

# *The Dreadnought*



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

Year 3, Volume 6 ... December 2015

Welcome to the Year's End 2015 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 is a shortened version, at the year's end, to pay tribute to the players that have passed away throughout 2015.

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**"I WOULD NOT LIKE TO TAKE ON AN 'RL HEAVEN XIII', RIGHT NOW,  
WITH THAT GREAT PACK OF TRINITY FORWARDS UP THERE"**

## ALBERT FIRTH

-- 1937-2015 --

Heritage Number: 616

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'Budgie', as he was known to all at Belle Vue, was part of the 'pack of greats' in the 'Glory Years' of the early 1960s which earned him two RL Challenge Cup winners medals, two Yorkshire Cup winners medals, three Yorkshire League Championship medals and two RL Championship runners up medals as well as three Yorkshire County caps.

Albert was a local man, hailing from Stanley, learning his trade through the Wakefield Schools rugby league team before playing with Stanley Rangers. As a 16 year old, Trinity quickly snapped him up in July 1953. He made his debut in a 12-12 draw at Hull Kingston Rovers on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1954, playing second row alongside the great Don Robinson. Four months short of his seventeenth birthday, Albert became the youngest forward in the history of the club at the time (*he still remains the second youngest after George Ballantyne beat his feat in 1969*).

The following season he established himself in the Trinity second row, playing thirty games, scoring his first club try in the first match of the season against Oldham. In 1955-56 he was integral part of the double winning Trinity A-team before re-establishing himself back in the Trinity forwards as the 1950s finished.

He was still an important member of the team as the great side of the early 1960s gradually came together. Jack Wilkinson, Geoff Oakes, Don Vines, Derek Turner, Brian Briggs and Malcolm Sampson were all added to the Trinity forwards and Albert played in the successful Challenge Cup winning sides of 1960 and 1962 as well as the Championship Trophy Final defeats in the same years. His Yorkshire Cup winner's medals came in 1960 and 1961, and he also scored two tries in the 20-10 victory over the 1959 Australian Kangaroos. His other two winners medals were Yorkshire League Championship medals in 1959 and 1960

In September 1959, he selected for Yorkshire in the county championship game against Cumberland, at Hull, the White Rose winning 13-4. He gained a further two county appearances in 1961 against the touring New Zealand Kiwis at Hull KR and Cumberland at Wakefield. He was also selected in the 1962 Great Britain squad against France, as reserve, but did not make the full team.

He was transferred to York in December 1962 and, later, Leeds in October 1964, before eventually settling in Scarborough where he ran a number of public houses.

His full Trinity record was 70 tries in 217 appearances between 1954 and 1962, a record that puts him sixth in the top scoring forwards in Trinity's history and his heritage number is 616.



### Trinity Playing Record

Season	Played	Tries	Goals	Points
1953-54	2	0	0	0
1954-55	30	13	0	39
1955-56	8	3	0	9
1956-57	10	3	0	9
1957-58	21	8	0	24
1958-59	27	7	0	21
1959-60	35	12	0	36
1960-61	30	8	0	24
1961-62	41	13	0	39
1962-63	13	3	0	9
TOTAL	217	70	0	210

### FIRST TEAM DEBUT

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Hull Kingston Rovers 12 Wakefield Trinity 12  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1954 at Craven Park, Hull

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#### Trinity team:

Les Hirst (3G), Eric Cooper, Keith Holliday, Don Froggett (1T), Harry Burton, Eric Lockwood, Arthur Fletcher, Jack Booth, Bob Kelly, Wilf Adams, **Albert Firth**, Don Robinson (1T), Colin Clifft



## GERALD LOCKWOOD

-- 1928-2015 --

Heritage Number: 626

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One of Wakefield Trinity's oldest surviving players passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015, when former full back, Gerald Lockwood, died, aged 87.

'Gerry' signed for Trinity in January 1956 from Halifax, joining his brother, Eric, in the Trinity ranks. He debuted at full back, the same week, in the 32-3 home victory over Hull Kingston Rovers on 14th January, kicking four goals. He was an accomplished goal kicker, kicking 39 in his fourteen games in that season. Two of his notable games were the RL Challenge Cup quarter final when Gerry kicked two goals in the narrow 10-14 defeat to Barrow in front of a 20,514 crowd, followed by a 5-9 defeat at Keighley a fortnight later, kicking a single goal, when a young sixteen year old centre made his debut, by the name of Neil Fox.

With future international full back, Frank Mortimer, back to full fitness, Gerry found himself in the A team in the early stages of the 1956-57 season, missing out on the Yorkshire Cup success. Gerry's one and only game that season saw him play at Featherstone when Mortimer was selected for Great Britain duty against Australia. Unfortunately, within a couple of weeks, Gerry had broken his leg in an A team match which saw retirement at the end of the season. The Featherstone game on 17th November 1956 was his last Trinity first team game.



Gerry was Lupset born and bred and played for Keighley in his early days. He was raised in Lupset with his sister and three brothers and worked as a plumber throughout his adult life. His full Trinity playing record was 39 goals in 15 games and his heritage number is 626.

### FIRST TEAM DEBUT

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**Wakefield Trinity 32 Hull Kingston Rovers 3**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 1956 at Belle Vue, Wakefield

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#### Trinity team:

**Gerald Lockwood (4G)**, Stan Smith, Albert Mortimer (3T), Colin Bell (1T), Eric Cooper (1T), Keith Holliday (1T), Ken Rollin (1T), Derrick Harrison, John 'Joby' Shaw, Bob Kelly, Bob Jacques (1T), Don Robinson, Colin Clifft

Having completed our heritage numbers in 2013-14, we also have details of every loaned and borrowed player of the last one hundred and twenty years and a further death came to our attention, over the year, of another player that wore the Trinity shirt

**Barry Anderson** was the Keighley hooker throughout the 1960s, playing 163 games between 1961 and 1967. He transferred to Halifax in 1967 playing a further twenty games. It was whilst he was at Halifax that he came to Belle Vue, on loan, playing in one game, at hooker, in a BBC2 Floodlit cup game against Castleford on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1968, playing in a Trinity pack that included Matt McLeod, David Jeanes, Terry Ramshaw, Gerry Round and Bob Haigh, Trinity losing 11-15. He died on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015, aged 74. His heritage number is 747.

## LES CHAMBERLAIN

-- 1934-2015 --

Heritage Number: 625

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Les Chamberlain passed away on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015, aged 81 years old and had been suffering ill health for many years. His five winners medals in the late 1950s and early 1960s firmly established him as one of Trinity's favourite sons.

Les was part of the Trinity team in the early 1960's but signed for the club in December 1955. Hailing from Middleton in Leeds, he signed from Leeds & District amateur rugby league and made his debut later that month, in the Christmas Eve fixture at home to Dewsbury, playing loose forward in the 20-8 victory. He played three further games that season, including a two try effort at home to Huddersfield over the Easter period. He also assisted the A team in 1956 when they won the League and Cup double.

The following season saw Les pick up a Yorkshire Cup winners medal (1956-57). After injuries robbed Trinity of two loose forwards, Les took his chance from the reserves and was a valuable member of the team that defeated Hunslet, 23-5 in the final. He was part of the Trinity team that reached the 1958 Yorkshire Cup final, but went down to Leeds 24-28. Chamberlain was now developing into an all-action back row forward regularly playing in the second row or loose forward and he was on the verge of Yorkshire county honours when he broke his leg against Workington Town in October 1958, the week after the Yorkshire Cup final.



Les was on the sidelines for over a year, returning against Batley in October 1959, but Trinity had built a formidable pack in his absence and time in the reserves ensued whilst Turner, Vines and Firth occupied the back row. Les's patience paid off and he was back on first team duty in February 1960, which saw him go all the way to Wembley success and the Championship Final.

Les did not play in any of the Challenge Cup rounds of 1960 but an injury to Malcolm Sampson a couple of weeks before Wembley saw Les play in the second row in Trinity's 38-5 emphatic victory over Hull. He was also in the second row a week later as Trinity were defeated 3-27 by Wigan in their very first RL Championship Final at Odsal.

With Briggs, Firth and Turner occupying the back three of the scrum, Les moved to prop in the 1960-61 season, picking up another Yorkshire Cup winners medal as Trinity defeated Huddersfield, 16-10. In all Les picked up five winners medals in a Trinity shirt, adding two Yorkshire League Championship medals in 1959 and 1960. 1960-61 proved to be his last in a Trinity shirt; his last game being an 8-15 loss to Leeds at Belle Vue on 29th April 1961. His full Trinity playing record was 14 tries in 110 appearances between 1955 and 1961, earning him a heritage number of 625.

He subsequently signed for Bramley in the off season, later signing for Hull Kingston Rovers in 1963 and Leeds in December 1963. Whilst at Leeds, Les played in his fourth Yorkshire Cup final in 1964, being defeated 2-18 by his former Trinity team mates, eventually retiring in 1967-68 after 104 Leeds appearances.

Off the field, Les was part of a trio of Trinity players who married three sisters in the 1950s. He married Lily Geary in 1959 with Lily's sisters, Molly and Peggy marrying Trinity players, Stan Smith and Albert Firth. A devoted family man, Les had four sons, Gary, Neal, Michael and Mark and on the eve of Les's passing he sat with his family reliving the 1960 Challenge Cup Final.