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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><b>BILLINGHAM</b> <b>RUGBY CLUB</b> <b>NEWS LETTER</b> <b>“THE LION”</b></p>	 <p><b>COMMUNITY RUGBY</b> ACTIVE SPORTS SEAL OF APPROVAL</p>
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**SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCT**  
**CUP MATCH**  
**BILLINGHAM 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
**V**  
**GOSFORTH 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**LAST WEEKS RESULTS**  
**GOSFORTH - 7 BILLINGHAM - 27**  
**BILLINGHAM U17s – 33 RYTON U17s - 9**

Fixtures			
Oct 20, 2007	Billingham	V's	Horden
Oct 27, 2007	Northern	V's	Billingham
Nov 03, 2007	Billingham	V's	West Hartlepool TDSOB
Nov 10, 2007	Wallsend	V's	Billingham
Nov 24, 2007	Billingham	V's	Sunderland 1st XV
Dec 01, 2007	Stockton	V's	Billingham
Dec 15, 2007	Billingham	V's	Wallsend

**BILLINGHAM U15s – 26 V BLAYDON U15s - 7**

<p><b>SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCT</b> <b>BISHOP AUCKLAND U17s V BILLINGHAM U17s</b></p>	<p>Issue 4 Vol 6</p>
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### **BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 34 v PERCY PARK 29**

With Dixon and Schiller injured Billingham took to the field with Watson starting in the back row. Park were surprised when our pack who were outstanding all game drove them back to see Joe Evans touch down in the corner. Park crossed our line after fifteen minutes which meant 255 minutes without conceding a try but meant we trailed by two points. Hutchinson went over followed by a breakaway by Mike Evans to put Andy Evans in the clear to score. Billingham forwards put together phase after phase to reach Park five metre line with Amos, Youdale and Danny Robinson all coming close. Woodhouse dummied open and spun blind to Durnion who bulldozed through tackles to score. Quick phases with Craig Shepherd coming in at speed was taking its toll and Park looked to be run ragged with their heads going down. Chris Hyndman put in an inch perfect chip through with Garbutt chasing down to score yet again to bring an end to the half with Park looking out of it.

### **Half Time BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 27 v PERCY PARK 7**

Paul Shepherd returned after a long lay off to replace Garbutt on the wing and quick ball meant he was straight into the action. Park pack came out on fire for the second half and pushed over in the corner but a quick tap penalty saw M Evans touch down. Dave Robinson took a knee in the face making one of many thumping tackles and Park took advantage to score another push over try. Dalton was cautioned for retaliation after being bitten on the arm. Wildridge came on for Durnion and Anth Hyndman on for Woodhouse. Billingham's pack were still defending hard but attempts to set our backs away were thwarted time after time and the heavier Percy Park forwards were starting to wear down our tacklers. Park made it a hat trick of push overs and followed it with a long drop goal to reduce the deficit to five with ten minutes to go.

### **BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 34 v PERCY PARK 29**

**Tries.** J Evans, S Hutchinson, A Evans, Durnion, Garbutt, M Evans.

**Conversions** J Evans 2

**Reporters Comments:** Still top of the league with two other undefeated teams breathing down our necks.

**Supporters Comment:** We looked great in the first half but we don't need nail biting finishes like that every week

**Injuries** Durnion, Bruising to back; Dave Robinson, broken nose

This week's quiz question

How many stitches did Woody put in Wagger after the game?

**Congratulations to the Seconds yet another great win**

Billingham U15's

26

v

Blaydon U15's

7

Blaydon have always been strong competition for this Billingham side, being big opponents and so the Billingham boys were poised for this next encounter. Billingham had first kick of the match and got off to a flying start. The ball was soon out to Jake Day and with no hesitation he ran through an unsuspecting Blaydon defence to score under the posts. Danny Finney converted.

Minutes later, invention in the ball handling across the backs, saw the ball to Danny Adams on the wing, who engaged his pace to score. Billingham continued to dominate and held play in the Blaydon half. Blaydon needed to focus on putting in the tackles as they let Billingham through too many times. Joe Douthwaite's try was soon in coming, (converted by Finney). Blaydon then upped the pressure and took the play to the Billingham end. It was Jake Day who broke the deadlock by breaking free to sprint and score. The score stood at 26:0 to Billingham at half time.

Blaydon decided to make their presence felt in the second half and Billingham seemed scrappy compared to the earlier play. Unlike Billingham, Blaydon defended efficiently. They took the ball close to the Billingham line and play seemed to lose momentum by stopping and starting. Eventually they pushed over the line to score and the added two extra points with the conversion.

The final score was 26:7 to Billingham and players commended for this week's match were Joe Douthwaite, Sam Ferguson and Conor Shea.

**MSG** **Construction**  
mark\_a\_schiller@msn.com

Ponteland U15's      19  
v  
Billingham U15's      36

Billingham's boys were soon on the back foot in this match and were taken unawares after the resounding victory against Ponteland twelve months ago. A Ponteland player snatched the ball on their first opportunity to field the ball and ran through a ragged Bilingham defence to score under the posts and subsequently convert. Bilingham then upped their game and ensured that play continued in the Ponteland half when several times Ponteland booted the ball to the Bilingham fullback who made up the ground again.

Ponteland stole the ball in the Bilingham lineout but Dominic Simpson gained possession and sprinted down to score. Minutes later Conor Shea took an opportunity and sprinted from the half way line to score under the posts. Shaun Wallace converted. By this time Ponteland were looking pedestrian compared to their earlier display. Dominic Simpson put in his second try and Matthew Smith soon followed with another. Shaun Wallace converted both. Bilingham let one in just before half time following a ruck by the line. At half time the score was 14:26 in Bilingham's favour.

The second half saw Sam Ferguson score for Bilingham before Ponteland scored their third. Play continued back and forth and the score line was finalised by a second try for Matthew Smith, this time by the corner flag. Final score was 19:36 to Bilingham and man of the match was Carl Robinson at Fullback.

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**GOSFORTH v BILLINGHAM FIRST XV**

With an artificial pitch, a World Cup referee, the return of Schiller and Wildridge to the starting line up, Bilingham still top of the league and no reporter this historic game looked to be going unreported. The first score came following a Gosforth drop out when Craig Shepherd received the ball and glided through for a try. Joe Evans kept Gosforth pinned back with good territorial kicking but we were unable to capitalise despite some great drives from Amos, Youdale and Durnion. Gosforth looked to turn the game on its head by a sustained period of pressure but Woodhouse "shoed" out the ball and cleared the lines. Not for the first time this season we saw our rapidly improving forwards score with Wildridge driving over from a well organised line out in the corner. Once again though despite our quick ball and brilliant running forced passes sometimes cost us what should have been a clear lead by half time..

**Half Time GOSFORTH 0 v BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 10**

More of the same from the start saw Anth Hyndman carrying the ball like a back row deep into Gosforth's half. Hutchinson reverting to back row showed he still had the pace despite his early season injury. Dalton tapped down perfectly of the top and the ball was rocketed to Garbutt who produced a typical run through to pass to Mike Evans who with a lot to do jinked his way through to score. Paul Shepherd replaced Andy Evans in a straight positional swap and Watson replaced Durnion to continue battering the Gosforth pack. Craig Shepherd scored his second eighty yards out and just runs in to touch down with an excellent in then out move. Gosforth got one back with a penalty try following a collapsed driving maul. The last score of the game came from a great flowing move from Garbutt to Shepherd to Dave Robinson who avoided a try saving tackle with a spectacular dive over. Woodhouse left the field following a knock on the head and Peter Evans came on with Joe moving to nine and despite intense Gosforth pressure the game finished without any addition to the score.

**GOSFORTH 7 v BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 27**

**Scorer tries:** C Shepherd 2, B. Wildridge 1, M. Evans 1, Dave Robinson 1 **Kicks:** Conversions 2

**Reporters Comment.** Thanks to Peter Griffiths (Gazette) for letting me use his copy. **Refs comment** As good as the World Cup games

**Opposition Comment.** Thanks for having the bottle to try out our new playing surface

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### U14's District Cup

Stockton/Billingham district team consisted of Billingham's squad plus 1 player from Campus school; Lee Burrell, so it was always going to be a challenge for a club team to take on district Squads, also the non appearance of Middlesbrough meant that the games would be played back to back with little rest between games.

Whitby/Guisborough./Redcar V Billingham

First up match, how would Billingham start/ well with heads switched on from the word go, soon crunching tackles were going in and no quarter was being asked. Lee Burrell soon showed why he was down using his pace and athleticism to good effect making huge ground against the opposition. After initial to-ing and fro-ing with scores Billingham edged ahead 12-10 and from there were not to be headed again. The Billingham tries being a mix of individual excellence John Devine jinking left and right to leave the opposition looking leaden footed, Lee Burrell running past people almost for fun, what a weapon he could be if switched to rugby from football. What is becoming a regular thing now Josh Gibson getting a score and Marcus Suddron also spotting a gap and weaving through.

Kicking for the day had to be from drop kicks which was to prove challenging for all the kickers as many conversions were missed but Marcus did knock a beauty in from the touchline. Other noticeable players Johnny Young / Be McWilliams again with Jack Chapman showing what a fast strong back row Billingham possess, Gary "hands out" Churlish scrapping for any loose ball with his second row partner David Rawson. The front row "Big Bad and Ugly" pick who is who yourself giving the Billingham team a very solid pack. Final score 24-14, but a good strong game, and pleasing for all who watched.

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Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Adjust
Horden	5	5	0	0	219	66	153	10	0
Billingham	5	5	0	0	196	51	145	10	0
Northern	5	5	0	0	155	61	94	10	0
Sunderland 1st XV	5	3	0	2	155	114	41	6	0
PERCY PARK IST XV	5	2	0	3	156	91	65	4	0
Stockton	4	2	0	2	106	96	10	4	0
Gosforth	4	2	0	2	64	77	-13	4	0
Alnwick	5	2	0	3	76	158	-82	4	0
Ryton	5	2	0	3	39	162	-123	4	0
Wallsend	5	1	0	4	85	135	-50	2	0
Ponteland	5	0	0	5	50	161	-111	0	0
West Hartlepool TDSOB	5	0	0	5	38	167	-129	0	0

8th Sept 07	Billingham	v	Ryton	77-3
15th Sept 07	Ponteland	v	Billingham	12-22
22nd Sept 07	Billingham	v	Alnwick	36-0
29th Sept 07	Billingham	v	Percy Park	34-29
6th Oct 07	Gosforth	v	Billingham	7-27
20th Oct 07	Billingham	v	Horden	
27th Oct 07	Northern	v	Billingham	
3rd Nov 07	Billingham	v	WHTDSOB	
10th Nov 07	Wallsend	v	Billingham	
24th Nov 07	Billingham	v	Sunderland	
1st Dec 07	Stockton	v	Billingham	
15th Dec 07	Billingham	v	Wallsend	
5th Jan 08	WHTDSOB	v	Billingham	
19th Jan 08	Billingham	v	Northern	
26th Jan 08	Horden	v	Billingham	

**Billingham V Darlington**

Now here was a challenge, Darlington are always strong with club sides often coming out on top the last few years, how would their district team shape up/well apart from having some really big lads in it the answer was pretty good. Unfortunately Billingham decided they would do a Jeckyll and Hyde impression, they started as though it was touchless rugby and seemed to want to let Darlington run past them at will, result within 10 minutes, 14 nil to Darlington. Mmmmm there were some worried looks going around, but hey the boys decided lets drink the magic juice and start to play, suddenly from getting no-where, ball was won, line-outs taken and scrums won. As is the case this season and last if the forwards provide the platform the pacey backs soon show their talents. Luke " chugger" Roopshand showing you don't have to be big to hit hard, making some great runs. John Devine and Tom Doherty combining well, Josh " blinkers" Gibson usually running better when he cannot see his chasers. Craig Errington improving weekly at Scrum half, getting in and claiming the ball far more than ever before. Soon that lad Burrell was at it again another storming run and a score well converted. Darlington were on the back foot but always dangerous and were quick to take advantage of poor handling in the tackle, suddenly breaking away and finding themselves with 5m penalty. However the line held and Jack Chapman showing great strength to hit the runner and drive him back 3 metres. The Darlington line held though and try as Billingham did they could not get a tying score. Final result 14-7 to Darlington.

**Billingham V Hartlepool**

Again potentially a strong district squad from good club sides, but with the bitter taste of defeat to Darlington still in their mouths Billingham were in no mood for a repeat dose. This was to prove a very even contest but Billingham heading Pools but they kept coming back, again forwards laying the foundation for the victory. David Rawson deciding to show he can side step making runs, but showing good hands and skills all day. Gary "hands out" proving second rows should run straight and true both boys setting the ball in the ruck textbook style. Scott Mahon also showing he plays better than he trains, making a good pick up then releasing Josh Gibson who went on a run where he off-loaded BEFORE the tackle to Jack Chapman who drove over to score. Marcus allowed Lee Burrell to convert one of the tries. Pools came back and from 19-7 down scored again to get to 19-14, Billingham closed the game out.

A great feast of quality rugby by all teams, and Billingham showing how much they have improved by beating district team, coaches Neil and Mick have some hard decisions to select 7 to go for County. Jack Chapman named player of the tournament but close run thing with Lee Burrell and John Devine. (So I guess he might be selected!!)

## Ponteland U14s V Billingham U14's

A bit of research revealed that Ponteland were a well disciplined and drilled side and from kick off this was evident, they were quick to rucks and in defence in the face of the opposite backs as a result Billingham could not get their game going. In fact the forwards as a pack looked as though they wanted to be still in bed! It was no surprise to find the Ponteland winger going in, in the corner conversion missed. Almost from the kick off Billingham were on the back foot again and were struggling to move the ball forward at all, Pontelands pressure told and again scored this time converted. Sharp words of encouragement from the Billingham coaches ringing in the lads ears and their game started to come together and finally advanced the ball into Pontelands half, but for what was to be a feature of the match, when attacking to often the Billingham player would fail to pass the ball off before contact, so the backs never got fully into their stride. Suddenly the up and at em Ponteland defence worked and the centre intercepted a pass and broke away to score again conversion missed this was threatening to become a route. 17-0 But credit to the Billingham team, the opposite happened, finally stung into action they responded and started to match Ponteland up front, and then advance with several fine pick up and goes from the forwards, with an occasional back break, they were soon close to Pontelands line. Instead of driving forward the ball was whipped out to Josh Gibson who dashed over in the corner, finally a score, but conversion missed from the bye line. This game was far from settled as you could see the boost it gave the boys in Green. Ponteland though still held the upper hand and their backs were moving the ball beautifully, drawing the tackler but pass the ball on, Billingham please note! just when it looked as though the winger was in, a fine last gasp tackle from David Rawson stopped the try, but support was on hand for another score,

conversion missed 22-5. Billingham hit back straight away, Jack Chapman having a fine game made a break and nearly scored but held up, as was Robbie Lavender good defence Ponteland, however pressure continued and again after being held up, from the 5m re-start Ben McWilliams went over and Jack converted 22-12 Half time.

This was far from a lost cause was the message from the coaches, our forwards had been asleep for half the game and our backs so good against Blaydon were also misfiring, but the signs were there of the possibilities for the 2nd half this is a good Ponteland team, what do Billingham have? The answer was seen almost immediately from the re-start. Pressure and hard running from John Devine, Tom Doherty Josh Gibson the three also putting in good tackles, had Ponteland on the back foot. Now with ball in hand Billingham were threatening and soon Jack Chapman was stopped short yet again and Ben McWilliams showed how lethal he is from 2 yards!!, again conversion missed 22-17 the tide was turning. After swapping possession and position a few times John Devine got the ball at outside centre 40m out and a storming run through a few tackles and touching down under the posts 22-24 what a reply. Ponteland though were not going to give in easily, their backs soon had an opportunity in the corner but Luke Roopshand and Jack Chapman drove the winger into touch 5m from their own try line. From the line out, Ponteland took the ball, broke through the line 27-24. Some game now. Both teams were going for it with gusto, but Pontelands backs clicking marginally better and a fine break saw them score in the corner 32-24 game won?

Not a bit, Billingham again pressed and started to dominate the closing minutes could they get back in it? time was running out but josh Gibson broke and scored in the corner showing great determination, conversion missed Full time 32-29 a great game of rugby thoroughly enjoyed by all who saw it. So close for Billingham but a hard lesson learnt. The game starts at the first whistle and the basics have to be done.

Man of the match, Josh Gibson first time for him well done.



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