

The 1911 Census

In the 1911 Census it was interesting to see what some of the Trinity players did for a living and where they lived:

- **James Metcalfe** (full back) 37yrs old, lived with his 22yr old wife & four children in Wonder Street, Grove Road and working as a publican
- **Billie Simpson** (winger) 23yrs old, lived in Gomersal with his mother and sisters, working as a bookmaker
- **Ernest Bennett** (winger) 31yrs old, lived in Hudswell Street, Sandal with his 19yr old wife and daughter and working as a clerk for the West Riding County Council
- **Tommy Poynton** (centre) 24yrs old, lived in Castleford working as a coal miner (below ground fitter)
- **Ezra Sidwell** (centre) 25yrs old, lived with wife in Ouchthorpe Lane, Outwood working as a coal heaver (and within a few months would be the licensee of the Albion Inn, Eastmoor)
- **Tommy Newbould** (stand off) 28yrs old, lived with wife & daughters and ran the Leopard Hotel in Kirkgate, Wakefield
- **AK 'Nealy' Crosland** (prop) 27yrs old, widowed, lived with two daughters and his uncle's family in Lord Rodney Yard, Westgate working as a cab driver
- **Arthur Burton** (second row) 22yrs old, lived with parents in Grove Road, Wakefield working as a fitter (feral economiser works)
- **Sammy Parkes** (forward) 26yrs old, lived with parents in Normanton working as a coal miner
- **Charles Fellowes** (half back) 20yrs old, lived with parents in Featherstone working as a coal miner
- **Leonard Land** (full back) 23yrs old, born in Worcester living as a boarder in South Hiendley and working as a coal miner
- **James Auton** (loose forward) 30yrs old living with wife & four children living in, and running, the Cutter Inn public house in Bridge Street, Wakefield (pictured right)
- **Herbert Kershaw** (forward) 26yrs old, living with wife in Holmfield Lane, Wakefield working as a mechanical fitter at the coal mine
- **Jonathan Parkin** (not signed yet) 16yrs old, living with parents and three siblings in Frances Terrace, Sharlston working as a pony driver, below ground, at the local coal mine



An insight into injuries treated occurred in the spring of 1913 when a young reserve winger dislocated his shoulder and it was 'put back in with the use of chloroform'

Complaints on the Train

There were many complaints from players after a Wednesday afternoon train journey to Broughton in November 1913. They caught the train from Kirkgate but had to stand all the way to Huddersfield as the train was full. They also complained that all the passengers were smoking which made everyone feel ill. They were beaten 8-21 at Broughton Rangers later in the evening

Tragedy strikes for star winger

Billie Simpson suffered a serious injury in the first game of the season at home to Bramley (7th September 1912). In the last few minutes he was injured in a tackle and carried from the field with abdominal injuries. The committee ordered a cab to take him home, but he was later feeling seriously unwell and was admitted to Clayton Hospital with, an initial diagnosis of broken ribs but later found as a ruptured kidney. It was so serious that they thought he was going to die, and his family, as well as the Trinity committee was by his bedside and the chaplain was called. The seriousness of his injuries eased over the next few days, but he remained in hospital for five weeks.

Initial thoughts were that he would not play again but he was sidelined for almost seven months, returning to the first team, at Hunslet, the following March, but he would only play another five further games this season, followed by another two in 1913-14. He caused a stir when he demanded first team money when returning in the reserves but he never fully recovered from his injuries, having to retire in September 1913. The last of his 182 appearances came in the second match of the 1913-14 season, an 11-3 victory over Halifax at Belle Vue on 13th September 1913.

On his retirement, his 182 games saw him seventeenth on the club's all-time appearance list, his 97 tries, including seven hat tricks, saw him second on the all-time try scoring lists and over a hundred years later he lies fourteenth on the club's all-time try scorers lists, and there are still only three players in the club's history to score more tries in a single season.

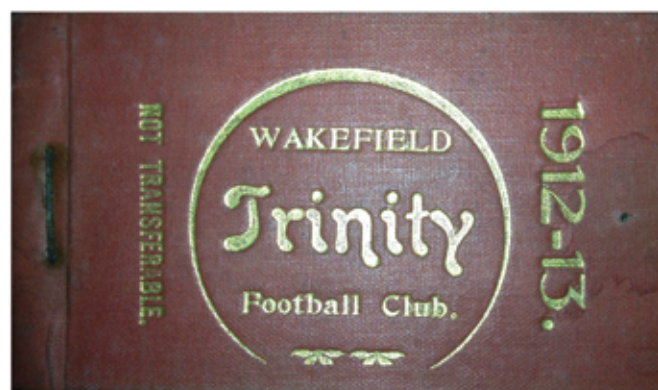
He was awarded a heritage number of 166.

There was a sad postscript to Billie Simpson's life. A year after retiring he volunteered for the army in the First World War, and joined the East Yorkshire Regiment but would die on the battlefields of Flanders on 20th September 1914.

As noted, Billie Simpson's name will live on in the Trinity history books, as his tries-in-a-season record of 34 would remain in the Trinity record books until broken by Fred Smith in 1958-59.

There was slight confusion during the 1912-13 season when the heritage numbers were being compiled. Heritage no.190 was a full back called Charlie Smith, signed from Purston White Horse, Featherstone in September 1911. He played thirty nine games and was then injured in October 1912 and replaced by Leonard Land. Land was then injured and replaced by Charlie Smith in February 1913 for the home game with Warrington. Quite naturally it was presumed that this was the same Charlie Smith from Featherstone, but in 'small print' after this Warrington game it noted that this was the debut of another Charlie Smith from Dewsbury & Saville Juniors ... same name, same position. The second one was given heritage no.204 and they were distinguished by names of Charlie (CH) Smith and Charlie Smith Jr!

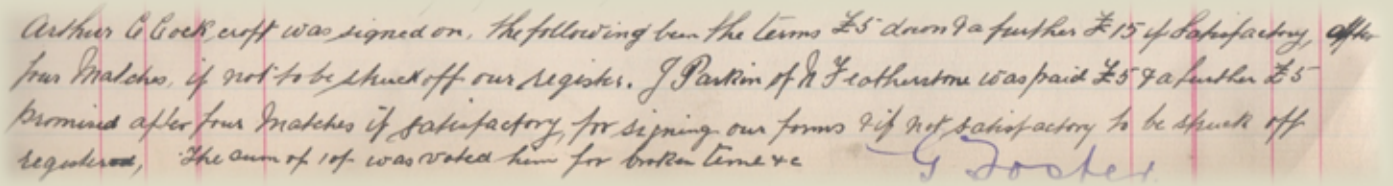
Charlie H Smith is pictured on the right



Season Ticket 1912-13

Jonty Parkin signed for £5

In 2012 the records and accounts of the early 1900s of the Trinity club were unearthed in an old carpet factory and on page 81 were recorded the minutes of a meeting on 12th March 1913. They included player's wages, railway fares, gate expenses, general accounts, deputations, insurances, refreshments and match takings. Squeezed in at the bottom of page 82 were these four lines....



Arthur C Cockcroft was signed on. The following been the terms £5 down & a further £15 if satisfactory after four matches, if not to be struck off our registers. J Parkin of N Featherstone was paid £5 & a further £5 promised after four matches if satisfactory for signing our forms & if not satisfactory to be struck off registers. The sum of 10/- was voted him for broken time &c. G. Tooker

It mentioned the signings of two young players. Arthur Cockcroft was the first and the second line includes, "J Parkin of N Featherstone was paid £5 and a further £5 promised after four matches if satisfactory for signing our forms and if not satisfactory to be struck off register"

More drama on the way to Keighley

In December 1913, only eleven men played at Keighley after two men, Ernest Bennett and Leonard Land missed the train. As they had planned to take fifteen men, Trinity's plans were thrown into disarray when Tommy Newbould and Tommy Poynton then pulled out just before kick off as they felt ill! Arthur Burton (second row) played at full back and they played with four forwards with 'young' Jonty Parkin being 'thrown in' at the last minute for only this third appearance. Trinity lost 4-14.

Cup Drama at Headingley

In the 1914 RL Challenge Cup Trinity had drawn Leeds at home in the second round. Trinity and Leeds had already met on three occasions in the season with a 9-8 win at Headingley and 0-0 Belle Vue draw in the league, aswell as a 15-7 Yorkshire Cup second round victory, at Headingley.

With Trinity trailing 0-6 just before half time in front of a 12,000 crowd, international half back Tommy Newbould was sent off and Trinity's tactics changed to a 'forward battle' which Trinity soon took control of. Land dropped an early goal followed by a Leeds penalty (2-8) and then Tommy Poynton charged down a Leeds kicked and virtually walked over the line. With a Kershaw conversion, Trinity were behind 7-8. Then in the last five minutes Trinity were given a penalty seven yards into their own half. Scottish born second rower, Billie Beattie, stepped up and kicked a miraculous 57 yard penalty to win the game 9-8!

In the next round Trinity defeated Wigan 9-6 at home, who were second in the league with another 12,000 crowd and Broughton Rangers were despatched in the semi final, 5-0 after a 3-3 draw but the final was one step too far with a 0-6 loss to Hull after Herbert Kershaw was sent off

Trinity's First 'Medicine Man'

The term physiotherapist was unknown in the early part of the century but in 1919 Jonty Parkin used to visit a masseur at Southgate Turkish Baths who regularly got Jonty fit for games. For a 1919 cup clash with Bradford, he received 'massage and electrical treatment' on a bruised shoulder that got him fit.

This gentleman was called Harry Woodcock and he was drafted into the Trinity backroom staff as professional masseur and physical instructor to the team. He was initially taken on in 1915 but Woodcock was drafted into the army and served as a physical instructor in the KOYLI (Kings Own, Yorkshire Light Infantry). He initially worked out of the baths in Southgate as Trinity did not have a spare room for him to work on the players.

The Great War

When the First World War started in 1914, Trinity lost the majority of their squad. Ernest Parkin, George Bolton, Herbert Finnegan, Walter Parkes and Harris all joined the Territorials. Captain, Billy Beattie, WG Jackson, Ben Johnson, Jack Wild, Charles Fellowes and reserve players Ogley, Oakley, E.Ward and B.Ward all went to fight in Flanders within a couple of months, later followed by Billie Simpson, Tommy Poynton, George Taylor and Arthur Cockcroft. Later in the war effort, Edgar Woolley (army), John Todd (navy submarines) and Charles Smales (army) joined the forces. Finnegan, Cockcroft, Beattie, Simpson, Johnson, Ogley, Oakley, E.Ward and B.Ward would not return home and Poynton and Parkes would never play again after severe injuries.



The Trinity team played in 1914-15 but the following season, with limited playing personnel, they only played 18 friendly games, and shut down altogether between 1916 and 1919. Jonty Parkin, 'Nealy' Crosland, Arthur Burton and Herbert Kershaw 'guested' with Dewsbury in these years

Reserves 1914-15

Just before the war and after the closure of the Wakefield & District Junior League, Trinity's reserves played in the Leeds & District League alongside Harrogate, Rothwell, Castleford, Stanningley, Bramley Albion, York Leoman Wanderers, Featherstone Rovers, York Grove United and Normanton.

The Wakefield & District set up an Intermediate League (under 19s) and the teams were North Featherstone, Pontefract, Knottingley Albion, Hemsworth Colliery, Ryhill, Primrose Hill, Craggstone & Horbury United and Normanton St Johns.

They also set up a Junior League (under 17s) which featured Westgate End Juniors, Westgate Rovers, Primrose Hill, Belle Vue, Wakefield Juniors, Calder Vale Rovers, Alverthorpe, Sharlston, Normanton Shamrocks, Hemsworth Colliery, J.Rhodes & Son Ltd (Grove ironworks), Normanton Rovers and Flanshaw

Trinity's 'Mr Consistencies'

Between 1895 and 1915 only five players played in every Trinity game throughout a single season.

They were:

Henry Parker 1898-99 (31 games)

Jack Goodyear 1900-01 (33)

Ted Greening 1901-02 (28)

William Hale 1901-02 (28)

AK 'Nealy' Crosland 1911-12 (41)