

A few thoughts and recollections about Trinity Rugby Club - unfortunately in the 40 years I played Junior rugby - I only played a few games against Trinity. I recall a couple of Lewis Shield quarter finals in the early 80s, one in particular stands out as we lost 9- 8 (three penalties to two tries), our unnamed kicker on duty that day had an absolute shocker - missed everything while one penalty or conversion would have won the game - but Bob Newton missed everything. I particularly remember the floodlit evening competition organised by your great club. It was a very enjoyable competition to take part in and relieved the tedium of the working week.

I recall that the games of the 1980s were fiercely contested but my overlying memory was of good rugby, played in a good spirit between two sets of players that had respect for each other - good people representing two proper rugby clubs. Sadly the early 90s saw the demise of Trinity after a merger discussions between Old Northamptonians and Trinity failed to be agreed.

Whilst this was a great shame in terms of Junior rugby, however it did allow some of the ex Trinity players to play for other Junior clubs. Players like Jerry Sharpe, Jeb Wilkinson, Ray White, Rick Parvin, plus others my mind cannot immediately recall, threw their hats in with the ONs and we played some enjoyable rugby together in 1990s and 2000s. Of course, the most notable was your good self, who became a major asset for the ONs and also provided us with Rory, now a first XV regular.

One amusing anecdote springs to mind when I managed to get Jeb and Garth Wilkinson to partner me in the ONs 4<sup>th</sup> team front row vs Aylestone St James at Scraptoft under atrocious conditions. This resulted in Garth re-enacting the famous Fran Cotton mud picture - all you could see was his eyes, not all of the effect was from playing rugby - there was a lot of rolling around in the mud.

As I said at the start my overwhelming memory of Trinity Rugby Club- was of a proper club, with some good people - some of which I am proud to be friends with - I was very lucky to play against and with some good players.

Cheers Jack Doughty

President Old Northamptonians RFC