

BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS



6th September 2025
Kick off 2.30

Vs
Old
Redcliffians



Nat Bayet
200th appearance

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Good afternoon, Barum Family! A huge and thunderous welcome to opening day of the brand new 2025/26 season!

The wait is over! The Chiefs are charging back into National 2 West and the journey starts right here at a buzzing Pottington Road! We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Old Redcliffians back to North Devon – a familiar foe promises a spectacular battle, and we wish them a fantastic day. Let's show them some famous Barum spirit!

A colossal thank you to our incredible matchday sponsors, the long-standing legends of this club: Chichester Developments and M&E Alarms. Your unwavering, steadfast support is the bedrock of this club – we cannot thank you enough!

Congratulations to our double centurion Nat Bayet on his 200th appearance for Barnstaple, with many more to come I'm sure.

And speaking of incredible support, wait until you see the stunning transformation of the President's Lounge! A massive shoutout to M&E Alarms for their fantastic funding and to our brilliant Facilities Manager, Amy Elkins, for her tireless work in making it happen. It looks absolutely incredible!

The Tuesday volunteers and ground staff. They've been working miracles all summer, from the clubhouse to the pitches All the details later in the program

Get those diaries ready because the excitement doesn't stop at the final whistle! We have a huge season ahead:

- Ladies Day returns in March 2026!
- A mysterious night of fun and festivities this October (theme to be revealed – watch this space!).
- The Barnstaple Roundtable's always EPIC Fireworks Night on November 2nd!

So, buckle up, Barum! Let's make the roar at Pottington Road the biggest it has EVER been.

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2025/26 Season



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A message from our President Trevor Edwards



A warm welcome to Pottington Road, the home of Barum Rugby, for the 2025/2026 season.

This season sees us once ageing playing at National League Two (West) which will no doubt be a challenging one; long away trips, overnight stays, increased expenditure – the list could go on but I think you get the gist!

This season we welcome back a lot of friends for our previous excursions into the National Leagues as well as Chester, Syston and Lymm who will be visiting Pottington Road for the first time. Please show them all Barum hospitality.

All three of our senior sides now have silverware in the Clubhouse with the Chiefs having won the Devon Senior Cup, The Tics the Devon Second Team Cup and the Bucs with Dave Butt Cup. Congratulation to all those involved but especially to the coaching teams with the first being headed up by Winston James

and assistant Johnny Carter, who also steered the first team to champions of Regional One (SW). The seconds by Luke Berry and Scott Warren, who let the seconds to third place in Counties 1 Tribute Western West with Big H and Simon Hill steering the thirds to finish second in Devon Merit Table NE.

As always I would like to pass on my thanks to those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to give you your 80 minutes of enjoyment on Saturday, to the players in all our teams, our coaches and the backroom playing team, the band of volunteers who undertake works throughout the week, Chris and his catering team and Amy and her bar team (and anyone else I have forgotten) but most especially to you for your continued support, be you a regular supporter, sponsor, or just here on the off chance to see what it is all about.

I look forward to seeing you all during the course of the season.

Trevor Edwards
President
Barnstaple Rugby Football Club

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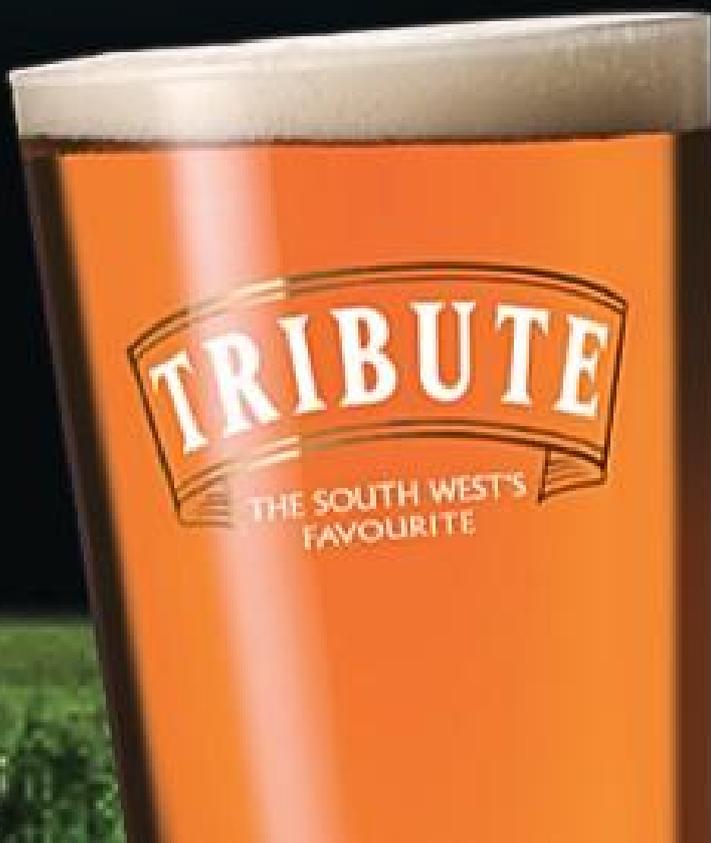
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Barnstaple Chiefs v Old Redcliffians

The story thus far

A classic West Country rivalry is set to be renewed this Saturday, as Barnstaple Chiefs welcome Old Redcliffians to Pottington Road in a National League encounter that promises high drama.

Historical precedent favours the visitors. Over the years, Old Redcliffians have held the upper hand in the modern era, boasting six wins to the Chiefs' four. This dominance is even more pronounced within National League rugby, where the Bristol-based side remain undefeated in their four meetings, securing three wins and a draw.



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However, the statistics only tell part of the story. This fixture is renowned for its nail-biting finishes, with all but one of their clashes being decided by fine margins. Fans need only look back to their last meeting in 2023 for a blueprint of what to expect.

On that day Old Redcliffians blitzed into a 21-0 lead within twenty minutes. Unfazed, the Chiefs mounted a stunning fightback, clawing their way back and continued to battle to the final whistle, with a last-gasp effort to secure a losing bonus point in a breathless 36-31 defeat.

That same never-say-die spirit remains within a Chiefs squad that retains many of the players from that epic encounter. They will face a resurgent Old Redcliffians side, a club that has successfully reclaimed its status after relegation in the 2019/20 season with three successive seasons in National 2 West culminating in a strong fourth-place finish in the 2023/24 campaign before settling in tenth last season.

With both teams possessing potent attacking threats and a history of producing fireworks, this long-awaited reunion, their first in two seasons, is poised to be a thrilling and fiercely contested eighty minutes of rugby.

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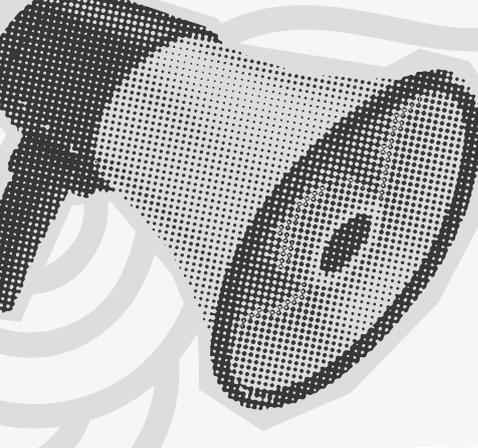
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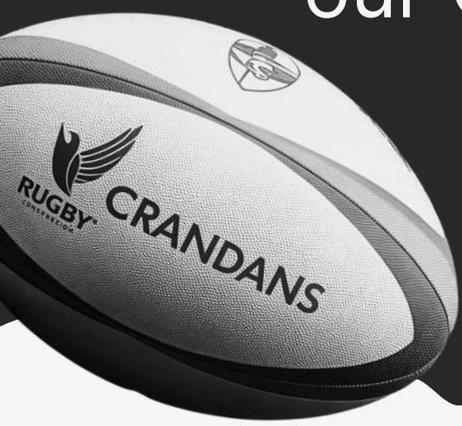
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BARNSTAPLE RUGBY CLUB

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

**WE NEED A VOLUNTEER
MATCH DAY ANNOUNCER**



We are putting out a request for volunteers to assist the Club as our Compare/Match day announcer.

We are seeking enthusiastic individuals to provide vital support on home match days. If you would like to help us in this crucial role,

**please call the Club Sec (John "Spike" Sloley) on
07971665174 or email
secretary.barnstaplerugby@gmail.com.**

BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS



TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

- 1 DOMINIC ROBSON**
HARRY'S CAFE
- 2 BERTIE STRETCH**
AR COMPLETE SCAFFOLDING
- 3 CALLUM DAVIES**
M & V ESCAPES
- 4 MATT GOHL**
LYNTON PACK
- 5 ARTHUR MARKS**
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THE LYNTON PACK *ANDY STAFF*

JAMES STARKEY **JOSH SQUIRE**
TECH OUT

TEAM MANAGER

VERITY WHITE **DARREL GILL**
THE LYNTON PACK *RGP ARCHITECTS*

BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS V OLD REDCLIFFIANS
NATIONAL 2 WEST

POTTINGTON ROAD, SEPT 6TH 2025 | KO 2.30PM

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OLD REDCLIFFIANS

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. A Harvey | Bench |
| 2. K Pike | |
| 3. A Maggs | 16. j Rogers |
| 4. O Stratton | 17. T McLean |
| 5. D Goodman | 18. O Tovey |
| 6. B Tothill | 19. B Fallows |
| 7. J Therrien | 20. W Morris |
| 8. D Fry | |

9. A Turner
10. A Groves
11. R Bailey
12. L Eaves
13. J Cook
14. H Murphy
15. F Murphy



Match Officials

REF: James Milliner-Woodcock

AR 1: Ian Pengelly

AR 2: Dave Philpot

4th official: Dean Davies



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The Lynton Pack



The Lynton Pack is a small, friendly group of supporters who travel from Lynton each week (you will have seen them wearing their vivid striped hats, adorned with various charity badges)

This pack is more than just a group of friends – they have been there for each other in the past year through some very difficult times, including deaths, life-changing illnesses and personal pain. For Dave Wilde, one of the founding members, it was the safety and comfort of watching the Chiefs surrounded by his friends in the Lynton Pack which helped carry him through the sudden death of his wife last year.

Throughout everything, the one thing which has remained consistent has been their weekly gathering outside the Fire Station in Lynton ready to travel to whichever location Barum are playing. Incredibly, two or more of the Lynton Pack have been at every single game this season, irrespective of distance.

The people in the pack (Dave Wilde, Mat Falkiner, Chris Walden, Phil Coole, Sam and Steve White, Laurence Hillel and John Stephens) are all residents of Lynton, and are all the very best example of what it is to be a rugby fan – they are currently planning hotel stays for next year so they can continue the away support in the new division!



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The Tuesday Volunteers - By Alan White

It's been an even busier summer than usual off the pitch at pottington Road. The club have now built a team of 25 regular volunteers meeting each Tuesday morning who have completed several projects over the close season.

Bore hole: This was drilled to a depth of 70m over near the Ammies football field where an underground water source was found. After finishing off the pump and lining a trench was dug to the pavilion area where a 10,000 litre storage tank was placed along with the pump equipment and wiring. The pipes were then extended to the chicken shed where sprinklers can now be used to irrigate the main pitches.

Pavilion: Full of rats and dumped equipment a year ago, this building has now been fully renovated with changing rooms, showers, toilets and all facilities for junior and women's teams. The club development of female rugby



continues apace. An excellent use of a resource which had lain idle for some years.

Of course there have been hours of more general work alongside these main projects which have involved the usual routines of pitch seeding, fertilising, mowing and treatments. The maintenance of all club assets such as cleaning and decorating the stands, recycling all litter and waste, putting up our many sponsor boards, renovating the pitch side railings and so on.

We look forward to an exciting new season for all teams and everybody involved at the club.

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New Dugouts Complete – A True Team Effort:

We're proud to reveal our brand-new dugouts, built through real Barum teamwork and community spirit! From the first shovel to the last screw, this was a combined effort:

- **Concrete base** – expertly laid by our Tuesday volunteers
- **Materials** – kindly supplied by Chichester Homes
- **Design, & set out** – by Steve Baker & Darrell Gill
- **Blockwork** – Josh Squire, Darren Woolmington, Luke Bament & James Hudson
- **Roof supply & fitting** – Dave Sloman
- **Mixer loan** – thanks to Winston James

A huge thank you to everyone involved who gave up their evenings and weekends to complete this amazing project – you've helped create something special for the club!

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The care provided throughout North Devon is because of the amazing generosity of our community. Together, we work towards raising over £4.9 million from scratch each year to provide this essential care to thousands of people. At North Devon Hospice, we are focusing on

developing our services so that patient care and support can be provided closer to home, meaning your support has never been more important.

The hospice is here for you, and because of you. As such we are thrilled to be the chosen charity of Barnstaple RFC for this season. Both Barum and North Devon Hospice are close to the hearts of many in our community, and as such it is very fitting that we are working in partnership.

From all the hospice team - here's to a fantastic season

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Barnstaple Athletic, Buccaneers and Colts

Barnstaple Athletic are strapped in and ready to embark on their second season in Counties 1 Western West, and one thing is for certain: this campaign will be a brutal, no-holds-barred test of character.

Gone is the glorious anonymity of being the new boys. Last season's stunning third-place finish wasn't just a success; it was a seismic statement that announced the 'Tics as a serious force. But with that success comes a new, daunting reality: everyone knows what's coming now. The element of surprise has evaporated. This season, every team has Barnstaple Athletic circled in red on their fixture list. They've studied the playbook, they know the strengths, and they will be hell-bent on being the ones to knock us down.

And what a way to kick off the war! This Saturday, the campaign begins with a fiery trip to a familiar foe: Paignton.

Let's be clear, the history books make for fantastic reading. Last season, the 'Tics executed a magnificent double over Saturday's hosts. We witnessed a breath-taking 50-26 point spectacle on home turf, before the travelling faithful were sent into delirium with a hard-fought 19-33 victory on their patch. It was a showcase of sheer power and skill.

But—and this is a massive but—Paignton STILL pipped us to second place. They are dangerous, they are consistent, and they will be burning for revenge. Athletic cannot rely on past glory; they must be sharper, stronger, and hungrier than ever to secure that crucial opening-day win!

Just catch your breath, because the drama doesn't stop there! The next Saturday, the battle comes home to Pottington Road for another blockbuster clash against last season's fourth-placed giants, Plymstock Oaks.

Two weeks. Two titanic battles. Against two of the league's absolute best. This isn't just a start to the season; this is a statement-making, season-defining fortnight that will set the tone for everything that follows.

Imagine the belief, the sheer momentum, if the lads can emerge from this gauntlet with two victories? It would be more than just six points; it would be a thunderous message to the entire division: Barnstaple Athletic are here, and we're coming for the top.

The journey begins this Saturday, away at Paignton. Then we all regroup next weekend at the fortress of Pottington Road for another 2:30 PM start.

Get down there, be the sixteenth player, and roar the 'Tics to victory! This is going to be epic

The Bucc's return to the Devon Merit Table with more desire than ever to retain the glories of last season. Now under the leadership of new coach Lewis Joce there will be a different look to the Bucc's as they prepare for their encounter this season.

It all kicks off at Pottington Road next weekend as they welcome Bideford II for a 2.30pm kick off.

For the Colts The quest for silverware begins on home turf this weekend! After the agonizing loss in last season's cup final appearance, the Barnstaple Colts are hungrier than ever. They kick off their new campaign against Exeter Athletic Colts this Saturday at 2:30 pm, determined to harness that experience and take that one, final step to bring the trophy home to Pottington Road.

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BARNSTAPLE RUGBY 2025/26



SEPT 13TH - 2.30PM

COUNTIES 1 WESTERN WEST

**BARNSTAPLE ATHLETIC
VS PLYMSTOCK OAKS**

SEPT 20TH - 2.30PM

NATIONAL 2 WEST

**BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS
VS HORNETS**

SEPT 27TH - 2.30PM

DEVON MERIT TABLE NE1

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VS SOUTH MOLTON II**

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NATIONAL 2 WEST

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OCT 11TH - 2.30PM

NATIONAL 2 WEST

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**BARNSTAPLE ATHLETIC
VS PLYMSTOCK OAKS**

**COUNTIES 1 WESTERN WEST
SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER | 2.30PM**