rugby league continued but only in emergency and part time war leagues. Players had gone off to war and teams regularly borrowed players from other clubs if they were stationed nearby. The cup also continued and Trinity negotiated three rounds beating Keighley at home (25-0), Wigan at home (22-0) and Batley away (22-0) to meet Halifax in a two-legged semi final.

Trinity had 'borrowed' ten players throughout the season and five played in the semi finals. Ultimately, Trinity had left themselves too much to do after a 2-11 defeat at Thrum Hall but a great second leg saw Trinity lead 10-0, and 12-11 on aggregate, before a late Halifax try took them through to the final, 16-12 on aggregate.

Team:

First Leg: Billy Teall, Reg Jenkinson, Horace Turner, Les Jones (Warrington), Bernard Hutchinson (Hull KR), Mel de Lloyd (Warrington), Herbert Goodfellow, Harry Wilkinson, Vic Darlison, L.Blanchard (Hull KR), Sandy Orford, Harry Jones (Warrington), Harry Murphy

For the second leg, Turner moved to full back in place of Teall, Ronnie Caress played at centre and EC.Whitehead replaced Hutchinson on the wing

1946

**Wakefield Trinity 7 Hunslet 3**

(Attendance: 33,000 at Headingley, Leeds)

The war years 'robbed' the Trinity team of, potentially, many glorious years of success as youngsters Herbert Goodfellow, Len Marson and Harry Murphy were progressing well alongside the experience of Harry Wilkinson, Mick Exley, Billy Teall and Len Bratley. The crowds started to flock back, too, once the war was over and 56,000 attended the three home games leading up to the semi final.

The first round was now a two-legged game and Trinity were drawn with Huddersfield with 26,500 attending the Fartown first leg and 19,000 the return leg at Belle Vue a week later, Trinity winning 14-3 and 5-2 with an overall 19-5 aggregate winning victory. A tight second round game saw the scores scoreless for seventy minutes, against Halifax, but two late tries by Baddeley and Caldwell saw them into the quarter finals, with Workington Town as visitors and a subsequent 14-4 win, with more large attendances, 21,000 for the visit of Halifax and 16,000 for the quarter finals.

The semi final at Headingley provided the biggest financial taking for any sport in Leeds at the time with receipts of £4,993 and it was a tense affair with controversy at the start. A Hunslet break saw the winger run the length of the field to score but was brought back as his foot had been

in touch. Unfortunately the touch judge was then assaulted by a crowd member and had to be taken to hospital. A Billy Stott penalty put Trinity 2-0 up but were pegged back by a Williamson try for Hunslet. The match winner came from Dennis Baddeley who went over direct from a scrum and Stott converted from near the touchline and Trinity were on their way to Wembley for the first time.

History shows that Trinity defeated Wigan, 13-12 in the final with a last minute Billy Stott penalty.



Team:

Billy Teall, Arthur Fletcher, Billy Stott, Johnny Jones, Dennis Baddeley, Ron Rylance, Herbert Goodfellow, Harry Wilkinson, Len Marson, Jim Higgins, Mick Exley, Derrick Howes, Harry Murphy