



FARTOWN AT WEMBLEY

"THE WEMBLEY YEARS"

1933, 1935, 1953 AND 1962

The 1933 Wembley line-up.

1933

In 1929 Wigan beat Dewsbury in the first Rugby League Challenge Cup final to be held at Wembley Stadium.

Prior to this thirty two finals had been fought out and Fartown had been involved in three of these and each time they lifted the cup, often hailed as the most magnificent trophy in British sport.

In 1913 they beat Warrington 9 - 5 at Leeds and two years later St Helens were trounced 37 - 3 at Oldham. The first Challenge Cup final after the "Great War" was played at Headingley in 1920 when the Fartowners made it three out of three at the expense of Wigan.

Their first visit to Wembley was in 1933 when opponents Warrington were also making their debut in the capital.

Another first was the Royal guest, H.R.H The Prince of Wales, later to abdicate the throne as Edward VIII. It would have been difficult to find a better game than this to receive the Royal seal of approval for the 13-a- side code.

This final is accepted by all contemporary experts as being the best of the pre-War Wembley finals. Both teams had the right pedigree for cup-fighting but Fartown's season had gathered momentum only after three January signings; Ray Markham, the Australian "flyer", Fred Brindle, a loose forward from Hull K.R. and Leslie Adams from Leeds.

Markham's impact on the side was significant as he ran in 26 tries in the 23 appearances after his signing.

Warrington had their star winger Stephen Ray injured, but even so gave a good account of themselves and took the game to their Yorkshire opponents. After 20 minutes of "Wire" pressure Fartown broke away and skipper Len Bowkett (ex- Coventry Rugby Union) opened the scoring with a penalty and extended the lead to 4 - 0 in similar fashion shortly afterwards.

After 28 minutes the Claret and Gold colours were once more waving enthusiastically in the strong breeze on the largely open-aired terraces, as Brindle snapped up a pass from Adams to cross the line and Bowkett's trusty boot added two more points.

Ten minutes before the interval and trailing by nine points Warrington finally turned their territorial advantage into points. Centre Billy Dingsdale went over near the posts and eight minutes later scrum-half Dai Davies scored a try. Holding converted both efforts to give the "Wire" a 10-9 interval lead.

Four minutes into the second half Bowkett restored Huddersfield's lead but this signalled a period of sustained pressure by the Warrington side. For nearly 20 minutes they laid siege on the Fartown line but were caught out by the counter-punch.

Adams broke away in the 65th minute to send Huddersfield's other Aussie speedster Ernie Mills over in the corner. Bowkett kicked an amazing goal to give his side a 16-10 lead.

After Holding reduced the arrears to four points with a penalty, the Fartowners seized on a mistake by their opponents' stand-off and his opposite number Gwyn Richards, scooped the ball up to go over for a try.

The outstanding Len Bowkett slotted his sixth goal of the match and, despite a late converted Warrington try, Fartown were home and dry. It was Bowkett who proudly collected the trophy from the Prince of Wales who told him that he had "enjoyed the match immensely".

Fartown had lifted the trophy for a record fourth time in front of a new record crowd for a final.



MAY 6TH 1933

HUDDERSFIELD: Tom Scourfield; Ernie Mills, Stan Brogden, Len Bowkett (captain), Ray Markham, Gwyn Richards, Leslie Adams, Herbert Sherwood, Cyril Halliday, Thomas Banks, Henry Tiffany, Fred Talbot, Fred Brindle.
Chairman: Dick Lockwood Trainer: Chris Brockbank'

WARRINGTON: Billy Holding; Tom Blinkhorn, Bill Shankland (captain), Billy Dingsdale, Tommy Thompson, Jack Miller, Nat Bentham, Sam Hardman, Arthur Evans, Bob Smith, Charlie Seeling.
Chairman: Joseph Tilling Trainer: Billy Bennett

Referee: F. Fairhurst (Wigan)

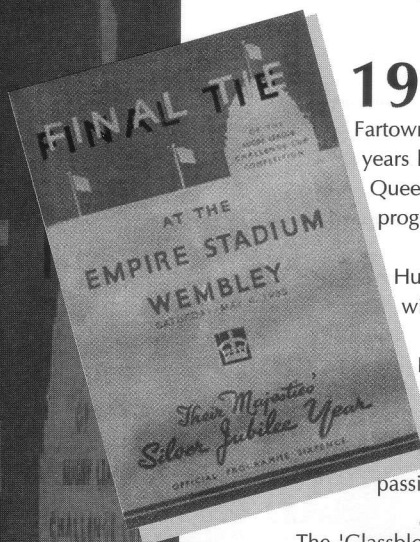
Attendance: 41,874

Receipts: £6,465

Cup presentation: H.R.H The Prince of Wales.

SCORECHART

First Half	20min.	Bowkett penalty	2-0
	25min.	Bowkett penalty	4-0
	28min.	Brindle try, Bowkett goal	9-0
	30min.	Dingsdale try, Holding goal	9-5
	38min.	Davies try, Holding goal	9-10
Second Half	44min.	Bowkett penalty	11-10
	65min.	Mills try, Bowkett goal	16-10
	69min.	Holding penalty	16-12
	74min.	Richards try, Bowkett goal	21-12
	76min.	Davies try, Holding goal	21-17



1935

Fartown returned to the Twin-Towers on another sunny but windy May day two years later. 1935 marked the Silver Jubilee of their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary, and Wembley marked the Royal festivities by printing their match programme with a silver cover.

Huddersfield's skipper Alex Fiddes won the toss and elected to play into the wind and Castleford made their advantage pay.

Fartown were weakened by the absence of injured Australian winger Ernie Mills. Castleford were at full-strength and used the wind to peg back their opponents, but just as two years previously the men in claret and gold took the lead against the run of play. Dai Davies started a flowing passing movement which ended with Idris Towill scoring a try on 18 minutes.

The 'Glassblowers' replied with an Atkinson penalty and an Askin try which made the scoreline 5-3 in their favour after the first 40 minutes.

Fartown's hopes of making the wind advantage pay were overturned as Castleford ran in two tries within nine minutes of the resumption.

Second-row forward Henry Tiffany was halted by a desperate last-ditch tackle but the Fartowners at last got back into the game when prop Herbert Sherwood landed a penalty. With eight minutes to go captain Fiddes raced through for a try two minutes from time. It was too little too late and Castleford emerged victorious by 11 points to 8. For the first time the Fartowners experienced the bitterness of defeat in a R.L. Challenge Cup Final.

MAY 4TH 1935

CASTLEFORD: George Lewis; Bernard Cunliffe, Arthur Atkinson (captain), Jim Croston, Tommy Askin, Billy Davies, Leslie Adams, Pat McManus, Harold Haley, Tommy Taylor, Jim Crossley, Frank Smith, Ted Sadler.
Chairman; Gideon Shaw Trainer: Billy Rhodes

HUDDERSFIELD: Tom Scourfield; Stanley Mountain, Idris Towill, Alex Fiddes(captain), Ray Markham, Gwyn Richards, Dai Davies, Reginald Roberts, William Watson, Herbert Sherwood, Henry Tiffany, John Fuller, Fred Talbot.
Chairman: Milford Sutcliffe Trainer: Chris Brockbank

Referee: A.E. Harding(Broughton)

Attendance: 39,000

Receipts: £5,533

Cup presentation; J. Lewthwaite (Rugby League Chairman)

SCORECHART

First Half	18min. Towill try	0-3
	27min. Atkinson penalty	2-3
	29min. Askin try	5-3
Second Half	45min. Adams try	8-3
	49min. Cunliffe try	11-3
	72min. Sherwood penalty	11-5
	78min. Fiddes try	11-8

DID YOU KNOW

Since 1929 all finals have been played at Wembley, other than 1932 which was played at Wigan and during the War years when it was over two legs Home & Away.

1953

Eighteen years and one World War later, Fartown returned to Wembley, but not before they had lifted the Challenge Cup for a fifth time. The trophy was competed for during the years of World War II, but played on a two-leg basis including the final. In the spring of 1945 Bradford Northern were defeated 7-4 at Fartown and 6-5 at Odsal.

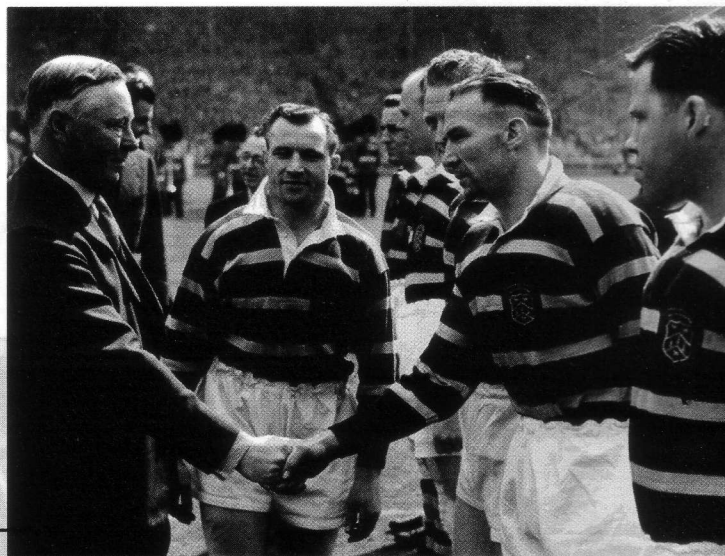
The previous few finals had been lacking a little "needle", and had been somewhat one-sided affairs. Those who enjoyed keen rivalry would no doubt include the 1953 final between St. Helens and Huddersfield near the top of the ranking.

Saints were favourites, having finished top of the Championship table, but Fartown were a formidable combination and included Cooper, Devery and Hunter (Australia), Henderson (New Zealand), Banks (Wales), and Valentine (Scotland). But it was a little known local lad, Peter Ramsden, who stole the headlines.

Peter, playing at Wembley on his 19th birthday snatched two tries in fairytale style. Not that there was anything fairy-like about him ! A solidly built sound tackler and forceful runner, Peter took a pass from prop Jim Bowden near the half-way line, and he made no mistake with the match-winning try.

There were five minutes remaining, the scores were locked at 10-10. Fartown had been a man short after full-back Hunter was stretchered off in the 63rd minute after one of Saints many over-zealous tackles. Then came Ramsden's magical moment by which time the neutrals in the Wembley crowd were backing the Fartowners.

Ramsden's wonder try not only sealed a deserved victory for his team but it clinched him the vote as winner of the Lance Todd Trophy for Man-of-the-Match. Some birthday present - Some Birthday !



The 1953
Wembley
line-up

APRIL 25TH 1953

HUDDERSFIELD: Johnny Hunter; Peter Henderson, Russell Pepperell, Pat Devery, Lionel Cooper, Peter Ramsden, Billy Banks, Ted Slevin, George Curran, Jim Bowden, Jack Brown, Jack Large, Dave Valentine.
Chairman: Wilf Stoker Trainer: Bill Smith

ST HELENS: Glyn Moses; Stewart Llewellyn, Dougie Greenall (captain), Don Gullick, Stan McCormick, Jimmy Honey, George Langfield, Alan Prescott, Reg Blakemore, George Parr, George Parsons, Bill Bretherton, Ray Cale.
Chairman: Harry Cook Coach: Jim Sullivan

Referee: G.S. Phillips (Widnes)

Attendance: 89,588

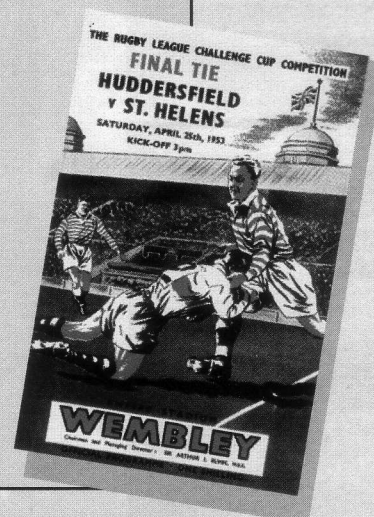
Receipts: £30,865

Cup presentation: His Grace The Duke of Norfolk

Lance Todd winner: Peter Ramsden (Huddersfield)

SCORECHART

First Half	29min. Ramsden try, Devery goal	5-0
	39min. Langfield penalty	5-2
Second Half	40min. Llewellyn try	5-5
	58min. Langfield try	5-8
	65min. Banks try, Cooper goal	10-8
	72min. Langfield drop-goal	10-10
	75min. Ramsden try, Cooper goal	15-10



FINAL TIE

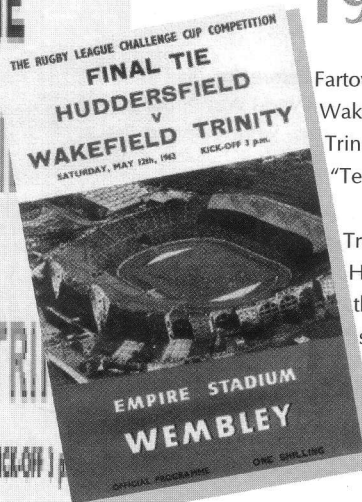
1962

HUDDERSFIELD

WAKEFIELD TRINITY

SATURDAY, MAY 12th, 1962

KICK-OFF 3 p.m.



Fartown's most recent Wembley visit was for the all-Yorkshire clash with Wakefield Trinity. Huddersfield were the surprise packet of the season and Trinity were very much the favourites with a chance of emulating Fartown's "Team of All Talents" by lifting all four major trophies.

Trinity's 22 year-old Great Britain International centre Neil Fox was the key to Huddersfield's downfall. He kicked three drop goals (worth two points in those days) which made up the winning margin of 12-6 after each side had scored a brace of tries.

Captain Tommy Smales and 1953 hero Ramsden got the Fartown scores, but the usual deadly left boot of full-back Frank Dyson let him down with each of five attempts from place-kicks.

A week later Fartown reaped revenge in the Odsal Championship Final when they defeated Trinity 14-5 to take the Championship and deprive Wakefield of the "Four-Cups" glory. This time Dyson kicked four goals.

MAY 12TH 1962

WAKEFIELD TRINITY:

Gerry Round: Fred Smith, Alan Skene, Neil Fox, Ken Hirst, Harold Poynton, Keith Holliday, Jack Wilkinson, Geoff Oakes, Albert Firth, Brian Briggs, Denis Williamson, Derek Turner (captain)
Chairman: Stuart Hadfield Coach: Ken Trail

HUDDERSFIELD:

Frank Dyson; Aiden Breen, Leo Booth, Ray Haywood, Mike Wicks, Harry Deighton, Tommy Smales (captain), Ted Slevin, Don Close, Ken Noble, Mick Clark, Ken Bowman, Peter Ramsden.
Chairman: Bill Cunningham Coach: Dave Valentine

Referee: D.T.H.Davies (Manchester)

Attendance: 81,263

Receipts: £33,390

Cup presentation: The Earl Alexander of Tunis

Lance Todd winner: Neil Fox (Wakefield)

Scorechart

First Half

17min. Fox drop-goal	2-0
20min. Fox try	5-0
30min. Smales try	5-3

Second Half

63min. Fox drop-goal	7-3
64min. Hirst try	10-3
77min. Ramsden try	10-6
79min. Fox drop-goal	12-6

DID YOU KNOW

Neil Fox who kicked only 6 drop goals in his long playing career kicked 3 of them in the 1962 Wembley Final v Wakefield Trinity

EMPIRE STADIUM

WEMBLEY