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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.

	<p>BILLINGHAM RUGBY CLUB NEWS LETTER "THE LION"</p>	 <p>COMMUNITY RUGBY ACTIVE SPORTS SEAL OF APPROVAL</p>
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<p>RESULTS</p> <p>STOCKTON 1st 16 – BILLINGHAM 1st 31 BILLINGHAM 2nds 22 – STOCKTON 5 BILLINGHAM U17s 13 – STOCKTON U17s 5</p>	<p>Issue 8 Vol 6</p>
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BILLINGHAM FIRST XV V SUNDERLAND 24th Nov 2007

A late cry off saw Daley moved to back row and Magrath joining Anth Hyndman and P Woodhouse on the bench. Sunderland took the lead early on with a well-taken penalty and pressed hard. Once again our backs seemed to be stalling until Garbutt chased down a deft grubber kick to split their defence for our first score. Amos and Youdale.

Dalton's tap down to Danny Robinson was flapped away by a Sunderland hand and with the ref unsighted no penalty awarded and a chance to score denied. Billingham opted for line kicks from penalties when maybe we could have taken the three points on several occasions.

Another opposition penalty saw us trailing at the break despite some great scoring opportunities and good driving runs from Wildridge,

Half Time BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 5 V SUNDERLAND 6

Following the restart some order was restored when Sunderland's drift defence were caught out and J Evans went over. C Hyndman broke two tackles, popped to A Evans to Garbutt for another trademark run to score his second. Woody replaced A Evans and set the backs away with his first touch for M Evans to score with his last being replaced by Anth Hyndman. An unfortunate bounce saw Sunderland hammer the Billingham line and despite some great defence including a thumping score stopping tackle on the try line from Craig Shepherd they went over. The introduction of fresh legs however was apparent as Billingham stepped up a gear and with quick ball, slick hands and blistering pace all the backs had a hand in a typical Paul Shepherd breezing round the full back score. Who said save the best till last when Dixon stole a turnover ball, a dummy run by Hutchy, Woody's miss pass to Chris who delivered an inch perfect pass to Anth whose thirty yard angled run at blistering pace left the Sunderland defence merely onlookers. A superb victory.

BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 32 V SUNDERLAND 13

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Tries: Garbutt 2, P. Shepherd 1, J Evans 1 M.Evans 1, A Hyndman 1

Kicks: Conversions J Evans 1 **M.O.M.** Hutchinson

NEWSFLASH Hutchinson walloped in drink off by Coach

Club news Rhino on crutches ligament damage. Tennant fit next week

STOP PRESS

BILLINGHAM FIRST XV REGAIN LEAD IN DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND LEAGUE ONE

BILLINGHAM THIRD XV V Yarm 2nds 24th Nov 2007

A cold November day and no second team game saw the thirds keep up the Billingham tradition of little change from the team, which won so convincingly at Wensleydale earlier in November.

The Billingham forwards did really well against a very experienced Yarm side that pressed hard but were somewhat fortunate to take the lead early on. It was all Billingham after that though with scrum half Childs driving over from the back of a ruck to open our account. With a front row of Horner, Leng and Hall controlling the scrum and Morgan and Dixon dominating the lineout Yarm had very little quality ball. Westall and Brown were punching holes through the opposition defence and with excellent backing up from flankers (yes flankers) Kelsey and Surtees Yarm were forced to kill the ball giving away a succession of penalties. The two in Yarm's half although difficult not only because of distance but also field position were coolly slotted over by Morely who again had a good day with the boot.

Half Time BILLINGHAM THIRD XV 13 V YARM 2nds 5

New boy Pickles recently joined from Ashington started his second game out wide and showed he is not afraid of contact along with his wing partner McKie. Billingham drove toward the Yarm line and when number eight Thompson was blatantly obstructed a good scoring chance was lost. Harlem globetrotting Coggy Canham eased the pressure when Yarm looked to be coming back into it with a downfield kick and thumping tackle on the Yarm receiver. Gav Hora came on to add experience to the front row and Mickey Stewart to bolster the defence and close out the game Morley slotted the penalty to close out the game to extend the teams winning run.

Full Time BILLINGHAM THIRD XV 16 V YARM 2nds 5

Well done lads another fine example of how the game should be played

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Tries: Childs 1

Kicks: Morley 1 Conversion 3 Penalties

Newsflash

BILLINGHAM THIRD XV EXTEND THEIR WINNING RUN TO THREE WEEKS UNBEATEN (Dizzy Don)

Mr. Dixon (As he wished to be known) returned from the Dark side of the game (Rugby League)

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Gateshead u15 5 v Billingham u15 41

On a good pitch and a fine day, Billingham had their typical slow start. As Gateshead dominated the early play, it was not a surprise when they took an early 5-0 lead. Jake Day responded with a jinking run from inside his own 22 line to score a converted try under the posts. With Gateshead still dominating the forward battle, Billingham did well to score again with the little ball that the backs received, when Danny Adams scored a fine try converted try. *Half time 5-14*

In the second half the Billingham forwards began to click into gear, gaining much more possession and dominating the rucks. Cole Henderson scored from a short distance after a period of pressure, again converted by Danny Finney. Jake Day scored another typical solo try. Henderson scored his second down the blind side of a now dominant pack. Joe Douthwaite also ran in from 30 metres following a scrum. Conor Shea also scored in the corner following up a well judged kick.

Final score Gateshead 5 Billingham 41
mom Danny Adams

Northern Echo Local Hero's Sports Award

Last night at this years prestigious Northern Echo Local Hero's Sports Award Ceremony held at Hardwick Hall *BRUFC PRESIDENT Mr. Ian Brown* won the award for "Leading Light" for his life time achievements in Sport. The award was presented by NPower in front of approx 950 guests.

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Billingham V Yarm U14, 2nd Dec

A cold, wet, sodden day on pitches ready to turn into a mud bath saw two teams turn up trying to oblige the conditions. Admirably a good few parents and supporters were on hand to lend support when the warmth and attraction of the club house and Sue's Bacon Butties and Home made soup (available at reasonable prices) could so easily have proved a temptation too far.

From the off, Yarm proved to be well drilled in the basics winning the majority of the rucks, but Billingham had their tackling heads on and were able to nullify any threats. The game soon settled into a bit of a stalemate, Yarm struggling to advance with the ball, Billingham making handling errors in the tricky conditions. Finally after about 10 minutes the breakthrough came, the ball being spilled by a Yarm back. Jack Chapman then kicking the ball on, a footrace developed, Jack winning and gathering cleanly he looked to be away free. Only to slip close to the try line, but he recovered his footing to score in the corner. Marcus converting. 7-0

This allowed the coaches to get some instruction into Billingham, and the effect was almost immediate. Marcus scoring with a lovely 40m run handing off two defenders, but more importantly he had 4 supporting runners he could have passed to, another message slowly getting through. He missed his kick, 12-0.

Pressure was building by Billingham now. John Devine nearly scoring but the desperate covering tackle saw him receive an eye injury forcing him off. Then a turning point in what was still a tight game, a kick ahead by Jack Chapman, saw Johnny Young follow up and line up the full back who was cut in half, Tom Doherty collecting the loose ball (good support play) and went in from 30 metres. Conversion missed 17-0. Half time. Neil and Mick saw an opportunity at half time to try a few things and bring on a few players; they were soon rewarded by a great forward try. Johnny Young won line out ball and broke through, off-loaded to Robbie Lavender (making an impression again) who off-loaded to Big Nathan. The sprint became a trot became a walk, several Yarm players tried to stop him. He was overtaken by a glacier but kept going, eventually scoring in the corner his big grin being evident from the other side of the pitch, 22-0 conversion missed.

A great bit of forward hard running and driving play, but this was soon eclipsed by another fine team effort. Ben McWilliams who was tackling anything in blue set off, he off-loaded to Luke ROOPCHAND

Whitby V Billingham Under 14's

Whitby were certainly up for this and soon a close encounter was underway. No quarter was being asked or given. Billingham mixing the play from Long kicks up field to running the ball and releasing the backs. Soon John Devine was breaking through but tackled, the attempted pass intercepted and a 65 m run took Whitby in to score under the posts, 7-0. Billingham coming straight back, the Whitby full back doing well with many of the kicks, but then undone by a bounce allowing Jack Chapman following his own kick to keep going and score in the corner, 7-5.

Whitby came storming back this was going to be a close game, but great defensive work was keeping them out, but then disaster a miss-kicked clearance 5m out allowed Whitby to collect and score 14-5

Jack Chapman made a strong run passing to John Devine who managed to catch the ball and storm in 14-10. Half time Billingham were playing better rugby but it was some contest, soon the kicking game came good again, a long one from Jack saw Marcus collect and pass onto John Devine, afterburners on and 14-15. This warmed the spectators.

Both teams raised themselves, Tom Doherty unlucky not to go over, Johnny Young and the rest of the Billingham pack working like Trojans keeping Whitby on the back foot although when they had the ball they looked dangerous, obviously used to playing in near arctic conditions on top of cliffs. Unfortunately the story of the day i.e. a dropped pass as it went across the backs and a kick ahead soon had a chase on, Rats 19-15 to Whitby. Billingham came back but more handling errors stopped them when almost at the line the last five minutes though tries could have been scored either end. 19-15 final score. Errors had cost Billingham but a great game with a return fixed for 9th Dec M.O.M again Jack Chapman two great games today, 3 tries

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Guisborough V Billingham Under 14's, November 18th

As we dropped down of the moor's road the sleet was horizontal, temp was 1 Degree, real rugby weather it either makes a man of you or kills you!

The match started badly ball not going 10 metres; it did not want to be there either! From the scrum the tune for the day was set, Billingham having superiority up front soon passing the ball across the backs but the cold weather affecting handling and many a time the ball was spilled. It was a very much stop start affair, every time Guisborough attacked being stopped through good tackling and getting the man down, AT LAST. Jack Chapman who looked well up for the day soon breaking through, but being tackled just short only to off load to Ben "short yards" McWilliams with another breath taking fall over the line from 2 metres. As we were playing a double header drop kicks at goal the order of the Day, conversion missed.

As much as Guisborough tried they made little progress, cold hands doing more to prevent scores but soon Tom Doherty stormed through the centre to touch close to the posts, kick missed.

0-10 Half time.

After a mild rollicking for really not functioning as an attacking unit the challenge of 20 points this half was laid down. The response first a storming 50 metre run from Jack Chapman, 0-15, then Gary Churlish collecting a kick, 20 meter run offloading to Jack C, to Marcus Sudron to Jack to John Devine, 0 – 22. The weather was forcing a kicking game And Jack chasing his own kick was soon through again 0-29 Billingham forwards were now dominating, Johnny Young winning line outs for fun, ripping from mauls, soon from a scrum Marcus broke from the 2 metre line Tom Doherty converting 0 –36. Final try for Billingham was allegedly a 60 metre run from Ben McWilliams, but it gets longer with the telling! roving reporter missed it! Sorry

Final score 0 – 41 to Billingham, certainly warmed the spectators braving the weather.

M.O.M Jack Chapman.

Breaking News, the final try Ben collected at his own 10 m line and sprinted off. This soon slowed to a rumble and he handed off a few tackles, as his lungs started to give at the 22m he staggered causing him to side step the last man. Rapidly slowing to cries of drop it! we could hear the gasps for breaths as he made the line, we will never hear the end of it! Fluke.

(spelt right finally) gaining ground. Passing to Jack Chapman a 30 metre run, inside to Tom Doherty, inside to Marcus Sudron, inside to David Rawson who scored his first try for nearly two years from a couple of metres. Opportunities for a few to go for the line but seeing others better placed great team work. TD converted 29-0.

More substitutions being made, allowing all 24 players turning up on the day to get a game. Also swapping positions for a few kept things interesting. Yarm were battling away but making little real progress towards the Billingham try line.

Soon another try came. The forwards on this miserable day again showing ball handling skills. Johnny Young from the back of the ruck, had a look then set off, making 15 metres off it went to Gary Churlish who made 20 metres slipping the ball to Jack Chapman who ran strongly to score in the corner. 34-0

Looks were exchanged about maybe calling a halt early but there were only a few minutes left so on we went. Soon Gary Churlish who had moved to prop was off again, passing to David Rawson who side stepped and was off, he moved it on to Johnny Young who gained reward for his days effort as he went in to score under the posts. 41-0 Tom converting.

Another try nearly came art the death as again a good break saw Craig Errington, gaining confidence by the week being stopped right at the flag. Showing that Yarm had by no means given up the fight and credit to them for battling on. At the end a big win for Billingham, but a shame Yarm could not have anything to show for their efforts.

Man of the match Marcus Sudron.

Billingham drew praise from the referee for their ball skills in what were poor conditions for a handling game.

Next up Blaydon in the county cup, fingers crossed, they are flying after a slow start to the season, so it promises to be a tight game.

P.S. Xmas Party Dec 20th £4.50 a ticket, see Neil, Guy or Mick

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November 25th Billingham U14 V Houghton U14

From the off the pattern for the day was set, a faster stronger pack gaining the upper hand and when ball came out to the backs, almost unstoppable play. Fittingly the son of the new match shirt sponsor scored the days-opening try. This time both parents were on hand to see Luke Roopshand sprint in from 25 metres obeying his coaching lesson on Thursday of dodge the contact Luke you are a back not a forward. 5-0 The next try was possibly the best of the day, a scrum won against the head, out to the backs and eventually to John Devine sprinting in to score 12-0 Tom Doherty converting. Tom getting in on the action to make it 19-0 a few moments later, again following good back play, the first of many substitution being made to balance the teams.

The selection nightmare that is Ben Mac, a No.8 who wants to be a centre then went in from 35 metres, (50 metres when he tells it!) his rumble gaining pace to a canter, if he keeps improving the sprint word may appear in reports soon. 24 nil.

John Devine in his last action of the day scoring from 30 metres 31-0, Billingham had the upper hand and were showing how they have progressed as newer players coming on did not seem to weaken the team. Soon Robbie Lavender made it 38-0 from close range, quickly followed by Johnny Young 45-0 half time.

Neil and Mick were now looking at who to take off and still retain a shape to the team, looking at the sideline for the second half 7 players who have won man of match awards had been benched. How would the newer players react? The answer was well, Ashley Imeson and Daniel Cumiskey both doing well, Matty Newton carrying the ball and setting rucks up, Alex Brown and Michael Mclean both working well in the loose all very encouraging for the future.

Tom Doherty got his second from the kick off, scoring a try that leaves coaches pulling their hair out as he ran in almost untouched not what Houghton coaches had asked for 52-0.

The second half would be interesting, Billingham have been in this position not too long ago, and to give Houghton credit they kept battling away. Ill discipline saw Tom binned, much to the coaches' annoyance, punishment to be decided. Maruf Murzagalieva then broke from midfield to score his first for Billingham, Craig Errington converting well 59-0. The game was a lot more even now and soon there was a period of pressure, with Houghton being cheered on by both sets of parents who recognised the efforts they were putting in,

but they failed to cross the try line. Soon the Billingham line up had a strange look to it; the forwards were in the backs and the newer players in the forwards. Another fine break David Rawson side stepping (yes I kid you not!) and slick hands by the backs (who are forwards) saw Craig going over in the corner 64-0. Suitable reward for his overall performance at scrum half and support of the break. Maruf grabbed his 2nd Craig con to bring the game to an end 71-0.

Man of the match to Robbie Lavender for a good solid game up front. Tries Luke Roopshand 1, Ben McWilliams 1, John Devine 2, Tom Doherty 2, Craig Errington 1, Maruf Murzagalieva 2, Johnny Young 1. *Conversions* Tom Doherty 6, Craig Errington 2

Billingham 14 – Middlesbrough 21.

With touch line flags fluttering in the chilly wind blowing right across the pitch, Billingham U 12's squared up to their greatest protagonists this season. The large Middlesbrough squad showed that fresh legs would always be available to them and Billingham could expect no quarter. The visitors kicked off the game and Billingham took the ball right back to them. Both sides had strong forwards and this is where most of the play came to, rucks and mauls took the majority of play and in the first half Middlesbrough had the better of them, often emerging with the frozen ball and moving forward into Billingham's territory. The first half produced only one, well run try, converted to give the visitors the lead, but an undisturbed Billingham showed great spirit and came as close to scoring as it is possible to get, only to lose a great effort by the scrum-half to a line out, convincingly won, and cleared, by the opposition.

Second half, started by Billingham, was again dominated by the packs, with neither team willing to let runners through. Middlesbrough once more led the scoring but this time the home teams reply brought a try, converted to bring the score line to 7- 14 to the visitors. Both teams were now making a real game of it with excellent work by forwards and backs to win the ball. Middlesbrough scored their third try and converted it, leaving only a few minutes for Billingham to win something back. From yet another maul, the score was narrowed with great teamwork between Billingham's front row and the Captain, who was handed the ball just yards out and put it down firmly in Middlesbrough's goal area. Final score Middlesbrough 21 Billingham 14, with Billingham left with the thought that, but for a lost line-out, the victory could have been theirs.