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New Seal of Approval for Billingham RUFU

Junior Rugby Union at Billingham continues to be child-friendly and well-organised – and that’s official.

Well done on this massive achievement and hope all of your clubs enjoy the experience. Teesside rugby is on a massive high at the moment, with the visit of Jason Leonard at the start of the month and now with you all achieving SOA at one stage or another. Thank you all for your hard work and I am sure that I speak on behalf of all of the Teesside Development Team in saying well done.

SATURDAY 25th NOV

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BILLINGHAM 2nds v REDCAR

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1	Gateshead	8	7	0	1	272	103	169	14
2	Northern	8	7	0	1	199	110	89	14
3	Sunderland	8	6	0	2	158	104	54	12
4	Billingham	8	5	0	3	256	129	127	10
5	Alnwick	8	4	0	4	159	138	21	8
6	Consett	8	4	0	4	151	188	-37	8
7	Ponteland	8	3	1	4	156	158	-2	7
8	Ryton	8	3	1	4	123	141	-18	7
9	Gosforth	8	3	0	5	168	157	11	6
10	Redcar	8	2	2	4	127	225	-98	6
11	Stockton	7	0	2	5	88	151	-63	2
12	N Shields	7	0	0	7	51	304	-253	0

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Issue 7
Vol 5

New Seal of Approval for Billingham RUFC

Junior Rugby Union at Billingham continues to be child-friendly and well-organised – and that’s official. Thanks to a major nationwide initiative involving Sport England, the Rugby Football Union and member clubs, a ‘Seal of Approval’ award was created three years ago that provides official recognition that the clubs are a ‘safe, effective, child-friendly environment’.

To achieve the award rugby clubs have to meet certain criteria, which include demonstrating that they have RFU qualified coaches, Codes of Conduct for players, coaches and spectators and a Child Welfare policy. Billingham Rugby Club has now achieved the Year Three benchmark having been one of the first clubs to become involved in the process. “Every club has to put a great deal of time and effort into achieving this challenging award and it is testament to the excellent work being done by the club volunteers both on and off the field.” Says Dave Reed, Rugby Development Officer for Teesside. “The process challenges clubs on a range of fronts and even in the best-run organisations always demands a good deal of hard work and re-organisation.”

“The main thrust of the award is to ensure that children and parents can be reassured that they are not only spending their leisure time in a safe, properly-organised environment, but that they are also getting the best coaching and help in learning the game of rugby.”

New Seal of Approval for Teesside RU trio

Junior Rugby Union on Teesside is now more child-friendly and well-organised than it has ever been – and that’s official. Thanks to a major nationwide initiative involving Sport England, the Rugby Football Union and member clubs, a ‘Seal of Approval’ award was created three years ago that provides official recognition that the clubs are a ‘safe, effective, child-friendly environment’.

To achieve the award each club has to meet certain criteria, which include demonstrating that they have RFU qualified coaches, Codes of Conduct for players, coaches and spectators and a Child Welfare policy. The most recent clubs to achieve Year Two Seal of Approval status are Middlesbrough, Acklam and Guisborough, while Seaton Carew have already achieved the Year Three benchmark having been one of the first clubs to become involved in the process.

“Every club on Teesside is now involved at one stage or another in the SoA process, with the three new Year Two award clubs joining Billingham at that level.” says Dave Reed, Rugby Development Officer for Teesside. “Every club has to put a great deal of time and effort into achieving this challenging award and it is testament to the excellent work being done by the club volunteers both on and off the field. “The award is a benchmark of the infrastructure and organisational capabilities of the clubs and has taken two years to achieve. “The process challenges clubs on a range of fronts and even in the best-run organisations always demands a good deal of hard work and re-organisation. “The main thrust of the award is to ensure that children and parents can be reassured that they are not only spending their leisure time in a safe, properly-organised environment, but that they are also getting the best coaching and help in learning the game of rugby. “Child welfare is a crucial area of activity for all sports clubs these days and the Rugby Football Union has always taken its responsibilities in this area very seriously. Clubs across the country are being positively encouraged to embark on the process and the Teesside trio are among those who have completed the first and second stages I know from being closely involved and monitoring their systems at every stage how much detail and how much manpower is involved, so I can share their satisfaction as getting the award.”

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BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 29 v PONTELAND 11

Playing conditions were far from ideal with a stiff cold wind blowing diagonally towards the club house Only one change to the side which won in magnificent fashion last week saw Burgum start and Woodhouse on the bench with a heavily strapped right knee. Following that superb performance Billingham were stunned after five minutes when a drop goal followed by a penalty saw us trailing by six points.

The Billingham pack was under some real pressure but good tidying up from McQuillan kept the ball in Billingham hands. The game turned a little rough with players flying into rucks and mauls from all angles and Hutchinson was shown a yellow on twenty minutes. Following backchat from the opposition Billingham advanced up the field and J. Evans took the tap to release Tennent who spun it to Garbutt to release P. Shepherd in at the corner with a well-timed pop. Mike Evans was the next to show with a great breakaway putting C. Shepherd in. An almost identical try followed but this time Hutchinson set Shepherd away

Half Time BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 29 v PONTELAND 11

With the wind at their backs Billingham looked more positive however slow ball and an encroaching Ponteland back line meant Hyndman had to carry into contact more than he would have liked and when a Ponteland knock on fell to P. Shepherd he needed no persuading to race over untouched. Joe Evans slotted the conversion and was glad not only to kick with the wind but from somewhere other than the touchline.

With about five minutes to go three substitutions were made Daley on for Tennent, Stewart on for Garbutt and Woodhouse on for Burgum. Ponteland's number eight took a big double hit from Daley and Woodhouse the latter ripped the ball and gave J. Evans quick ball who spun it out to Stewart to score a great try under the posts. Many of the crowd unfortunately missed this when Dave Robinson was singled out for some off the ball attention by a couple of Ponteland's forwards and the handbags were out. The visitors finished off with an unconverted push over try in the top corner.

Scorer Tries: C. Shepherd 3, P Shepherd 1, J. Stewart 1. Kicks J, Evans Conversions 2, *M.O.M Alex Garbutt*

BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 29 v PONTELAND 11

Club news. The pot is off Match reporter Woody Sir.

Match Report Billingham 3rds V Yarm 2nds

Yes third team! It was always going to be an uphill struggle against the vast experience of Yarm's seconds some of whom would not disgrace a first team in higher leagues. Virtually straight from the kick off Yarm were seven ahead followed by a drive over on ten minutes for a fourteen-point lead. Canham was pulled all over with clever kicking by Yarm's full back but dealt with most of it well returning with blistering runs. It was stalemate for twenty minutes when Hall popped a line out ball out and once again quick hands saw Billingham pressing. Great support from the forwards at breakdowns saw Ding Dong drive over and Morley converted. 14 – 7, Shortly after Lowe was binned when reacting to an elbow to the face. This seemed a bit harsh as he only tapped the Yarm forward with no aggression at all (Moral no retaliation is acceptable, even in fun) Yarm responded almost immediately with a penalty After a little coaching from the line Thompson changed his bind and made a greater impression in the tight. McCabe was unlucky not to break through when coming inside and set up a good chance with Leng being stopped just short **Half Time Billingham 3rds 7 – Yarm 17**

Billingham made enforced changes at the half in this bruising encounter putting Clarke on for Smith and Stewart for Cobby. Yarm increased their lead with another drive over try. Foster who ran rings around Yarm in spells set off on a long run and drew a penalty on their twenty two. Moreley took a quick tap to set Clarke away on an angled try-scoring burst 24 – 14 A spot of shrewd management from Dizzy Don (retired) saw Guz and Hutchinson replace Hall and Surtees after the pair had been told to burn for ten minutes to tire the Yarm pack Billingham's pack was now in control and Yarm used every trick in the book to stop them. Yarm were pressing until Clarke grabbed a brilliant interception to run sixty meters to score. 24 – 19 Turners trusty boot put Yarm points on again from a penalty with ten to go. Billingham pounded Yarm's line and an attempted kick spiralled off a Billingham hand. Child raced from scrum half to leap above the Yarm players and drove over 24 – 27

Moreley faced a real test with a penalty from forty-five meters to tie the scores which he slotted with ease 27 – 27. Yarm pressed and won a line out on our five-meter line Morgan rose majestically to steal it at number four and touch was found to bring the final whistle. **Full Time Billingham 3rds 27 – Yarm 27**

Scorers Tries.....Clarke 2, Bell 1 Child 1 Morley 2 Conversions 1 Penalty

M.O.M. Ding Dong **Reporters comment. Good to see the thirds in action again. Some excellent play**

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REPORTS

Houghton Le Spring Colts 20 – Billingham Colts 57

It had been a lot of years since this Billingham side had played against Houghton, in fact there were only four players left from the last encounter. Billingham started well gaining forward dominance thanks to a solid tight five allowing the back row freedom to operate. With a solid forward base established James Screen was able to pass and scoot at will and after five mins after a great bit of three quarter play Matty Westall broke the line to touch down. Ten mins later after some powerful forward play the pack got a drive on giving Jonny Hill the opportunity to score his first try for Billingham, it must be almost as good as loosing his virginity, he will let us know when it happens. On thirty five mins Danny Dixon decided stretch his legs and bounce a few players off and score a try, Billingham now had the wind in their sails and Dan Westall powered through for a try, how this lad is overlooked by the county defies all logic, he must be one of the best forward in the North East of England unless the selectors don't want fast, strong intelligent runners that can handle and tackle the ball. Houghton were sparked into a revival with a nice kick though well chased touch down. Billingham finished the half in style with yet another cherry popped when Matty Bell went over with an aggressive drive over the line, his first try for Billingham. Three tries were converted by James Screen. Half time 5-31. Billingham stared the second half slowly due to a coaching error, I made too many changes at once and the team needed time to bed in. Five mins after the restart Danny Dixon powered through to score, converted by James Screen. Houghton made a spiritual revival scoring three good opportunist tries. At this stage we needed inspiration, this was provided by Anth Hyndman doing what he does best, making good defenses look ordinary and scoring a deserved try, converted by James Screen. Just as things looked a little dangerous for Billingham James Watson went on a run from his own half to score. The game was sewn up by yet another Danny Dixon try, unfortunately he injured his shoulder and could be out until Christmas, get well soon mate. Again we were helped out by the under 16's, Peter Robinson and Dan Brown turned up to be replacements and played the last ten mins on either wing. Thanks to Keith Blenkinsopp and Alan Thompson for releasing them. We could not decide on man of the match so it was awarded by Houghton to James Watson. Well done to both sides for an enjoyable afternoon we had the privilege of being refed by a ref from Washington D.C.(u.s.a). And Jonny Hill and Matty Bell have learned that you don't need to go to Amsterdam to break your duck, Well done lads.

U 7s MARCH ON !

B' ham continued their unbeaten run with 2 well earned victories against Mowden Park & Yarm . Against Yarm, B'HAM took an early lead & never looked back as Mowden were unable to live with B'HAM pace & high tempo of play. Lee Adair, Tom Weston & David Elwell all scored 2 tries while Sam Peacock scored on his debut. With Demonic Thornton & Alex Lowe also making their debuts this was a very satisfying performance.

FINAL SCORE B'HAM 7 MOWDEN PARK 4

The match against Yarm was an entirely different affair. Yarm arrived with a team of mixed ages of which a number appeared much bigger, faster & more highly skilled. This was to give Billingham their hardest test to date but they dug deep to restrict Yarm to 2 tries while replying with 2 of their own .

In the 2nd half B'HAM again defended well in the face of some incisive Yarm attacks but B'HAM held out and scored 2 more themselves with Lee Adair & David Elwell scoring the tries. **FINAL SCORE B'HAM 4 YARM 2**

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BILLINGHAM U15s V HOUGHTON U15s

This weekend Billingham entertained Houghton, and as if spurred on by last weeks performance Billingham looked alert and fired up from the off. The forwards took the game to Houghton who had no answer for Billingham's sheer aggression, as the ball was won it was fed immediately to the waiting backs

As was proved within the tenth minute when Aaron Gibson proving his move to inside center was an inspirational move by the couches scored a neat try out on the right. Billingham's

Second try was a well worked move by Daniel Kirby who powered over for Billingham's second try in the fifteenth minute. This worked to inspire Houghton on as they fought hard to regain control of the game but Billingham stood firm even though Houghton pressed on relentlessly, and just before half time Houghton refused to give up and scored a try which was converted giving a half time score 10- 7 in Billingham's favor.

Daniel Kirby suffered a cut under his chin and could play take no further part in this titanic battle.

Second half would prove to be as hard as the first for both teams but the home team always had that little extra fighting spirit. Hooker Steven Halliday won the ball in practically every scrum which Jordon Potts disposed of with Accuracy and speed, which Aaron Gibson took advantage of to Score his second try five minutes into the second half. Their tails up the young lions quickened their momentum, and in the 52nd minute Aaron Gibson scored his third try. After this Houghton sprung into life and took the game to Billingham scoring their second try. Inspired by this Houghton pressed on to score a further try which they converted, and so it went to and fro right to the final whistle, Billingham once again worked well as a team running out 20-19 winners of a very close hard fought battle.

Novo's U14's 0 Billingham U14's 76

This week the U14's travelled to Newcastle for a friendly match against Novocastrians. This gave coach Wayne Finney an opportunity to rest some regular players and experiment with some in alternative playing positions. First half tries were given automatic conversions, to avoid the loss of the ball over a fence in close proximity to the posts. Tries were scored as follows;

First half:

Cole Henderson Danny Harrison
Sean Wallace Joss Havakin
Alan Sedgwick Andy Thompson

Second half:

Danny Finney Conversions: Danny Finney (2)
Cole Henderson (2)
Kareem Omar (2)
Sean Wallace

Novocastrians remained in good spirits throughout and gave the boys a good run out.

Percy Park u14s 13 – Billingham u14s— 15

This was an excellent match, played in good spirit between two top teams. Percy Park drew first blood with a penalty early on but Billingham soon went ahead with a superb try scored by Conor Shea but created from a brilliant run by debutant James Cass and excellent handling by the backs to penetrate the Percy Park defense. Their forwards were high quality and played to their strengths by cutting off supply to the Billingham backs. However when our backs did get the ball in their hands they were excellent. The score remained 3-5 until after half time. Some sloppy handling from our team led to Percy Park scoring a try and they quickly followed it up with another. With less than 10 minutes to go Billingham were 8 points behind. Pressure from our lads led to Percy Park conceding a penalty which Daniel Finney converted with élan. The Billingham boys kept up the good work and managed to get the ball to Tom Kill in space who then ran from inside our 22 to score under the posts, beating several players en route. Daniel again showed admirable presence of mind to kick the conversion for Billingham to take the lead. The ball stayed in Billingham's 22 for the remainder of the game but formidable defense kept them from scoring.

All the team performed well but of special note were Alan Sedgewick who had a good game against an intimidating winger and Joe Douthwaite who was always there when a hard tackle was required.

MOM was Nathan Moffat for aggression and pack leadership.

FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER TURN YOUR CARDS RIGHT

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Billingham U10s v Jarrow U10s

in the first half both teams were very enthusiastic and eager to play well.

From a throw in Billingham had control and showed good team work by doing short passes to keep the ball away from Jarrow, then Callum Frater found a free space enabling him to run on and score the first try of the game for Billingham. The driving and tackling skills from both teams were impressive.

At the end of the first half Ben Fox from Billingham went on to score a try leading Billingham to gain a score 2-0.

In the second half of the game Billingham was one player down reducing to play the game with 8 players but they went on to attack and Callum Frater scored again in the corner. Callum's next try was disallowed due to him not carrying the ball in both hands but this did not deter him from scoring another try within another couple of minutes. Near to the end of the game Alex Dunne from Billingham obtained the ball, did a good run leaving Jarrow players behind and went on to score his first try. Jarrow were then keen to attack and with great determination scored a well deserved try right at the end of the game.

Final score Billingham 5 - Jarrow 1

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This weekend Billingham entertained Houghton, and as if spurred on by last weeks performance Billingham looked alert and fired up from the off. The forwards took the game to Houghton who had no answer for Billingham's sheer aggression, as the ball was won it was fed immediately to the waiting backs.

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Score his second try five minutes into the second half. Their tails up the young lions quickened their momentum, and in the 52nd minute Aaron Gibson scored his third try. After this Houghton sprung into life and took the game to Billingham scoring their second try. Inspired by this Houghton pressed on to score a further try which they converted, and so it went to and fro right to the final whistle, Billingham once again worked well as a team running out 20-19 winners of a very close hard fought battle.

Billingham U13s 24 Middlesbrough U 13s 30

A good day for Rugby saw Billingham going down to a narrow defeat to Middlesbrough. The game started with Billingham on top, and Ben McWilliams again scoring a great number 8 try, picking up from the back of a scrum and driving forward through the Middlesbrough ranks with Marcus Suddren converting from in front of the posts. Middlesbrough came straight back and scored when poor tackling (again) saw a player making too much ground, setting up a try. Conversion missed.

A worrying period then ensued where Middlesbrough scored two more tries, weak forward play allowing Middlesbrough to pick the ball up from rucks and drive forward. They soon bagged another couple of tries, but missed both conversions. A lift was required for the Billingham and soon provided with Johnny Young and Tom Doherty combining and running well in the centre to gain good position which was then utilised by Marcus Suddren who went over to score 12-15. half time

The second half was much better for Billingham, again Tom Doherty, Johnny Young, Ben McWilliams, Luke Roopshand all gaining ground with runs. soon Tom Doherty was rewarded with a try in the corner with the conversion missed. 17-15 and Boro getting worried. The Billingham backs were starting to see the ball much more now and were making good progress, they went in to score no conversion. 17-20. Billingham refused to lie down and again after many breaks by Ben McWilliams Marcus Suddren went in to score, setting the game up 24-20. Middlesbrough came back at Billingham winning most of the scrums, and again weak tackling set up another score. 24-25 This was becoming a great game to watch, a few opportunities lost due to handling errors on both sides, potential match winning tries stopped by Middlesbrough holding up the players, unlucky Ben McWilliams and Lavender. Opportunities were there for the Win but Middlesbrough held on and again scored with a breakaway try, again missing the conversion. Final score 24-30, but a very good game with Billingham missing 3 players, but pleasing was the development of some of the newer Billingham lads, Jack Rude having 3 or 4 real good runs when moved to winger.

Man of the Match Ben McWilliams,

but well done lads general play is improving but tackling needs to be stronger

Billingham U15s V Sunderland U15s

Billingham traveled to Sunderland today, and started very slowly, Sunderland forwards forced their way through Bilingham forward line on several occasions which was to prove costly when Sunderland scored a try in the tenth minute. Bilingham seemed as if they weren't firing on all pistons. Until the fourteenth minute when Aaron Gibson broke free, to score in the right corner and his try was converted by Jordan Potts. Bilingham were know trying to get there game together this didn't look the same team that had won their last two games in style, but their handling started to improve as it needed to against a strong forward line of Sunderland. A move started from scrum half Jordan Potts saw the ball move rapidly along the back line and was finally passed to Tony Cessford who ran a blistering 20m to be stopped short of the try line but good back up by Daniel Kirby saw him pick the ball up and drive over for a well taken try, to move the score on to, 5-12 at half time.

At the start of the second half a rejuvenated Bilingham started to take the game to Sunderland a good scrum went Bilinghams way and the ball was passed out to the backs who again passed the ball eloquently along the line where it found winger, Josh Wilson who ran in a fine try in the thirty fifth minute. A pass from the inside saw Lewis Pattison beat his man and score Bilinghams fourth try. A penalty was awarded to Bilingham and was quickly taken the Ball kicked over the Sunderland defense saw the backs chase after it and take the ball in full flight once again good handling saw the ball moved out to the right where Adam Leeming took it in his stride to score a well taken try, and this was again converted by Jordan Potts. Bilingham at this point where on fire and a move which started in the center went out to the right and back in to Aaron Gibson who stroked the ball sweetly through the Sunderland defense for Harry Linton to run on to and score a wonderful try, Bilingham may have started the game slowly but they finished it with panache and fire in their bellies. To win on the day 5-34.

Yarm U13s 21 Bilingham U13s 17. 12th November 2006

This match was organised last minute and the Yarm team an unknown quantity. Yarm started well, running a try within the first five minutes. Bilingham not really knowing were it came from as their winger set off like a rocket. It seemed like this was the way Yarm were going to play getting the ball out along the back line and finishing with pace. There centres and number 10 were straight onto Marcus and Johnny, not allowing us to make a break. Some good rucking followed with both teams being pretty much equal. Yarm followed up with two trys in quick succession. Converting all three trys. This left billingham 21-0 down with still ten minutes to go in the first half. It was decided by the coaches to make a change, putting Craig Errington in as scrum half and moving Marcus to number 10 and moving Johnny to Centre. This proved to work, allowing a bit of freedom for Marcus and Johnny to make some runs. Half time 21-0.

The second half started well with Marcus running a try in on the right wing with the help of Josh Gibson. All the forwards were working well with some good ripping out of the ball by Nathan Wilson, Phil Ayton, Robbie Lavender and Jordan Whitehouse. Craig was working well at scrum half feeding the ball out fast to the backs and allowing for some good runs. Bilingham were stopping Yarm making the break with some excellent tackling by Ben McWilliams and Luke (the train) Roopchand. Ben being unlucky not to break through from picking up at the back of the scrum and making a run but with no-one in support to help the ball on. Marcus and Josh then made a break from inside Bilinghams half with Marcus putting down for our second. Marcus converting. The change in the first had proved to be a good one. Bilinghams third soon followed with Ben picking up from the back of the scrum and making a break for the line. Yarm made a break back up the field again with there rocket propelled winger, Alex James going in for the tackle and the Yarm player making a dangerous hand off to the face a penalty was awarded. This allowed us to clear our line. A win was insight and we only needed another try. Last minute of the match and from a ruck Marcus cleared the ball across and up the pitch and made chase, our left wing being asleep!!!. Being very unlucky to get there in time and obstructed by a Yarm player, Yarm kicked the ball into touch. We were very unlucky not to get at least a draw and you all played well, especially in the second half with a great comeback and not allowing Yarm to run anymore trys in. Some great tackling coming from most of the players when it was needed. A hard decision had to be made as to man of the match. With some excellent playing by Phil Ayton, Craig Errington, Marcus Sudron, Ben McWilliams and Luke (the rain) Roopchand. It was decided that it was to be awarded to Ben and Luke for all there hard work tackling and some great runs. M.O.M - Ben McWilliams and Luke Roopchand

Billingham u10s v Houghton Le Spring

This game started with a very fast pace from both teams. The tackling and rucking skills to get control of the ball from each other were on form. After a contested scrum Bilingham gained control of the ball leading to Bilingham's Callum Frater to score the first try and within another couple of minutes he scored the second one.

In the second half Bilingham was one player down again but this did not deter them in any way and Luke Bateman scored his first try for his team. With great determination and some good defense skills Houghton Le Spring gained control of the ball and went on to score. It was Houghton Le Spring's scrum and Bilingham were strong enough to push forward the opposing team obtaining the ball leading to Robert Colley in scoring his first try. After a couple of minutes after a good chase Alex Dunne went on to score again for Bilingham. Final score Bilingham 6

Houghton le Spring 1 Report : Emma Fox.

