



BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB
NEWS LETTER
“THE LION”



COMMUNITY RUGBY
ACTIVE SPORTS
SEAL OF APPROVAL

BILLINGHAM 1st XV RESULTS FOR JANUARY

Saturday, 21 January 2006 - Durham/N'thm'land 1

Billingham 25 - 29 Gateshead

Saturday, 14 January 2006 - Durham/N'thm'land 1

Billingham 15 - 13 Malton and Norton

Saturday, 7 January 2006 - Durham/N'thm'land 1

Consett 20 - 12 Billingham

Billingham 1st XV are away to Ryton this week, the last time the two teams played Billingham won 22 - 3.

D/HAM & NORTH/LAND	P	W	D	L	For	Against	Diff	Pts
DIV 1								
<u>Northern</u>	14	12	0	2	329	177	152	24
Malton and Norton	14	11	0	3	422	133	289	22
Horden	13	11	0	2	456	189	267	22
Gateshead	14	9	0	5	311	228	83	18
Billingham	14	7	0	7	300	305	-5	14
Consett	13	7	0	6	264	306	-42	14
Ponteland	14	6	1	7	326	267	59	13
North Shields	14	5	0	9	198	273	-75	10
Redcar	14	5	0	9	189	388	-199	10
Ryton	14	4	1	9	172	276	-104	9
Redcar	9	2	0	7	112	316	-204	4
West Hartlepool TDSOB	9	0	0	9	106	260	-154	0

West Hartlepool U12's (42) V Billingham U12's (14)

It was our first game after the Christmas break, training had been going well, the weather at west was good, sunny with just a slight chill but we were ready for this game. A toss of the coin between the captains of both teams decided who was to kick off, Billingham winning. The game started with determination on both sides with good defending, rucking and mauling, Billingham getting close to scoring but West Hartlepool's defence was just too good although Jack Chapman and Ben McWilliams made some good runs for Billingham. West Hartlepool managed to get possession of the ball and go over to put the first points on the board, this was to be the wake up call for Billingham with some good defence and attacking. Robbie Lavender doing his usual ripping the ball out of the mauls and crashing through to make some ground but West knew he was our danger player and targeting him made it difficult for him to make too much ground. Craig Errington playing scrum half had a good game and was communicating well with the forwards.

Half time West 28, Billingham 0

The second half started much the same as the first, but Billingham had got their second wind this half, with Conner Jones making a good run to make a score by the corner flag but was brought down in a football tackle by a west player, this resulted in a penalty try being given to us. West went over with another 2 tries good defence and attack and good ball handling by the Billingham boys gave Phill Ayton chance to go over with another try for Billingham converted by Craig Errington, good game refereed well, well done boys.

Reported by Barbara Lavender.

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Chairman's Message

Discipline

Unfortunately in recent weeks there has been an escalation in the number of discipline issues within the club. Whilst the club is striving to achieve our goal of becoming one of the leading family club's in the country, we are being undermined by irresponsible, selfish behaviour both on and off the pitch. There have been players sent off over the last few weeks from the 1st XV, the touchline and junior teams. Notices will be posted this weekend highlighting these events and the action that the club is taking. Due to issues earlier in the season where we were the victim of abuse and discrimination and disproportionate sanctions, we find ourselves under the watching eye of the County and the RFU; if we are to succeed in our goals then now is the time for us to be seen to be better than the rest.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the position of the club in that abuse of any sort towards officials, guests or members will NOT be tolerated. For clarification, if you are a member of this club, the RFU does not differentiate between players or non-players - the laws are the same! In order to eradicate indiscipline and abusive behaviour, the club will impose sanctions over and above that passed down by the RFU; and where necessary may result in a total ban from the club.

I would urge all members, whether a spectator, a player; senior or junior, a coach or a parent, to promote the values of this club and behave accordingly.

Forthcoming Events

I look forward to meeting many of you this evening at our second annual Burns Night Supper. Having attended last year I am looking forward to it, but not necessarily to training, tomorrow morning.

Next Friday is our first Quiz and Turn Your Cards Night. We intend for this to be a regular event, initially monthly and then hopefully more frequent. It's £2 on the door and food will be available for purchase during the evening. It's our first event so we are a little unsure on numbers so please turn up early to avoid disappointment. There are significant cash prizes for the quiz and for the Turn Your Cards game, so it should be well worth going. Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Keith Blenkinsopp and John Ker who have worked tirelessly over recent weeks, attending disciplinary hearings, contacting individuals and transporting them here and there. Also to Mick Wilson your Members Liaison Officer who has helped in the process.

Communication

I sent the last Lion out by e-mail to all the members for whom I have an e-mail address. I will be doing the same with this publication. If you do not receive a copy from me, then send me your e-mail address to markatstoneville@aol.com.

Mark

Billingham 2nds V Yarm 1st

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REPORTS
FOR
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Taking to the field on a freezing cold day it was difficult to see how the young Biling-
ham backs handling skills could be used. A biting wind meant fingers with no feeling
and the risk of pulled muscles. Coul showed the way early in the first half with a su-
perb running catch around his ankles from a clever Yarm punt. The drive which fol-
lowed almost led to a Bilingham score but the very experienced Yarm pack managed
to kill the ball and from the resulting scrum cleared. Bell was pinged for boring at the
scrum although many thought it was only his superior strength, Yarm converted the
subsequent penalty. A superb try followed featuring all of the young backs with Clarke
racing through to touch down. 5 - 3

Billingham pressed hard but seemed unable to break down the experienced Yarm side
until a long pass out from a ruck gave Westcough some space. Yarm advanced and he
showed all his experience putting in a tremendous up and under. Keane raced through,
jumped for the Ball and managed to get hands on it unfortunately he was no match for
the second row he jumped against but it was a great move to try again.

Then Screen took a huge kick and returned over half way and set Westall off who
skinned the defence and touched down. Well we all saw it but the ref did not and disal-
lowed a good try. (No criticism of the ref but the blistering runs from the backs made it
difficult to keep up Clarke brought the half to an end with a difficult penalty which
was well taken.

Half Time Yarm 6 Bilingham 8

All the Bilingham forwards seemed keen to drive the ball and Jinx and Brown and
Scott produced a good workmanlike display in freezing conditions.

Billingham's pack had dominated and when Willis came on for Jinx, Tennent for
Brown and Bromley for Keane Yarm must have wondered when the pressure would
relent. A back row of Daley, Youdale and McQuillen seemed to be everywhere with
all three everywhere and some great work from "Quill" at the base of the scrum.

The forwards were in the ascendancy with some great driving mauls giving the two
"senior" backs Westcough and Woodhouse a chance to display some real playmaking.
Billingham could have been out of site if cold hands had not meant dropped ball but
the lines and angles looked good for the future. Then came a huge driving maul and
Bates came off his wing to add weight with five to go and took the ball over for a try.
Yarm retaliated with another penalty to close the gap to 6 - 13

McQuillen picked from the base and as he did throughout the game blasted away well
over the gain line on the blind side. A great weighted pass set Woodhouse away on a
weaving run and a last ditch tackle Over / short of the line. Bromley came storming up
to take the ball and drop in over the line for a try. 18 - 9

Another great kick from Yarm's Dave Turner saw the deficit reduced to six points and
Bell with an injury meant the return of Jinx who once again went about his work as
usual no flash just hard graft. Yarm must once again have been sickened as Jinx, Bell
and Willis had all tortured their opposing props and to see a refreshed Jinx back on
their heads went down. With the game poised Westcough picked an injury and was
replaced by Potts which let the backs a little light in numbers but with what now turned
out to be a back row of Daley, McQuillen, Youdale, Bromley, Scott and Potts Yarm's
attacks were easily stifled and when Bilingham gained possession Woodhouse went
looking for Willis, Tennent and the rest of the forwards to "shove the ball up their
shirts" The game was played out with Bilingham in control and although Yarm scored
twelve points they never really looked like crossing the line.

Full Time Yarm 12 Bilingham 18

Spectators comment. It was **!?!?.** cold but a good flowing game despite the freezing
conditions making handling difficult.

Reporters comment Another great team performance with a rousing team talk prior to
the kick off by Daley lifting the boys. A special mention must also go to Chris Ker and
Barry MCGrath who encouraged the team, ran the bench throughout the game, drank
 piping hot soup (we never got any) and gave constructive advice to the play-
ers.....and that's what we need thanks guys

BARRY WOODHOUSE

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Billingham U16s 20 v Durham City U16s 0

A fine bright morning at Billingham, and today Durham were the visitors to Greenwood Road. We had beaten Durham at the start of the season and expected a tougher game today after they had had more match practice. From the kick off we had Durham under pressure, and kept them in their own half. After ten minutes we scored the first try, Danny Dixon picked up from the back of a ruck to power over from 10 metres out. The wet, muddy conditions made it difficult for both teams to pass the heavy ball around. Billingham kept on the offensive and Durham defended well until, from a scrum on halfway, the ball was passed out to Anth Hyndman who ran through to score in the corner.

In the second half Billingham brought Andrew Sidney into fly half, Anth Kelsey making way for Anth Hyndman to move back into the centre. James Watson came on for Danny Dixon. This gave Billingham the fresh legs to put Sayers in for a try under the posts. Billingham kept the pressure on, and Durham were kept in their own half defending for long spells. Danny Dixon returned to the field for Jono Hill. Watson took the ball up from a penalty on the half way line to put Dixon over for Billingham's fourth. Jimmy Moutrey played his first game of rugby on the wing, and he would have got a try if he had put the ball down after crossing the try line. A good game, with Durham playing their part in making it entertaining.

Man of the match today was picked by the Durham Coach and was our Captain Anth Hyndman.

Durham U13's 0 Billingham U13's 41

Billingham's boys put on a superb display today against Durham, despite the absence of some key players. Good support play in the opening minutes took the opposition by surprise and gave Matty Smith the chance to put in a quick try. Scrum-half Cole Henderson made a break minutes later, picking the ball out of the scrum and scoring by the corner flag. Joe Douthwaite followed this up to take the score to 15 nil at half time.

In the second half Andy Thompson charged down a kick from Durham's defence and captain Stuart Adnett scored a neat try. Joe Douthwaite got his second of the match, as did Cole Henderson. Conor Shea put in an excellent try from a long run, whilst fighting off persistent Durham defence. Mark Brewis, standing in at fly-half, converted the last three tries. Today's man of the match was Matty Smith

C Brewis reporting

West Hartlepool U13's 5 Billingham U13's 27

This was a much better-drilled West Hartlepool side than the one Billingham met earlier in the season and for much of the first half they applied the pressure and held Billingham back. However it wasn't long before Tom Kill made one of his typical breaks; he broke free from ten metres inside his own half and sprinted the length of the pitch to score under the posts. A second try for Billingham came soon after when Mark Brewis took a swift penalty and touched it down. At half time the score was 10 nil to Billingham.

Tom Kill made a break early in the second half and scored his second try, converted by Danny Finney. Finney then scored a drop goal and Tom Kill another try, converted by Mark Brewis. West Hartlepool continued to press and were rewarded with a try just before full time. Well done to Sean Wallace who was given Man of the Match for Billingham.

C Brewis reporting

Billingham 2nds V Acklam

With Willis back in the firsts and Woodhouse unavailable Billingham fielded almost the same side that defeated YARM.

The game started well when Tennent picked up and set off down the touchline for the first try 5-0. Acklam came back hard and a kick into our half saw Screen make a great catch and switch move with Clarke who sprinted towards the Acklam pack, put in a massive Gary Owen and retrieve his own kick to touch down 10-0. Following great lineout play a driving maul saw Bell go over in the corner and when Daley dummied and set Bates away for a long distance try the writing was on the wall at 20-0.

The final try of the half seemed to involve everyone at some point and when Potts, Youdale and Parsons drew in the Acklam pack Keene set Westall off on one of his 40 yarders which Westcough converted.

Half Time Billingham 2nds 27 Acklam 0

Parsons was replaced by Coull and immediately set about running over the Acklam forwards.

Acklam formed a ruck just in Billingham's half but allowed the ball to come out; Westcough picked up and ran from 50 metres (yes 50 metres) to flop down over the line 32-0.

Burnett replaced Westall as Billingham pressed hard again with Potts setting up a driving maul for Scott to touch down 37-0. Billingham won a scrum against the head and McQuillen set off blind popped to Daley who popped to Screen who raced in the corner. Billingham pressed and a ruck on the five metres saw Daley pop to McQuillen who is unstoppable from that range 47-0

Stewart replaced Screen whose first job was to tackle Gav Hora who volunteered to play for the opposition and put in a very good performance at loose head. Scott Thompson replaced Youdale who along with Potts had spent all day knocking over Acklam players, Scott carried on in the same vane, another one from our youth development program fitting in with the rest. We do not see many breakaway tries from hookers but Scott got his second from 50 metres. What made it better was his support runner was Scott Hutchinson who really looked up for it in the front row 52-0. Westcough came off injured but Billingham down to fourteen were undeterred and with only five to go decided to finish short.

The final try was yet another classic, phase after phase saw Billingham move up the park just into Acklam 22 with the big men fanning left and right and the backs set up Acklam were all over trying to defend. Then McQuillen came bursting through on a superb angle with power and speed to touch down. Clark finished the game kicking the final conversion

Full Time Billingham 2nds 59 Acklam 0

Spectators comment. WOW some great stuff there it wasn't that Acklam were that bad we just blasted them away (and didn't stop when ahead).

Reporters comment. Another tribute to Billingham Rugby played in the true spirit of the game by all of the squad and what a buzz in the changing rooms after the game. (When the crate of beer arrived)

My Man of the Match The whole squad for a great team performance

Billingham U15's VS Blaydon U15's

The match was literally a "Game of two Halves" for Billingham. Early on in the first half Billingham were pressurising well but after a slight knock-on Blaydon capitalized and scored a break away try. The Billingham forwards played brilliantly in the tight throughout the game, and the front row won nearly every put-in at the scrum. The first half carried on in this way with Blaydon scoring another two breakaway tries and converting one of them. After this Billingham picked up their game and the backs started to play well. We went into half time with the score at: **Blaydon 17 – 0 Billingham.**

The second half saw Billingham "Wake Up," within seconds Jack Smith made a fantastic break with James Gray supporting who dived over the line to score. Unfortunately the very hard conversion was just missed by Danny Brown. Again the Billingham forwards dominated and performed the perfect rolling maul down the touchline, it was that good even the Blaydon supporters clapped. Billingham scored the next try through Ben Elgie. Mikey Best won a scrum against the head and Danny Brown made a break. Ben supported and ran under the posts to score Billingham's second try. This was converted by Danny. Billingham scored another try shortly after this when Dale Thompson made one of his signature ten-metre dashes and offloaded to Callum Cranston, a ruck then formed and the ball was passed to the backs. From here Ben ran round the Blaydon players and scored just to the right hand side of the posts. Danny converted to put Billingham ahead by two points. Unfortunately after a rare loss of a scrum from Billingham (even though it was Blaydon's put-in) their winger crossed the line for the last score of the game.

Final Score: **Blaydon 22 – 19 Billingham.**

A brilliant game from all the lads and it has to be one of our best performances this season.

Reported by David Reay

Under 9's Match Report

West Hartlepool U9s - Billingham U9s

Pitch conditions- Muddy, weather fair

Billingham started with 9 players but within a couple of minutes a player was removed due to a back injury. So even with a team of 8 players Jackson Wardell scored the first try for Billingham within the first few minutes. West Hartlepool soon went on to score, followed by Billingham's George Baker. Both teams were keen and tackling skills from both teams were excellent. Billingham's Jackson Wardell obtained the ball a couple of times and displayed some good dodges and runs leaving West Hartlepool behind to score two good tries. Combination of good tackles from George Baker, Joshua Moffat, Harry Burgum, Robert Colley, Jackson Wardell and Ben Fox prevented Hartlepool of being control of the ball. Hartlepool showed great determination to increase their score but a try was disallowed by a player coming off line.

First half the score West Hartlepool 1- Billingham 4.

In the second half West Hartlepool were in control of the ball straight away, players displaying some excellent runs and dodging techniques and successfully scored a try. Billingham's defense lapsed a bit as Hartlepool went on again to score another try the player concerned had a great run.

Billingham's defense and tackling skills started to improve, then they kept control of the ball displaying nice short passes where Ben Fox tried to score a try but it got disallowed as it wasn't on line.

Billingham Jackson Wardell and Joshua Moffat went on to score another two tries. Unfortunately West Hartlepool defense increased as Billingham's Jackson Wardell and George Baker then got two tries disallowed on line. Hartlepool team got control of the ball by throw in near to Billingham try line, Billingham tackled a player and successfully obtained the ball leading to Ben Fox successfully scoring the last try at the very end. Billingham displayed some good teamwork and spirit even though they were a player down.

Final score **West Hartlepool 3 - Billingham 8**

Billingham U16s 20 Gosforth U16s 7

Gosforth were the visitors to Greenwood Road today for our first game of the year. It was our opportunity for revenge after defeat in our last game at Bullocks Head. Gosforth had the upper hand for the first ten minutes and despite some good defensive work, took the lead with a try in the corner. This was converted well from the difficult angle. The remainder of the half was a pretty even contest, both sides battling hard on a heavy pitch. Both sets of forwards were tiring, but gradually Bingham started to get the better of Gosforth. With just minutes of the half remaining Bingham won a scrum on the Gosforth 22. James Watson at No 8 took the opportunity to pick and go, he ran past the fly half to score between the posts. Unfortunately the easy conversion was missed. Half time and we were behind 7 points to 5. The second half began well for Bingham and we kept Gosforth under pressure. From winning a lineout we mauled the ball forward, it came out to Danny Dixon who powered through to score in the corner. After taking the lead we grew in strength and confidence, and started to dominate the game. Danny Dixon got his second try after we won a scrum in the Gosforth half, No8 pick up was stopped, 2nd phase from the ruck saw the ball out to Danny who ran through to score. Bingham were now in total control of the game. Gosforth could not get the ball and were forced to defend their own 22 for the rest of the match. The final try came from a Gosforth defensive clearance kick, this was picked up by Phil McCarthy on the wing, he ran 20 metres before he was stopped, then he popped the ball up to Anth Kelsey who was supporting, to score in the corner. An even but fairly scrappy contest in the first half, but Bingham took control in the second to get back into winning ways. A great team effort this week, everyone worked really hard with no replacements available. Man of the match was flanker Dave Golden, never stopped running and working hard all game. Well done.

Billingham 2nds V Houghton

On the negative side circumstances meant that four of last weeks winning side were at long last given a well deserved first team place and Westcough was out injured. On the positive side Woodhouse was available and the thirds were champing to move up. Bingham could not have had a better start when Emery and Hutchinson drove into the heart of the opposition forwards. The ball went out and Screen came back inside looking for support. Quick ball saw Brown set off on a weaving run to touch down 5-0 Following the restart which didn't go ten Parsons wrapped up the catcher and both fell to the ground. The resulting scuffle saw Parsons binned for ten which was quite proper but maybe both players should have gone. This did not stop Bingham and Scott broke through popped to Woodhouse who ran into the opposition half before popping to Coull, classic run over everyone play and popping to Screen who touched down. The last pass was ruled forward and a classic move went unrewarded. Daley wearing number ten took the ball at a good angle and forced his way up to the 22 with Youdale and Potts in close support to form a ruck. Woodhouse picked up and as Houghton's defence thought the ball would be spun out he went for the gap to score under the posts. Burnett struck the conversion and Parsons returned to the field. 12-0

Half Time Bingham 2nds 12 - Houghton 0

There was no let up in the second half as Bingham attacked down both flanks through Screen and Bates and when Batesy joined a rolling maul opposition backs were also pulled in. This left the way clear for some clever interplay between Taylor and Westall to set Burnett off to score both the try and conversion. 19 - 0.

Following a sustained period of pressure and fierce tackling from Westall, Youdale and Potts, Daley decided to ring the changes. Brown was replaced by Reay, Woodhouse went to open side, Youdale went to second row and Screen went to scrum half. Not only did this prove the versatility and talent of the players it through the opposition into total confusion.

Bates was replaced by Stewart, Coull by Conlon and Emery by Hora all having given their all for the impending victory. The final change saw Scott replaced by Coggy and the pack reshuffled for the final time.

Bingham were unlucky not to increase the tally when Screen kicked through and Woodhouse and Reay hit the full back as one. The following ruck resulted in scrum to Houghton for trapped ball although it was visible on the Bingham side.

Bingham were tackling like demons throughout the game and forcing Houghton onto the back foot and Parsons putting them under real pressure in the line on their ball.

They tried a miss pass, which was well read by Woodhouse who ran from the ten metre line for an intercepted try which Burnett converted Full Time Bingham 2nds 26- Houghton 1e Spring 0

Scorers Tries.....Brown 1, Burnett 1, Woodhouse 2 ConsBurnett 3

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

Reporters comment. The defence was that good we only commented on the great tackles, the good ones are the norm. Thanks to Zav and Scott Thompson for doing the off field graft and of course our loyal band of travelling supporters B Woodhouse

CUP GAME Match Report Billingham 2nds V Darlington 2nds

On the negative side circumstances meant that Scott another of last weeks winning side was at long last given a well deserved first team place and Westcough was still out injured. On the positive side Jones returned at hooker and Burgum and Tommy Jinx pulled on the Billingham shirts. Daley went to eight, Brown returning to second row and Woodhouse moving to outside half meant a real shuffle with five past scrum halves starting.

Darlo expected to bulldoze Billingham but they had not allowed for the excellent game plan and spirited defence put up by the boys.

After fifteen minutes they finally scored with a well-taken penalty much to the delight of their supporters. 3 - 0 Billingham came back almost immediately with a rolling maul set up by Potts, Youdale and Daley driving deep into Darlo's twenty two. Bates joined from the wing given a greater impetus, Burgum having directed the drive went in as Woodhouse came in from fly half to take over at the back. With the opposition expecting to be stretched by Keenan, Westall and Screen Woodhouse tagged on the back giving the final push to touch down. 3 - 5

On the half hour Darlington added to their score with superb handling finally breaching the Billingham defence 8 - 5.

It was nip and tuck for the rest of the half with Darlington's well-drilled moves being snuffed out by ferocious tackling by all of the Billingham players.

Jinx almost scored dazzling the opposition, throwing dummy after dummy and making a four hundred yard gain (well nearer thirty) and only a last gasp hit prevented a touchdown.

On thirty eight minutes Coull was happy to get a run and took play into the other half, Burgum raced up with Woodhouse and Westall to the right and Hutchinson to the left.

Darlo drifted to cover and Hutchy took the ball at speed racing thirty-five metres for a touchdown.

Half Time Darlington 8 - Billingham 2nds 10

There was no let up in the second half as both sides attacked and the game was finely balanced when Darlington drove over on the blind 13 - 10

Burnett replied when a well-worked move saw Billingham awarded a penalty. 13 - 13

Billingham felt aggrieved when a Darlington player took a massive hit off Bates and knocked on. Showing his frustration he threw the ball at the injured Billingham player and kicked out, fortunately missing. The referee did not however see this and no action was taken, an easy three points would have been on offer in a very tight game.

Darlington kicked another penalty to take the lead again in this see saw game 16 - 13

Taylor came on for Bates and in a carbon copy of the first try Burnett went over 16 - 18

Billingham were tackling like demons throughout the game and forcing Darlington onto the back foot putting them under real pressure in the scrum

With the last play of the game Darlington spread the ball out wide to steal the game 21 - 18

Full Time Darlington 21 - Billingham 2nds 18

Scorers Tries..... Woodhouse 1, Hutchinson 1, Burnett 1 + 1 Penalty

Darlington Spectators/ players comments. We were lucky there; we thought it would be a fifty pointer. You have a great set of players

Reporters comment. It was a big challenge to take on such a well-drilled side, our lads were tremendous and we could have won it. Thanks to the rest of the bench who never went on, Mick Conlon for his touchline coaching, Wagger for keeping his post match speech to twenty-five minutes, our loyal band of travelling supporters and Tommy Jinx for the play and dummies of the day.

B Woodhouse