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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>	 <p style="text-align: center;"> COMMUNITY RUGBY <small>ACTIVE SPORTS SEAL OF APPROVAL</small> </p>
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BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB
 BAR MEALS, SUNDAY CARVERY, SKY SPORTS LARGE SCREEN TV.
 FUNCTION ROOM FOR HIRE.
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SAT 24th NOV 07 2.15pm
BILLINGHAM 1st V SUNDERLAND
BILLINGHAM 3rds V YARM
10th NOV 07 RESULTS
 WALLSEND 15 v BILLINGHAM 1st XV 57
17 NOV 07 Cup Senior Vase R3
 BILLINGHAM v RYTON
CALLED OFF BILLINGHAM GO THROUGH TO NEXT ROUND
BILLINGHAM 2^{nds} 17 v ROVERS 7

Sunderland Festival 2007
Billingham Mini's bring home trophies, Again!

Following on from last year's success in the Under 7 category, sharing the prize with Durham, The Billingham Mini's have done it again. This time the Under 7s and Under 8s winning the Festival full report with pictures inside

REFEREE SOCIETY AWARDS

At the Durham County Referee Society Annual Dinner held at West Hartlepool Rugby Club on Friday 26th October 2007 our Mr Ray Coultard was awarded the Terry Stephenson award for Member of the Year. The award is given to those who have provided excellent service to the Society. Congratulations Ray.

 <p style="text-align: center;"> FF FinanceFirst <small>PERSONAL AND CORPORATE FINANCIAL ADVISERS</small> www.finance-first.com <small>1 High Street, Norton, Stockton on Tees, TS20 1EH Telephone: 01642 355966 Fax: 01642 355967</small> </p>	<p>Issue 7</p> <p>Vol 6</p>
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Sunderland Festival 2007

Billingham Mini's bring home trophies, Again!

Following on from last year's success in the Under 7 category, sharing the prize with Durham, the Billingham Mini's have done it again. Such is the strength in numbers of the Mini's that they were able to field two teams this year. Both an Under 8 side and an Under 7 side.

The Under 7 side were in their first tournament but were not daunted by the occasion.

The whole side performed way beyond their years with all team members scoring tries and supporting well. The main try scorers, Luke Pearson, Joe Ross, and Sam Wilson were strongly supported by Owain and Kieran Sudron, new comers Thomas Bennett, Sam Plant and Jordan Cook were shown the way by the experienced and excellent defensive work of Jake Morrison. The first game was against Durham 1 which Billingham won 4 – 3. Next came the home team, Sunderland, a draw 4 – 4. Westoe were next with another draw, one try each. Then came Bishop Auckland with a win for Billingham 4 – 3 and the final game against Durham 2 with Billingham running out winners 3 -2. This gave the team 8 points to finish top of the table and win the trophy.

The Under 8 side were up against strong opposition from teams they have played and beaten before including their nemesis Westoe. The games were of seven minutes duration and no half time turn around so speedy try scoring was essential. The first result was a draw; three tries each against the eventual winners and home side Sunderland 1. Next up was Durham 2 and another 3 – 3 result. Blaydon 2 were next who were thrashed 3 – 0. Hartlepool Old Boys only managed 2 tries to our 3. Then there was a long wait for the last game of the grouping, Westoe. The result was a three try draw after one of the Billingham tries was disallowed when a touch judge, who had mysteriously appeared on the far side of the pitch, ruled that the try scorer had stepped out. The main try scorers were Joe Clark (6), Lee Adair (3) and David Elwell (3). Others came from Tom Weston (1), Matthew Olley (1) and Rees Bell with his first try for the club. Strong forward running and defence came from Richard Kelsey and some excellent tagging from new comer, who suffered a bloody nose for his pains, Jake Phillips-Cooper. With a tally of fifteen tries over five games and 7 points in the table we were in the play off for the Runners Up Plate against Bishop Auckland.

This game was longer than the rest having two halves of five mins each way. Bishop scored first from the kick off but with some determined

Billingham U15's 22

v
Gosforth U15's 0

Billingham U15's only encounter with Gosforth in recent years was in a rare defeat in a tournament at Newcastle last season, so the boys were ready to prove a point. They took no time in asserting their dominance, when Jake Day executed some superb weaving through the Gosforth defence to score with only two minutes on the clock. Jake got his second chance minutes later and repeated his moves, only to pass to Tom Kill at the last opportunity, who touched down to score. Danny Finney converted. Gosforth decided to flex their muscles and settled into the game after their shaky start. Several of the Billingham moves went absolutely nowhere and Gosforth held the score at 12:0 in Billingham's favour through to half time.

Billingham began well in the second half but Gosforth applied the pressure. Gosforth came close but couldn't quite touch the ball down. Both teams were becoming increasingly frustrated and the referee stopped and started the game accordingly. Eventually Danny Adams was in receipt of the ball from some great handling along the backs and touched down in the corner. Minutes later Billingham wasted no time with a penalty inside the Gosforth 22 and the ball was swiftly manoeuvred with exceptional timing by the backs to Tom Kill to score in the corner. This sealed the scoreline at 22:0 to Billingham. Man of the match went to outstanding players today –

Christopher Halfpenny and Sam Ferguson.

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Billingham U15's 22 Acklam U15's 17

Billingham boys had a sleepy start in the first few minutes of this encounter then sprang to life when Jake Day made a break and dodged and weaved through an unsuspecting Acklam defence to score under the posts. Acklam looked mystified! Bilingham tried to capitalise on the lead but Acklam were having none of it and tackled with determination, almost driving through the Bilingham defence to score. Acklam made a number of attempts and increased the pressure and Bilingham did well to keep them out. Bilingham made a number of errors and paid the price by allowing Acklam through to score and convert. Acklam now had a real focus and put in a second try just before half time.

A change around in the Bilingham numbers one to eight at half time made a difference. Jake Day weaved through the Acklam defence again for his second try and Danny Finney converted. Danny Adams, on the wing for Bilingham, overshot the dead ball area on one attempt but minutes later made his try count. Acklam replied with a try in the corner to level the scores at 17 points all.

Play then switched to predominantly being in the Acklam half and it was Nathan Moffat who made the difference with a strong drive over and scored the winner for Bilingham. The final score was 22:17 to Bilingham. It was a niggly game and man of the match was Jake Day for the backs and Joe Douthwaite for his display of maturity.

CLUB SHOP

Looking for Christmas presents? In the next few weeks the shop will be stocking replica first team shirts, new style polo shirts and a range of non-clothing items suitable for presents as well as Bilingham RUFC Christmas cards. Since so many adults have admired the new minis shirts we have also ordered a batch of the same design in adult sizes and with short sleeves. Maybe you are thinking of buying Newcastle Falcons merchandise? If so please pick up a catalogue from the shop and order through us. You pay the same price, the goods are delivered to your door and Bilingham receive a share of the profit for each item. See Judie or Chris for further details.

defence work and running from deep, by half time Bilingham were in the lead 3 – 2 with tries from Joe Clark (2) and David Elwell (1) both showing excellent running skills. The second half saw Bishop draw level but two more tries from Joe Clark (1) and David Elwell (1) made sure Bilingham ran out winners.

With 20 tries from the U8's and 16 from the U7's, Bilingham were the top try scoring club of the competition, unfortunately no trophy is given for that.



*Billingham Under 7's
Cup Winners
Back Row,
Joe Ross,
Thomas Bennett,
Sam Wilson,
Sam Plant,
Luke Pearson
Front Row.
Jordan Cook,
Jake Morrison,
Owain Sudron,
Kieron Sudron*

OUR SPIRIT IS OUR STRENGTH



**Under 8's 2007
Cup winners**

- Jake Phillips Cooper
- Rees Bell
- Lee Adair
- Thomas Weston
- Richard Kelsey
- Matthew Olley
- David Elwell
- Joseph Clark

BILLINGHAM 2nd XV v ROVERS

At last some proper rugby weather for the crowd with a biting northerly wind to freeze the proverbials off. An ankle injury during the warm up to Mark McQuillen looked to upset the formation but he decided to give it a go. With all other games off we quite rightly kept faith with our talented second team players to field a starting line up with only one first team player and a couple who remained unused on the bench

Clarke looked good value with some good breaks from full back but we struggled with a spoiling Rovers team. Durnion ripped a ball from a maul and with Brown at his side drove over for Danny Robinson to score

A quick tap penalty from Sayers saw Wray to Bonnetti to Clarke who skirted the defence to score. Pedro slotted the conversion into the wind

Half Time BILLINGHAM 2nd 12 XV v ROVERS 0

Half time saw Rhino reluctantly limp off to be replaced by Scott and Naz replaced Dunne out wide who had defended well but had seen no ball.

Billingham showed great defensive skills as Rovers forwards battered our line and eventually scored a converted try. Once again Keenan and Westall were hitting well above their weight in the tackles Guz reminded the opposition he was on the field with the handoff of the year... ouch!

An excellent passage of running rugby by Billingham saw scoring chances go begging when a couple of passes went to ground. Given the defensive effort put in by the players and the blustery cold conditions we expected many more errors but few were forthcoming.

Conlon replaced Hammond and Foster replaced Burnett,

The final score of the game came right on the final whistle with a good passing move and Conlon releasing Fern to break the gain line and Naz to run through out wide around the full back to score in the corner.

BILLINGHAM 2nd 17 XV v ROVERS 7

Scorer tries:, Clarke 1, Danny Robinson 1 Naz 1

Kicks: Conversions P Evans 1

Club news First second team game report this year. They are worth watching and supporting. Only injury was the Rhino

Spectators comment Nice to see we did not bring in loads of first teamers only needed John Davies for a day ja vous back row

Reporters comment, Good to see the first team squad not only supporting but given advice to their potential rivals for positions and others who knew the position prepared to bench warm in case of injury

OUR SPIRIT IS OUR STRENGTH

WALLSEND v BILLINGHAM 1st XV 10TH November 2007

Billingham rung the changes this week with Craig Daley and Anth Hyndman and Martin Dixon and Schiller starting and Craig Shepherd, Dave Robinson and Barry Magrath on the bench. Wagger showed he had lost none of his appetite for the game with a big hit straight from the kick off bringing howls from our large and much appreciated supporters.

Despite some good early ball we were hammered by the Wallsend defence who targeted Anth Hyndman down the twelve channel.

Persistence in this move lead nowhere and with a tight referee we saw Wallsend take a 12 – 0 lead through penalties and minor backchat.

Then all hell broke loose with our first decent move Watson went over from out wide followed by quick ball through all the backs for Craig Shepherd to score. Garbutt followed this with a trademark run over the opposition wingman. Our indiscipline gave them a further three points but a quick tap penalty saw Mike Evans power over to finish the half

Half Time WALLSEND 15 v BILLINGHAM 1st XV 24

After the turn around Hyndman showed his deft kicking skills using the wind to force Wallsend back. Andy Evans was replaced by Craig Shepherd at full back and saw his brother steam past him for his second try. Turn over ball by Amos and Danny Robbo and clearing? out by Dixon and Daley gave Joe Evans a breakaway opportunity to score under the posts. The Shep combination saw Craig finish from distance. Barry Magrath replaced Wildridge who again had performed well with his second row partner for this match Dalton. Paul Shepherd got his third and when a penalty was awarded Woodhouse saw Watson out wide and a quick tap and pass put him over for his second and final score of the game. A good win in the end but it was obvious that they were looking to stop Chris Hyndman down the twelve channel, maybe they should have checked the team sheet and maybe we should have brought plan B into play earlier to save Anth from the double team battering he had to suffer.

FULL TIME WALLSEND 15 v BILLINGHAM 1st XV 57

Two Spectator comments: It was Paul or Craig. It's Hyndman with a Y

Reporters comment: - Even Mrs Shep could not tell me which one scored the seventh try and that's the Gazette not me Danny

Coaches Comment Who goes on holidays in season?

Tries: P. Shepherd 3, Watson 2, M.Evans 1, J. Evans 1, Garbutt 1, and C. Shepherd 1

BILLINGHAM FIRST XV v WHTDSOB 3RD NOV 2007

Injuries, illness and unavailability meant changes after last weeks below par performance. Woodhouse regained the nine shirt and Watson came in at eight with A. Evans replacing the injured Craig Shepherd at full back and Magrath, P. Evans and Schiller benching. It was nip and tuck for a while until Garbutt pulled off a superb switch with Chris Hyndman to allow J. Evans to sprint in. The second was a forward's classic.

Wildridge who was superb all game tapped off the top to Dalton and an impressive drive saw Watson touch down. The advantage of quick ball was opening gaps in Tech's defence when Sheps dummy run allowed Garbutt space to crash over in the corner. Hutchinson pulled a hamstring and was replaced by Schiller with Youdale dropping back to blind side

Half Time BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 15 v WHTDSOB 0

Following some good handling Garbutt with the line beckoning threw an overhead pass to Dave Robinson for his customary dive over try.

Chris Hyndman put J. Evans in with a late offload after drawing four defenders. Tech formed a ruck but were surprised when Danny Robinson ripped the ball, pooped to Woody who bulleted one to Youdale to weave his way over, A couple of missed tackles saw Tech get their first points of the day, Peter Evans replaced Mike who limped off and his clever chip through saw Chris Hyndman chase it in., The rapid recycling by Amos and quick delivery saw Garbutt get his second in the almost under the posts with Tech flatfooted. The next was from our own try line with Hyndman running forty yards, great support from P. Evans saw another ten added and a forty yard pick and go from Woodhouse left him in acres of space with two defenders to beat. Andy Evans steamed up and as the tacklers were drawn Andy was given the ball at pace to score. Following a series of penalties Tech eventually crossed our line for the second time The final play gave Joe Evans his hat trick with an eighty yard interception try. Always a hard side for us to wallop so a good result.

BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 54 V WHTDSOB 12

Scorers tries: J Evans 3, Garbutt 2, C. Hyndman 1 A Evans1, Youdale 1, Watson 1, Dave Robinson 1

Kicks: Conversions J Evans1 P. Evans 1

Reporters comment: - Good to see unselfish passing for scores. "Line fever costs points and can lose games as we have found out in the past

Spectators comment: Who told you about Skeggy?



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Poppy Appeal

The club raised £34.18, well done to all who donated, again special thanks Helen and the bar staff for all there help with the appeal

Durham/N'thm'land 1		
1	Northern	18
2	Billingham	16
3	Sunderland	14
4	Horden	12
5	PERCY PARK IST	12
6	Alnwick	8
7	Gosforth	8
8	Ryton	7
9	Stockton	7
10	Wallsend	4
11	Ponteland	2
12	West Hartlepool TDSOB	0

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Gosforth U14s V Billingham U14s.

Halloween is officially in October but for whatever reason the Billingham lads were still celebrating, and unfortunately decided to produce their own “horrible Rugby Nightmare”

The day started badly and just got worse, after setting of with what we thought was an idea of where the ground was. The various drivers decided their own potential venues of where the game might be played, Kingston Park (Falcons ground) Gosforth RFU club all tried and some even went as far as thinking our Geordie cousins would base the Gosforth Rugby Club in Gosforth! no such luck and those that did got sent to Northern’s Ground. When in doubt remember a Geordie is a Scotsman with his brains bashed out!

Anyway after what seemed an eternity the full squad was assembled and ready to go,.....or were they?

From the kick off Gosforth scored within 15 seconds, as Billingham decided they would lay down a red carpet and invite the Gosforth centre to run through the centre and score an almost unopposed try, I’m not sure a hand was even laid on the player. Not the “go from the first whistle” coaches Neil and Mick had asked for. It would be fair to say the rest of the first half seemed to follow a pattern of “after you” by Billingham in relation to Gosforth’s players. There were a few bright moments Luke Roopshand, John Devine, Tom Doherty making runs but they were few and far between. John being tackled superbly 2 metres from the try line.

Half time 28-0

To be fair occasionally a score does not reflect the closeness of the encounter, today was not one BUT it must be said that a lot of the scores by Gosforth were following mistakes in play by Billingham rather than them creating opportunities. An example being trying to off-load in the tackle the turnover ball resulting in a score. Performances picked up in the second half but the score kept ticking over the wrong way. The score got up to 56-0 and a quiet offer was made to stop it early but Billingham were continuing to try so in keeping with the Halloween performance the coaches decided to let the little horrors continue. A good job as soon there was something to cheer good play up front led to a chorus from the “Soul Brothers” Neil and Mick of “High Tackle” saw Gosforth pinged.

The ball quickly shifted to Jack Chapman who did what he does best. Running with the ball while inviting defenders to “talk to the hand” as he scored in the corner 56-5 whitewash avoided.

Billingham getting some reward for the day’s efforts but too little too late. Billingham were not finished though, and another break soon had the Soul Brothers singing again, “Hands” in the ruck saw a penalty. A whine from Gosforth saw 10m awarded; Jack Chapman took it quickly passing down the line to Tom Doherty who came steaming in to score 56-10 to late for a comeback but reward for their perseverance.

Not the best game we have ever played, and to be fair Gosforth took advantage of poor play but 56-10 not a true reflection of what Billingham are capable of.

Gary Churlish man of the match, for gritty donkey work all game and never stopping.

Recent Results				
15	Wallsend	V's	Billingham	57
54	Billingham	V's	West Hartlepool TDSOB	12
17	Northern	V's	Billingham	14
41	Billingham	V's	Hornden	5
7	Gosforth	V's	Billingham	27
34	Billingham	V's	PERCY PARK IST	29
36	Billingham	V's	Alnwick	0
12	Ponteland	V's	Billingham	22
77	Billingham	V's	Ryton	3

Fixtures			
Nov 24, 2007	Billingham	V's	Sunderland
Dec 01, 2007	Stockton	V's	Billingham
Dec 15, 2007	Billingham	V's	Wallsend
Jan 05, 2008	West Hartlepool TDSOB	V's	Billingham
Jan 19, 2008	Billingham	V's	Northern
Jan 26, 2008	Hornden	V's	Billingham