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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

	<p style="text-align: center;"> BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB NEWS LETTER “THE LION” </p>	
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BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB
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<p style="text-align: center;"> SUNDAY 10Th FEB 2.15PM AT BILLINGHAM RUFC DURHAM U20s v NORTHUMBERLAND U20s </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> VOL 6 ISSUE 12 </p>
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WHEATLEY HILLS v BILLINGHAM FIRST XV

Following the long journey south to Doncaster hopes were high for Round six of the EDF Senior Vase. With Widridge injured Dalton partnered Tennent in the second row with Woodhouse joining P. Evans, Garbutt and Youdale on the bench on a bitterly cold day.

Things looked bright when after eight minutes Amos took his first of many against the head and Dixon took the ball on. Slick hands left P. Shepherd with a blistering finish for the first score. Wheatley levelled the score almost immediately from the kick off breaking tackles in midfield. Once again our forwards turned over ball and a bullocking run saw Chris Hyndman and Dave Robinson drive over together with the former being awarded the try. Once again Wheatley broke our normally solid defence and pulled back within two points then a successful penalty attempt right on half time saw the opposition take the lead for the first time.

Half Time WHEATLEY HILLS 15 v BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 14

More of the same from the start saw Wheatley breaking tackle after tackle to eventually slot home another penalty and an unconverted try Danny Robinson had to leave the field through injury and was replaced by Youdale. Something needed to be done and quickly if we were to salvage anything from the match with Hills leading 23 - 14. Woodhouse replaced A. Evans; Garbutt replaced P. Shepherd and P. Evans replaced Tennent which meant reshuffles in both backs and the pack. Anth Hyndman carrying the ball like a back row drove deep into Wheatleys half backed up by Hutchy and Liddle. From the ensuing penalty Wheatly killed the ball as Chris Hyndman was stopped inches short, another penalty and with Hills defence watching Amos and Dalton Woodhouse made the dive but once again was stopped short. Quick release saw the situation turn in Billingham's favour and Mike Evans burst through to score. Wheatley backs seemed to be the victims of snipers as they fell over injured or cramped at every opportunity to stop the more fluid play Billingham were attempting. Shepherd was flattened whilst chasing a very good kick through with nothing given and Garbutt had a chance late on but some excellent defence and maybe a little lack of confidence saw the chance go begging.

WHEATLEY HILLS 23 V BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 19

Scorer tries: P Shepherd 1, M. Evans 1, Chris Hyndman 1

Reporters Comment. Surprised no injury time played

Supporters Comment. Very inhospitable place we were not made to feel welcome and they wanted the win more than us

NORTHALLERTON V BILLINGHAM 2nd XV

Billingham travelled south with the bare fifteen to be faced by an open pitch with a strong swirling wind. A supporters club of two and a touchline staff of one (me). The absence of a fly half and kicker saw Woodhouse take on both mantles leaving Sayers to carry on at nine. This looked like an excellent decision by team captain Fern when the two combined to put Brown in and for Woody to strike a difficult conversion into the wind. As expected Conlon arrived just on kick off like the cavalry just as well as Guz suffered what looked to be a nasty neck injury leaving young Mickey seventy minutes to play and Hammond switching to prop. The half back combination worked with Ford taking the final pass from Brown to score in the corner. Billingham pressed hard through Naz and Dunn out wide but strong winds lead to a number of passes going astray. Westall and Keenan were putting in the hits in the centres with extra cover from Reay and Ford when it was needed.

Half Time NORTHALLERTON 0 V BILLINGHAM 2nd XV 12

Northallerton were determined to spoil at every chance but a quick tap penalty saw Woodhouse break from half way to the twenty-two Sayers adding another fifteen, Wray, Hammond and Fern driving over in a pod and Schiller at scrum half (Yes Schiller!) connected with Scott who was running a good line to force his way over in the corner for a well earned converted try. The opposition used every trick in the book including swapping their Fijian backs (They still could not break our tackles) while play was ongoing without the ref's permission but all to no avail. The final try of the game was a carbon copy of the first out wide but the swirling wind pushed the conversion attempt just wide of the posts to bring the final whistle.

NORTHALLERTON 0 V BILLINGHAM 2nd XV 24

Scorer tries: Brown 2, Ford 1, Scott 1

Kicks: Conversions Woodhouse 2

Club news Only Guz looks doubtful for next week and how does Conlon do it?

Spectators comment (opposition) Good side you have there the wind and injuries kept the score down

Reporters comment, A few limped off after this one it was a bruiser even though they never looked like scoring thanks to some great defending from our backs and superb scrimmaging from the forwards

OUR SPIRIT IS OUR STRENGTH

County Cup 1st Round

Billingham U15's 48

v

West Hartlepool U15's 10

Billingham U15's defence of the County Cup got underway in cold conditions with a strong gusty wind blowing cross pitch. They got off to a bit of a shaky start with West Hartlepool defending tightly and holding them back. Billingham missed a series of tackles and opportunities. Jake Day made good ground on a number of occasions but was brought down short each time. Eventually some well-executed ball handling along the backs ended in Joe Douthwaite's hands and he gave a highly charged sprint through the defence to score. Minutes later Tom Kill scored, running down the pitch with great self-belief, to touch down under the posts. Danny Finney converted.

Billingham continued to make good use of their territorial advantage and Conor Shea secured the ball and touched down in the corner. Billingham went into half-time with another try from Tom Kill and an impressive looking score line of 22 points to nil.

Soon into the second half Tom Kill continued on his great form and scored following a scrum close to the West Hartlepool line, (converted by Finney). West came back with a reply in the corner and minutes later Billingham U15's try of the season so far came from the hands of Danny Harrison. (Finney converted) The score sheet suddenly became busy with West scoring again and then Tom Kill put in another two, one of which was converted. Man of the match for Billingham was Conor Shea.

HELEN POTTS

Helen Potts is leaving for pastures new, moving to a career with the National Trust in Hampshire. Helen will be sadly missed at Billingham but we are all happy that Helen is to progress into an area where we are certain she will excel and do well. We have arranged a leaving bash for Helen on SATURDAY 16th February. at the club. Please try and come along to say goodbye and wish her all the best

JACK SMITH

As most, if not all of you will be aware, **Jack Smith** (under 17's team) sustained a neck fracture on Sunday 27th January, during their game against Darlington. Jack has now been transferred to the spinal injuries unit at James Cook University Hospital following surgery at North Tees to stabilise the fracture. Jack's condition remains stable and Jack will hopefully be moved from the High Dependency ward to the rehabilitation ward in a few more days. Jack's road to recovery is going to be long, slow and at times we're sure frustrating, but Jack will not be facing this journey alone, he has his family, friends and his 'rugby family' by his side. Jack would love to see all who wish to visit him, and his family have asked us to thank all those who helped Jack on Sunday, and for the support he has received so far.

On behalf of the Rugby Club, We wish Jack all the very best, and that Graham Janet and the Smith family are never far from our thoughts.

WEDNESDAY 6TH FEB UPDATE

Jack's condition remains stable but unchanged. Jack has today (6th Feb) been on the tilt table which is part of his preparation to being moved out onto the rehabilitation ward, where the hard work begins for Jack. Jack and his family wish to thank his many visitors and all the messages of good wishes he has received. They do appreciate the continued support they are all receiving. Thank you.

FRIDAY 08th FEB UPDATE

Jack was moved from the High Dependency Ward at 1pm today to The Rehabilitation Ward his rehab will Continue but it will be a long process Jacks family wish to thank all those Who have visited Jack and showed There support



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 B/ham 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 60 metre 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 10 metres. Although being closed down he ran strongly making 25 metres 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.

'THE KITTEN CLUB'

**BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB MEMBERS,
CLUBBING TOGETHER TO SPONSOR MATCHES**