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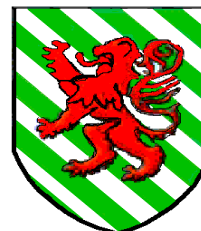
**CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT
SAFETY & CLUB SECURITY**

Please, for the safety of our children and security of club and personal property, adhere to the following announcement.

After training and playing matches, please could all children remain in the main room of the clubhouse.

Playing football on the car-park or behind the clubhouse will no longer be tolerated. This is for the safety of our children, and reduces the risk of damage to personal and club property.

Thank-you



**BILLINGHAM
RUGBY CLUB
NEWS LETTER**
“THE LION”



BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB
BAR MEALS, SUNDAY CARVERY, SKY SPORTS LARGE
SCREEN TV. FUNCTION ROOM FOR HIRE.
01642 563057 www.billinghamrugby.co.uk

SATURDAY 17th MARCH 3pm
BILLINGHAM 1st
v
STOCKTON
SPONSORED BY
THE KITTEN CLUB

STOCKTON V BILLINGHAM 2nds
BILLINGHAM 3rds V STOCKTON

RECENT RESULTS

Saturday, 10 March 2007

Gosforth 8 - 22 Ryton

Saturday, 03 March 2007

Alnwick 17 - 36 Billingham
Ponteland 36 - 5 North Shields
Redcar 26 - 17 Gosforth
Ryton 7 - 43 Gateshead
Stockton 27 - 11 Consett
Sunderland 19 - 10 Northern

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Gateshead	19	16	0	3	645	272	373	32
Sunderland	19	16	0	3	490	228	262	32
Northern	19	16	0	3	464	246	218	32
Billingham	19	13	0	6	690	249	441	26
Alnwick	19	9	0	10	415	322	93	18
Ponteland	19	8	1	10	336	353	-17	17
Redcar	19	7	2	10	319	488	-169	16
Ryton	19	7	1	11	275	442	-167	15
Stockton	19	6	2	11	381	392	-11	14
Consett	19	7	0	12	287	452	-165	14
Gosforth	19	6	0	13	341	438	-97	12
NJ Shields	19	0	0	19	127	888	-761	-2

ISSUE 18 VOL 5

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BILLINGHAM SENIOR TEAMS 10th March 2007

With Internationals, Cup games and a Touring side it was difficult to decide which game to watch.

Enforced changes had to be made to the side which blew Alnwick away last week through injury and availability. We saw Willis make a timely return to the front row as Fairhurst was on international duty, Watson unavailable and a debut on the bench for Anth Hyndman.

Our cup run came to an end against a Durham City side that really should not have been in contention. A Durham side that were made to look ineffective by our defensive line punished those little errors which normally teams at this level get away with. They did however score on the few occasions which the opportunity presented itself. Hyndman made his debut and defended well although due to the nature of the game we saw little of his attacking potential. The Sheps and Garbutt were starved of the quick ball they need to really shine and this cost us dear in a close run game which would and should have seen us in the final.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

PHARMACY 365

However on a brighter note the seconds played a very good Didsbury side from Manchester area and we saw some great play despite the absence of Finbar and being encouraged by Bri Westcough acting manager (we think). Scott (the Geordie not the Thompson) played a captains game roving all over the park looking for action until moving to hooker following an injury to Conlon. Stewart coming in at full back did some sterling work in defence. This game was nip and tuck until the last fifteen minutes when Screen and Sayers combined and a stunning angled run by Westall saw a very good try scored. Didsbury seemed to be feeling the effects of what looked a very sharp Billingham side (or maybe the night before) and wilted under the barrage from Schiller, Fern and Nelson and a couple of late tries sealed the victory. Scott (the Thompson not the Geordie) came on late in the game not expecting to play had to go home for his boots replaced Guz

The normal??????? Post match tourist stuff happened after the game

BUT AS WE KNOW WHAT GOES ON TOUR STAYS ON TOUR

Footnote only pride to play for now but we have seen probably one of our most successful seasons given the level of competition.

First Team Forwards coach comment (Barry McGrath)... If you had given him more milk when he was little he would not have been injured.

St Paddy's Night

Sat 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:

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ALL THE CRAIC FROM CROKE PARK

It was a touch past 7am on Friday 23rd February and myself (Paul Kirby), Paul Routh and Simon Baker were at Newcastle Airport awaiting our imminent departure to Dublin for 'The Game' of this years Six Nations Tournament, Ireland v England at Croke Park. We were soon informed of a short delay of half an hour, which we put to good use. So at 8.15am we boarded the Ryanair plane, following a breakfast of a couple of pints of Guinness with gin & tonic chasers. This set the tone for the weekend to come.

Having arrived in Dublin we had a smooth transfer to the city centre via the airport shuttle bus. However, there was an element of panic upon approaching our B&B (The Celtic Lodge), as it was covered in scaffolding and plastic sheeting! Following a few more pints of the 'black stuff' in Temple Bar, at pubs such as the famous Oliver St. John Gogarty, we decided to indulge in some Irish cuisine and headed for Gallacher's Boxy House for a full Irish breakfast (just the ticket!). We spent a cultural afternoon by trying to find the Holy Grail (the perfect pint of Guinness), whilst making a rather staggered return to our digs via various hostelries. We decided to have a quick one (or was it two or perhaps three?) in the pub adjoining our accommodation 'The Celt'. Here we got chatting to the barmen and a few of the locals and eventually the owner arrived. He asked if we were going to the game and did we have tickets. We informed him we certainly did have tickets, to which he joked 'I'll be after them later'. We replied, 'Of course, you must have a master key?' 'I don't need a master key', he replied, and then simulated the action of kicking our room door in! Needless to say the tickets stayed on my person following this veiled threat.

In contrast the evening was spent in slightly more refined surroundings at a charming little French bistro 'Chez Max'. Various Gaelic offerings such as snails, moules etc. were washed down with a couple of tempters off the wine list. At this point we were wondering about the effects of the day's combination of food & beverages and how it would all turn out in the wash!

Anyway, match day arrived and we arranged to meet Keith Blenkinsopp and a couple of his mates from work in a pub round the corner called Sean O'Caseys, which was an Irish pub I think. We discovered from some of the locals that the bookmakers were actually paying out on an Ireland win prior to kick off (the cheek of it!). There were also rumors that there had been a bomb scare at last weekend's fixture Ireland v France and talk of a protest and potential trouble at this week's game. An opportunistic salesman then entered the bar selling various forms of Irish regalia. Keith (who I believe formerly played in the second row) and one of his mates decided to play it safe and bought matching hat & scarves to blend in with the home support. For which, I might say, he took plenty of stick!

The security getting into the ground was tight to say the least; however we eventually made our way to the upper level of the Hogan Stand. The view of Croke Park under the floodlights was breathtaking and a sight that will live long in the memory. As the teams ran out onto the pitch there was a crescendo of noise and the terracing, known as 'The Hill' was a sight to behold. The National Anthems were both sang with passion and impeccably respected by both sets of supporters, despite media predictions before the game.

Despite Wilkinson's early penalty the result was never really in doubt. The Irish had the game wrapped up at half-time 23-3, even though a contentious yellow card for Grewcock led to 14 of these points late on in the first half. A brief riposte by England came early in the second half with a try for new boy Strettle and resultant conversion from an impossible angle by Wilkinson. However, Ireland were stronger in all departments and O'Gara kicked impeccably all afternoon, as Ireland ran in another two tries to make the final score 43-13. Despite the loss I felt privileged to be there and will never forget the booming Irish voices singing 'The Fields of Avenrie' as the rain fell down on a packed Croke Park.

	Points	Scored	League	Games	Games	League
	For	Against	Points	Played	To-Date	Position
Stockton Saracens	209	129	25	9	14	1
Horden II	133	17	20	8	11	2
Billingham II	66	64	12	5	5	3
West Hartlepool Stags	98	104	12	6	8	3
Middlesbrough Wasps	94	47	11	4	5	5
Hartlepool Rovers II	47	75	5	4	5	6
Mowden Park III	5	41	3	1	2	7
Darlington III	21	31	2	2	4	8
Northallerton II	10	41	2	2	2	8
Redcar Mariners	7	74	1	1	4	10
Hartlepool Athletic I	0	0	0	0	0	11
	Points	Scored	League	Games	Games	League
	For	Against	Points	Played	To-Date	Position
Yarm II	632	284	61	20	23	1
Guisborough II	499	231	57	18	23	2
Hartlepool II	696	202	57	17	21	2
Acklam Talbots	492	257	56	20	24	4
Middlesbrough III	575	109	52	16	20	5
Horden Yackers	337	154	41	14	19	6
Stocktonians	291	322	35	14	22	7
Seaton Carew II	295	659	32	17	19	8
Wensleydale I	258	514	32	17	21	8
Billingham III	203	289	22	11	13	10
Redcar III	151	407	19	13	16	11
West H. Amateur I	148	558	13	12	18	12
Northallerton III	70	202	11	7	10	13
Richmondshire II	100	213	9	7	13	14
Bishop Auckland II	97	244	8	8	10	15
Darlington IV	3	22	-2	1	10	16

CLUB SHOP

The Club shop is under new management. If you have ordered any goods and not received them (or would like to place an order) please let Chris or Judie Adnett know ASAP. You can do this by email to the shop's new email address - brufcshop@gmail.com Or in person at the shop.

The shop will be open as follows this week:-

Saturday 10th March. 12.30 - 2.30pm

Sunday 11th March. 9.30 - 10.30am

Tuesday 13th March. 6 - 7pm

Wednesday 14th March. 8 - 9pm

As we get stock in information will be put in

The Lion so watch this space!

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