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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.

	<p>BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB NEWS LETTER "THE LION"</p>	 <small>COMMUNITY RUGBY ACTIVE SPORTS SEAL OF APPROVAL</small>
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SATURDAY RESULTS

BILLINGHAM 1st - 54

v

WHTDSOB - 12

MIDDLESBROUGH - 0

v

BILLINGHAM 2nds - 36



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<p>MONDAY 5TH NOV AT 7PM BILLINGHAMS RUGBY CLUB FIRE WORKS NIGHT THE BIGGEST AND BEST IN TOWN</p>	<p>Issu 6 Vol 6</p>
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NORTHERN v BILLINGHAM 1st XV

Following last weeks crushing defeat of Horden Billingham took a large crowd of supporters including the three musketeers to McCracken Park. After a twenty minute briefing from the referee the starting team from last week emerged to blustery but dry conditions.

Billingham squandered a couple of good chances to score in the first fifteen minutes then Garbutt found some space. He burst through feeding Huchinson who thundered on to pass to M Evans to score. Tennent left the field with a painful twisted ankle to be replaced by Dalton in the second row and the game seemed to stagnate in the middle of the park despite some powerful running from Wildridge.

The opposition deliberately wheeled a scrum and we were surprised when they were awarded the put in. The resulting play lead to a try despite protests from Billingham. Northern pressed again and a series of missed tackles saw Northern increase their lead.

Half Time NORTHERN 12 v BILLINGHAM 7

After the turn around the home side should have increased their lead but missed two fairly easy kicks but then scored with an unconverted push over try. Billingham's unusual lack of creativity and poor decision-making gave Northern the impetus until with ten minutes to go Anth Hyndman replaced Durnion and Woodhouse replaced Andy Evans. We regained the initiative with the former making some great breaks through their defence and the latter controlling the rucks and mauls. With Chris Hyndman moving to eight we gained a penalty eight metres out after a strong drive. The Northern defence spread to cover the pack but Chris Hyndman took a quick tap and bulldozed his way over to put us within a penalty of Northern. Garbutt was unlucky when he chased his own chip to see it drift into touch just before the try line. Billingham pressed hard but with only a couple of minutes to gain the points it was not enough.

FULL TIME NORTHERN 17 v BILLINGHAM 14

Reporters comment: - It was unfair to single out any players for this defeat although some tried after the game. This was a difficult report to give but we simply did not do enough in the game overall to win although we could have.

Spectators comment: The players who played well in the team know it but we need to get back to playing the way we can

Tries: M.Evans 1 C. Hyndman 1

J. Evans Conversions 2

Darlington U15's 31 v Billingham U15's 24

This league encounter doubled as a warm-up on the first team pitch to celebrate Darlington's Founders Day. The match began with Billingham looking dangerous, applying pressure for some minutes in front of the Darlington line. Darlington got out of trouble by manoeuvring play to the centre pitch. Then Tom Kill made his trademark sprint, passed to Danny Adams waiting on the wing and then Mark Brewis, who was pushed out inches short of the corner flag. It was Darlington who scored first with an interception and a long sprint to the Billingham line and the try was subsequently converted. Billingham put pressure on the scoreline with a fine try by Cole Henderson and then a sprint to score from Tom Kill. Billingham were looking far more dynamic and Nathan Moffatt snatched the ball in the lineout and sent it straight to Joe Douthwaite who barged down the blind side to score. Danny Finney converted. Billingham went into half-time with some real self-belief and a 17 points to 7 advantage.

However, a number of chances went begging in the second half and missed tackles by Billingham allowed a new lease of life to Darlington. They broke through an unsuspecting defence three times to score three times and convert once. Then Billingham began to perk up and a fine kick downfield by Danny Finney was chased by Tom Kill to touch it down (and then Finney converted). With Billingham one try adrift for some reason the whistle blew on 25 minutes. Well done to the Darlington U15's who have been unable to beat Darlington over the last couple of seasons and both sides played respectable rugby. Man of the match was Joe Douthwaite.

Concept
KITCHENS

Billingham U15's 53 v Sunderland U15's 12

A Sunderland kick-off had Bilingham straight into attacking play today. Sunderland took no time in gaining ground and the Bilingham defence looked sleepy as they allowed Sunderland to sneak through to score under the posts and convert.

B/ham regrouped and a penalty was passed along the backs only to see Sam Ferguson pushed out by the corner flag. Bilingham won a scrum and were looking dangerous, but the ball was held up on the line. Third time lucky saw the ball to Wilf Reeve who drove over the line to score. Bilingham continued to dominate play and moved away from trouble with a try from Conor Shea to take them into half-time 10:7 up.

The second half saw an increased physicality in Bilingham's game and they continued with the ascendancy. Joe Douthwaite scored first, followed by Tom Kill brushing off a series of frustrated Sunderland tacklers to score. Kill soon put in another (all three converted by Danny Finney), before Finney put in a smart try himself. Bilingham dropped their guard and let in one try but they had Tom Kill in fine form to go on and score his 3rd, 4th and 5th, one of which was converted by Finney. Man of the match today was Andy Thompson with his impressive tackling. The final score was 53:12 in Bilingham's favour.

[Ponteland U15's 19 V Bilingham U15's 36](#)

B/ham'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 Pont player snatched the ball on their first opportunity to field the ball and ran through a ragged B/ham defence to score under the posts and subsequently convert. B/ham then upped their game and ensured that play continued in the Pont half when several times Ponteland booted the ball to the B/ham 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.

Durham/N'thm'land 1

Short Format

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Adjust
Northern	7	7	0	0	190	88	102	14	0
Bilingham	7	6	0	1	251	73	178	12	0
Horden	7	6	0	1	260	117	143	12	0
Sunderland 1st XV	7	5	0	2	239	133	106	10	0
PERCY PARK IST XV	7	4	0	3	224	124	100	8	0
Alnwick	7	3	0	4	105	186	-81	6	0
Ryton	7	3	0	4	74	229	-155	6	0
Stockton	6	2	0	4	134	146	-12	4	0
Wallsend	7	2	0	5	121	183	-62	4	0
Gosforth	6	2	0	4	91	159	-68	4	0
Ponteland	7	1	0	6	93	196	-103	2	0
West Hartlepool TDSOB	7	0	0	7	58	206	-148	0	0

MONDAY 5th NOVEMBER
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October 21st Darlington V Billingham U 14's

The morning after the night before as we met in the car park disappointed having seen England lose to South Africa and the score that wasn't given. Billingham set off with confidence having narrowly lost to the District team two weeks earlier, even though players down and only having one sub, what would the reaction to defeat last week be.

From the off the tone was set, Darlington kicked off and the ball was shipped to David Rawson who charged into their pack. Driving on another 10m after contact, the maul forming and Billingham again going forward. David then broke free and went on again being tackled and Billingham hit the ruck with power, the intention was clear for all to see. Craig Errington shipping the ball to the backs, gaining ground and passing down the line. Darlington hit back and were soon running at Billingham, a kicked clearance from Billingham landed at the Darlington winger feet who then evaded 4 weak tackles to score from 50meters, what a sickener against the run of play.

B/ham though came straight back, and were soon deep in the Darlington half; strong running from Jack Chapman, Tom Doherty and John Devine had them within the 22. Darlington were tackling and sailing close to the limit at times with several high challenges. From a penalty the ball worked out wide and John Devine crossed for a score, 5-5.

Back came Darlington who made two substitutions, this game was not going to plan, but a lovely blind side move exposed the Billingham winger and Darlington went in and scored between the post and converted to make it 12-5

Darlington kicks seemed to be aimed at David Rawson playing at flanker who was taking delight at running the ball back at them, with the strong Billingham pack behind him, Johnny Young often in support taking the ball on. This was as good as Billingham have played all 15 were chipping in with contributions, soon Tom Doherty went bursting through The centre, only to be stopped 3 m short by a high tackle. Praise to the Darlington coach heard to correct his team but the referee awarded a penalty try, the conversion again missed would that cost us? 12-10
Half Time

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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	41- 5
27th Oct 07	Northern	v	Billingham	17-14
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	
9th Feb 08	Billingham	v	Gosforth	
16th Feb 08	Percy Park	v	Billingham	
1st Mar 08	Alnwick	v	Billingham	
8th Mar 08	Billingham	v	Ponteland	
29th Mar 08	Ryton	v	Billingham	
12th Apr 08	Sunderland	v	Billingham	
19th Apr 08	Billingham	v	Stockton	
26th Apr 08				

'THE KITTEN CLUB'

BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB MEMBERS,
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Billingham U15's 14

v

Percy Park U15's 10

Percy Park U15's are some of Bilingham U15's toughest opponents, with their imposing physical presence and today Percy Park went straight on the attack. Bilingham were alert in their tackling and play progressed for some time centre pitch. Percy Park made ground and applied the pressure, only to be held up on the line. A quick turn of events saw Percy Park loose possession with a super tackle from Jake Day only to see them scoop up the ball and score. Bilingham replied moments later by getting the ball to Tom Kill who made a surging run from half-way to score. Danny Finney converted. Bilingham began to take control but a break from Jake Day came to nothing. Percy Park had a scrum on the Bilingham 5m line just before half time and made the most of it and drove over to score. Bilingham went into half-time 10:7 down. Events changed in the second half and Jake Day put in a run away try to score under the posts. Danny Finney converted. The run of play continued with Percy Park playing a driving game with their numbers 1 to 8 as opposed to Bilingham's game of passing the ball out wide. With two minutes to go Percy Park looked dangerous but couldn't pull those extra points out of the bag due to the intense pressure exerted by the Bilingham boys. Man of the match today was Mark Brewis for his distribution behind a strong pack and the final score was a 14:10 victory to Bilingham.



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The second half soon was going the same way as the first, lots of Bilingham possession, rucking and mauling well the backs trying to use the platform they were being given. Darlington kicking well to clear lines and from one of these Bilingham were exposed at the back, the big Darlo winger racing for the ball, Luke Roopchand diving bravely at his feet to claim the ball and John Devine arriving to take the ball back at Darlington. Panic over. But this level of commitment spread through the team as Callum Baker at full back also did the same later in the game Soon Bilinghams forwards were at it again driving a maul on, the ball coming out to the left, Marcus Sudron moving it onto John Devine who burst through to score his second of the day, again conversion missed, but now 12-15.

Darlington came back with a vengeance; they had never lost to us and did not want to start now. Soon Bilingham were back in their own 22, and then came possibly the defining moment of the game. A Darlington centre was running with the ball and as Marcus Sudron went in to tackle, the hand-off became a forearm smash. Rightly the referee had strong words with the Darlington player, but the Bilingham reaction could be heard as lets score tries, and keep our discipline.

The game now continued to seesaw for the next 15 minutes, 100% commitment from both sides. The Bilingham coaches and supporters were becoming more nervous. Would we finally break our duck? The ball again kicked deep by Darlington and Muruf Murzagalieva (try saying that in the heat of the moment!) just getting back to kill the ball in our end zone. Nervous times indeed. The clock was ticking and suddenly their big winger had a break on would he score? No just being knocked into touch 5 m out. From the line out, Darlington broke through to go over, BUT Craig Errington got his head in the way e.g. under the player and Callum Baker plus Marcus held him up, Full time. 12-15 we had done it at last! Every single Bilingham payer could be proud of their effort, but this is the start boys not the end.

Man of the Match, picked by Darlington's coach, as there were so many good displays, was John Devine his tries making the difference.

Colourscreen

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Blaydon have always been strong competition for this Bingham side, being big opponents and so the Bingham boys were poised for this next encounter. Bingham 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. Bingham continued to dominate and held play in the Blaydon half. Blaydon needed to focus on putting in the tackles as they let Bingham 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 Bingham end. It was Jake Day who broke the deadlock by breaking free to sprint and score. The score stood at 26:0 to Bingham at half time.

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

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

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Durham U15's 5

V

Billingham U15's 33

Billingham had a very sleepy start on this encounter and the first several minutes generated plenty of frustration. Danny Adams on the wing almost scored three times but the points went begging. Eventually excellent supportive play presented Andy Thompson with an opportunity and he scored. Danny Finney subsequently converted. Durham allowed Billingham to show off some strong passing through the hands and the next try was one in the corner from Mark Brewis. Now in the ascendancy Billingham continued and Danny Adams got his long awaited try and Finney converted from a tricky angle. Billingham went into half time with a lead of 19:0.

Durham were straight out of the blocks in the second half only to be held up on the line once but weren't to be denied with their second chance. Billingham continued to carry the ball well and Cole Henderson, on great attacking form, made sure he scored. (Finney converted) The final try came from full back Carl Robinson following a Billingham lineout and Finney converted to make a final score of 33:5 in Billingham U15's favour.

Overall it was a match where some good playing decisions were made by Billingham but they kicked away possession too much. The second half saw some great well-practiced manoeuvring and the man of the match was Cole Henderson.

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October 28th Billingham V Sunderland

A hastily arranged fixture saw a Sunderland team that has been hammering everyone they have played arrive at Billingham, we have not played them in a proper fixture for nearly two years and that had been a painful experience. However confidence high from beating Darlington the week before saw Billingham well and truly up for this encounter even though missing a few regulars from the starting 15.

From the start it was soon evident this was going to be cracker of a game, intensity levels high on both sides and no quarter being asked or given.

Sunderland were soon in to their attacking stride and only last gasp defensive work kept them at bay, and try as they did Billingham were struggling to get out of their half. Good hard tackling from Sunderland stopped many a break from Billingham players.

Eventually the pressure paid off for Sunderland and their winger burst down the line to score, breaking a few tackles as he did so, the age old problem for Billingham of trying to stop a player once in full flight.

5-0, conversion missed

Billingham fought back John Devine, Tom Doherty making good breaks, Johnny Young having a storming game tackling and running hard, ripping ball from mauls and generally being a pain as far as Sunderland were concerned.

The game was a lot more even now, Billingham pressing but failing to break through, soon the Sunderland centre made a good strong break through the centre and scored under the posts, converted 12-0.

Again Billingham raised their game, this was the sort of performances that amazes their coaches, where they up their game a notch showing true spirit. After good forward work they were inside the Sunderland 22, and Craig Errington made a break from the back of a ruck, spotting a gap and weaving in from 20 metres for a score between the posts, his first for a while so great to see. Tom Doherty converting 12 – 7 game on.

Muruf playing at wing for the first time settled his nerves after a while and started to make good ground with strong runs, certainly showing promise for the future but in what seemed no time at all half time was blown

12-7.

Minor injury niggles forced a few changes or switching of positions for the second half as substitutes were limited on Billingham bench after a run of injuries and bouts of sickness going around. The half soon settled down to more of the same, yards being made by both teams but desperate

tackling prevented any scores.

Soon the physicality of the encounter started to take its toll, Muruf coming off after receiving a knock in what boxing describes as a “low blow” Josh Gibson coming on. The switch in positions for the day had second row moving to Full back, wingers becoming centres, fly half moving to outside centre, flankers going to centre so the performance being produced was way beyond expectations. Sunderland scored again following clever bit of line out play, but Billingham came back with Ben McWilliams showing his pace from 2 metres to score between the posts 19-14.

The intensity was cranked up again, but Sunderland showing that bit more experience within the team put another couple of tries in, their tall winger proving too much for Billingham, neither converted 14-29 final score.

Man of the match Johnny Young, really finding his feet as flanker and proving a real handful all game.

A third half was played as Sunderland have a large squad, Billingham though were now down to 15 fit players as a few subs had been forced on due to injuries. This proved a bit easier for Sunderland who won 5 – 26 Josh Gibson scoring for Billingham in the corner, but again Billingham players giving their all even though fatigue possibly starting to tell.

Sunderland in their 4 previous games had scored over 200 points with only 20 or so conceded, they knew they had been in a game today, and their coaches more than happy for a return fixture. Once again a hard fought game played in good spirit by both teams, a credit to their coaches, parents and clubs.

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