



BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB
NEWS LETTER
“THE LION”



COMMUNITY RUGBY
ACTIVE SPORTS
SEAL OF APPROVAL

Billingham u11s
V
Guisborough u11s

A beautiful day for rugby saw two evenly matched teams play out a very competitive match.

We were leant a player so we had a 9 - a - side game, the lack of forward presence showed itself with Guisborough getting two quick tries with only one converted. Billingham started to fight back with Robbie Lavender playing his usual game gaining hard yards, his efforts were rewarded with some good support play, and Billingham although mauling well and having the majority of possession were not passing the ball out to stretch the defense. Eventually the penny dropped and Ryan Maddren fed the ball wide to Andrew Jackson making his debut, who turned on the afterburners and accelerated through 3 tackles to score in the corner. This charged Billing-

ham up and soon they were storming the Guisborough defense and David Rawson making several rumbling runs, taken the team on. Robbie Lavender had one try ruled out for being held up but he was not to be denied and soon went over for a score. Ryan Maddren kicked both easily for Billingham for us to go 14-12 up. Unfortunately what was to be the story of the day poor tackling let one of the larger Guisborough players break through to make it 14-19 following the conversion.

Half time 14-19

The second half started like the first with Billingham going to sleep and allowing 2 quick scores only one being converted, 14-31. Again the Billingham lads showed the fighting spirit that is growing amongst them as they again started to dominate, this showed in some panicky forward passing from Guisborough whose players started to argue with the referee. Ryan Maddren saw the opportunity of a blind side run from a 5-metre scrum but lost possession David Rawson regained and broke

through 2 tackles before going over in the corner. 21-31. More good work by the depleted forward line soon had Robbie Lavender going over for his second of the game and 14th try this season. 28-31 Game -on. Billingham players could scent victory but unfortunately the extra efforts being made to compensate for the missing forwards started to show and as the Billingham boys tired a large Guisborough player scored two breakaway tries one converted to make the final score 28-43.

A good game and as the Guisborough coaches said there team spent a good part of the game defending well against our lads, only for one or two of their better larger players to break away and keep them ahead. Tackling practice ahead boys, but even in defeat the improvements in the team are there for all to see. Man of the Match, Robbie Lavender 2 tries, and some outstanding forward play.

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Billingham U14s V Seaton U14s

Billingham beat Seaton 59-5 on their last meeting this time so we where looking forward to this match Billingham had to lend Seaton a few of our players.

Try scores were: **Simon Finn**- 2 both he sprinted down the wing to score

Ashley Finn- 1 sprinted down the wing two score under the posts

Dave Reay-1 picked up and dived over the try line to score

There was a scramble to score trys in the 2nd half of the match in which 4 trys where held up. But after 4 unsuccessful attempts at scoring the Billingham lock **Dale Thompson** superbly charged through the Seaton defence to score is 2nd of the season **Scott McDougal**- 1 Scott grubber kicked and then scrambled to dive on to the ball with **Ashley Finn** also securing the try of the game this was the only converted try.

The full time score was 32-12 to Billingham

The next games we are away at Darlington Then Ashington away.

Reported by Dale Thompson 14yrs

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Billingham u10 v Durham City u10

The boys took on a Durham side in a short game due to only having one pitch available for the u9, u10 and u11 games due to the state of the ground, very muddy and heavy in places. Durham had to borrow a few players from Seaton to make up the numbers and we were without our captain and top scorer Craig Willis and started the game without some of our first choice line up due to them playing up an age group to help our u11 against Seaton. Billingham scored straight from the kick off when the ball reached Connor Leck who caught the Durham defence cold and ran in from the halfway line to score in the corner. We doubled our advantage shortly after when Matthew Kirby received a pass from a ruck in midfield and ran in through the whole defence to score. Billingham were now well in control and were constantly on the attack but Durham's defence held out until just before half time when the ball reached Oliver McPhail just inside Durham's half and he set off on a mazy run beating several defenders to score.

Half time Billingham 15 Durham City 0

The second half followed the same pattern as the first with the boys attacking at every opportunity but then got bogged down into a bit of a forward battle which suited the bigger Durham side and they came back into the game when they worked the ball through their forwards along the sideline to force over in the corner and open their account. The game continued in the same vein for a while with the conditions making it difficult for Billingham to play their normal passing game but the lads kept on trying and had several good attempts which were repelled by the defence and the game ended with neither team adding to their score. **Full time Billingham 15 Durham City 5**
Scorers. C Leck, M Kirby, O McPhail.

Well done to both teams for producing an entertaining game in atrocious conditions. Well done Billingham for keeping the good run going, keep up the good work as the whole squad were used and all performed well on the day. A special mention must go to the boys who stepped up to play for the u11s against a big Seaton Carew side and gave as good as you got and didn't look out of place, you know who you are. Reporter Ian Kuy

Billingham under 8's 8 — Seaton U8s 6

In a very tight and close contest it was B\ham who scored 1st through M. Bowman. Seaton then scored and put B\ham under pressure. B\ham then picked up a loose ball and after a good pass from C. Scullion Bowman scored his second. Seaton replied immediately Bowman then scored his third and again Seaton replied with a brilliant worked try. the half ended with Bowman getting his 4th with Seaton then capitalising on a mistake by B\ham and ran away to tie the match at 4-4.

Billingham started the second half and scored again through Bowman. B\ham were then put under enormous pressure and Seaton scored two unanswered tries. to make it 6-5.from the restart Kensey passed the ball to Ryan who released Callum Martin down the wing to tie up the match. in the last minutes of the match Cameron Sneddon passed the ball to Harvey who then passed to Whinstanley to score. from the re-start Billingham regained possession and Kensey passed to Whinstanley who scored his second and Billingham ,s eighth. a really good contested match enjoyed by all.

Mowden Park u17s

V

Billingham U17s

We travelled away to Darlington to play Mowden Park for the first time this season, Mowden are a good strong well-drilled side so we expected a very tough game Mowdens pitches where water logged so we played at the local comprehensive school

Billingham won the toss and opted to kick for the off, straight away we had Mowden under pressure in there own 22 and showed some good attacking play Dave Kirkland and Andrew Parsons linked up well in the forwards to help Billingham keep the game in Mowdens half 5mins into the game and Darren Howard charged forward through Mowdens pack and dived over the line, Mowden had luck on there side and managed to get a hand under the ball and hold it up. Billingham stepped up a gear and had total control of the game we kept pushing forward and Zak Hardy making his first appearance for Billingham received the ball from Richard McGreal and ran through Mowden forwards to get a well deserved first try for Billingham this was not converted. We again put Mowden under Pressure this time "THE TRY MACHINE" Mark Massey gained possession of the ball and charged forward like a challenger tank, five yards from the try line three of Mowdens backs linked together to pick "THE TRY MACHINE" up and some how push him back almost 15yards, Billingham got the ball out to Peter Cook who ran like the wind towards the try line unfortunately five yards out he was tackled by Mowden and the ball knocked on, hooker Ben Cordiner was having his best game this season and a right old 1 to 1 battle with Mowdens No5 with neither wanting to give an inch, We had now been camped out in Mowdens half since the start of the game and the pressure was showing on them, with bad tempers starting to fly Scott (Banana nose) Thompson who had been in the thick of the action all through the game and never allowed Mowden an inch of space came off with a broken nose, Billingham lost concentration in the last 5mins of the first half and Mowden took full advantage with 2 trys and 1 conversion by the half time whistle

MOWDEN -12 BILLIINGHAM- 5

The second half started the same as the first with Billingham again putting Mowden under pressure and it did not take long for Mowden to crack. Zak Hardy again forcing his way through the middle of Mowdens forwards to get his second try of the game, Billingham kept attacking at Mowdens well organised defence Mathew Cottrell was constantly giving Mowden problems every time he had possession of the ball, Andrew Parkinson who was also playing for Billingham for the first time came close to scoring on several occasions he made some good attacking runs at Mowden which even had Mowdens coaches comment how well he was playing, the best move of the match came up next 10yrds out from our own try line Mathew Westall received a well timed pass from Chris Barker he then ran forward crossing over towards the wing he off loaded the ball a split second before being tackled to right winger Craig Causer who had cut in side of him Mathew Westall managed to keep on his feet and receive the ball again from Craig Causer who passed just before he was tackled, they continued to interchange the ball between each other avoiding several tackles until Mathew Westall crossed the line for a superb try, Mathew Westall and Craig Causer timed there passing and movement between each other so well you would think they had been practising that as a set piece of play all season, This was complimented by Chris Barker converting the try from a very difficult angle his first of three conversions in this match, After this it did not take long for Zak Hardy to get his hat trick again charging through the Mowden pack and placing the ball between the posts, Chris Barker converting easily, Billingham continued to keep Mowden on the back foot and soon after "THE TRY MACHINE" Mark Massey got the try he deserved with a classic run through the Mowden forwards and a long dive over the line again Chris Barker converted this to top his best performance so far this season.

The whole team played to their best ability and used with great effect all that Wayne Finny the new coach had been teaching them in training, Patrick (paddy) Boyd and James (little James) Watson deserve a special mention Mowden park where 2 men down and they unselfishly volunteered to play for them for the day both lads had a good game and did not give Billingham an inch, Mowden and Billingham would like to thank them for there great sporting spirit.

Final Score

Mowden Park 19 Billingham 31

Billingham u10 v Hartlepool Rovers u10

It was a bright sunny Sunday morning at Greenwood Road as we took on Rovers for the first time. Coach Sean decided to start with the fringe players again and change the team at the restarts in a game of four quarters.

The game began with Bingham getting a dream start, scoring straight from the kick off with Matthew Kirby outrunning the whole Rovers team to score. They quickly doubled their advantage when Craig Willis scored, following good work from the whole team. It was soon a three score advantage when following a sweeping passing move, Craig Willis unselfishly passed for Josh Naqui to score when he could have easily scored himself. Bingham should have ended the quarter with another try when Ben Gornall ran from his own half and outstripped the whole defence but touched down the wrong side of the try line. We began the second quarter with our first choice line-up and immediately had Rovers on the back foot, scoring early when Craig Willis scored his second of the match. Bingham scored again when hooker Thomas Kuy scored typical forwards try, picking up and driving over after Ben Gornall was tackled just short of the line after a long run. Bingham were now running riot and looked like scoring with every attack and extended the lead when Craig Willis ran in his third, then after winning the ball in midfield, the ball reached Connor Leck on the wing and he ran half the length of the pitch to score, breaking several tackles on the way. Craig Willis rounded off the scoring in the first half, scoring his fourth and the teams eighth try.

Half time Bingham 40 Hartlepool Rovers 0

The third quarter began with the same side that started the first but didn't effect the pattern of the game with Bingham on the offensive from the off. Bingham soon increased their lead further when first Craig Willis and then Oliver McPhail crossed the line to score. The quarter was brought to a close when during a rare sortie forward by Rovers, Craig Willis stripped the ball from an opponent and ran almost the full length of the pitch to score, despite a great effort by the young lady playing for Rovers who chased him all the way, catching him close to the line, but he was strong enough to cross the line.

The team reverted to our first line for the last session and were totally in control, attacking from all areas and passing the ball well. Eventually after Connor Leck was tackled just short of the line, the ball was re-cycled quickly and passed out to hooker Thomas Kuy to score his second try of the game. Bingham then extended the lead further when after a good running attack, with the ball going through several pairs of hands, the ball reached Oliver McPhail who finished off a great move to score. The last move of the game saw hooker Thomas Kuy receive the ball on the wing on the halfway line, seeing a gap and going for it, running all the way chased by a Rovers defender but was determined not to be caught, scoring in the corner with a Ben Cohen style swan dive. Full time

Billingham 70 Hartlepool Rovers

Scorers C Willis 6, T Kuy 3, O McPhail 2, M Kirby1, C Leck 1, J Naqui. 1

Well done boys for another excellent performance by the whole squad, showing the strength in depth we now have, again giving Sean selection headaches. Congratulations to Josh Naqui on emulating his twin brother to score his first try for the team. Also credit to the Rovers players who kept going, tackling and chasing right to the end even though they were overrun and overpowered by a very good determined and disciplined Bingham team. Keep up the good work boys and keep the good run going.

Reporter Ian Kuy

Billingham u10s sponsored by I.K. Joinery, McDonalds Wolviston, Aker Kvaerner, Connocco Phillips and Autoplus Stockton.