



BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB  
NEWS LETTER  
“THE LION”



**CONGRATULATIONS**

*From all coaches parents and of course fellow players on Mark Brewis and Kareem Omar (Billingham u13s) inclusion in the North of England Schools team, that played Scotland on 26/11/05.*

*Mark Captained the side and Kareem played Prop.*

**SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER**

**BILLINGHAM 1st XV v NORTH SHIELDS 1st XV**

***SPONSORED BY THE KITTEN CLUB***

**NORTH SHIELDS 2nds v BILLINGHAM 2nds  
NORTH SHIELDJR 3rds v BILLINGHAM 3rds**

**PREVIOUS RESULTS**

D/HAM & NORTH/LAND DIV 1	P	W	D	L	For	Against	Diff	Pts
Malton and Norton	9	8	0	1	298	81	217	16
Northern	9	8	0	1	225	120	105	16
Hornden	8	6	0	2	289	121	168	12
Gateshead	9	6	0	3	235	135	100	12
Ponteland	9	5	0	4	250	176	74	10
Billingham	9	5	0	4	200	209	-9	10
Consett	8	5	0	3	157	175	-18	10
North Shields	9	3	0	6	152	190	-38	6
Ryton	9	3	0	6	108	182	-74	6
Acklam	9	2	0	7	123	290	-167	4
Redcar	9	2	0	7	112	316	-204	4
West Hartlepool TDSOB	9	0	0	9	106	260	-154	0

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**FRIDAY 9th  
DECEMBER  
7pm  
CHRISTMAS  
FUN NIGHT**

**THURSDAY 15th  
DECEMBER  
7.30 pm  
LIVE HARMONY  
DUO  
SAPPHIRE**

**SATURDAY 17th  
DECEMBER  
7.30 pm  
CHRISTMAS  
DISCO**

**TUESDAY 27th  
DECEMBER  
LADS  
V  
DADS  
RUGBY**

Issue 7 Vol 4

***FRIDAY DECEMBER 9th 7pm***

***TICKETS £1 PER PERSON***

***(AVAILABLE BEHIND THE BAR)***

***FUN AND GAMES QUESTION OF SPORT QUIZ  
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE LEMON EATING ECT.***

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***(MUST HAVE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARD WITH YOU )***

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## Chairman's Message

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

Christmas is coming, yeehaa! Lots going on at the moment. At the time of writing, I am looking forward to the first Kitten Club sponsorship of the season. We are hoping for about 30 Kitten club members to turn out to sponsor the 1st XV this weekend, so it should make for a busy day. It's also an opportunity to catch up with old (in some cases very...) friends.

For further information on the Kitten Club please give me a shout.

As a follow up to my message the other week, I am pleased to be able to provide a positive update on a couple of issues. Chris Ker was successful in his disciplinary appeal against his sentence and although Cruz is still to attend his appeal, the RFU last Monday at a lengthy hearing in Durham found in his favour over our complaint of racial abuse. Although we are pleased at the outcome, there are never any winners in this type of case. I hope you will join me in ensuring racial or any other type of abuse or discrimination to any person involved in rugby or otherwise does not take place at Billingham, it never has been or will be acceptable.

I would like to thank all of you who provided information to bring this matter nearer to it's conclusion as I know it is not easy to stand up and be counted in difficult circumstances. I would implore all members, players, guests and spectators to abide by the code of conduct laid down by the RFU and take a few minutes to read them. These will be available on the notice board and will also be published on our web site. As I mentioned in my last message, we have a set of values at Billingham that should not be compromised, please assist us in maintaining high standards of sportsmanship and etiquette and ensure the RFU Equity policy is upheld.

Remember the game should be enjoyed by ALL, both on and off the pitch.  
MARK ARMSTRONG.

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**THURSDAY 15th DECEMBER**

**7.30 pm**

**LIVE HARMONY DUO**

**SAPPHIRE**

***Tickets £3 ADULTS ONLY***

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**SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER**

**7.30 pm**

**CHRISTMAS DISCO**

**TICKETS £2 ON THE DOOR**

**ADULTS ONLY**

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**TUESDAY 27th DECEMBER**

**LADS V DADS RUGBY**

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**WANTED  
MATCH REPORTS**

**FOR  
ALL TEAMS  
YOUTH  
AND SENIOR**

Malton and Norton 1st XV

v

BILLINGHAM 1st XV

Taking to the field after our longest journey south the firsts were subjected to a ferocious onslaught by Malton. The defence held well but a penalty gave Malton a three point lead. More pressure and a trio of missed tackles led to a 10 deficit but Billingham came back with a well worked try. After three forward phases the ball went swiftly through the backs to Chris Ker with his usual powerful run broke through and passed to brother Martin who took the tackle and presented the ball which was popped to Cruz who made good yards before being tackled. Woodhouse still supporting took it on and drew two defenders before flipping it to Andy Evans who pace took him over in the corner. Malton put more points on the board and went in at half time leading Half Time 24 - 5

Martin Ker was replaced by Dave Robinson who when his nerves settled put in a good performance for his debut game.

Once again quick ball following good forward play and a well timed run saw Stewart score under the posts which Durnion converted

With the score at 41 - 12 in Maltons favour Chris Ker was replaced by Alex Garbutt and Paul Shepherd replaced by Michael Evans.

Once again Garbutt showed his strong running ability breaking several tackles to gain valuable yards. Following more Malton pressure the forwards stole a turnover ball and drove at the heart of the Malton defence quick ball again from Woodhouse unleashed M Evans who seemed to mystify the Malton backs with a weaving run drawing three players before popping it to A Evans to run it in under the sticks.

Spectator / Players Comment. Once again great forward display against a much larger pack, a few missed tackles made the score flatter Malton and missed opportunities due to over complicating moves, missed moves, blind passes etc. instead of playing the simple ball cost Billingham points

Reporters comment. But Malton and Norton were a very good side!! Full time 44 - 19

Billingham u13 (31) – Westoe u13 (15)

Westoe came to spoil and done a very good job of it. Obviously aware of the pace and skill in our back line they reverted to kill the ball at every possible time. Frustration set in and tempers flared. Tom Kill (2) Joe Douthwaite (1) Cole Henderson (1) Adam Cockburn (1) all scored superb tries. Finney converting 3 from 5. M.O.M Chris Halfpenny.

Guisbrough 10 – Billingham 24

Another fiercely contested game against our old rivals. Played in the worst conditions this game was still an amazing spectacle. Trailing 10-0 at the break, the lads pulled together alone with no guidance from the coaches due to them being tied up looking after the hypothermic, and the injured kids. Billingham scored straight from the break, with his debut try Nathan Moffat, second row powerhouse drove 3 defenders over the line, Tom Kill (1) Joe Douthwaite (1) and Adam Cockburn (1). Finney converting 2 from 4 attempts  
M.O.M Adam Cockburn.

## **Ryton u15s 19 V Billingham u15s 29**

Billingham travelled up to Ryton hoping to win there 3rd match of the season, we were all fit and ready to play thanks to Alans midweek tire out session, we walked out on the pitch and warmed up ready to play what looked like was going to be a fair match, the game kicked off with some good play from both sides, Billingham started off the scoring with Alex Blenkinsopp being mauled over the line to score an unconverted try. Ryton managed to score about 10 mins later after being awarded a penalty 5 mtrs away from our try line, Billingham were not pleased and stepped up level, we gained ground and were awarded a penalty in the same position as Rytons but on the opposite side, our powerful prop Jack Smith charged over the line to score his first try for the club which unfortunately Danny Brown was unable to convert. The match settled for a bit with both sides attacking and defending well, Ryton were gaining ground and were close to the line when the game was pulled up due to an incident including Dave Reay a boot and a downward force on a Ryton player who was now rolling on the floor with eight mysterious circle's dotted in a boot formation on his hip, unfortunately Dave was sin binned for his 'accidental' stomp and sent behind the opposing try line, it was 10 mins until half time and we were one man down, luckily Ryton could not find away through our defence, we were relieved when the whistle was blown and the pressure was taken of our shoulders, Half time score 10 - 5 to Billingham.

The 2nd half kicked off with Billingham immediately under pressure by Ryton who managed to brake through and score, Billingham decided it was time to let loose the monstereus beast by the name Jonathon Rawson, he made an immediate impact on the game with some panzer tank like runs through the Ryton defence, Billingham made some ground and came close to the try line, a maul formed close to the line and Dale Thompson ripped the ball out and dived over the line to score his first of the season, the try was converted by Danny Brown, Billingham kept the pressure on Ryton but were unable to stop the fast and furious prop from running through there defence and scoring an under water try which was later converted, Billingham knew they had to secure there lead and with the help of Chris Bates succeeded in doing so, after a fast sprint down the wing Chris ran under the post and placed the ball down to score the 5th Billingham try of the day, 2 mins left on the clock and Billingham knew they had another win under there belts, finally the whistle went and B\ham had won with the score closing in at 29 - 19 .

Billingham try scores -

A Blenkinsopp, J Smith, C Cranston, D Thompson, C Bates

Many thanks to Paddy for taking his time to referee the match

M.O.M - Rob Pighills for his excellent play and brilliant runs Lemon of the match goes to David Reay for his 'accidental' stomp!!!! Dale Thompson Reporting

## **Billingham u10s 10 v Guisborough u10s 15**

Billingham started very quickly and got quick ball out to the backs, Billingham also dominated the scrums -and at last the Billingham forwards were matching the opposition. First try to Billingham by Jonny Rumis , crossing after a good offload from Matty Routh. The 2nd half and Billingham made silly errors to allow Guisborough back into the game , 2 tries by Guisborough gave them the lead. Billingham fought back and Matty Routh picked up a loose ball in his own half to out pace the Guisborough backs and cross for an excellent try. In the final minutes Guisborough made one final push crossing in the corner to win it. This was one of the best games of the season and coaches/parents of both sides were delighted by the standard of rugby played.

***JUDGMENT DAY  
27th DECEMBER LADS V DADS  
IS YOUR DAD UP TO IT***

Billingham u13 went into this game unbeaten so far this season

### **Billingham u13 (14) – Percy Park u13 (7)**

Clash of the titans, the Durham county champions versus the Northumberland county champions, Percy Park: unbeaten in three and a half years. Billingham: on a roll. This was the first real test and the hardest game of the season. Billingham started well but so did Percy Park. Falcons Protégé Tom Kill scored the first try of the match after 10 minutes, this was a break-away try as Tom's pace was too much for the opposition defence, however the game was played mostly in the middle of the field which shows how evenly matched the teams were, but this also meant that both teams were still in the game. Percy Park showed this by scoring a try moments before half time, the scores at half time were 7-7.

The second half was the same, in the fact that the ball didn't get away from the middle of the park very often, but the one difference was that the Billingham centres (Adam Cockburn and Jake Day) were in fine form, pressuring Percy Park in attack and defence, this meant that Billingham were starting to dominate the Percy Park backs which lead to Jake Day crossing the line for try with 5 minutes to go.

Jake Day being the man of the moment put in a try saving tackle 30 seconds before full-time and then the intensity of Billingham's defence kept them in the lead right until the end as Percy Park spent the last 30 seconds of the game within 5 metres of the try line, but Billingham held on for a victory

### **Darlington u13(10) – Billingham (22)**

Another massive game in which Billingham came back from a try down, Sean Wallace capped of a great performance with his first try for the club. Jake Day got his hat trick in a man of the match performance.

### **Novos u13 (0) – Billingham u13 (26)**

Billingham put out a relatively new team, consisting of lads normally warming the bench and also newcomers. New lad Matty Smith scored a beautifully worked try, that being his first try and surely not his last. Adam Cockburn added a further 2 and Joe Douthwaite 1. Finney converting 3 from 4, 1 being from the touch-line.

### **Billingham u9s v Guisborough u9s**

**Weather** Sunny and clear **Pitch conditions-** Generally in good condition, soft and muddy in places.

Billingham team were short by two players so Consett kindly lent us a couple of their players. Within a few minutes Guisborough were in control of the ball, nice short passes that led them to a try. They carried on playing like this and scored again. At first when Billingham had control of the ball they were struggling to get to the other end of the pitch as Guisboroughs defense were on form. Although Billingham did not score a try in the first half, by the time Guisborough scored a second try, Bilinghams defense tackling technique had improved and the boys seemed determined not to let the opposing team score again. In the second half the tackling skills shown by both teams were accurate and successful when bringing players down. Players were clearly aiming for the legs more confidently. Both teams had control of the ball and were nearly scoring but were unsuccessful as players were brought down. Right at the very end of the second half Guisborough try'd again, but both teams were very tired by this time. **Billingham 0 - Guisborough 3**

### **Billingham u9s v Consett u9s**

Both clubs did not have a full team, so the game was played with 6 players on each side. In the first half Billingham kept losing the ball due to forward passes, giving Consett a couple of opportunities of having control of the ball which led to them scoring try's. Billingham had a few good opportunities, got tackled and the player threw a forward pass in error as they were so near the try line. The tackles displayed in this game were accurate and low. One player bringing one player down successfully and confidently. Consett did get control of the ball a couple of times and players had an excellent run leaving Billingham behind. Billingham's Jackson Wardell scored 2 try's one of which he did an excellent dodge and ran away with ball to score. Consett's team showed some good short throws which overall led them to win. This was a good quick friendly match, good team spirits was shown all round. Both players, coaches and supporters were praising all players from both teams. **Billingham 2 - Consett 5**

## BILLINGHAM U14s 5 V GUISBROUGH U14s 10

Billingham U14s lost a close encounter against Guisborough at the weekend. In miserable conditions (freezing standing water, driving rain and a muddy pitch) both teams carried on from their encounter 3 weeks ago. Billingham were the victor on that occasion 12-5, but Guisborough reversed the result winning 10:5. Billingham scored early with a quick tap penalty 20 metres out by fly half Josh Armstrong, crashing through two tackles to score. Guisborough equalised just before half time and then battled on to score late in the second half for a deserved win. It's all set up for the decider in the spring!

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# *CHRISTMAS AT THE CLUB*

**THURSDAY 15th DECEMBER**

**7.30 pm**

**LIVE HARMONY DUO**

***SAPPHIRE***

***Tickets £3 ADULTS ONLY***

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**SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER**

**7.30 pm**

**CHRISTMAS DISCO**

**TICKETS £2 ON THE DOOR**

**ADULTS ONLY**

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**JUDGMENT DAY**

**TUESDAY 27th DECEMBER**

**LADS V DADS RUGBY**