

# The Dreadnought



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

## Introduction

Welcome to the Wakefield Trinity Wildcats 'Community Trust' event on this 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 evening.

We are also using tonight as the launch of the club's 'Heritage Numbers', i.e.: every player that has represented the Wakefield Trinity club since 1895 and the birth of rugby league. In the 119 years in the history of this great club, we have had 1,346 players represent our club at first team level.

We have had more but the trialists and AN Other's have not been included as, on many occasions, their names were not disclosed

## WAKEFIELD TRINITY'S HERITAGE NUMBERS

The research work has been meticulous and has taken many hours in the local library, newspaper archives and leafing through old programmes and books.

Read on to see how it came all came about and celebrate the players of Wakefield Trinity

## Heritage Numbers ... the Process

### Initial Ideas

Our initial ideas for the heritage numbers came about a couple of years ago, after seeing the success of Queensland in Australia, with Warrington being the first English club to follow suit in 2013.

### Next Step

Tremendous work had been carried out by a group of rugby league historians in the 1970s (RL Record Keepers' Club) who pooled their knowledge, and attempted to record every game in the first one hundred years of rugby league (to 1995). Trinity's were completed and fortunately we acquired the records to every Trinity game, and players, since 1895

### The First 100 Years

The teams for the first one hundred years of Trinity's rugby league days (1895-1994) were recorded and each new player to make his debut noted. On the very first game there were fifteen (numbers 1-15) and each debutant after this was given the subsequent number, in position order (full back, winger, centre etc.). This was checked, double-checked and triple checked. By 1994 we had found 1,060 names.

### The Next 20 Years ... Part 1

The next twenty years, to the modern day, were a little more difficult but we researched the Trinity playing records through the excellent 'Rothman's Year Books' written by the late Raymond Fletcher and David Howes. These books started in 1981 and finished in 1999. Again, each debutant was given the next heritage number

### The Next 20 Years ... Part 2

After the 'Rothmans' books ceased publication we used the yearbooks published by 'League Weekly', which also noted every new player, signed throughout the season. By the end of 2013 we had found every Trinity player to have played first team rugby league

### Trinity Programmes

At this stage the Trinity programmes of the 1990s were useful tools of research to back up and confirm all the debutants throughout the season

### Re-checking

The next step was to re-check that all the names had been noted, none had been duplicated or any had been missed out. There had been various mistakes in the initial records from 1994, some that could not have been helped (spelling mistakes, brothers with the same name etc.)

### Wakefield Library Archives

The next process was to make sure that the 'Record Keepers Club' records were correct. Regular visits to the Archives department at Wakefield Library saw us digest the old Wakefield newspapers, including the *Wakefield Express* and *Wakefield & West Riding Herald* that listed the weekly teams every Friday morning. This also assisted us in finding Christian names for all players

### Huddersfield University Archives

The above was then followed up with visits to Huddersfield University Archives department, which has a great rugby league collection. We researched the RFL's players records to confirm all the names that had been found

### The Final Steps

Some of the 1990s yearbooks did not list the teams per game, only the names of debutants so further visits to the library finalised the order of all debutants over the last twenty years. The process was complete by July 2013

### Trinity Publications

The Trinity programmes over the years have also been useful sources of information, especially the excellent 'Trinity Programme' of the 1960s, written by John Lindley and David Armitage. Their subsequent books, 'The Dreadnoughts' (1960) and '100 Years of Rugby' (1973) have also been worn thin with constant reference

### Trinity Records

All the above research also assisted us updating all Trinity's club records; appearances, tries, goals, points, club attendances aswell as county and international appearances. These have been published, throughout the season, in the Wildcats' club match day programme

## 2014 Hall of Fame

### Selected Numbers Hall of Fame 2014

Jonathan Parkin  
Heritage Number: 207

'Mick' Exley (below)  
Heritage Number: 352



Harry Wilkinson (below)  
Heritage Number: 357



Neil Fox  
Heritage Number: 629

Harold Poynton (below)  
Heritage Number: 643



Derek Turner (below)  
Heritage Number: 654



Ian Brooke  
Heritage Number: 677

David Topliss  
Heritage Number: 746

Heritage Numbers: 1 to 1,346  
Years: 1895-2014

### The First 15

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Harry Kershaw   | 8. Joseph Allchurch    |
| 2. Robert Wood     | 9. John Eyre           |
| 3. Tommy Howell    | 10. John Day           |
| 4. William Gameson | 11. Joseph 'JT' Ducker |
| 5. John Goldthorpe | 12. William Binns      |
| 6. Edward Milsom   | 13. Charles Crosland   |
| 7. Jack Anderton   | 14. William Varley     |
|                    | 15. Tom Westerby       |

**Note:** these were the starting fifteen players for the very first Northern Union game, at Bradford, on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1895. Back in the 1890s, the eight forwards did not have set positions (no props, no hookers etc.) and it was often 'first there, packed down'. The forwards listed above are in the order selected by the club and reported in the local newspaper the day before the game in September 1895



The nearest team photo we have to the early Northern Union years. This was taken in late 1890s, but unfortunately no names are known

### Heritage Numbers notes

- Players are listed in debut order and allocated debut heritage numbers
- Those making their debuts in the same match had their place determined by positions (full back, winger, centre etc.)
- If players have made more than one debut (e.g.: Neil Fox, Ian Brooke, David Topliss, Danny Kirmond etc.), they retain their initial number for their second debut
- Players listed as AN Other or Triallist have not been issued a number, unless they subsequently signed for the club



### Heritage Numbers.... 'Bits & Pieces'

- There have been a total of 1,346 players given heritage numbers. # 1 is **Harry Kershaw**, as noted above; #1,346 is **Max Jowitt** who made his debut at St.Helens in August of this year
- There have been 33 other players to have worn a first team shirt but not given heritage numbers as they were triallists and often not named and given the title 'AN Other'
- During the war years (1939-45) 69 players 'guested' with Trinity after their respective teams folded. This was common during these years and they have been given heritage numbers
- **Harry Wilkinson** (#357) holds the club appearance record, having played 618 times between 1930 and 1949
- Eight players have played 400+ first team games for Trinity; **Harry Wilkinson** (#357), **Neil Fox** (#629), **'Nealy' Crosland** (#85), **Mick Exley** (#352), **Bill Horton** (#307), **Keith Holliday** (#600), **Herbert Goodfellow** (#401) and **David Topliss** (#746)
- There have been 164 overseas players represent Trinity, which include 102 Australians and 34 New Zealanders. Others have been 9 South Africans, 6 Frenchmen, 5 Fijians, 4 Samoans, 2 from PNG, a Tongan and a Yugoslav!
- The first overseas player to represent Trinity was former Australian test winger, **Albert Rosenfeld** (#277) in 1921
- The most significant number of #1,000 goes to **Steve Ella**, the Australian genius from Parramatta who played in 1988-89
- There are been thirty sets of brothers to have played for Trinity, including two sets of twins (**Rayne** and **March** twins). The **Pollards** (1930s) and the **Kelly's** (1980s) saw three brothers play for Trinity from the same family
- There have been twelve sets of fathers and sons that have represented Trinity at first team level
- Of the 1,346 players, 187 have played just one first team game for the club
- The youngest player to play for Trinity was **Richard Goddard** (#1,018) who was 16 years, 3 months and 29 days when debuting in August 1990
- The oldest player to play for Trinity is **AK 'Nealy' Crosland** (#85) who was two months short of his 42<sup>nd</sup> birthday when he played his final game in February 1922
- The oldest debutant in Trinity's history is **Terry Clawson** (#859) at 38 years, 8m, 17 days
- In a list of A-Z of the 1,346 players, no.1 would be **John Abbot**, 1913-14 (#211) and last would be **Tony Zelei**, 1987-90 (#987)
- The above photos ... **Neil Fox**, **Bob Haigh**, **Don Froggett**, **Nigel Bell**, **Jason Demetriou**, **Dennis Boocker**, **David Topliss** and **Alan Skene**
- The photos on the left ... **Don Fox**, **Don Vines**, **Ian Brooke**, **David Solomona**, **Wally Lewis**, **Bill Horton**, **Harry Kershaw**, **Jonathan Parkin** and **Keith Holliday**

