



Les Sheard off loads with Steve Lyons making the tackle

The second half started at another frantic pace with Rovers closing the gap to two points within five minutes of the restart. Former Trinity prop, Steve Lyons, who was having a powerful game made a break down the right hand side, off loading to Australian full back, Bob Smithies, who juggled with possession before a long cut-out pass saw Clive Sullivan speed away for a fine try. Neil Fox missed his third goal attempt and Rovers were now only two points behind.

Trinity now took control as the game entered the last twenty minutes with Terry Crook adding a penalty goal on the hour mark, putting Trinity 14-10 up. Roy Bratt then made way for Norman Cooper who made an immediate impact, brushing aside Rovers' defenders on a 25-yard charge to the line, with Crook adding the extras, 19-10.

Roger Millward then returned, but it was too little, too late as Trinity surged to victory. A scrum win in the Rovers half, saw Les Sheard join the attack, off load to Crook who put David Smith away to score in the corner, with ten minutes remaining.

David Topliss was then carried off with an ankle injury, but Trinity 'were on a roll' now and Terry Crook rounded off proceedings touching down in the corner after a neat Mick Morgan kick, converting his own try to make the final score 27-10.

Just before the hour mark, Rovers showed how dangerous they could be with attack upon attack, but Trinity demonstrated their powers of recovery, impressively, and their storming last quarter left Rovers shattered as they marched onto the semi final.



Mick Morgan on the charge with Steve Lyons making the tackle and David Topliss in support



Les Sheard on the attack with Steve Lyons and Clive Sullivan chasing



Norman Cooper crashes over for Trinity's fourth try. Les Sheard and Terry Crook support in the background with Neil Fox (no12) failing to halt Cooper



A section of the record Belle Vue crowd.



Steve Lyons falls on a loose ball with, from left to right, Clive Sullivan, David Smith, Terry Crook, Alan Burwell, Terry Hudson and Roger Millward looking on

The Attendance

There were varying accounts of the official attendance with initial numbers being 15,000+ but Trinity's official announcement was 14,514.

The rugby league officially announced 13,500 but Trinity records are sticking with the 14,514!

Either way, this was Trinity's biggest home attendance of the 1970s, and in fact, to this day, is the largest Belle Vue attendance since 1968 when 19,118 saw the Challenge Cup quarter final victory over Castleford; and the record is unlikely ever to be beaten.

| Match Details | | |
|-------------------------|------|---------------------|
| Trinity | | Rovers |
| Les Sheard | 1 | Bob Smithies |
| David Smith (1T) | 2 | Ged Dunn (1T) |
| Terry Crook (2T, 4G) | 3 | David Hall |
| Geoff Wriglesworth | 4 | Alan Burwell |
| John Archer | 5 | Clive Sullivan (1T) |
| David Topliss | 6 | Glynn Turner |
| Terry Hudson | 7 | Roger Millward (c) |
| Les Tonks | 8 | John Millington |
| Ray Handscombe | 9 | Clive Dickinson |
| Roy Bratt (2T) | 10 | Steve Lyons |
| Trevor Skerrett | 11 | Cliff Wallis |
| David Knowles | 12 | Neil Fox (2G) |
| Mick Morgan (c) | 13 | John Moore |
| | Subs | |
| Alan Butterfield (S.6) | 14 | Steve Hartley (S.6) |
| Norman Cooper (S.10) 2T | 15 | Roy Holdstock |

What Happened Next....

The other three quarter final ties were Leeds 22 Bradford Northern 6, New Hunslet 3 Warrington 23 and Oldham 4 Widnes 10, which meant Trinity joined Leeds, Warrington and Widnes in the semi final draw. Leeds and Warrington were first 'out of the hat' and would meet at Central Park, Wigan with Trinity being paired with Widnes at Odsal, Bradford a week later. Trinity officials were a little concerned with the venue choice as Headingley was available and Odsal was notoriously wet and muddy. Most Trinity fans thought a 'Trinity v Leeds, Wembley final' was 'nailed-on'!

Before the Saturday 5th April date, Trinity had five league games, but would only win one. 9,160 were virtually lost in the Odsal bowl as Trinity bowed out of the cup, 7-13 after holding the '1970s Cup Kings' 5-5 at half time. Warrington won the other semi final, 11-4 and Widnes eventually won the cup at Wembley, 14-7. Trinity finished the season with three wins and a draw before bowing out of the Premiership Trophy in the first round at Castleford, 7-37.

Across at Hull, the Robins picked themselves up and won six out of their last seven league games to finish in second place and gain promotion. They then defeated Huddersfield and Keighley in the Premiership Trophy, reaching their fourth semi final of the season before losing 8-18 to Leeds, at Headingley. In all Rovers had played forty five games throughout the season, including an amazing nineteen cup games.



The Trinity squad: 1974-75 season

Back: Cyril Kellett (Asst Coach), Ben Quansah (physio), John Archer, Trevor Skerrett, Barry Lumb, David Knowles, Les Tonks, Paul Evans, Roy Bratt, Ray Handscombe, Neil Goodwin, David Lamming (Asst Coach)

Front: Alan Butterfield, Barry Langton, David Topliss, Terry Hudson, Mick Morgan, Henry Oulton, David Smith, Les Sheard, Terry Crook



**Hull Kingston Rovers
1974-75**

Back: Bernard Watson, Phil Coupland, Joe Brown, Neil Fox, Cliff Wallis, Paul Rose, John Millington, Ged Dunn, John Moore

Front: Clive Sullivan, David Hall, Bob Smithies, Steve Hartley, Roger Millward, David Heslop