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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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SATURDAY 15TH DEC 2.15PM
BILLINGHAM 1st
 v
WALLSEND

GUISBOROUGH II
 v
BILLINGHAM 3rd

SUNDAY 22nd DEC 6.30pm
AT THE CLUB
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

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BOXING DAY MORNING
LADS V DADS

Issue 9
 Vol 6

BILLINGHAM FIRST XV v BRADFORD SALEM

No one knew what to expect after a scrappy game at Stockton last week and a Bradford side who have reached the final of this trophy three times. It did not take long to spot the quality of the opposition when they broke tackles to open their account on a damp cold day at Greenwood Road.

Joe Evans put Billingham on the board with a penalty after Bradford were ruled to have killed the ball to prevent an almost certain try when Dave Robinson and A. J. Amos drove over to steal possession.

Man of the match Mike Evans broke a tackle and ran into open space to put Paul? Shepherd away on a run to score under the posts.

Dixon looked better value this week putting in some good tidying up work at number eight behind a much more disciplined pack.

The line out trick worked yet again with Tennent and Dalton combining to release Chris Hyndman for a dazzling thirty metre try scoring run.

With half time beckoning Salem were awarded a series of penalties and closed the second half with a push over try on forty seven minutes

Half Time **BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 17 v BRADFORD SALEM 12**

Bradford were determined to put Billingham off their game and when Dalton was taken out off the ball which the ref seemed to be unaware of the handbags were out. Bradford were in the ascendancy and drew level once again breaking tackles with powerful runs to score. Watson (the youngest forward) replaced Danny Robbo, Hutchy went to second row and Daley (the oldest forward) on for Dalton went to blindside. Wagers experience showed as the wall went up to stop Bradford in their tracks.

With only ten minutes to go and Billingham stalling Peter "Pedro" Evans (the youngest back) and Paul "Woody" Woodhouse (the oldest back) came on for Joe and Andy Evans at fly half and scrum half.

Pedro showed great composure to slot a lead gaining penalty with virtually his first touch after what should have been a try scoring break from Anth Hyndman but for Salem killing the ball. The fresh legs gave Billingham that extra gear and the quick ball saw Craig Shepherd score under the posts following some excellent passing skills from the backs.

BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 27 v BRADFORD SALEM 17

.Scorer tries: C. Shepherd 1, C. Hyndman 1, P. Shepherd 1

Kicks: Conversions J Evans 2 Cons 1 Penalty P. Evans 1 Cons 1 Penalty

Spectators Comment. They were a great side best we have played this year. What a great game to watch. More selection headaches

Reporter's comment: Fitness, tactics and teamwork won the day

BRILLIANT ALL ROUND PERFORMANCE

STOCKTON R.U.F.C. V BILLINGHAM FIRST XV

With the wind at their backs and strong sunshine it did not take long to spot the method of the Stockton defence with the ball being killed at every opportunity despite getting pinged on a regular basis. The long awaited Hyndman starting combination saw Chris pass to Anth for Hutchinson score with all three breaking tackles. Chris relishing more freedom took the ball at the back of a ruck to put Mike Evans in for another try. The opposition showed their true colours when Hutchinson had his shirt pulled off in a ruck by Brown. Nothing wrong with that until as he handed it back he punched Hutchy. Hutchy retaliated in the best way possible tapping the player on the rear end, smiling and walking away. Stockton used the wind and Good slotted two long penalties separated by a great break by Anth Hyndman to set Joe Evans off on a long run in easily skirting the Stockton defenders. Following a fracas Dixon saw a yellow with the Stockton player unpunished

Half Time **STOCKTON R.U.F.C.6 V BILLINGHAM FIRSTS 19**

Woodhouse replaced Andy Evans and Billingham started the half with only fourteen men. A long period of scrappy play followed with the ball being killed at every opportunity by the home side. Then following the first clean ball for Billingham the backs speedy passing saw Stockton caught unawares. Stockton's full back had no chance of stopping the man out wide from scoring. We still do not know what Danny Robinson was doing out wide but a great score none the less. Billingham were punished once again when Dalton was shown a yellow for coming in from the side (a bit harsh) Stockton scored two unconverted tries in this period and were still spoiling with some borderline fringing. Then they took a real body blow when despite breaking early Brown missed Woodhouse, Good missed Joe Evans, Chris Hyndman ran forty metres passed to Anth who went the other forty to score and close out the game with a win

STOCKTON 16 V BILLINGHAM FIRSTS XV 31

Scorer tries: Hutchinson 1, Joe Evans 1, Danny Robinson 1, M.Evans 1, C. Hyndman 1,

Kicks: Conversions J Evans 3

Club news. Anth Hyndman should be OK for Bradford Salem

Bret Wildridge out with groin strain Garbutt on holiday WHAT?

Reporter's comment. We were definitely sucked in by their negative tactics We cannot afford to play most of the second half one man down

6.30pm
EVERY FRIDAY
IS OLD FARTS
RUGBY

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BILLINGHAM U15S 53

V

HARTLEPOOL ROVERS 0

Billingham wasted little time in getting into their stride. Tom Kill receiving a tap penalty inside his own 22 to score a try, converted by Danny Finney. With Billingham putting the ball through the hands at every opportunity, from another tap penalty, Nathan Moffat was able to score in the corner. Along kick out from defence found Mark Brewis at full back, who took it in his stride to again touch down in the corner. Rovers fought on valiantly, but more tries were scored by, Conor Shea, Jake Day and Joe Douthwaite to make the half time score 36-0

In the second half, the forwards continued their domination and the backs using the ball well. A good all round performance, with the backs and forwards linking up very well.

More tries were scored by Conor Shea and Jake Day to make the final score :-

Billingham 53
Hartlepool Rovers 0
mom Kareem Omar

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County Cup Billingham U14S V Blaydon, Dec 9th

Often when discussing rugby with new devotees or parents (doing the cold, wet nose, soaking wet support thing) the game is described as “Chess with people” and tactics, positional play intricacies of the game, the laws and options get very confusing. The result being a realisation that the game is more than brawn and just run forward with the ball. Whether this explains why rugby players at senior/professional level are able to converse without recourse to Parrots, the Moon, err and umm, while also negating the need to alter most players names to end with a Y or an S, one thing is sure, it is a lot harder and more complex than it looks from the side.

And so the day dawned where Billingham looked forward with this group of players maybe for the first time, with a realistic chance of going a long way in the cup. It would all depend on which team would turn up, the game plan and tactics.

As in chess the opening moves can determine the outcome, they say in chess within 7 moves the outcome is known but the victor still has to carry out his plan. Today was to prove one of those days, both sets of coaches in discussion after the game agreed they had set plans down for the day based on reading match reports and studying results. In retrospect on some of the cold wet days we have, it might be better if we could sit in the bar and chin wag over a few beers to decide the outcome.

Anyway after all the threats from the weathermen Sunday dawned with clear skies but with sodden pitches so a quick trip to Campus was on the cards. Unfortunately for Billingham that was the brightest spot of the day.

Blaydon’s danger men were known, the team picked to hopefully counter the threat, unfortunately Blaydon also had a game plan. A painful opening to the season defeat had marked Billingham’s card and Blaydon came suitably prepared.

Any achievement on a rugby pitch starts with the basics being carried out well and so it proved Blaydon out rucking, mauling, tackling the Billingham lads. The threats warned about e.g. No 8, 9 and a centre all having big games, especially the big poxy No 8 who we struggled to handle all game (oops Bias creeping in there).

As well as Blaydon out-rucked, mauled and tackled; Billingham played some good flowing rugby. Especially across the back line BUT all too often a handling error would call time on the move. The frustration could be felt on the sidelines, so close yet.... So far.

Blaydon keeping it simple (KISS) worked to their strengths, their game plan working like a dream, although it must be said ably abetted by some abject tackling by the home team. If a picture is worth a thousand words, well this reporter is thankful that the game was on video. As I do not fancy having to write about all we saw, but then again I am not sure the film censors will give it an under 18 rating!

KISS seemed to be win the ruck/maul /scrum pass it to the big guys and steamroller through. Half time saw 0-19 on the scoreboard. Tactics and execution spot on.

The second half in comparison was a milder affair, less scoring but possibly explained by the stop-start nature of this period. Billingham had woken up, starting to control more ball and possession but it seemed that every time a tackle made on a Billingham player, a magic sponge was required to the Blaydon tackler. So no real rhythm to Billingham’s play could be established.

Eventually the pressure told and John Devine scored a consolation try, Tom Doherty converting. But too little too late, there only being enough time for a restart before the ref. blew for time.

Final score 7 – 24, Blaydon doing what they set out to do, Billingham gutted. Man of match for Billingham Ben McWilliams.

N.B. Depending on rating, a video nasty of the game, featuring non celebrity dancing (tackle high and waltz 15 yards before you stop him), The clanger’s (you only dropped it on the floor), pass it toomy (sorry that’s from the first team) to me, not behind me! Date of release unknown but a Thursday training session soon!

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