

The Dreadnought



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

Year 4, Volume 10 ... October 2016

Welcome to the October 2016 edition of the 'Dreadnought'.

The idea of the newsletter is to remember and celebrate Trinity's history and heritage in the form of articles, photos, stories and memorabilia. This edition looks at our links and past players from Wales.



SLALOM LAGER

Rugby League
Championship

Division Two

CARDIFF CITY R.L.F.C.
v.
WAKEFIELD TRINITY

SUNDAY, 19th DECEMBER, 1982 KICK OFF 3.30 p.m.

**THE BLUE
DRAGONS**



Official Match Magazine 30p

Cardiff City v Trinity
Match postponed due to snow
Re-arranged game won by Cardiff, 25-12 on 20th April 1983

In the early days of the Northern Union (rugby league), Wakefield Trinity could not compete with their rivals in attracting colonial players from Australia or New Zealand and often concentrated their efforts closer to home and on many occasions ventured to South Wales to attract talent. This started in the very first season of 1895-96 and occasionally attracted some criticism from the press when locals were left out of the team at the expense of the Welshmen.

This continued in the pre-First World War era, especially when Trinity were playing away in 'the Valleys' and the occasional player was attracted back up north. Many only played a couple of games, under the pseudonym of 'Griffiths' or 'Thomas' and if the trial did not work out they returned home, with no one none-the-wiser!

The club's first Welsh international was prop forward, Bernard Gould in 1922. He was the first of seventeen 'Trinity-Welsh' internationals over the next ninety years.

Over the last 108 years Trinity have ventured to Wales on numerous occasions when various teams entered the leagues. The first was Merthyr Tydfil in 1907 and a single Welsh team played in the Northern Union league for the next five years, Trinity also welcoming Aberdare and Ebbw Vale. Cardiff (1950-51), Cardiff City (1982-83) and Super League's Celtic Crusaders have also appeared on our fixture lists since the Second World War. The Wildcats also played at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium twice in the Super League era.

CELTIC CRUSADERS

INSPIRATION
We welcome the Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir today, seen here inspiring us to a win at Bradford Bulls. Can they do the same today?

engage
SUPER RUGBY LEAGUE

REDROW
We build into the future. Wake.

BRAINS BEER

Vs Wakefield Trinity Wildcats
Saturday 30th May, 2009
KO 7.00pm
Programme £3.00

engage Super League XIV, Round 6

The Players

As noted, Wakefield Trinity were regular visitors to South Wales in the early years of the Northern Union and were even given the nickname of 'Tyko-Taffy Combination' due to the amount of Welshmen in the side. The link went back further when Trinity started 'touring' South Wales in 1884 playing Cardiff, Llanelli, Neath and Newport on short Christmas or Easter tours in their union days.

The six known Welshmen that wore the Trinity colours in that first season (1895-96) were centre Enoch Griffiths, half back Harry Morgan, forward Peter Phillips, forward Arthur Price, winger Horace Price and a forward, Davies. Only Horace Price stayed longer than one season as all the others disappeared back home before the season was out.

Horace Price

Winger, Horace Price was a crowd favourite and a real speedster on the wing and scored 74 tries in his 223 appearances. Apart from a season at Salford (1901-02) he stayed at Trinity ten years. He moved to Salford in September 1901 when Trinity were relegated but returned in the summer of 1902 after Salford could not pay the £75 transfer fee.

He led the Trinity try scoring charts in three successive years (1896-99) and holds the distinction of being the first Trinity player to score a try hat trick in their rugby league days (away at Manningham in October 1896). He was Trinity's top try scorer in history when he retired, was still eighth on the list at the outbreak of World War Two and 34th on the all-time list 110 years after he retired. He played his last Trinity match at Hull KR in September 1905 and eventually returned home to Ebbw Vale to open a fish and chip shop in August 1908



Wakefield Trinity 1903-04

Welshman, Horace Price, back row, second from right



Apart from **William Harris**, an ex-Abertillery RU half back who arrived from Alverthorpe in 1902, for the next twenty years, Trinity stayed local with their signings with the occasional foray into the North West or North East of England.

Bernard Gould was the next notable signing when he arrived from Leeds in January 1922. He had moved north in 1913 after signing for Leeds from Aberavon RU. He stayed four seasons gaining three Welsh rugby league caps and a 1924 Yorkshire Cup winner's medal.

In the 1920s, Trinity signed three international Welshmen who had gained their caps elsewhere.

Johnny Rogers was a legendary half back who had made his name at Huddersfield. Hailing from Abergwynfi and playing his rugby union at Bridgend and Cardiff he moved north in 1913. He became a member of Huddersfield's 'Team of all Talents', gaining 13 winners medals, playing in nine finals, winning six, gaining seven Great Britain caps, three Welsh caps and selection for the 1920 Tour 'Down Under'. He was 33 years old when he signed for Trinity in January 1925 and his best days were behind him, but he still played forty nine games before retiring at the end of the 1925-26 season. Rogers is pictured in 1925 alongside Trinity and rugby league 'Hall of Famers' Billy Batten and Jonathan Parkin.



Eddie or Ned 'Jumper' Thomas arrived from Oldham in February 1924 where he had gained his cap on the wing a year earlier, against England at Wigan in February 1923. He went onto to score 36 tries in his 82 appearances over the next couple of years.

Joe Jones was Trinity's very first ex-Welsh rugby union test player. He had played in the centres in the Five Nations victory over France in Paris in 1924. A few months later, the former Swansea man signed for Leeds and the ex-Loiners captain joined Trinity three years later in January 1927. Whilst at Headingley he represented Wales against England at Pontypridd in April 1926. He played 124 times for Trinity scoring 19 tries before retiring in 1932. Over the following thirty years, Jones served Trinity on the committee before passing away, suddenly in 1960.

The Summer of 1926

The Trinity scouts were busy in the summer of 1926 as nine different Welshmen wore the Trinity shirt throughout the 1926-27 season.

Thomas Coles led the way in the 1920s when he signed from Wigan in December 1923. He had played 66 games for Wigan on the wing or centre but within a year was playing prop forward for Trinity, and very successfully before moving to Bradford in 1928 after 97 appearances.

DJ Aldridge and **Dai Maidment** were signed from Ebbw Vale RU in August 1926 after successful pre-season trials. These were followed a month later by **Jenkyn Waters**, an ex-Glamorgan RU county player and Welsh triallist, from Treherbert RU and **Tom Davies** from Aberdare RU. After the New Year a fifth joined the club when **George Absolum** arrived from Aberavon RU. He was another ex-Welsh international triallist and played county rugby union for Monmouthshire. In the penultimate game of the season, winger 'Dai Lewis' played against Bramley but there were doubts as to his correct name as it was a one-off trial and he returned to Swansea the next day. Coles, Thomas and Jones made up the 'Welsh nine'. Of the debutants, Aldridge, Absolum and Lewis only played one game before being released but Maidment (88 appearances), Waters (40) and Davies (146) all made considerable contributions to the Belle Vue cause.