

## The Internationals

### Trinity's Welsh International Representatives

Name	Position	Caps	Test Appearances		
Bernard Gould	Prop	3	v England (London) 11/12/1922, L.7-12	v England (Wigan) 7/2/1923, W.13-2	v England (Huddersfield) 1/11/1923, L.11-18
Dai Maidment	2 <sup>nd</sup> Row	1	v England (Cardiff) 14/11/1928, L.15-39	-	-
Stevie Ray	Winger	1	v Australia (Wembley) 18/1/1930, L.10-26	-	-
Freddie Smart	Winger	1	v Australia (Wembley) 30/12/1933, L.19-51	-	-
'Sandy' Orford	2 <sup>nd</sup> Row	4	v England (Bradford) 23/12/1939, W.16-3	v England (Oldham) 16/4/1940, W.8-5	v England (Bradford) 18/10/1941, D.9-9
			v England (Wigan) 26/2/1944, D.9-9	-	-
Derek Howes	2 <sup>nd</sup> Row	5	v England (Wigan) 22/9/1948, L.5-11	v France (Swansea) 23/10/1948, L.9-12	v Other Nationalities (Abertillery) 22/10/1949, L. 5-6
			v France (Swansea) 12/11/1949, W.16-8	v England (Wigan) 1/3/1950, L.6-11	
Dennis Boocker	Winger	5	v Australia (Swansea) 20/11/1948 L.5-12	v England (Swansea) 5/2/1949, W.14-10	v France (Marseilles) 10/4/1949, L.0-11
			v France (Swansea) 12/11/1949, W.16-8	v England (Abertillery) 14/10/1950, L.4-22	-
Don Vines	2 <sup>nd</sup> Row	2	v France (Toulouse) 1/3/1959, L.8-25	v France (Toulouse) 17/2/1963, L.3-23	-
Trevor Skerrett	2 <sup>nd</sup> Row	4	v Australia (Swansea) 15/10/1978, L.3-8	v France (Narbonne) 4/2/1979, L.8-15	v England (Widnes) 16/3/1979, L.7-15
			v France (Widnes) 26/1/1980, L.7-21	-	-
Brian Juliff	Winger	6	v France (Narbonne) 4/2/1979, L.8-15	v England (Widnes) 16/3/1979, L.7-15	v France (Widnes) 26/1/1980, L.7-21
			v England (Hull KR) 29/2/1980, L.9-26	v France (Narbonne) 31/1/1981, L.5-23	v England (Hull KR) 18/3/1981, L.4-17
Steve Diamond	Centre	3	v France (Widnes) 26/1/1980, L.7-21	v England (Hull KR) 29/2/1980, L.9-26	v France (Narbonne) 31/1/1981, L.5-23
Harold Box	Full Back	1	v France (Narbonne) 31/1/1981, L.5-23	-	-
Ian Marlow	Prop / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Row	4	v New Zealand (Swansea) 4/10/1993, L.19-24	v France (Cardiff) 4/3/1994, W.13-12	v Australia (Cardiff) 30/10/1994, L.4-46
			v USA (Philadelphia) 11/6/1995, W.92-4	-	-
Martin Pearson	Centre	1	v England (Wrexham) 31/7/2001, L.33-42	-	-
Keith Mason	Prop	1	v England (Wrexham) 31/7/2001, L.33-42	-	-
Kris Tassell	Centre	1	v New Zealand (Cardiff) 3/11/2002, L.22-50	-	-
Anthony Walker	Prop	3	v Scotland (Wrexham) 16/10/2015, W.18-12	v France (Cardiff) 31/10/2015, W.14-6	v Ireland (Bray) 7/11/2015, W.30-4

A few points linked to our Welsh internationals:

- Of Trinity's seventeen Welsh internationals, Brian Juliff holds the record of most caps with his six appearances on the wing between 1979 and 1981.
- This era also saw a record three Trinity representatives in the Welsh sides when Diamond, Juliff and Skerrett all wore the red shirt of Wales at Widnes in defeat to France in the European Championships in January 1980 (pictured below). This was repeated a year later in Narbonne with Harold Box at full back but with Skerrett now representing Hull.
- An international Welsh presence goes back a lot further in time when Belle Vue hosted its one and only international when England defeated Wales, 19-13 in December 1909
- Seven of our internationals were not Welsh born and represented the side on the basis of parents or grandparents being Welsh. Trevor Skerrett (born in Leeds), Harold Box (Castleford), Ian Marlow (Beverley), Martin Pearson (Wakefield), Keith Mason (Dewsbury), Kris Tassell (Mount Isa, Queensland) and Anthony Walker (St Helens) all hold this distinction
- Only six tries have been scored by Trinity players in Welsh internationals; Ray (1930), Howes (1948), Juliff (1980), Marlow (1995), Tassell (2002) and Walker (2015). Steve Diamond also kicked two goals against the French in 1980
- Our first Welsh international, Bernard Gould, made his debut at an unusual venue. The 1922 England v Wales clash was taken to Herne Hill Sports Ground in London, a cycling and athletics stadium. It was the site of the old FA Amateur cup finals, Harold Abrahams training venue (Chariots of Fire fame) and future Olympic cycling events in 1948. Only 3,000 attended the international and rugby league did not grace the stadium again
- Dennis Boocker was the first Welsh international to play overseas when he visited Marseilles in 1949 (programme pictured on the right). 30,000 attended the game

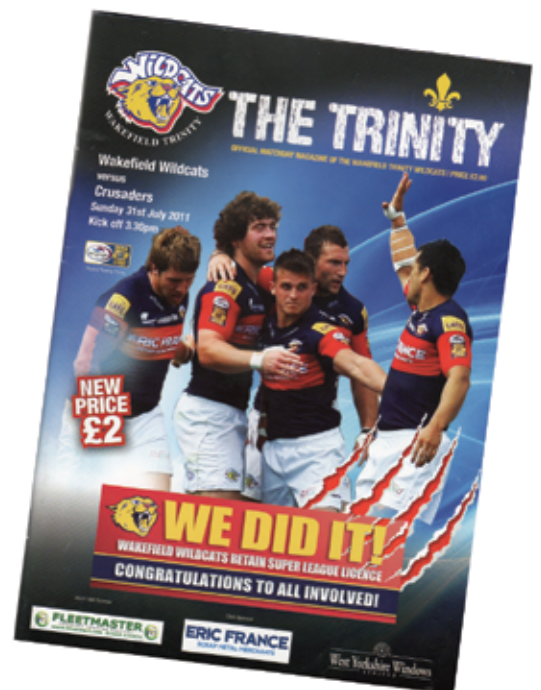
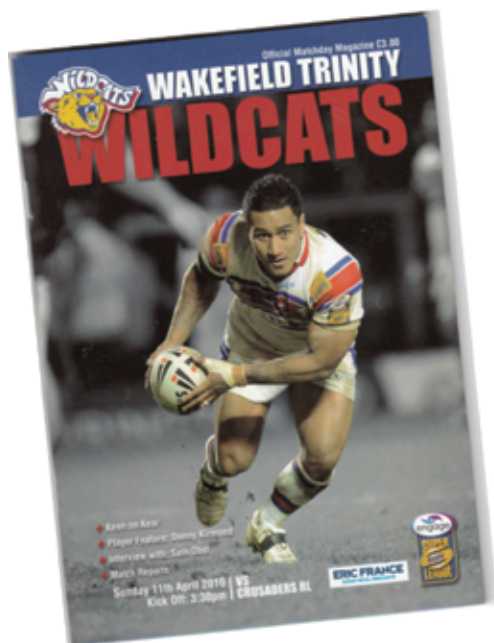


Welsh team, v France at Widnes in 1980

Juliff (back row, third from left), Skerrett (back row second from right), Diamond (front row, second from left)

## The Games

Date	Opponents	Venue	Score	Scorers
14/9/1907	Merthyr Tydfil	Belle Vue	W.35-8	T: Lynch (3), G.Taylor (2), Holmes, Newbould, Slater, McDonnell. G: Metcalfe (2), Newbould (2)
22/2/1908	Merthyr Tydfil	College Field, Merthyr Tydfil	L.2-16	G: Crosland
17/10/1908	Aberdare	Ynys Field	W.26-0	T: Sunderland (2), J.Taylor, Kershaw, Newbould, Slater. G: Kershaw (4)
25/9/1909	Ebbw Vale	Bridge End Field, Ebbw Vale	W.10-0	T: Kershaw, Sunderland. G: Metcalfe (2)
26/3/1910	Ebbw Vale	Belle Vue	W.28-0	T: J.Taylor, Cole, Bennett, Auton, G.Taylor, Slater. G: Metcalfe (4), J.Taylor
17/9/1910	Merthyr Tydfil	Belle Vue	W.23-10	T: Crosland, Simpson, G.Taylor, Burton, Stephenson, Bennett, Lynch. G: Metcalfe
30/9/1911	Ebbw Vale	Bridge End Field Ebbw Vale	D.3-3	T: Simpson
9/12/1911	Ebbw Vale	Belle Vue	W.18-3	T: Burton, Simpson, Lynch, Holbrook. G: Smith (3)
20/10/1951	Cardiff	Penarth Road Stadium, Cardiff	W.31-8	T: Duggan (2), Greenaway, Froggett, Boocker, Meredith, Booth. G: Hirst (5)
26/1/1952	Cardiff	Belle Vue	W.47-24	T: Fletcher (2), Burton (2), Hughes (2), Storey (2), Robinson, Duggan, Froggett. G: Hirst (7)
12/12/1982	Cardiff City Blue Dragons	Belle Vue	L.25-27	T: Box (2), Rotherforth, Jones, Coventry. G: Maskill (5)
20/4/1983	Cardiff City Blue Dragons	Ninian Park, Cardiff City FC	L.12-25	T: Stephenson (2). G: Lyons (3)
30/5/2009	Celtic Crusaders	Brewery Field, Bridgend	W.50-6	T: Atkins, Korkidas, Grix, Brough, Drew (2), Rooney (2), Snitch. G: Brough (7)
16/8/2009	Celtic Crusaders	Belle Vue	W.46-12	T: George (2), Gleeson, Brough, Stosic, Leo-Latu (2), Demetriou. G: Brough (7)
11/4/2010	Crusaders	Belle Vue	L.10-20	T: Blanch, George. G: Cooke
27/6/2010	Crusaders	Racecourse Ground, Wrexham	W.41-0	T: Jeffries, Millard, Demetriou, Leaeno, Johnson, Blanch (2). G: Cooke (6)
13/5/2011	Crusaders	Racecourse Ground, Wrexham	L.10-23	T: Morton (2). G: Griffin
31/7/2011	Crusaders	Belle Vue	L.6-40	T: Veivers. G: Veivers



We were very fortunate that Brian Juliff could give us a few moments of his time to answer a few questions about his time in rugby league, Trinity and Wales.

### What brought you to Trinity in 1978?

I used to watch League on Grandstand with my grandfather and remember Trinity featuring quite often, as of course the Boxing Day derby with Leeds was always broadcast on BBC. The 1968 'Watersplash' Wembley final was a standout memory, which also involved Trinity as did the Richard Harris film, 'This Sporting Life'.

I was approached quite regularly from the age of 18, initially by letter from Wigan, which, believe it or was addressed to me at Pontypridd RFC. One of the officials at the club picked it up and quietly gave it to me and encouraged me not to open it until I got home due to the postcode. I never responded to that letter and it was quite strange that later on I was sold to Wigan by the board at Trinity.

Other approaches came from Barrow, Widnes and Salford over the years before I signed for Trinity in August 1978. In fact I had played for Widnes under a pseudonym and had signed professional forms before getting cold feet and informing the coach, Frank Myler, that I was returning home. I changed my mind because my signing had been leaked to the Welsh press before I had informed my family and that broke my trust.

There were a number of Welsh players plying their trade in league at the time, some of whom I had played against, and some I had met along the way and also admired such as David Watkins, John Bevan, Maurice Richards, Jim Mills, Mike Nicholas, Glyn Shaw, Clive Sullivan, Paul Woods, 'Chico' Hopkins ... in fact I could list half a dozen more that kept my interest in results and performances. I was always destined to 'go north' I think!



### Are there any standout memories from your Trinity debut (Castleford at home in Sept 1978)?

Coming off the left touchline to intercept on our try-line and running the length of the field to score. I remember being criticised by the Evening Post for punching the air and looking back at the chasing Cas boys as I scored! But, I was young, and thrilled to score in front of the Trinity supporters who went on to give me great encouragement and made my young family very comfortable and welcome in Yorkshire.

### Were you given any specific rugby league coaching after signing from Pontypridd?

Not really though I was encouraged not to run wide and get tackled into touch, which was much more important in league than union, of course! 'Toppo' (David Topliss) told me to get my elbow over my face after I passed the ball or someone would knock my head off!! After several broken noses I started to adhere to his advice! On one occasion at Belle Vue, whilst attacking in the right hand corner of the main stand side and facing the score board terrace, I remember playing the ball in the wrong direction! Thankfully 'Lampy' (Mike Lampkowski) dived on the ball to rescue it! Lesson learned very quickly!

### You played 119 times in a Trinity shirt ... is there one game that stands out?

It has to be Wembley 1979, against Widnes: the unbelievable atmosphere and wall of red, blue and white colour that greeted us as we walked onto the pitch. Also the wonderful welcome home, despite defeat, by the Trinity supporters at the Town Hall on our return on an open top bus...it really felt like big time stuff!

We had a very talented team with some quite outstanding players that could have achieved so much more Unfortunately the team was broken up and a number of the boys went on to success with other clubs! I don't think any of the players who left really wanted to go and all remain Trinity fans I am sure!

The first game I played in the second row was during Bill Ashurst's reign as coach, and 'Lampy' played loose forward against Hull KR, away. I realised that day that I wanted to be more involved in the game instead of waiting for scoring opportunities out on the wing. I was inspired by Trevor Skerrett and Graham Idle in particular and started to adapt my game using their influence and guidance.

Another special memory was playing against Leigh (December 1978), who were a strong side in those days, and getting my first hat-trick which of course can only be a memory as games were not recorded so frequently in those days. My direct opponent was Des Drummond that day, who was an excellent player. *The photo to the right is Brian, John Burke and Graham Idle tackling Jim Mills at Wembley*



### **Was there a stand out try from your 49 in a Trinity shirt?**

One of the hat trick tries against Leigh in 1978. Des Drummond over-committed, deep in our half, I think, and I got around him and managed to run the length of the field, which was a good feeling. I had a lot of time for Des and of course he became a fixture in the G.B team.

### **Who was the most talented player you've played alongside at Trinity?**

This is a very difficult question because that team was full of quality with a range of talents. Those that stand out in my memory were Keith Smith, 'Toppo', Mike Lampkowski, the Rayne twins, Trevor Skerrett, Graham Idle, Bill Ashurst and perhaps the most underrated player, Paul McDermott. Then of course, you had players like Andy Fletcher, Allan Agar, Roy Bratt, Johnny Thompson, John Burke, Andy Kelly, Harold Box, Colin Maskill, Terry Day, young Steve Tinker... and that's just off the top of my head. The finest footballers must have been David Topliss and Bill Ashurst I think though Lee....

### **You made 8 appearances for Wales whilst at Trinity. What do you remember about your debut (France in Narbonne 1979)?**

It was violent and the crowd was intimidating! I remember bottles and cans being thrown over a fence at the Welsh players and a mass brawl breaking out on a number of occasions. The trouble didn't end after the game as it normally would. We were abused and attacked in the evening as we relaxed together in a bar close to the hotel. A shocking memory of a minority of unpleasant Frenchmen and unfortunately it certainly was not the finest moment I had in rugby league, and my debut day was spoiled by the events surrounding it, so I have better memories, and a great pride from playing in the second row for Wales against Australia later in my career.

### **You left Trinity in 1982 and had further success with Wigan & Halifax, then retired in 1988.**

#### **What have you done since then? Where are you now?**

I lived in Rothwell when I played at Trinity and moved from there with a heavy heart. I followed a career in the brewing/retail industry in a variety of management roles that took me to live in Cheshire, where I worked across the North West, and then Newcastle before retiring to London. I live close to both my daughters and two wonderful grand children in south-east London, now.

Unfortunately I retired in 1988 because my in-laws were involved in a serious car incident that prevented me travelling through from Cheshire to Castleford where I had joined David Sampson after a fallout with Chris Anderson at Halifax. The shame was that Dave lost his coaching role at the club and though I was encouraged to stay by the Castleford board it started to become impractical with the family and business commitments at that time. I still regret retiring!!!!!!

More recently I have been involved in Rugby League with our national team and development of the game in Wales and have been Chairman since 2012. I still have a huge passion for Rugby League and follow Trinity (as you know), Halifax and Wigan results closely.



**Trinity side at the Wigan Sevens in August 1978, the first time Brian wore a Trinity shirt**  
**Back:** Alan McCurrie, Steve Reed, Brian Juliff, Keith Rayne, Graham Idle  
**Front:** Trevor Midgley, Steve Tinker, Paul McDermott

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