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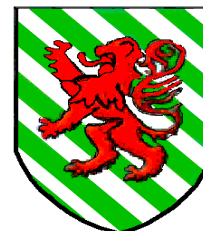
**CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT
SAFETY & CLUB SECURITY**

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Thank-you



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RUGBY CLUB
NEWS LETTER
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**SATURDAY 10th MARCH 3pm
DURHAM INTERMEDIATE CUP
BILLINGHAM 1st V DURHAM CITY 1st
SPONSORED BY PHARMACY 365**

**BILLINGHAM 2nds V DIDSBURY
2.15pm KICK OFF**

ACKLAM V BILLINGHAM 3rds

Date						Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	Pts
03 March 2007	Alnwick	17	V	36	Billingham	1	Gateshead	19	16	0	3	645	272	373	32
03 March 2007	Ponteland	36	V	5	North Shields	2	Sunderland	19	16	0	3	490	228	262	32
03 March 2007	Redcar	26	V	17	Gosforth	3	Northern	19	16	0	3	461	246	215	32
03 March 2007	Ryton	7	V	43	Gateshead	4	Billingham	19	13	0	6	690	251	439	26
03 March 2007	Stockton	27	V	11	Consett	5	Alnwick	19	9	0	10	415	322	93	18
03 March 2007	Sunderland	19	V	10	Northern	6	Ponteland	19	8	1	10	336	353	-17	17
						7	Redcar	19	7	2	10	319	485	-166	16
						8	Stockton	19	6	2	11	381	392	-11	14
						9	Consett	19	7	0	12	289	452	-163	14
						10	Ryton	18	6	1	11	253	434	-181	13
						11	Gosforth	18	6	0	12	333	416	-83	12
						12	North Shields	19	0	0	19	127	888	-761	0

* Denotes Points have been deducted

**COLTS 4TH FEB
WORKINGTON 0
BILLINGHAM 27
M.O.N PETER EVANS**

ISSUE 17 VOL 5

BILLINGHAM 1st XV 14 v SUNDERLAND 16 24/02/07

A first team recall for Alan Fairhurst and Paul Bromley and a bench of Durnion, Scott, Stewart and Woodhouse looked to have enough to take a win from this vital promotion game having already gone down to Gateshead and Northern earlier in the season

Sunderland were determined to put Billingham under pressure from the start in less than ideal conditions for our open game.

After nine minutes quick ball saw M. Evans complete a great run in to touch down. 7-0. Billingham could have added to the score when Shepard broke clear and Garbutt was pulled back as he went to collect the pass. The game was played around the opposition twentytwo and Dave Robinson raced to a breakdown to whip the ball out to the backs to Tennent who sprinted in 14-0. The pattern of the game was changing and Billingham seemed to be slowed down by Sunderland forward play and we produced nothing but slow ball for our backs to really have a go at. Sunderland built up pressure and eventually scored a push over try 14-7. On thirty two minutes a penalty was slipped over to reduce their deficit to four points.

HALF TIME BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 14 v SUNDERLAND 10

Sunderland continued to slow up the play in the second half not giving our backs any chance of clean runs and a further two successful penalties saw them take the lead. Tennent had to leave the field with fifteen minutes left having struggled for breath following a blow to the throat and was replaced by Durnion. Stewart came on and we hoped the double sub would free up ball. More spoiling tactics followed and the one quick ball saw Shepherd race clear and a clever grubber kick was touched down by his brother. Unfortunately he was ruled just offside, no try. With five minutes to go A Evans was replaced by Woodhouse and although Billingham pressed we were unable to cross the line to take the points we needed.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS Darlington Building Society.

Scorer tries: C Tennent 1, M.Evans Kicks: Conversions J Evans 2

Club news. Hutchinson looks to be out for the season,

Willis will need treatment for a rib injury and was unable to play

Supporters comment. We need to concentrate on the cup now and raise our game to the levels we all know we are capable of.

Good performance by the Seconds narrowly beaten away by a strong West Stags side. Well done the Thirds beating Seaton RUFC away.

6.30pm
EVERY FRIDAY
IS OLD FARTS
RUGBY

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St Paddy's Night Saturday 17th March All welcome

*Get ready people, for a full day of Rugby.
Watch the 1st and 3rd teams play against
Stockton at home.*

*Then watch the 6 nations – viewing all 3
International matches
(England kick off 5.30)*

*Evening entertainment (after 6 nations):
Disco and 'Play Your Cards Right'
£500 jack Pot'*

Food will be available.

*Snug Bar Strictly Over 18's
Please adhere to club policy:
No alcohol to be consumed by under 18's*

ALNWICK v BILLINGHAM 1st XV 3 March 2007

Our longest trip north proved to be a long one with accidents on the A1 and A19. Woodhouse had returned to scrum half, A. Evans moved to full back and a very sound debut for Watson Billingham looked a little jaded from the journey as Alnwick scored in the opening minutes. Billingham moved back up the park and a long lineout throw from Amos to Dave Robinson then a pop and miss move to Stewart who found the gap at pace to set Garbutt away for a try which J. Evans Converted 7 – 7. It was nip and tuck throughout the rest of the first half with Fairhurst and Danny Robbo having to pull out all the stops against their front row until a miss move saw Tennent go over in the corner. Daley and Watson tackled furiously as Alnwick pressed and eventually kicked a penalty almost right in front of the posts for the final play of the half.

Half Time Alnwick 10 v BILLINGHAM 12

After the turn around the home side were surprised by some great forward play driving them back and fast hands in our backs proved to much as M. Evans took the ball in under the posts. C. Shepherd replaced A. Evans and Bromley replaced Daley as we pummelled their line resulting in a try from P. Shepherd. Alnwick moved up the field from the kick off allowing their very experienced pack to score from a rolling maul. Billingham started to switch the play from side to side rapidly and gaps were starting to appear in a tiring Alnwick defence when Woodhouse stayed down following a massive ruck having combined with Dalton and driven Alwick off the ball. The resulting injury saw J. Evans go to nine with Hyndman at ten. With almost his first touch Hyndman found a gap and raced through to put Garbutt in for his second. In the dying minutes Watson showed experience beyond his years at the base of the scrum passing to J.Evans who put C. Shepherd in for a try.

FULL TIME ALNWICK 17 v BILLINGHAM 1st XV 36

Team News Woodhouse (Broken leg again) joins Hutchinson out for the season but Sheps ankle looks OK

Reporters comment: - Our Team did well against a very experienced opposition often going backwards for a great win and guaranteed fourth place in the league which I think is our highest position ever.

Alnwick coach comment. Definitely the best team we have played!!!!!!

**Tries: Garbutt 2, Tennent 1, M.Evans 1 C. Shepard 1 P. Shepherd 1
J. Evans Conversions 3**

Best wishes to Craig Willis from all at Billingham Rugby Club

Billingham 35 Rovers 0

Another cold day for the Billingham U-11's to run around in; and run around they did, with clear results. Hartlepool are just starting out again with this squad and they put up a good defence despite their inexperience.

Billingham forwards were very strong in the rucks and mauls and won the ball nearly every time, a short pass out to the back line was the only effort needed for the backs to run the ball over for 2 clear tries in the first half, both converted out of the park.

The second 10 mins saw Billingham cruising to Rovers goal line 3 times, two of which were easy runs through by the backs. The 3rd was more impressive as a Billingham back managed to charge down a clearance kick from behind the Rovers goal line and fell on the ball to score. Another clean conversion sealed the scoring at 35-0 and the Billingham lads go home happy, and Rovers take home a little more experience.

Billingham U14's 44 Durham U14's 5

Billingham U14's got off to an early lead in this home fixture, with Jake Day making one of his classic breaks to score a try in the opening minutes. He put in his second try moments later, when the backs were presented with an opportunity to pass the ball along to line to Jake. Durham then decided to apply some pressure and play relocated to predominantly to the Billingham half. Play lingered on the Billingham line and eventually Durham drove over to score. The Billingham boys responded to this lapse on their behalf with two more tries before half time from Jake Day. At half time the score stood at 20:5 to Billingham.

The second half began with Durham looking frustrated and Billingham capitalised on their chances. Tom Kill put in a try in the corner and Mark Brewis converted. Billingham were now in the ascendancy and tries followed from Tom Kill, Sam Ferguson and Conor Shea, (the latter converted by Mark Brewis). Man of the match for Billingham's forwards was Sam Ferguson and Stuart Adnett for the backs.

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Semi-final of the County Cup:

Billingham U14's 10

v

Hartlepool MOANERS (Rovers)U14's 5

The pressure was on Billingham U14's today, to qualify for the final of the County Cup, to defend their title of the last two seasons. Play began in the Rovers' half with Billingham unable to make their usual breaks, due to strong defending by Rovers. Despite Rovers dominating the scrum they couldn't get past Billingham to score and made a mistake 20 minutes in, allowing Jake Day to score a try following a penalty kick. The score line remained tight, with 5 points to nil to Billingham at half time.

Rovers' attempts to break free at the beginning of the second half were thwarted each time with Billingham regaining possession. Any gain in ground was fiercely contested by both sides and eventually Tom Kill snatched the ball convincingly to place it over the line. Billingham had a player sin-binned and had to continue with 14 men. Rovers capitalised on their advantage and managed a try just before the final whistle.

The final score of 10:5 to Billingham reflected Billingham's performance on the day but not their potential. Several players let themselves down by flouting the club code of conduct and showing a lack of respect for the referee and rising to what can only be described as the continual provocation from the Rovers' supporters. The Hartlepool Rovers boys provided Billingham with good opposition for this cup semi-final. Man of the match for Billingham goes to Daniel Sanderson.

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Top Point Scores

	Player	Team	Cons	Pens	DG	Tries	Pts
1	David Kell	Gateshead	41	36	0	4	210
2	Joe Evans	Billingham	63	11	0	9	204
3	Jeremy Good	Stockton	27	36	0	2	172
4	Sean Bellon	Sunderland	28	19	0	9	158
5	Robin Weston	Gosforth	17	19	2	2	107
6	Craig Shepherd	Billingham	0	0	0	20	100
7	Christopher Naylor	Gateshead	0	0	0	18	90
8	Paul Shepherd	Billingham	0	0	0	18	90
9	Richard McCartney	Northern	15	15	2	1	86
10	Graeme Turnbull	Ponteland	18	14	1	0	81

Top Try Scores

	Player	Team	Cons	Pens	DG	Tries	Pts
1	Craig Shepherd	Billingham	0	0	0	20	100
2	Christopher Naylor	Gateshead	0	0	0	18	90
3	Paul Shepherd	Billingham	0	0	0	18	90
4	Chris Hyndman	Billingham	0	0	0	13	65
5	Chris Owen	Ponteland	0	0	0	12	60
6	David Tate	Gateshead	0	0	0	12	60
7	Matt Steele	Gosforth	0	0	0	11	55
8	Stephen Kay	Northern	0	0	0	11	55
9	David OSullivan	Northern	0	0	0	10	50
10	Alick Garbutt	Billingham	0	0	0	9	45

Team Form

	Player	Team	Cons	Pens	DG	Tries	Pts
1	David Kell	Gateshead	41	36	0	4	210
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Billingham 14 - Mowden Park 36

“A game of 2 halves” is a most appropriate description of the events at Darlington Mowden Park RFC this Sunday. A switched-on Billingham opened well against a team they have not beaten since this U-11s team was the U-9s team that won the County Cup at Darlington. The forwards were most impressive against a very strong Mowden pack, winning the ruck 80% of the time, giving the scrum half lots of opportunities to feed out to the backs. Many times these breaks were stopped by equally determined Mowden forwards and it was Mowden who were the first to win through for the try.

Billingham came straight back with the backs taking the ball from the maul again and feeding straight out, on this wide pitch, Mowden could do little to stop them. With a clean conversion, the visitors took the lead. Billingham's next success came from a penalty after a wildly high tackle, with the scrum half making a wise choice to feed out again rather than try and push through the Mowden pack. Another conversion and Billingham were all smiles with only minutes of the 1st half left. But it was not to be, Mowden caught a now too relaxed Billingham off guard and scored and converted on the half time whistle.

Billingham were deservedly happy with the match thus far, but a disastrous second half, with missed tackles and basic mistakes let DMP come back with no less than 4 further tries and a conversion, to turn what looked like a well played win for Billingham, into the more usual Mowden victory.

With the County Cup looming large, Billingham need to regain that 1st half confidence and organisation if they want to recapture the Silverware at Darlington.