



BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB
NEWS LETTER
“THE LION”



COMMUNITY RUGBY
ACTIVE SPORTS
SEAL OF APPROVAL

SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY
BILLINGHAM 1st XV —PONTELAND 1st XV
DARLINGTON V BILLINGHAM 2nds
BILLINGHAM 3rds v DARLINGTON
BILLINGHAM 1st XV RESULTS FOR JANUARY

Ryton 31 - 5 Billingham
Billingham 25 - 29 Gateshead
Billingham 15 - 13 Malton and Norton

D/HAM & NORTH/LAND DIV 1	P	W	D	L	For	Against	Diff	Pts
Horden	15	13	0	2	520	189	331	26
Northern	15	13	0	2	372	189	183	26
Malton and Norton	15	12	0	3	496	138	358	24
Gateshead	15	10	0	5	331	240	91	20
Consett	15	8	0	7	284	341	-57	16
Billingham	15	7	0	8	305	336	-31	14
Ponteland	15	6	1	8	326	306	20	13
Ryton	15	5	1	9	203	281	-78	11
North Shields	15	5	0	10	203	347	-144	10
Redcar	15	5	0	10	199	408	-209	10
Acklam	15	3	0	12	187	436	-249	6
West Hartlepool TDSOB	15	2	0	13	198	413	-215	4

RYTON 1st 31 V BILLINGHAM 1st 5

It all looked well for the 1st half hour with end to end play and neither side looking like scoring. Stewart stepping in at full back due to Clarke's absence was steady in defence. Although B\ham were doing well in the line through Magrath and Hutchinson the scrum was constantly being wheeled making clean ball almost impossible. The backs appeared to line up to flat even when pressing which drastically reduced attacking options and with Ryton back row killing the ball we were feeding off scraps. Ryton scored 3 unanswered tries despite some great tackles by McQuillen and Robinson from open and blind.

Half Time Billingham First XV 0—Houghton 19

The second half was much the same with Ryton running in two more to increase the score to 31—0 although Garbutt was a little unlucky to slip just as he straightened for the line, his chance was gone. Just before full time Durnion came down the outside half channel to cross the line. The referee did not see the grounding and unfortunately, but according to rule decided it was held up and awarded a five-metre scrum. This time clean ball was presented and Woodhouse broke open and passed blind to Shep who touched down in the corner.

Spectators comment Disappointing and where's the Billingham spirit gone?

Reporters comment. I agree but one positive thing from the game, at least Woody didn't have to sew Willis up this week. B Woodhouse reporting

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Billingham Under 12's V Barnard Castle

Barney kicked off and soon had Billingham on the back foot, weak tackling allowing them to gain early yards, after a few good moves one of the larger u13 soon broke through and scored, but the conversion was missed. This was a wake up call and soon Billingham started to play with some aggression putting in good tackles. With what was to be one of the key elements for Barney a line out close to Billingham line was won and the forward broke through to score. Again conversion missed, Billingham responded in style with Marcus going on a typical mazy determined run to score Jack getting the conversion. After some good exchanges of play Barney again went over and missed the conversion. This was followed by a good bit of interplay by Billingham, Jack, Marcus and David all passing and running well gaining ground for Marcus again to go over in the corner, Craig converting 15-14. Another try following a line out put the score to 20-14 at half time.

This game was really warming up, in the second half Billingham really started to move the ball well, Stuart running from deep and Luke crashing through the Barney pack. Especially pleasing was the running and then off-loading in the tackle allowing the team to drive forward. Another breakthrough try came from Barney and our lack of height VS. their 13 year old in the line out was really telling. They finally converted. There then followed the best play of the game by Billingham from stopping Barney on the try line, Robbie ripped the ball out, passed to Ben who charged ahead, after 10 metres he was tackled but off-loaded to David who took it a further 15 who then off-loaded to Jack who was then stopped 5 metres short of a try penalty to Billingham and Ben received the ball to score Jack converting. A great piece of flowing rugby. 27-21 The boys were buzzing and really going for it but a great break from a Barney back beating several players took him over in the corner to keep them nudging ahead. There then was a try apiece Robbie scoring for Billingham to make it 41-28.

No individual man of the match as it was such an encouraging team performance

A great game played in a super spirit, if only we could have handled their lineout. Praise also to the B.C. coach who refereed the game with no bias and explained to the kids penalties and options etc.

2nd game Billingham VS. Acklam.

Acklam arrived very late having struggled to get a squad together, this one was made up off U11 and 12's. Some of the younger players being quite small, it was agreed that we would have uncontested scrums due to size differences. This was a game where we could see the Billingham lads caught a dose of Try-itis thinking their bigger size and speed would see them scoring at will. We soon scored two tries both by Jack who they could not handle as he easily broke tackles. Although winning we were not playing good team rugby and after a quick chat the players started to settle down and function as a unit again. The try of the game being scored by Craig who went on a mazy run to put Billingham 21-0 up.

Second half was more of the same Acklam battled really well with some of their players putting in crunching tackles which bodes well for them in the future, Jack went over to get a hat trick Marcus and Robbie added two more final score 42-0.

A confidence boosting win on a really enjoyable day. Man of the match, Craig Errington at scrum half starting to settle into the role and worked a couple of long line out throws with Phil which took Acklam by surprise

Rossington Hornets 0 Billingham 15

We had a long trip to Doncaster today, after picking up a last minute fixture in the Yorkshire pool. We arrived twenty minutes before kick off so quickly got ready and warmed up. The Hornets were totally unknown to us, we did not know what kind of game to expect. We started well and had them constantly under pressure for the first five minutes, winning a scrum 10 metres out Matty Stringer picked up at scrum half, and carried into contact. From the ruck the ball was passed out to Peter Evans, who through fancy footwork made it easy for James Watson to cross the line.

A clearance kick from Hornets, was caught by Ben Laing on their 10 metre line, but he was also tackled in the air. Ben's quick thinking brought a piece of genius, he took the quick penalty and sprinted down the touch line to score in the corner.

Injuries to Ben Laing and Anth Hyndman forced changes at half time. Andy Sidney went to inside center, Jonno Hill into second row for Danny Dixon, who filled in at full back. In the second half Hornets picked their game up and put some pressure onto Billingham. We defended well and despite the added pressure Hornets never looked like they would score. A Billingham scrum on half way seen Watson pick and go, he made the hard yards and gave a long pass out to Phil McCarthy on the wing who finished it in the corner. Another good team display against a well organised Hornets side, who had obviously worked hard on set pieces in training. Today's man of the match selected by the Hornets coaches, for his all round hard work, was No8 James Watson.

Billingham 2nds V Rovers

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In near perfect conditions Bilingham took to the field looking refreshed after the week off. For the first quarter of the game it was anybody's to win and whoever wanted it most would triumph. Making the most of a steady front row of Jinks, Scott and Finney with McGrath and Tennent in the powerhouse supported by the mobility and experience of Youdale, Daley and Potts the backs were given some very good clean ball, so vital to Bilingham's flowing game. Then Bilingham set up a massive drive which saw Daley go over in the corner. The game could have still gone either way but no score was added before the half

Half Time Bilingham 2nds 5 – Rovers 0

Early in the second half saw Potts have to leave the game following a rib injury and be replaced by Coull. A good passage of play followed between Screen, Burnett and Bur- gum to put Daley in for his second. 10 - 0 The third Bilingham try saw Coull run through four tackles to pop to Tennent on the twenty-two who touched down. 15 – 0. Shepard replaced Screen and when Brown was injured in a tackle Bob Bell was called upon to join the fray. With his first touch Bell charged down a Rovers kick which almost resulted in a score. Westall and Keenan combined in a well run angled move to release Shepard in the corner. 20 – 0. Rovers pressed up the field through a series of penalties, which resulted in Daley being binned, possibly a little harsh, but he left the field without dissent. Rovers made advantage of the extra man and touched down in the corner

Full Time Bilingham 2nds 20- Rovers 5

Spectators comment. Another good win and some great defence by the whole team

Reporters comment. Nice to see a “Binned” player setting an example by leaving without dissent. Early kick off meant we could see the England Game.....That's sensible rugby

Alternative Match Report **Bob Bellingham 2nds V Rovers** **(Apocalypse Now)**

In near perfect conditions Bilingham took to the field Someone scored in the corner, mainly due to the excellent play of the touch judge Bob Bell The game could have still gone either way but no score was added before the half

Half Time Bilingham 2nds 5 – Rovers 0

Someone got his second once again mainly due to the excellent play of the touch judge Bob Bell 10 - 0 The third Bilingham try mainly due to the excellent play of the touch judge Bob Bell who was on the try line when someone else touched down. 15 – 0. Some players were changed and when Brown was injured Bilingham unleashed their secret weapon **Bob Bell**. With his first touch he ran fifty yards to charge down a Rovers kick and would have touched down if he had put his flag down first.. Bob was everywhere despite being hooker, taking laser accurate line out throws, winning all of the strikes in the scrum (ours and theirs) and making scoring opportunities spurned by the other less talented Bilingham players. Then Bob set up a scoring chance for someone. It was so quick and brilliant in its execution your normally reliable reporter was dazzled by the complexity of it and therefore missed it. 20 – 0. Rovers captain pleaded with the referee to send Bob off to even up the game but he decided to bin someone else. The team were under strict instruction to keep the ball away from Bob as we did not want a try a minute for the last ten. **Bob was on fire.**

Full Time Bilingham 2nds 20- Rovers 5

Spectators comment. Another good win but a bit unfair not to warn them we were fielding Bob. It was as if a whirlwind had hit Rovers

Reporters comment. A few players moaned because they couldn't get a tackle in for the pocket rocket. Training pays off at any age.

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Barnard Castle 20 V Billingham 15

Billingham set off to Barnard castle bright and early but with low numbers MA very cold morning in barny ,it was agreed to play to 2 games of 10 a side to keep everybody warm

In the first game Billingham found it tough going , playing on a short pitch against a very big barny team. Billingham conceded 2 very quick tries and looked to be on for a pasting until the coaches half time talk about tackling the bigger barny boys and driving quickly in numbers did the trick..

The 2nd half saw billingham cross first through a charge by tom Cummings. Then Billingham found out that they could tackle the bigger barny ball carriers , Jonny Rumis crossed after a very good run along the touch. Barny crossed again to take a 2 try lead before Matty Routh made a long run to evade barnys back line and cross the game ended 20-15 to barny

Barnard Castle 20 Billingham 25

Billingham started quickly and confidence grew , a good maul and a great pass from Baden Knibbs put Matty Routh away wide to outpace the barny backs and cross, Some poor tackling allowed barny to get back in the game at half time.

In the 2nd half it was a very even affair with both teams battling out in ruck and maul, Jonny Rumis managed to find space and his pace took him away to cross in the corner .Again Billingham allowed the barny forwards to carry the ball over the line . One final push saw Billingham cross late on to seal the win.

Report by Paul Routh Under 10s coach

Match Report - Under 9's - Sunday 29.01.2006

Barnard Castle v Billingham

Billingham only had 5 players today, so Barnard Castle lent them 2 players , playing 7 in each team. Barnard Castle set off well scoring 2 try's within minutes from the start. Good team work, nice short passes before their players got tackled. Billingham set off with a bad start, not fully alert but soon perked up leading to Jackson Wardell scoring a try. Billingham's team work improved as the time went on preventing Barnard Castle from a couple of try's, but Barnard Castle did have control of the ball at the beginning of the game. It was only at the end of the first half where Billingham picked up and from a throw in, good ball control and team work where Ben Fox, Joseph McDonnell , Robert Colley and Jackson Wardell succeeded in scoring a try. Right at the end the good team work and short passes came through again, leading to Joseph McDonnell scoring.

In the second half Barnard Castle changed players to their advantage. They were clearly determined to win and within minutes scored three try's. Billingham seemed to loose heart and team spirit becoming disheartened. Although Billingham did not have control of the ball much, their defending tackling and driving skills did improve. Billingham's Robert Colley went on to score a try after much determination. Barnard Castle were the strongest team and this showed in the second half and they went on to score another 2 try's.

Final Score Barnard Castle 8 - Billingham 4