

BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB

NEWS LETTER

“THE LION”

GOOD START TO 2005

First on behalf of Billingham Rugby Club may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous *NEW YEAR*. I know it is a little late for seasons greetings but this is the first issue of the Lion this year, all teams have played at least 1 game by now and most have started the year on the right foot by winning their first games of 2005.

All age groups have enough players to put out a full squad but the under 11s are getting low and are looking to recruit new players for this season. Contact Barbara Lavender U11s Manager for details.

Billingham U11s- 5 Redcar U11s- 0

A depleted squad had to borrow 4 players from West for this fixture, 2 backs 2 forwards. All made an impression especially the tiny silver haired back, that proved size does not matter when tackling. A fine performance all round with R, Lavender again making good solid runs ably supported by D, Rawson. Our quicker players B, Simpson and R Maddren also doing well, in fact the newer players are starting to settle into the game as a whole, having been thrown into contact rugby at the end of last season. The only try was scored by a large West forward, who could not be stopped by Redcar especially as he was driven on by the larger members of the Bham pack. It was great to get a win and this I know will help to spur the boys on. Men of the Match R. Lavender / D. Rawson.

Billingham 0 West 26

Down to earth with a

bump, a very well drilled pack containing some large players dominated Bham. Again we had to borrow 4 players this time from Redcar, try as the team did, West's defence could not be breached. The score could have been higher if not for some stout defending, T, Spencer stopping the large West forward who had broken 3 tackles already and who seemed destined to score. D, Rawson and R, Lavender rucking / mauling doing their best and suffering some blows for their efforts. Our backs could not break free although there were some nice handling moves, which is always a pleasure to see. The game ended following a lovely move from West with a cross-field kick into the corner for the wing to collect and score. A good game of Rugby but we will have our revenge. Man of the Match David Rawson,

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Issue 8 Vol 3

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Billingham U15's 31 Gosforth U15's 7

Sunday 12th December 2004 will be a date a lot of people will have etched on their memory, and in years to come they can say "I was there, and I witnessed a display of mind-blowing total rugby". Billingham started with the sort of attitude we have wanted to see for ages. I can only describe as a 'tornado on steroids' from the kick off. Gosforth, who are far from a poor side, were put on the back foot by Billingham's awesome display of rucking and mauling. This gave Billingham control of the ball. The Billingham scrumage was functioning well, this led to the first try. An excellent driving maul pushed Gosforth over the line but was judged to be held up. With the tight five doing their job brilliantly, it gave James Watson the platform for one of his trademark No8 pick up and go, from the resulting five-metre scrum. It was a bit like an exorcet missile, you know it's coming but there's nothing you can do about it. The conversion was put away by Peter Evans. This seemed to spark Gosforth into life and they scored a try that was well converted. At seven all at half time, Billingham realised that they were in a game. At half time we asked the team to dig deep, this they did and came up with a display of superb handling done at a frightening pace finished off clinically by James Watson. Gosforth were struggling to defend and constant B'ham attacks led to another five-metre scrum. Gosforth should have known what was coming, James Watson picked up at No8 and burst through their defence to get his third. This was converted by Peter Evans. After yet greater handling, and a breathtaking sequence of picking up and driving on, Danny Watson lived up to his name of Tank by going 10 metres through the Gosforth defence like a Panzer with Nos, to score at the foot of the posts. Peter Evans converting easily. The last attack of the game gave James his fourth try, finishing off yet another great passing move. A special mention should be given to Danny Sayers who put in tackles that were above and beyond the call of duty. We proved today that we are a squad not just a team, we made substitutions and the shape of the team did not change. Every player is a class act and could hold a place in any side. Well done to Gosforth for not letting their heads go down and for giving us a good game. We could not decide on a man of the match because every player played as if their lives depended on it. When Billingham produce rugby like that it is hard to imagine who could possibly be their equal.

Dave Sidney

Billingham u15s 22

V

Middlesbrough U15s 0

With perfect conditions, a firm pitch, and two good teams, we had everything we needed for a classic game. We were not disappointed. From the kick off it became a forward's battle, both sides rucking and mauling expertly with the aggression of rutting stags. The deadlock was broken after 5 minutes, when Billingham won the ball against the head in a scrum, another James Watson pick and go exorcet, you know its coming but there is nothing you can do about it. The second half started as the first finished with both sides one hundred percent committed to the cause, scrum half Andrew Sidney, playing his first game in the position, thought that he had scored but the try was judged to have been held up. A few phases after the scrum a well-worked move from the backs, put Mike Weeks u.s.m (unstoppable scoring machine) through for a try. This was converted by Peter Evans. The game continued in the same vane until an act of genius by Anth Hyndman, a chip through, a one handed pick up and a try. Again converted by Peter. Both sides suffered a lot of injuries, Boro finished with only 12 players, massive respect to them for not giving up. The last play of the game was a ruck in the Boro 22, a perfect pass by Andrew Sidney led to a perfect drop goal by Peter Evans. Man of the match was awarded to Rob McCabe for a superb display at tight head and hooker well-done lads.

D. Sidney.

Billingham u10 v West H/pool and Seaton Carew U10s at Seaton

We were supposed to play Stockton and Horden at Stockton but as neither have u10s it looked like another blank week until Colin Snowden managed to arrange this fixture.

First up were West who we have beaten twice this season, so Sean decided to start with some of the fringe players and also experimented with players in different positions to normal. After some good possession and passing play the ball went out to the wing to Arron Naqui who then broke through several tackles to cross the line for the opening score. Billingham were now well in control with plenty of good tackling and passing moves and extended their lead when Ben Gornall ran in two more tries before half time.

Half time Billingham 15 West Hartlepool 0

The second half saw us field our first choice line up and really took the game to West, spending most of the game in their half and looked like scoring every time we got the ball out wide. We scored five unanswered tries from Connor Leck, Craig Willis 3 and Matthew Kirby but it was a good all-round performance from every player especially some of the fringe players who are now knocking on the door, giving Sean selection problems a lot of our opponents wish they had. Scorers C Willis 3, B Gornall 2, A Naqui 1, C Leck 1 and M Kirby 1.

Full time Billingham 40 West Hartlepool 0

The second game was against Seaton who we have not played before but we used the same policy as the first game and started with the same players. Billingham took the lead with their first attack when the ball reached Ben Gornall in his own half and outstripped everybody to score. Seaton then equalized when after a scrappy line out on our line one of Seaton's forwards stripped the ball off a defender and crossed to score. This was only a temporary blip and although Seaton made some strong runs by their bigger players the boys tackled well and kept counter attacking from deep with speed and good passing. This led to two more tries before half time, one from Oliver McPhail and a second from Ben Gornall.

Half time Billingham 15 Seaton Carew 5

We started the second half with our first choice line up and they drove Seaton backwards from the kick off, tackling and rucking aggressively creating good ball and attacking at will. Only last gasp tackling and good defending by Seaton stopped us from running riot. We did score three second half tries through Connor Leck, Craig Willis and Matthew Kirby but should have scored more and on another day probably will.

Full time Billingham 30 Seaton Carew 5

Scorers B Gornall 2, O McPhail 1, C Leck 1, M Kirby 1 and C Willis.

Well done boys on keeping your good run going, two good wins, good performances from the whole squad not just the usuals and congratulations to Arron Naqui on his first try for the team. Keep up the good work boys and roll on our next game.

Report by Ian Kuy

Under 10's sponsored by I.K.Joinery, McDonalds Wolviston, Aker Kvaener, Connocco Phillips and Autoplus Stockton

Stockton U8s
V
Billingham U8s.

Two matches were played; new members Ages 6-7 played 1st match, then second match for the more experienced players. Within the first couple of minutes Billingham's Matthew Bowman scored the first try, then Aarron Sparrow showed some good dodging and running techniques and successfully scored as well. Stockton's Wil Orchard then did a good run and went on to score. Stockton's team work and ball passing techniques shone through and Harry Pearson found a space and did an excellent run giving Stockton another try. Billingham spirits picked up and the team started attacking more controlling the ball, but Stockton's tagging and defending also improved. Billingham's Matthew Bowman did an excellent confident run then Cameron Sneddon went on to score last minute in the first half. The second half both teams delivered some excellent teamwork; Stockton did some good short passes and Billingham's defence kept them back. Billingham's Callum Martin made a good attempt but failed, then Stockton's Harvey Quinn found a space and did a good run and scored for Stockton.

Billingham had a couple of attempt's disallowed due to good tagging techniques by Stockton players. Callum Martin and Matthew Bowman,s good teamwork went on to score for Billingham. Matthew Bowman talents really shone through in this match as he went on to score another try for Billingham.

Final Score: Stockton 3 – Billingham 6

Stockton
V
Billingham.

In the first half Billingham seemed to struggle to obtaining the ball, although Billingham's Jackson Wardell scored the first try of the match. . Stockton went on to score 4 try's and were very much in control of the ball displaying good passing techniques. Billingham made a good attempt but the try got disallowed.

Billingham's defence and tagging techniques did pick up leading to Jackson Wardell to score an excellent try.

Stockton 4- Billingham 2.

In the second half Billingham came back fighting and their ball control improved. Robert Colley and Connor Lavender scored. Stockton's tagging technique were put to the test and came through when one of Billingham's try got disallowed due to their player being tagged as he placed the ball down. Stockton went on to score another two try's. Billingham's George Baker found an open space, did a good run leaving Stockton behind and got a try then after another couple of minutes scored again.

Overall Stockton were the strongest team in the first half, Billingham's pace improved in the second half leading to a good exciting game with a finishing score

Stockton 6 Billingham 6.

Report By Emma Fox

Billingham U11s V Stockton U11s

Victory Snatched from our Grasp.

A great game of rugby between two developing sides, Stockton a mix of 11 and 12 yr olds, v Bilingham's team which is starting to show it's potential. It was down to 8- a-side due to Stockton's numbers.

Due to pitch restrictions there would be no conversion's. Bilingham stared brightly with the powerful forwards winning rucks and starting to set up good ball for Ryan Maddren, the ball quickly found Robbie Lavender who showed his strength in driving through several challenges. Bilingham went over the try line but as it was not marked across the pitch ended up driving for the dead ball line. From the 5m scrum Ryan Maddren went over to open the scoring.

Stockton came back immediately which was to be the story of the game, and Craig Melrose went over for the first of his 3 tries to score evading some weak tackling.

Bilingham came straight back and following good tackles and runs from Gareth Jennings, Robbie Lavender went in for the first of his 3 tries on the day. This was the best team performance from Bilingham this year, every player was making runs with the ball and some good passing play was seen. David Rawson making several good bursts, and setting up the ruck.

Half time 10 - 10

More of the same from both teams, Robbie Trainer making his debut for Bilingham in the second half showed some good touches adding his weight to Mauls with good effect. Brad Simpson then took a nasty blow on the head which took him out of the game. Bilingham were playing with rolling subs giving every one a game. Stuart Mickle showed good hands and pace, and David Limon getting stuck in, Bilingham were more dominant. Robbie Lavender ran almost the length of the pitch to score driving again through several challenges. Unfortunately Stockton replied in kind with a try almost from the re-start. The try of the game then came, after good attacking play Bilingham lost possession, but David Limon then bravely dived onto the ball at the feet of a Stockton player to re-gain the ball, a good ruck and the ball was set up for Bilingham. David Limon came back into the play received the ball then went through 4 challenges to score in the corner. Again Stockton came back Matty Smith scoring. There was a further exchange of tries Robbie Lavender getting his hat-trick as Luke Troath scored for Stockton, Gareth Jennings took a very high pass 3 metres from his own try line then drove upfield to clear the danger, the game was rapidly approaching full time and Bilingham had a 5 m scrum, Ryan Maddren fed to David Rawson who burst through this could be it but.....NO..... the ball was snatched from his grasp just as he was about to touch down, and Stockton cleared. So near yet so far, but a great game from both sets of players, and in truth no-one deserved to lose. Man of the Match, Gareth Jennings, tackled everything that moved, good driving runs and good handling, rapidly improving player

Stockton U9s 0 V Bilingham U9s 60

Bilingham Under 9s made the short journey to Stockton RFC and were up and ready early with their new sponsored shirts kindly provided by Devereux . The boys played 2 full games against Stockton.

Bilingham made a slow start following a lengthy layoff from any competitive matches, Once they got going there was no way back for Stockton. Matty Routh scored the first 4 tries for Bilingham after he made strong runs at the Stockton back lines. Confidence grew and 2 further tries in the first half by Jonny Renus and Luke Wilson followed.

In the 2nd half Bilingham pressed Stockton back and Stockton were unable to keep the ball as Bilingham tackled and rucked superbly , Glenn Richardson then crossed blind side for Bilingham after some excellent passing by the Bilingham team. Further tries followed by Sean Lavender, Matty Routh, Luke Wilson and Jonny Renus. his sealed an emphatic win for the Bilingham boys.

Stockton 0 Bilingham 20

A short 2nd game took place and Bilingham used it to try out training ground moves,

Again some excellent passing saw Matty Routh, Luke Wilson, and Jonny Renus cross.

Bilingham even managed to pass across the whole of their own back line before taking the ball wide and crossing again.

Another great performance by the boys-Man of the Match Matty Routh(35 points)

Report By Bilingham

Under 9s Manager

Sue Renus