

BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB
NEWS LETTER
“THE LION”

The U9s
BRING HOME
THE DURHAM
COUNTY CUP

The U9's set off for Darlington to compete in the County cup, not sure who was more excited, the adults or the players. The 1st match was against Durham City, B\ham got off to a slow start, and City scored the 1st try, this gave B\ham the incentive to step up the pace and equalized. B\ham 5 City 5.

B\ham's 2nd match was against Darlington, this match was more up beat, D\ton scored the 1st try and B\ham rose to the challenge and scored 2 convincing tries. Result: D\ton 5 B\ham 10.

B\ham as group B winners then took on Middlesborough, runners up of group D. Boro put up a convincing fight to stay in the competition, but B\ham were not going to let that happen, even with a couple of tries disallowed for a foot in touch and a dropped ball. B\ham sealed their progression by winning. B\ham 10 Boro 5.

Billingham now took on Westoe in the Semi Final, the tension was mounting, B\ham could see the Cup in their sights and they were more determined than ever. B\ham's determined team effort ensured they won with a clear advantage. B\ham 25 Westoe 0.

This was it, the Final, against West Hartlepool, the adults were pacing up and down and the players

could not quite believe they were in the Final. West scored 1st, again this gave Bill the drive to up the pace and tighter team playing, to win over West . Result Bill 10 West 5.

Billingham's under 9's are the first junior team to bring the Durham County Cup to Billingham Rugby Club. Well done boys we are sooooo proud of you!! May I take this opportunity to thank all the adults who supported us on Sunday. Also a huge thank you to Paul Routh as coach who is behind our team 100% and not forgetting Clive Knibbs who coaches when his Army commitments will allow. Thank you all.

Sue Rumis-Manager

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Issue 10 Vol 3

What's Happened

I apologise about the lion not being printed for the past few weeks this was due to PC problems, these have now been sorted and over the next few weeks I will bring you upto date with what has happened at the club.

Billingham U12s Durham County Champions

The u12s also won the Durham County Cup (Full report next week)

Billingham U17s win The Fair Play Plate

Billingham U17s entered the Houghton Festival and won the Fair play Plate

Billingham Firsts in Cup Final

The Firsts won the semi Final on Saturday and will play in the final on Wed May 4th 2005 against Durham City venue TBA

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**WANTED
MATCH REPORTS
FOR
ALL TEAMS
YOUTH
AND SENIOR**

Billingham 17 Sunderland 24

On a sunny but cold March morning yet again we gathered the troops for another difficult game, Sunderland !um! This was going to be a hard and a bruising encounter. The day started well with Billingham having 19 players (what a luxury). M. Massey captain for the day got the lads geed up and ready for the off. C. Barker dropped of with a ball just over the Sunderland 10m line, Bills forwards arriving in force and with a lot of pace (yes pace) put the fear of god into the Sunderland forwards, where upon Sunderland knocked on (scrum down Bills ball) nothing became of the scrum and Bill started to settle down and play some excellent free flowing rugby. After about 10 mins we were award a penalty for handling on the ground, after two quick tap and go's by P. Reay he gained good ground, Sunderland could not retreat quickly enough, yet again another penalty but this time C. Barker took control put the ball into touch 5 meters short of there line, after a superb catch by M. Cotterill there was some good rucking and mauling by all of the forwards who took us even closer to the line, Sunderland were defending with great pride and passion, eventually A. Colguhoun popped up with the ball and over the line TRY!!!! With a well taken long distance kick from our flying no 10 C. Barker. B\ham were leading 7 nil. This seemed to give Sunderland the kick-start they needed as they came at us like a team possessed after the restart and eventually scored but were unable to convert for the extra 2 points, (7-5 to B\ham). After the restart our two human battering rams B. Gordener and D. Howard along with great support from J. Watson, D. Kirkand and S. Thompson started some fantastic powerful driving eventually getting the ball to the backs that opened up and played some dazzling stuff. Another penalty awarded Daz was given the ball and drove through Sunderland's defence to score 12-5 C. Barker could not convert. Yet again S\land came back at us but by this time tempers were wearing thin on both sides with both sides being warned by the referee to calm it down S\land breached our line to score, this was not due to good play but poor tackling from B\ham.

Half time 12 – 12

The 2nd half started with both teams looking to fight rather than play rugby which suited S\land more so than B\ham, and it didn't take them long to put another unconverted score against us. B\ham went even further behind by a well-worked try by S\land. We were now 24- 12 down. B\ham were given a quit talking too and told to go and play as they knew they could which worked for about 5 mins before all hell broke loose and the fists started flying ending in A. Colguhon getting the yellow card with Phil Reay and Scott Thompson being sent from the touch line for fighting. Once the situation had been calmed Billingham went on to score through "The Try Machine" Mark Massey.

Final score 17 – 24

Billingham U15s 60 V Gateshead U15s 0

Gateshead arrived with the reputation of having one of the best forward packs in the County. From the start Bill had the Gateshead forwards going backwards in rucks, mauls and scrums. The pack lead by Satan McQuillan, were fast and aggressive winning all the ball, It was not long before the pressure was turned into points with a well worked move that was finished by M Weeks. The 2nd was a forward effort finished by the unstoppable D. Dixon, more forward pressure lead to a well deserved try by McQuillan. P. Evans scored a good individual try side stepping through the Gateshead defence. The trys kept coming D. Sayers as usual scoring using his pace and power. To finish the half D. Dixon collected the restart and ran through the Gateshead forwards who looked on in awe as he scored between the posts. With three trys converted by P. Evans the half time score was 36 – 0. Bill started the second half slow allowing Gateshead into the game. Then up steps P. McCarthy with 2 trys from the wing showing pace and slight of the foot, he must be one of the best wingers in the County. B. Laing scored the next try, collecting the ball at full back, leaving the Gateshead defence looking like rabbits in the headlights of a car. P Cooke scored the next try after Ben Laing made another run from full back drew three defenders near the line Man of the match, Ben Laing back to his brilliant best.

Billingham U17s win The Fair Play Plate

Billingham U17s entered the Houghton Festival along with Durham, West Hartlepool, Darlington, Guisbrough, and Sunderland. If Middlesbrough had entered we would have been up against the top 6 teams in the area, so we where lucky to be only playing against the top 5 teams, The lads put up a good performance and where unlucky not to win the trophy, But keeping up with the tradition of our Rugby Club, Bingham came away with **THE FAIR PLAY PLATE** for the second year running, the u15s won it last year, With the season coming to and end soon winning this plate is the feather in the cap to what has been our most successful season as a youth team.

Well done lads. Alan Thompson u17s Manager

Billingham 49 West Hartlepool 15

A fine spring morning in Bingham, and perfect conditions at Greenwood Road for Rugby. Today we welcomed West, who all looked to have grown considerably over the last couple of months. West seemed more organised, and their forwards had the better of us for a while. We slowly got more into the game but after twenty minutes it was still nil each. Then a breakaway from Anth Hyndman and a pass out to Phil McCarthy on the wing got us our first try. Converted by Peter Evans. This seemed to lift the team, and just minutes later James Watson powered through from 10 metres out, with several West players hanging on to him he managed to cross the line at the foot of the post. Conversion again from Peter. Right on half time, another passing move out to Phil on the wing brought his second try. Converted expertly again by Peter. Half time and 21 to nil.

The second half restarted with a West kick straight to James Watson in his own 22. He caught the ball and ran through West like a rampaging bull, handing off and dodging tackles to score in the corner. This again converted by Peter, who was having a great game, judging the cross wind to perfection to bisect the posts. From the restart a fumble and a couple of missed tackles gave West a try in the corner. Another Bingham attack brought a cross-field kick from Anth Hyndman to Phil. An awkward bounce sent the ball the wrong way, but Anth had chased up, he caught it and scored himself. Peter again, predictably now, converted. West had by no means given up the game and kept attacking scoring a further two tries themselves. From the restart following the second West try, a change in tactics sent a long kick to Phil on the wing, who collected and was tackled, he passed it to Ben Laing who had followed in support. Ben was tackled and popped it up to Anth, who powered across to get his second try. Peter kicked the conversion. Phil ended the game with a great run down the wing, his new boots must have wings. No one on the pitch could keep up with him and he scored his hat trick, well-done Phil. Peter kicked again, we all knew he would get it, 7 conversions for the day. Not the best team performance today, but some excellent individual displays, notably from Danny Dixon who would have received the Man of the Match Mars bar had he came up to the Club. West Hartlepool coaches picked out three players for Mars Bars, Andy Sidney, Anth Hyndman and Peter Evans. Well done to all.