



BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB
NEWS LETTER

“THE LION”



COMMUNITY RUGBY
ACTIVE SPORTS
SEAL OF APPROVAL

Billingham 9s

V

Redcar

&Houghton u9s

Redcar arrived with a squad of 11 mixed ages 9 and 10s so it was decided B\ham under 9s would play against Redcars mixed age group. This would be a good test for the B\ham boys Houghton also brought a depleted squad of 9s and 10s

Billingham 20

Redcar 15

Redcar started stronger in the tackles and had the bigger pack, Redcar crossed first after B\ham looked at shocked at the task ahead of them, Early pressure from Redcar was soon over as the B\ham boys began to realise they could match the older Redcar players, B\ham’s usual strong tackling and maul play resulted in a try by Johnny Rumis
In the 2nd half Red-

car took the lead again and then following a great display of tackling B\ham broke up the field and Luke Wilson crashed a try in the corner to level the game .

Billingham grew in confidence and L Wilson crossed again, Redcar then crossed following some hefty tackling on the B\ham line. B\ham now looked the fitter team and 2 further tries by L Wilson and Matty Routh sealed the win. This was a great test for the boys and they came out of it with confidence for the next game against a mixed Houghton\Redcar team.

Billingham 15 Redcar /Houghton 10

Billingham started strongly with M Routh and L Wilson making some strong tackles on the bigger opposition players, Gradually B\ham took control of the first half, Daniel Scullion setting up a good maul just inside of the B\ham half - Matty Routh then latched on to a great

pass and stormed past the Redcar/Houghton back line and scored a great try in the corner.

Half time 5-0

The 2nd half was a hard physical battle pushing the B\ham lads energy levels to the limit.

Redcar\Houghton crossed to level, this made the B\ham boys more determined to hold on to there unbeaten record this season, Luke Wilson received a good pass from Mathew Jacques and crashed another try, B\ham then pushed Redcar\Houghton back and a further try by J Rumis followed a good tackle by M Routh to set up the try.

Another good all-round team performance and a special mention must go to **Luke Wilson, Johnny Rumis and Matty Routh** who gave everything in both games Well

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

West Hartlepool U15s 12 Billingham U15s 60

After the disappointment of being frozen off last week, the lads were looking forward to playing West. We had heard that West had improved since last year, they have always been a well-organised side, so we were looking forward to a hard game. The game was in doubt for a while because West did not have a referee, but eventually news got through that their coach would ref it. We set off late for H'Pool and had a very quick warm up and a late kick off.

West were a bigger side than last time we met, with a lot of big forwards. We struggled to compete at first and went a converted try down after 10 minutes. This seemed to be the shock we needed and from the restart the lads put more effort into the game. After a spell of B'ham pressure we formed a maul 5 meters out and drove across the line in a whole team effort with Anth Hyndman getting the score. This was expertly converted by Peter Evans, from a difficult angle, against a blustery wind. Minutes later James Watson picked up a loose ball in our own half and ran through to score in the corner. B'ham kept on the pressure and kept West pinned down 5 meters out. Another loose ball from West gave Danny Westall his first try diving on it over the try line. **Half time with the score at West 7 v B'ham 17.**

Billingham were now very confident and played well as a unit, passing the ball superbly along the line to Nathan Renwick on the wing, to score his first try for B'ham, in the corner. This was followed by another breakaway solo try from James Watson to score in the corner. Minutes later Danny Sayers received the ball out from a ruck, and with an excellent step and great pace ran through West to score between the posts with a dramatic dive. Peter Evans converted easily this time. Another good passing move got the ball to Michael Weeks on the other wing and he was unstoppable to score his first try for B'ham, in the corner. The game was in the bag now, and this gave coach Dave Hyndman scope for change. With three replacements available, he started moving people around different positions with Phil McCarthy playing inside and Anth Hyndman as flanker. New man playing prop Adam McQuil-lan had a great debut making his presence felt all around the pitch, and putting in some hard work. James Watson got his third try, standing out from a maul he received the ball on the wing, and with Peter Evans in close support charged through again, being encouraged to put the ball between the posts this time. Peter converted. James Watson then got his fourth try before being replaced, to watch Peter Evans convert it. West had not given up the game though and put us under some spells of pressure, and we conceded another try 5 minutes from time. We replied through Danny Westall getting his second try for the day. The ref, who had a good game, then blew for full time. A good competitive game thanks to West, who did not give up after going well behind. They have some decent lads and I expect the home fixture will be tougher. Great hospitality from Hartlepool, who are a nice friendly club. Notable performances from several players today, Danny Westall, Naz and Weeks getting their first tries. Naz would have had a second but decided to juggle after crossing the line. A great team effort from Billingham who proved yet again that when things click, they are the best in the County. Final score West Hartlepool 12 Billingham 60.

Nine games and nine wins, 405 points scored 24 conceded.
Well-done lads. R Watson Reporting

Billingham U8s V Redcar U8s

Playing at Bilingham site, weather fine, sunny and fairly warm. Within the first couple of minutes Bilingham's Robert Colley found a space and did a good run, he got tagged just near the line but he managed to do a good pass to Jackson Wardell who went on to score a try. Aarron Sparrow then obtained the ball from Redcar and scored. Redcar's defenses were on form and they were tagging Bilingham players with great success a try was disallowed as the player was tagged right at the try line this was to happen through out the first half. Redcar then got control of the ball and due to good short passes and teamwork successfully scored.

In the second half Bilingham's George Baker took control of the ball and ran ahead of all other players scoring a good try, Harry Burgum did a nice pass to Aarron Sparrow who went on to get another try. Aarron Sparrow scored again, Redcar defenses made a good attempt to stop him, but Aarron did an excellent run and some great dodging techniques pulled through. Jackson Wardell made a good attempt to score but he was ran off the pitch. Redcar had a good few opportunities to score but Bilingham's defense and tagging technique that the coach had been working on in training held Redcar back at one point a Redcar player panicked and threw the ball straight in the air. Redcar then went on to score a good try but then Bilingham's Robert Colley and Connor Lavender both scored. Both teams showed great potential and teamwork. Overall it was a very enjoyable game, good tagging techniques displayed by everyone as well as an excellent team spirit.

Final score Bilingham 6 - Redcar 2 **Redcar V Mixed team Houghton and Bilingham**

In first half Redcar were on form and displayed good teamwork. Redcar scored 4 try's To Bilingham/Houghton mixed team who got 2. Bilingham's Callum Martin and Houghton's Connor Smith successfully scored. The mixed team had a couple of opportunities to score, but Redcar defense and tagging techniques were successful in holding them back.

In the second half Bilingham/Houghton mixed team tagging technique improved preventing Redcar from scoring. Houghton's player Connor Smith got a try but was disallowed as he got tagged at the very end when he touched down. Redcar got some good runs at the Bilingham/Houghton's defense in the second half and went on to score another 3 try's. Man of the match was George Baker-Bilingham, Emma Fox Reporting

Final score Redcar 7 - Houghton/Bilingham mixed

Under 11's Tag Festival at Newcastle Falcons

A typical rugby day for this festival, i.e. wet and windy with pitches close to being waterlogged, a squad of 8 assembled for the tournament which for the many new players would be their first and last opportunity to be involved at the Falcons. We were in a 5-team group with matches being 7 minutes long, it would be interesting to see how our squad of forwards would handle "tag" especially as many had not played it before.

Billingham 2, Northern RFC 3

Northern quickly getting a score but B\ham kept plugging away only for the opposition to score a breakaway try 2-0 to Northern. Robbie Lavender showing a true captain's example drove his men on and scored following good support play from all the team. Northern responded scoring again but B\ham came back with Ryan Maddren going on a wicked run to bring it back to one score, more pressure from B\ham but time ran out on us.

Billingham 2, Ponteland 3

This was a much closer affair, with there never being more than one score in the game. Ponteland took the lead, only for Brad Simpson to copy Ryan Maddren and score with a dazzling run, Jordan Whitehouse looked to have scored but the ref. pulled him for more than 3 steps after being tagged. Then disaster for B\ham, Ryan and Gareth Jennings collided. Gareth suffering a blow to the head preventing him taking any further part in the festival, and Ryan collecting a cut mouth that meant we were down to 7 fit players. Ponteland scored again but a resolute display by B\ham with good support play had Ryan Maddren ignoring his injury and running in a try. 2-2 could we get a win, unfortunately no, as with the last play of the game Ponteland broke away and scored in the corner with the ref. immediately blowing for time.

Under 11's Tag Festival at Newcastle Falcons Billingham 2, Blaydon 3

This score was getting repetitive but the performances were improving all the time, with the players really starting to bond as a team. Blaydon went two ahead with Brad Simpson pulling one back with another fine run, Blaydon responded only for Bingham to come straight back again after several phases of being tagged and passing. Tim Spencer showing good hands catching awkward passes, Scott Mahon making good runs and eventually Brad Simpson was tagged as he went over the try line he passed to David Rawson who had the simple task of falling over and grounding the ball. 2-3 could we come back.....No again denied by the clock running out.

Billingham 1, Finchale Primary 4

This was a sweet and sour game in more ways than one, Finchale were obviously well drilled in tag and almost every tackle was a two tag gaining possession over, being most impressive. Getting good position they scored three without reply, this unfortunately resulted in some very unsporting comments from their squad and coaches. This immediately had the referee going across to cut it out and warn them. The lesson wasn't learnt though and after another try with more comments being forthcoming he went over banished a coach from the touchline and threatened to award the game against them if there was any repetition. The Bingham boys had the best answer in moving the ball from one end to the other for David Rawson to score that shut Finchale up. Again further evidence that this team is starting to bond.

So we lost all four games, BUT 5 of the 8 players scored tries, all players contributed making runs and most impressive was the running back for restarts with a lets get at them attitude. Well done to all players.

Report Guy Rawson

Guisborough u15s 12 v Bingham u15s 53

On a nice, bright, fresh winters morning we arrived at Guisborough knowing we would have to lend them a couple of players. A. Hyndman playing No8 and P. McCarthy on the wing, volunteering to play for them 1st half. After just a few minutes M. Stringer got our first try of the day, popping up on the outside to receive the ball from along the line from a scrum 10 meters in the Guis half. P. Evans converted well from a difficult angle. Then it was M. Weeks again, still on fire from last weeks brace, collecting the ball on the wing and turning inside, running through to put the ball between the posts, peter converting easily. After more B\ham pressure and another good passing move M. Weeks popped up again running down the line to the corner, then through the goal area to put the ball under the posts. Guisborough did not lie down and had us under pressure at times, A. Hyndman making runs for them and gaining territory. We gave away a penalty 10m out and Guis scored and converted well. D. Sayers then scored 2 good tries, the first passed out to him and he ran through from the centre. The second try Danny got the ball on halfway and ran through everyone to place the ball dramatically at the foot of the posts, this one converted by Peter Evans. Half time and the score was 31 points to 7 in our favour. Anth and Phil had performed well for Guis in the first half and Andy Sidney and Danny Sayers replaced them for the second.

There was no stopping Michael Weeks today, he got his third try, in the corner, after just minutes of the restart, what a game he was having. Then Matty Stringer got his second of the day, going over in the corner following a Bingham 5 meter scrum. A. Sidney and D. Sayers were playing their parts well for Guis and assisted in them getting an unconverted try after a maul collapsed in the corner, and the ball was judged to be fairly grounded. From the restart P. McCarthy, now playing in his favourite shirt, received the ball out wide and dodged several tacklers running down the wing, well supported by Weeksy to score in the corner. A couple of mins from time P. Evans broke through the Guisborough defence with his fancy footwork, and ran 30m to touch the ball down over the line. Peter took the kick himself and converted it well. Final score Guisborough 12 Bingham 53. It was a good, fair encounter in which we really never got out of second gear. Credit to Guisborough who did not give up hope and played well throughout, without really threatening. A good team performance from Bingham, with some lads playing out of position and still doing well. Well done to the volunteers who played for Guisborough. Today's man of the match, selected by the Guisborough coach, goes to Anth Hyndman, working hard for both teams today

R Watson Reporting