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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

	<p>BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB NEWS LETTER "THE LION"</p>	 <small>COMMUNITY RUGBY ACTIVE SPORTS SEAL OF APPROVAL</small>
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<p> SUNDAY 20TH JAN BILLINGHAM COLTS v WEST HARTLEPOOL*/ </p>	<p> Issue 11 Vol 6 </p>
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WHTDSOB v BILLINGHAM FIRST XV

Injuries, illness and unavailability meant changes after the long Christmas break. Although a bottom versus top of the league Tech generally cause us problems with their spoiling game. Wildridge returned from injury, Woodhouse regained the nine shirt; Hutchy went to front row with Chris Hyndman to six and Andy Evans to thirteen.

A quick tap penalty to Paul Shepherd saw Hutchinson run in from distance to open the scoring. The second showed the value of quick recycling by Amos and Wildridge with the ball going through every backs hands for Dave Robinson to score. The third was a handling classic with both Sheps and Anth Hyndman inter-passing and Tennant backing up to take the final scoring pass. Following the carding of two players Billingham pressed forward and closed out the half with a typical Craig Shepherd score.

Half Time WHTDSOB 0 v BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 24

Following more excellent handling Anth Hyndman combined with Joe Evans to burst through to touch down. Scott replaced Andy Evans and Chris Hyndman resumed his "normal" position. A free kick was awarded and with half the players from both sides debating whose ball it was Woody took the tap, passed to a very alert Joe Evans who sprinted over. Peter Evans and Garbutt replaced Paul Shepherd and Chris Hyndman and in their first touches a grubber chase saw Garbutt ruled in touch with a very late linesman's flag. From the Tech lineout Dixon rose majestically to steal the ball ground and stretch over the try line. Following a couple of "testers" an eight, nine blindside move was executed with Garbutt finishing in typical fashion running over the opposition. The final try came when Tech formed a ruck but were surprised when Danny Robinson ripped the ball, pooped to Woody who found tenant hovering in the backs passing to Michael Evans with a lot to do weaved his way over to bring the game to a close.

WHTDSOB 0 v BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 53

Scorers tries Hutchinson 1, C. Shepherd 1, J Evans 1, Garbutt 1, A. Hyndman 1 M Evans1, Tennant 1, Dave Robinson 1, Dixon 1

Kicks: Conversions J Evans 3 P. Evans 1

Reporters comment: - Good to see so many different names on the score sheet. Thanks for the hard graft of the players who did not score

Spectators comment: Always a hard side for us to wallop so a good result and a clean sheet thanks to some great defensive work.

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Gosforth Away

Gosforth U15's 5 v Billingham U15's 28

Billingham boys haven't been used to such a crushing defeat before but today (Sunday) were against a Gosforth side, described by their coach as 'being on fire' and Billingham were totally outclassed in the first half. The game was played on the all-weather pitch at Druids' Park, a first for Billingham and nine of the squad had been involved in rugby matches on both Friday and Saturday as well.

Billingham kicked off and Gosforth were instantly on the attack. Billingham just left too many gaps, demonstrated a definite lack of urgency and Gosforth broke through to score in the third minute. Soon they put in a second try in the corner and converted this as easily as the first. It should have been time for Billingham to try and get out of trouble and they did manage to hold play in the centre for some time, but before long Gosforth slipped through to score under the posts and convert. A fourth converted try took the half-time score to 28:0 to Gosforth. Billingham came out with more ambition in the second half and did control play in the Gosforth half for some minutes. Tom Kill put in a try outside and there were some good displays of playing the ball through the hands. But overall Billingham were punished for playing out of position and hopefully will take some lessons away from today. Man of the match for Billingham was Danny Finney.

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BILLINGHAM FIRST XV v ROSSENDALE

The game today saw Billingham take on Rossendale from the North Lancs/Cumbria league in the 5th Round of the EDF Energy Senior Vase Woodhouse and Dalton were unavailable and Youdale returned to front row with an unchanged bench. Rossendale stunned the home side at the base of our scrum and an early penalty from quite a distance to take the lead. Dixon lifted his game to protect the base and pop to Andy Evans when we were struggling. The game seesawed to and fro with neither side gaining much although a very efficient back row saw the opposition killing quite a bit of ball. Rossendale were pinged and the yellow card was shown to their open side. Billingham took advantage and from a line out, a huge hit from Amos and after several phases Chris Hyndman put Paul Shepherd in the clear for a score.

Half Time BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 5 ROSSENDALE 3

Both sides lost a player early in the second half with more yellows being shown and the visitors went down to thirteen with another yellow. We took advantage again and Chris Hyndman and Paul Shepherd combined with Joe Evans for Joe to score following some good inter-passing between the three out wide.

Both sides were at full strength and our forwards were winning good quick ball when Anth Hyndman produced a great break to pop the ball to Hutchinson backing up at full pace to storm over under the posts. The game was killed off when Chris Hyndman set off on one of those jinking runs and a well timed pass to the prop out wide saw Billingham's lead stretched to eighteen points with time running out. Rossendale were not dead though and came back with a well-worked try and difficult conversion with eight minutes on the clock. Billingham were unlucky not to increase their lead when a chased kick was put dead by a Rossendale player. With seconds left on the clock a knock on was missed by the referee and from the resulting play our defences were breached for the second time

BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 24 V ROSSENDALE 18

Try Scorers: P. Shepherd 1, J Evans 1, Hutchinson 1, Dave Robinson 1

Kicks: Conversions J Evans 2

Thanks to our Sponsors

Reporter's comment: - Good match analysis from the touchline today

Spectators comment: - Not as good as Bradford Salem

January 13th Seaton V Billingham U14's

They say only 10% of an iceberg is visible above the water, it is often easy to concentrate on the "first 15" of a squad and forget it is the depth of talent in a squad that determines how strong the "first 15" become. So with 4 starters and a regular sub all missing for various reasons, this was an opportunity for squad players to show their capabilities. But first the weather, why oh why as we squelched across the ground into a Seaton Breeze (force 8) do we not play in the summer or an indoor version? Even with a dodgy (allegedly) nuclear power station, global warming seems to have by passed Seaton!

So as the players warmed up and we chilled Neil and Mick shuffled the players, 3 changes in the pack, and 3 in the backs. Yet we had a quiet confidence, as there is talent in the replacements. From the kick off a pattern soon emerged, hard running at Seaton with the ball, if the initial forward line was breached big yardage could be made. Ben Mac making lots of yards only to spill the ball in contact, but from the resultant scrum Billingham won the ball passed it quickly down the line and Marcus looping round from scrum half broke through from 5 metres out 5-0. Kick missed. After a bit of scrappy mid-field play in the tricky conditions the ball went out to Tom Doherty who set off breaking the line and scored with a 60m run, kick missed. 10-0 Seaton were struggling to make forward progress and when they did run the ball were being stopped with solid tackling even the backs when called into action hitting hard. Billingham took a scrum against the head, and Marcus Sudron and David Rawson at scrum half and stand-off combined well, getting the centres into the game at pace, soon the ball was moved down the line and Josh Gibson managed to stop looking at the potential tackler long enough to score in the corner, and this time Marcus converted with the most difficult of the three kicks. 17-0.

Next up, Seaton in a good position lost the scrum, Ben Mac picking up at No 8 making 20 metres, off-loading to Maruf who made a good break inside from Blind side to score with a 60 metre run, going under the posts for Tom Doherty to convert. 24-0. The next try involved good handling rather than breaking the Seaton line, forwards making ground off-loading in the tackle properly rather than just flinging the ball back, eventually reaching Ben who from 5 metres was not going to be stopped, tom kicked 31-0. Happily Seaton scored showing good spirit, fast thinking

And taking advantage of penalties against Billingham. After being pinged they lost another 10 metres, and from the penalty another offence meant another chance Billingham switched off, it was taken quickly and they went over in the corner, kick missed 31-5. Billingham hit back following a kick deep Robbie Brumpton at full back collected on his 10m. Although being closed down he ran strongly making 25m or more then passing to Maruf showing his athleticism who went in under the posts from 65 metres, Tom D converting. 38-5 half time. Seaton started the 2nd half strongly, Billingham had made 3 changes but it was good play from Seaton who scored but again kick missed 38-10. Billingham then raised their game, Marcus S and David R really gelling getting the back line flowing beautifully, David growing in confidence at stand off and making more and more incisive runs and passing as the tackler closed in. Ben Mac 2, John Devine, both scoring following the ball being set at the ruck and then passed wide. Tom D getting 2 of the conversions. Seaton nearly scored again but dropped the ball 2 metres out, Ben Mac picking up and taking the ball away making huge yards, off-loading to Tom D who again sprinted in from half way in the corner. Maruf scored his hat trick recovering when a pass went behind the centre and ran in from 30 metres.

Then came the try of the game from David Rawson (according to the totally unbiased but dead chuffed reporter) making a lovely break in midfield and instead of passing accelerated (Yes!) and scored from 40 metres. Tom D converting. Then Lewis Smith-Patterson (Smitty) scored a lovely try again making a mid-field break a great way to mark his debut. Final score Seaton 10 – 81 Billingham, a hard defeat for Seaton, offers were made to stop the game early as Neil and Mick have been there with our team in the past, but offers declined and to be fair, handling errors stopped Seaton getting another couple of tries. Hopefully the game time will allow those players who make up the rest of the U14 iceberg to raise the standard of the 15 even higher and maybe soon push for a place in the 15. Man of the match David Rawson, a fine display at stand-off having been moved from 2nd row. Scorer's Tries

Maruf Murzagalieva 3 Ben McWilliams 3 Tom Doherty 2 Marcus Sudron 1 Josh Gibson 1 John Devine 1 David Rawson 1 Lewis Smith Pattison 1

Conversions
Tom Doherty 8