

1970s Rugby Union recruits

After Berwyn Jones moved to Bradford, eleven years passed before another Welshman wore the red, white and blue of Trinity ... and three made their debuts in the same game. The Trinity scouts visited the Valleys in the summer of 1978 and came back with wingers Brian Juliff and Adrian Barwood and goalkicking centre, Steve Diamond

They joined a Trinity backline that was rich in ex-rugby union talent with Keith Smith (Roundhay & England) and Mike Lampkowski (Headingley & England) established stars. Full back Les Sheard was also an ex-rugby union player, too, and they were well led by future Hall of Famer, David Topliss.

The first to join was **Brian Juliff**, from Pontypridd RU. He had a glittering rugby union career representing Wales B, Welsh Presidents XV, West Wales (v Argentina), Glamorgan county and scoring 101 tries for Pontypridd who won the unofficial Welsh Championship in 1976 and 1978. His debut was delayed when he was injured in the Wigan Sevens but scored two tries a couple of weeks later against Castleford on 3rd September 1978. By the end of the season he had scored 17 tries, topped the Trinity try scoring lists and reached Wembley with Trinity falling to Widnes, 3-12 in the Challenge Cup Final.

He topped the Trinity try scoring lists in his first three seasons, which led to his six Welsh appearances. His first came in Narbonne in February 1979 in a 8-15 loss to France after only seventeen rugby league games. His second came a month later as the Welsh lost 8-15 to England at Widnes.

Four more caps followed against France and England in the 1979-80 and 1980-81 European Championships, resulting in Brian becoming Trinity's most capped Welsh international with six. He finished with 49 tries in 119 appearances before moving to Wigan in 1982 with further success at Halifax (1985-88) and a season at Castleford in 1988 before retirement.

Adrian Barwood also debuted against Castleford in September 1978 but played his first two games as AN Other after his move from Pontypridd RU. Nicknamed 'Sniffer' he scored 85 tries in 107 appearances for 'Ponty' after his move from Abertillery, where he represented Monmouthshire county in 1973. He played a total of 42 games over the next three years, scoring 13 tries, before moving onto Cardiff City RL in 1982, finishing his career at Southend Invicta.

The third debutant in the Castleford game was ex-Newbridge RU centre, **Steve Diamond**. He had also played for Newport before moving North in 1978. He played at Wembley at the end of his first season and the following season (1979-80) he became the first player since Neil Fox in 1973 to kick 100 goals in a season. He repeated the feat the following season, which sees him as one of only ten players in the club's history to kick over a hundred goals in a season. At the end of his career his total was 268 goals, leaving him in ninth position in the club's all time goal kicking charts. He represented Wales on three occasions between 1980 and 1981, debuting against France at Widnes alongside Juliff and Trevor Skerrett.

He left for Fulham in 1981 where he broke more goal kicking records and returned to Trinity for the 1986-87 season. His Rugby league CV also saw appearances at Warrington, Hunslet and Castleford.



The Trinity team before the league game with Castleford in September 1978

The debuts of Brian Juliff (front row, far right), Adrian Barwood (front row, third from left) and Steve Diamond (front row, fourth from left)

Graham Walters was the last Welsh international to wear a Trinity shirt after his two years in the red, white and blue from 1981 to 1983. He played for Swansea RU before signing for Hull FC in 1980. He gained his three Welsh international caps whilst at the Boulevard. He played 23 games for Trinity in the centres, scoring five tries before moving back to Wales with the Cardiff Blue Dragons in 1983.

With new research comes new findings and we recently found out that 1980s full back, **Kevin Harcombe**, was born in Wales before moving north to Trinity via Rochdale, Doncaster and Great Britain under 21s. He played 67 games between 1987 and 1990 and was an accomplished goalkicker, kicking 229. He led Trinity's goal and points scoring charts for three successive seasons (1986-87 to 1988-89), lies eleventh on the club's all time goal kicking list and is one of only ten players to kick a century of goals in a season after his 116 in 1987-88.

We believe that is a definitive list of our Welsh representatives over the last one hundred and twenty years. We may have missed some from our early years but some we cannot find any further information than their names and playing records. A full total of thirty seven players who were born in the Valleys of South Wales ... some moved north and settled in Yorkshire, some moved back home after their stint at Belle Vue, some moved abroad, but all played their part in contributing to Wakefield Trinity's heritage and history.

Trinity's Full List of Welshmen

Her No	Name	Years Played	Position	Apps	Tries	Goals	DG	Pts
18	Peter Morgan	1895-96	Half Back	30	2	0	0	6
26	Peter Phillips	1895	Forward	2	0	0	0	0
29	Enoch Griffiths	1895-96	Centre	15	0	0	0	0
32	? Davies	1895	Forward	13	0	0	0	0
36	Horace Price	1895-1902, 1902-05	Winger	223	74	2	0	226
54	Arthur Roberts	1896	Forward	1	0	0	0	0
282	Bernard Gould	1922-25	Prop	102	6	1	0	20
297	Tom Coles	1923-28	Winger / Prop	97	10	0	0	30
301	Eddie 'Jumper' Thomas	1924-26	Winger	82	36	0	0	108
313	Johnny Rogers	1925-26	Stand Off	49	6	9	0	36
324	Dai Maidment	1926-31	Second Row	88	20	0	0	60
325	Tom Davies	1926-31	Centre	146	27	1	0	83
326	Jenkyn Waters	1926-28	Second Row / Hooker	40	6	0	0	18
327	DJ Aldridge	1926	Scrum Half	1	0	0	0	0
329	Joe Jones	1927-32	Centre	124	19	0	0	57
331	George Absolom	1927	Second Row	1	0	0	0	0
350	Stevie Ray	1928-31	Winger	93	53	0	0	159
366	Freddie Smart	1930-37	Winger					
412	Tommy 'Mackie' Ryan	1934-38	Centre	70	21	11	0	85
413	Clifford (CJ) Carter	1934-37	Hooker	95	7	0	0	21
427	Lewis (Lou) Davies	1936-38, 1943	Stand Off	24	6	1	0	20
433	Horace Turner	1937-42	Centre	156	37	4	0	119
449	JE 'Sandy' Orford	1939-46	Second Row	177	17	0	0	51
461	Harry Royal	1940	Scrum Half	1	0	0	0	0
527	Dai Jenkins	1944	Scrum Half	2	0	0	0	0
550	Derek Howes	1945-53	Back Row	179	45	1	0	137
558	Billy Banks	1946-48	Scrum Half	44	12	3	0	42
559	George Hughes	1947-49	Second Row	47	9	0	0	27
563	Dennis Boocker	1947-54	Winger	221	127	6	0	393
571	John Leighton Davies	1948-51	Centre	66	42	2	0	130
583	Glyn Meredith	1950-53	Stand Off	80	19	63	0	183
649	Don Vines	1958-60, 1961-65	Second Row / Prop	185	10	0	0	30
690	Berwyn Jones	1964-67	Winger	89	47	0	0	141
737	Michael Seator	1967-68	Winger	9	1	2	0	7
853	Adrian Barwood	1978-81	Winger	42	13	0	0	39
854	Steve Diamond	1978-81, 1986-87	Centre	122	20	264	4	593
855	Brian Juliff	1978-82	Winger	119	49	0	0	147
893	Graham Walters	1981-83	Centre	23	5	0	0	15
988	Kevin Harcombe	1987-90	Full Back	67	6	228	1	481

Ken Evans was a Welsh prop who arrived, on trial, from Whitehaven for a month in September 1964, scoring on his one and only game in a 46-5 home victory over Keighley. **Michael Seator** was a fast elusive winger who arrived from Welsh rugby union in October 1967. He only played nine games until disappearing in late 1968, but one of these was against the 1967 Australian Kangaroos in a 7-33 loss

Berwyn Jones

In March 1964, Trinity pulled off one of their most audacious signings in their history when Welsh international sprinter, Berwyn Jones was signed.

He played early rugby union for his hometown club of Rhymney before taking up athletics. He had a glittering athletics career and his CV looked like this when he signed for Trinity:

Commonwealth games bronze medallist
(4x1,000 yards, Perth 1962)

European Championships bronze medallist
(4x1,000 yards Belgrade 1962)

4th in the world over 100 yards (1963)

1st in Europe over 100 yards (1963)

British 100 metres record holder (10.3 secs)

British 100 yards AAA champion (1963)

Joint World Record holder in 4x100 yards relay
(London, 1963)

British, Commonwealth & European record holder



He was a teacher in the Midlands when he was given a two game trial, under the pseudonym of 'Walker', making his debut at Huddersfield over Easter. He was such an early success that he made his



international debut nine months later, representing Great Britain against France in Perpignan after only twenty nine games. He also played in the return test match at Swinton in January 1965 scoring in both test matches. In this period he also won a Yorkshire Cup medal as Trinity defeated Leeds, 18-2.

Obviously, being a sprint champion, he had phenomenal pace and the slightest of overlaps with a swerve and a side step, resulted in many tries. He scored 47 in 89 games.

Another Great Britain appearance followed in January 1966, against France in Perpignan, which was followed by selection for Great Britain's tour 'Down Under' to Australia and New Zealand.

With this, Berwyn became Trinity's one and only Welsh-GB tourist. On tour he finished as top try scorer, with 24, but did not gain selection for any test matches. A Commonwealth XIII selection against the 1965 touring Kiwis was also added to his rugby league CV along with a 1966 Yorkshire League Championship medal. He was also Trinity's top try scorer in the 1964-65 and 1965-66 seasons.

He signed for Bradford Northern in 1967 and after four games for St Helens in 1969 he retired and went back into teaching. The 'Rhymney Flyer' passed away prematurely, aged 67 in 2007