

1963

Wakefield Trinity 5 Warrington 2

(Attendance: 15,566 at Station Road, Swinton)

The 'invincible tag' had dropped a little by the 1963 cup run and

Trinity were lucky to scrape through the early rounds against second division opposition. A fierce winter had put the first round ties back two months and it was mid-March when Trinity eventually ran out at Odsal in the first round, winning 15-3 with five tries and all goals missed. The second round brought Liverpool City to Belle

Vue and another lack lustre performance saw a 14-12 win which could have been worse as City made a last minute break but decided to dummy instead of passing to support and Gerry Round saved the day. A 9-9 draw at York in the quarter final, after being 0-9 down and a last minute Fox penalty, took brought York to Belle Vue for a midweek replay and again Trinity trailed before Coetzer scored a brace of tries followed by an individual effort from Holliday, and a 25-11 win.

The semi final was another low scoring affair against Warrington, their first Lancashire opposition in a semi final for over thirty years. An early Neil Fox try after a chip and chase from a Poynton pass was enough to see them through and great forward play and fine scrummaging from Kosanovic kept the ball in Trinity's hands for most of the second half. As underdogs, Trinity went to Wembley and defeated Wigan 25-10 to retain the trophy for the only time in their history.



The two teams line up before kick off in the Swinton mud
L-R: Turner, Holliday, Smith, Brooke, Coetzer, Poynton, Blakeley, Fox, Briggs,
Wilkinson, Kosanovic, Sampson, Round

Team:

Gerry Round, Fred Smith, Ian Brooke, Neil Fox, Gert Coetzer, Harold Poynton, Keith Holliday, Jack Wilkinson, Milan Kosanovic, Malcolm Sampson, Brian Briggs, David Blakeley, Derek Turner

1965

Hunslet 8 Wakefield Trinity 0

(Attendance: 21,234 at Headingley, Leeds)

The old fashioned hooker of the 1960s was a most valuable player in the fact that the more ball he could win at the scrums, the more possession you would have. This was certainly a factor in the 1965 semi final when hooker, Bernard Prior won virtually every scrum. Unfortunately Prior was in the Hunslet front row and the forwards deprived Trinity of the ball all afternoon in an 8-0 win on a perfect spring day, and prevented Trinity from playing any of their free flowing rugby.

Berwyn Jones was the new wing sensation at Belle Vue but he was constantly tackled into touch in the semi final giving Prior more

chances to successfully hook the ball from Shepherd. Dewsbury, Bradford Northern and Blackpool Borough had been defeated on the way to the semi final



Malcolm Sampson moves in on Geoff Gunney (above right), and Pre-match cards at the hotel with George Shepherd, Gert Coetzer, Ted Campbell, Bob Haigh, Derek Plumstead, Malcolm Sampson and David Sampson



Team:

Don Metcalfe, Berwyn Jones, Tony Thomas, Neil Fox, Gert Coetzer, Harold Poynton, Terry Hopwood, Don Vines, George Shepherd, Ted Campbell, Malcolm Sampson, Bob Haigh, Keith Holliday
(Unused substitutes: David Sampson & Noel Dolton)

1968

Wakefield Trinity 0 Huddersfield 0

(Attendance: 21,569 at Odsal Stadium, Bradford)

Replay

Wakefield Trinity 15 Huddersfield 10

(Attendance: 21,170 at Headingley, Leeds)

1966 (St Helens) and 1967 (Featherstone Rovers) saw Trinity lose early round games to the eventual cup winners and 1968 saw a tough draw at Barrow in the first round, the previous seasons finalists. Don Fox was now in the Trinity ranks, who were now League Champions, and scored the winning try in an 8-4 win, dummying at close range. A visit to Salford in the second round saw another close, 8-4 victory with Harold Poynton totally outplaying David Watkins at stand off and Ken Batty and Neil Fox combing twice to set each other up for Trinity's tries. Castleford visited Belle Vue in the quarter finals and over 18,000 saw a superb effort from the Trinity forwards with Haigh, Don Fox and McLeod outstanding and four tries from Batty (2), Coetzer and Haigh.

The semi final took Trinity to Odsal to face Huddersfield but both club objected due to the pitch condition. They had justification, as the pitch was a 'mud-bath' and the game ended 0-0. The replay was at Headingley four days later and Trinity trailed 5-10 at half time following a first minute Valentine try charging down of Don Fox kick. A Gert Coetzer try equalised but the Fartowners went ahead again through a Rhodes try. After the break, Trinity settled and two further tries from Coetzer and Batty saw Trinity through to Wembley, 15-10



Team:

Gary Cooper, David Garthwaite, Ian Brooke, Gert Coetzer, Ken Batty, Harold Poynton, Joe Bonnar, David Jeanes, George Shepherd, Don Fox, Bob Haigh, Matt McLeod, David Hawley
Subs: Richard Paley (unused), Gerry Round

For the replay, Round replaced Hawley with Haigh moving to loose forward and Round in the second row. Paley and Ted Campbell were unused substitutes



The Boys of '68

Clarkson, Oakes, Jeanes, McLeod, Shepherd, Haigh, N.Fox, Brooke, Campbell, D.Fox, Hirst, Cooper, Coetzer, Hawley, Garthwaite, Batty, Paley, Poynton, Owen, Bonnar, Traill (coach)

1947

Leeds 21 Wakefield Trinity 0

(Attendance: 35,200 at Fartown, Huddersfield)

As cup holders reached the semi finals for the second successive year with a two legged first round victory over Leigh (3-3 away and a 5-0 win at home), Widnes in the second round (8-5) and Liverpool Stanley (15-0) in the third round. 15,000 and 14,000 saw the latter two round games at Belle Vue. Waiting at the semi final stage were Leeds who were a different proposition now players had returned from the war. The game was also the game's first 'all ticket' game and resulted in Fartown's biggest ever crowd and record game receipts.

The game started positively for Trinity, at some pace, with half backs Rylance and Goodfellow dominating the Leeds pair of Williams and Jenkins but Trinity did not turn their dominance into points and Leeds scored first through Williams and led 3-0 at half time. Baddeley had a try disallowed when the referee brought play back and gave Trinity a penalty, but after that, Trinity collapsed, Leeds scored four unanswered tries and went to Wembley on the back of a 21-0 victory.



Team:

Billy Teall, Albany Longley, Billy Stott, Arthur Fletcher, Dennis Baddeley, Ron Rylance, Herbert Goodfellow, Harry Wilkinson, Len Marson, Jim Higgins, Mick Exley, Jack Booth, Harry Murphy

1960

Wakefield Trinity 11 Featherstone Rovers 2

(Attendance: 55,800 at Odsal Stadium, Bradford)

After a thirteen year period with only two quarter final appearances, to show, in the Challenge Cup (1950 & 1956) the 1960s brought the 'Glory Years' with six semi final appearances and a Challenge Cup record of thirty eight games played with only seven losses.

A good Challenge Cup run is often backed by a couple of 'easy' home games against lower opposition, without being disrespectful to the 'lower opposition', but when the first round draw was made in 1960, Trinity were positioned in second place in the league table ... and drew first placed, St Helens, away! In one of the greatest cup games in Trinity's history, Trinity triumphed, 15-10 in front of 30,000 spectators with John ETTY scoring two tries on the back of Neil Fox's 'blockbusting bursts'. The second round did not get much easier with a visit to Widnes, but with Keith Holliday sublime, another ETTY try saw Trinity through 5-2 and another tough tie, an away trip to Whitehaven in the quarter finals. The 18,500 attendance is still a Whitehaven record today and a magnificent Derek Turner performance saw Trinity home 21-10.

A massive crowd of over 55,000 saw a tremendous semi final with Trinity leading Featherstone 3-2 at half time with ETTY scoring again. Further second half tries to Skene and ETTY, with Fox only kicking one from seven goal attempts saw Trinity reach their second Wembley final and success over Hull at the Empire Stadium.



Malcolm Sampson is pictured above right in front of the massive Odsal crowd and Keith Holliday offloads to Derek Turner with Albert Firth in support

Team:

Don Metcalfe, Fred Smith, Alan Skene, Neil Fox, John ETTY, Harold Poynton, Keith Holliday, Jack Wilkinson, Geoff Oakes, Malcolm Sampson, Don Vines, Albert Firth, Derek Turner

1962

Wakefield Trinity 9 Featherstone Rovers 0

(Attendance: 43,267 at Odsal Stadium, Bradford)

After losing the trophy to Wigan the previous season, Trinity set about reclaiming the trophy and reached their twenty fifth quarter final following defeats of Warrington and Blackpool Borough. The quarter final draw brought Wigan to Belle Vue and a post-war Belle Vue attendance record of 28,254. These were the top two sides in the league as a first half cancelled each other out with a 2-2 half time scoreline, Neil Fox and Fred Griffiths exchanging penalties. Eric Ashton dropped an early second half goal, which bounced in off the post and on fifty minutes, Keith Holliday worked a blindside move, passing to Brian Briggs who off loaded to Fred Smith who scored in the corner. The score remained at 5-4 for the last half an hour and Trinity were through to meet Featherstone, again, in an Odsal semi final.

There was minor controversy when the RFL made the teams play at Odsal on a Wednesday night but Trinity won the forward battle with Ken Hirst scoring the only try, with three Fox goals. Turner, Briggs and Williamson were magnificent in victory which saw a second Wembley win in two years a month later.

WAKEFIELD T.	THE TEAMS	FEATHERSTONE R.
White Jerseys with Red and Blue Band		Blue and White Hooped Jerseys
1. G. ROUND Full Back	In the event of a draw after eighty minutes' play the Semi-Final Tie will be re-played at Headingley, Leeds, on Wednesday, 18th April, 1962, kick-off 6.30 p.m. Seating tickets at 15/- and 12/6 will be obtainable at the Headingley ground or from the Featherstone Rovers or Wakefield Trinity clubs. Charges for admission to other parts of the ground will be North Stand enclosure 5/-, South Stand 4/-, Ground 3/-. Schoolboys and Old Age Pensioners 1/-.	1. J. ANDERSON Full Back
2. F. SMITH Right Wing		2. K. GREATOREX Right Wing
3. A. SKENE Right Centre		3. G. COOPER Right Centre
4. N. FOX Left Centre		4. J. HUNT Left Centre
5. K. HIRST Left Wing		5. G. JORDAN Left Wing
6. H. POYNTON Out Half		6. I. LINGARD Out Half
7. K. HOLLIDAY Scrum-Half		7. D. FOX Scrum-Half
8. J. WILKINSON Prop Forward		8. L. HAMMILL Prop Forward
9. M. KOSANOVIC Hooker		9. W. FAWLEY Hooker
10. A. FIRTH Front Row Forward		10. M. DIXON Front Row Forward
11. B. BRIGGS Second Row Forward		11. C. LAMBERT Second Row Forward
12. D. WILLIAMSON Second Row Forward		12. T. RAMSHAW Second Row Forward
13. D. TURNER Loose Forward		14. T. CLAWSON Loose Forward
Reserves: C. GREENWOOD G. OAKES D. VINES		
Referee : T. W. WATKINSON (Manchester)		
Touch Judges : G. W. Wilkinson (Bradford) and W. Hemingway (Dewsbury)		KICK-OFF 6.30 p.m.
<p>BUKTA outfits were again worn at Wembley by both Cup Finalists Wigan R.L.C. and St. Helens R.L.C. Like the Kiwis and hundreds of other Clubs they know that a tough game needs tough kit and that means . . .</p>  		

Team:

Gerry Round, Fred Smith, Alan Skene, Neil Fox, Ken Hirst, Harold Poynton, Keith Holliday, Jack Wilkinson, Milan Kosanovic, Albert Firth, Brian Briggs, Dennis Williamson, Derek Turner