

The Dreadnought



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

Introduction

Welcome to the Wakefield Trinity Wildcats
'Hall of Fame' event on this 10th May 2014
evening.

This is a dream come true for many 'old school'
Trinity fans who have canvassed for a club
'Hall of Fame' for many years. 2014 sees it's
inauguration with eight former greats and
legends being inducted.

I do not think many people in the room will have
seen all eight play. If you are in your forties who
may have marvelled at Topliss's sublime skills, in
your sixties you will remember the 'Glory Years'
when Fox, Turner, Brooke and Poynton



dominated Belle Vue. If you are in your mid-
to-late seventies you may have seen the skill
and strength of Harry Wilkinson or Mick Exley
... but if you ever saw the legendary
Jonathan Parkin play ... I want to meet you!!!

Hall of Fame... Here and There

1973 Centenary Celebrations

The notion of a Trinity 'Hall of Fame' was first brought
up in the early 1970s. Club historian at the time, John
Lindley, named 43 players in his 'Dreadnoughts' book
celebrating Trinity's centenary in 1973.

He based it on *'players who received the highest
recognition our code can offer ... Test and Tour
selection against Australia, those who gained
personal awards in the highest class of club football
(RL Challenge Cup, RL Championship, Lance Todd and
Harry Sunderland awards) and those who created
individual records during their careers at Belle Vue'*

The first one named was C.E. 'Teddy' Bartram,
a member of the great cup sides of the 1880s,
and the last one was David Topliss,
the most recent GB debutant in 1973

2014

This year, the club decided that a distinguished panel
including renowned rugby league author Mike Rylance
and ex-MP and fan, David Hinchliffe would select six
players for the initial launch (Parkin, Wilkinson, Fox,
Turner, Poynton & Topliss were selected) with a fan's
vote selecting a further two (Brooke & Exley).

The requirements were international caps,
cup winners or league champions
which leads us onto tonight.

1991 The Golden Greats

In 1991 a fans voting competition was devised to
find Trinity's greatest post-war XIII, with the only
minimal requirement being that they played a full
season for the club between 1945 and 1990.

The full side chosen was:

**Gerry Round, Fred Smith, Alan Skene, Neil Fox,
Gert Coetzer, Harold Poynton, Keith Holliday,
Jack Wilkinson, Len Marson, Don Vines,
Mick Exley, Bob Haigh, Derek Turner**



Hall of Fame Fact:

Our 2014 inductees have 3,123 combined
Trinity first team appearances between them

The Class of 2014

Jonathan Parkin
Heritage Number: 207



'Mick' Exley
Heritage Number: 352

Harry Wilkinson
Heritage Number: 357

Neil Fox
Heritage Number: 629



Harold Poynton
Heritage Number: 643

Derek Turner
Heritage Number: 654



Ian Brooke
Heritage Number: 677



David Topliss
Heritage Number: 746



Heritage Numbers: 1 to 1,343
Years: 1895-2014

The 2014 'Hall of Famers' -- a statistical review --

	Playing Position	Trinity Years	Total Games Played	Total Tries Scored	Total Goals Kicked	Total Points Scored
Jonathan Parkin	Stand Off	1913-30	349	96	94	476
Mick Exley	Second Row	1928-47	449	83	1	251
Harry Wilkinson	Second Row / Prop	1929-49	618	57	0	171
Neil Fox	Centre / Loose Forward	1956-70, 1971-74	574	272	1,836	4,488
Harold Poynton	Stand Off	1958-69	319	62	16	218
Derek Turner	Loose Forward	1959-66	213	45	0	135
Ian Brooke	Centre	1961-64, 1967-71	183	67	0	201
David Topliss	Stand Off	1968-80, 1987-88	418	195	2 (12dg)	601

Note: Although Parkin & Fox kicked many dropped goals, Topliss's were all one-pointers after it was reduced to one point in the early 1970s

The 2014 'Hall of Famers'



Jonathan Parkin

Mick Exley

Harry Wilkinson

Neil Fox

Harold Poynton

Derek Turner

Ian Brooke

David Topliss

- 1894: Born in Sharlston
- 1913: Signed from North Featherstone for £5
- 1915-18: Played at Dewsbury (war years)
- 1919: Yorkshire debut (v Lancashire at Broughton)
- 1920 Selected for GB tour to Australia & New Zealand
- 1920: GB debut v Australia at Brisbane
- 1920: Scored a hat-trick of tries in 1st Test v NZ in Auckland
- 1921: England debut (v Wales at Leeds)
- 1921: captain of GB for first time, v Australia, 2nd Test at Hull
- 1921: scores 5 tries in a single game for Yorkshire
- 1924: Selected as captain of GB tour to Australia & NZ
- 1924: won Yorkshire Cup, beating Batley, 9-8
- 1928: Selected as captain of GB tour to Australia & NZ
- 1928: 12th & final England appearance
- 1928: 17th & last Yorkshire appearance
- 1930: 17th & final GB appearance (he missed a further 8 GB test matches due to injury)
- 1930: Bought his own transfer for £100 and signed for Hull KR
- 1988: Elected to the RFL's 'Hall of Fame'

- 1911: Born in Belle Vue, Wakefield
- 1929: Debuted at 17yrs old; the 2nd youngest player in Trinity's history at the time
- 1932: England debut v Wales at Llanelli
- 1932: Yorkshire debut (v. Lincs, at Wakefield)
- 1935: Travelled to France as part of a RL representative XIII team and played all three games (repeated in 1938)
- 1936: Selected for GB tour to Australia & New Zealand
- 1936: Played 13 games for GB on tour, but no tests
- 1938: last of his 10 Yorks appearances
- 1939: 3rd & last England cap
- 1946: Won a RL Challenge Cup winners medal at Wembley, v Wigan (13-12)
- 1946: Won a Yorkshire League Championship winners medal
- 1946: Won a Yorkshire Cup winners medal (v. Hull, 10-0)
- 1947: Played his last Trinity game in the 0-21 defeat to Leeds in the RL Challenge Cup semi final
- This was his 449th appearance, the 2nd best in Trinity's history at the time and 4th all time best at this present time

- 1930: Debuted as a young back rower before moving into the front row
- Played in six Yorkshire Cup Finals, losing the first five in 1932, 1934, 1936, 1940 & 1945
- 1936: Yorkshire debut v Cumberland at Workington
- 1942: Broke the record for consecutive appearances in a Trinity shirt (96 between 1939 & 1942). Still a record today
- 1943: England debut v Wales at Wigan
- 1946: 4th & last England cap, v France at Swinton
- 1946: Won a RL Challenge Cup winners medal at Wembley, v Wigan (13-12)
- 1946: Won the Yorkshire League Championship
- 1946: Won the Yorkshire Cup, as captain
- 1946: Won his 8th and last Yorkshire cap v Lancashire at Hunslet
- 1949: Played his 618th & last Trinity match in April (v. Huddersfield)
- His 618 first team appearances are still a Trinity record today and will unlikely be beaten
- Remained on the coaching staff throughout the 1950s & 1960s

- 1939: Born in Sharlston
- 1955: Signed from Featherstone Jrs
- 1956: Debuted as a 16yr old
- 1958: Yorkshire debut (17 caps in total)
- 1959: GB debut, v France in Grenoble (29 caps in all)
- Won 3 RL Challenge Cup winners medals (1960, 1962 & 1963)
- 1962: Won Lance Todd Trophy
- 1962: Selected for GB tour to Australia & New Zealand
- Won two RL Championship winners medals (1967 & 1968)
- Total of 12 winners medals for Trinity
- 1968: Selected as GB World Cup captain (withdrew through injury)
- 1969: Left for Bradford but returned a year later being appointed player-coach
- 61% win ratio in four seasons, as coach, in 172 games
- Numerous Trinity club records.....
- Most points (4,488)
- Most tries (272)
- Most goals (1,836)
- Points in a season (407)
- Goals in a season (163)
- 2nd on all-time club appearance list with 574
- World record points scorer (6,620 between 1956-79)

- 1958: Signed and debuted, after time in the Army
- 1960: Yorkshire debut, v Cumberland at Whitehaven
- 1960: Played for 'The Rest' v GB in a World Cup trial game at Bradford
- 1960: Won the first of three Yorkshire Cup winners medals (1960, 1961 & 1964)
- Won 2 RL Challenge Cup winners medals (1962 & 1963)
- 1963: Won Lance Todd Trophy at Wembley as man of the match
- 1962: Selected for GB tour to Australia & New Zealand
- 1962: GB debut in 2nd Test v Australia at Lang Park, Brisbane
- 1962: Made 3 GB test appearances 'Down Under', as well as 9 other GB tour matches
- 1967: Captained Trinity to RL Championship Trophy success (21-9 v St.Helens, after 7-7 draw)
- 1968: Captained Trinity to RL Championship Trophy success (17-10 v Hull KR)
- 1968: Granted a club benefit by Trinity
- 1969: Retired after 319 appearances (16th on all-time list)
- Total of 11 winners medals for Trinity

- 1932: Born in Ossett
- 1959: Signed for Trinity from Oldham, after time at Hull KR
- 1959: Elected as club captain in his first season
- 1959: first Yorkshire appearance as a Trinity player (4 previous caps)
- 1959: first GB test as a Trinity player, v Australia at Swinton (11 previous GB caps)
- 1960: Represented GB in the World Cup, becoming only the third Trinity player to win the World Cup
- Captained Trinity to 3 RL Challenge Cup wins (1960, 1962 & 1963)
- 1962: Selected for GB tour to Australia & New Zealand (vice captain)
- 1962: Captained GB in 2 tests v NZ, playing in all five tests 'Down Under'
- Total of 8 winners medals for Trinity, all as captain (3x Challenge Cups, 2x Yorkshire Cups, 3x Yorkshire League Championships)
- He would finish with 24 GB caps (13 at Trinity)
- Plus, 10 Yorkshire appearances (6 at Trinity)
- 1983-84: Trinity coach for 7 months (31 games), a team featuring Wally Lewis
- Nicknamed 'Rocky'

- 1943: Born in Plymouth, moving to Wakefield as a youngster
- Yorkshire Schools & Yorkshire u19s rep
- 1961: Represented England u19s, v France; signing for Trinity in same year
- 1963: Scored a try at Wembley as Trinity beat Wigan, 25-10 to win the RL Cup three times in four years (Trinity's youngest ever RL Cup final scorer)
- 1964: Transferred to Bradford but after Yorkshire caps & 1966 GB Tour 'Down Under', returned to Trinity in 1967
- 1967: Won an RL Championship winners medal, scoring 2 tries in replayed final (v. St.Helens)
- 1967: Won the Ashes with GB after 3 tests against the Australians
- 1968: Won a 2nd RL Championship winners medal (v. Hull KR)
- 1968: Played in the RL Challenge Cup 'Watersplash' Final
- 1968: Travelled to Australia with the GB World Cup team, playing in all three games
- Finished with 13 GB test appearances, 8 whilst with Trinity
- 1978-79: Coached Trinity for a year (30 games), as well as being part of the 1990s coaching team

- 1949: Born in Normanton
- 1968: Signed for Trinity from Normanton Juniors
- 1971: Yorkshire debut v Cumberland at Castleford
- 1972: Selected for GB World Cup squad in France, but not playing any games
- 1973: GB debut v Australia at Wembley (21-12 win)
- 1973-74: Played in Trinity's Yorkshire Cup Final defeats
- 1978: 14th and final Yorkshire county appearance
- 1979: Captained Trinity to Wembley
- 1979: Won Lance Todd Trophy at Wembley as man of the match
- 1979: Selected for GB tour to Australia & New Zealand (playing in 3rd Test v Australia at SCG)
- 1981: Left for Hull
- 1987: Returned as player-coach (from Oldham)
- 1988: Retired as a player with 417 appearances (8th on the all-time list)
- He also scored 195 tries; 2nd on the all-time Trinity list
- 1992: Coached Trinity to Yorkshire Cup success, Trinity's first major honour in 14 years
- Coached Trinity in 241 games in seven years (1987-94), second only to Ken Traill in Trinity's coaching history

	Year Signed	Trinity Debut	Trinity Club Honours	Representative Honours	Last Trinity Game
Jonathan Parkin	1913	19 th April 1913 (v. Bradford N, H, W.7-6)	Yorkshire Cup winner	Yorkshire, England, GB, GB Tour (Capt.)	26 th April 1930 (v. Halifax, H, W.23-3)
Mick Exley	1928	27 th April 1929 (v. Wigan Highfield, A, L.0-28)	Yorkshire Cup, Yorkshire League winner, RL Challenge Cup winner	Yorkshire, England, RL XIII Tour, GB Tour	19 th April 1947 (v. Leeds, RLCC SF, L.0-21)
Harry Wilkinson	1929	1 st January 1930 (v. Wigan, A, L.6-23)	Yorkshire Cup, Yorkshire League winner, RL Challenge Cup winner	Yorkshire, England	18 th April 1949 (v. Huddersfield, H, L.5-10)
Neil Fox	1956	10 th April 1956 (v. Keighley, A, L.5-9)	Yorkshire Cup, Yorkshire League, RL Cup, RL Championship, Lance Todd winner	Yorkshire, England, GB, GB Tour	10 th March 1974 (v. Hull KR, H, W.10-9)
Harold Poynton	1958	1 st February 1958 (v. St.Helens, H, W.17-12)	Yorkshire Cup, Yorkshire League, RL Cup, RL Championship, Lance Todd winner	Yorkshire, GB, GB Tour	13 th September 1969 (v. Huddersfield, H, L.7-8)
Derek Turner	1959	14 th March 1959 (v. Batley, A, W.28-16)	Yorkshire Cup, Yorkshire League, RL Challenge Cup winner	Yorkshire, England, GB, GB Tour	20 th August 1966 (v. Castleford, A, L.4-8)
Ian Brooke	1961	30 th April 1962 (v. Featherstone, H, W.17-9)	RL Challenge Cup winner, RL Championship winner	England u19s, GB, GB Tour	9 th May 1971 (v. Wigan, A, L.15-49)
David Topliss	1968	2 nd September 1968 (v. Halifax, A, L.6-15)	Lance Todd Trophy winner, Yorkshire Cup winner (as coach)	Yorkshire, England, GB, GB Tour	8 th May 1988 (v. Featherstone, A, L.16-20)