

# BARNSTAPLE ATHLETIC



25th April 2026  
Kick off 2.30pm

**Vs**  
**Paignton**

**Ollie James**



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**Barnstaple Athletic**

*vs*

**Okehampton**

**SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026,  
KICKOFF TBC**

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## **Barnstaple Athletic Kick off final game of the season**

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to Pottington Road for as we gather for the final game of the Counties 1 Western West campaign. And what a cracker we have in store for you today: third-placed Barnstaple Athletic prepare to do battle with our visitors, second-placed Paignton. What a way to finish the season.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the Paignton players, coaches, committee members, and any travelling supporters who have made the journey north to be with us today. We hope you enjoy our hospitality here at Barnstaple and that you leave with plenty of good memories – though, naturally, we hope the points stay firmly at Pottington Road.

Let's make this a final home day to remember.

## **Weekend Preview: Chiefs Aim to Cement Historic Season with Final-Day Push**

The only other game on the senior men's fixture list this weekend sees the Barnstaple Chiefs hit the road, travelling to face Old Redcliffians in a crucial battle to secure 6th place in the league standings. Currently, the Chiefs hold that coveted spot, thanks to back-to-back wins in their last two outings. However, the pressure is far from off.

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Hot on their heels is Cinderford, who are poised to snatch 6th place if Barnstaple slip up. With Cinderford travelling to Syston to close out their own season, the Chiefs know that nothing less than a win will guarantee they keep hold of that position.

## **Devon Intermediate Cup Final Date confirmed**

We are thrilled to confirm that a date is now locked in for our Devon Intermediate Cup Final! Barnstaple Athletic will face Okehampton – a side who finished fourth in the league above them – on Friday, May 16th, at Pottington Road, kick off is to be confirmed but will either be 2.30pm or 3pm. This is a massive challenge against top-tier opposition, but with a vocal crowd behind us, anything is possible. We need every single supporter to pack out Pottington Road and roar us on to cup glory – so mark the date, spread the word, and let's create an unforgettable day together

## **Barnstaple Athletic - A Tough Lesson at Wiveliscombe**

Last weekend's trip to league leaders Wiveliscombe is best forgotten on the scoreboard, though it was always going to be a monumental challenge. The hosts were chasing the win that would secure the title and promotion to Regional 2, and they played like champions in waiting.

Barnstaple Athletic actually started brightly, scoring just ten minutes in when Ollie James crossed for what would be the team's only try of the game. Harvey Rostock added the conversion. After that, however, Wiveliscombe took complete control, shutting out the visitors and racking up 36 unanswered points. It was a harsh lesson in clinical rugby, but one that Athletic will hope to learn from

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## **Athletic's Clear Mission: Secure Third Place in Style**

With just this final game remaining, Athletic still sit in 3rd place, five points clear of both Truro and Redruth II. That means a solitary point – a single bonus point – is all that is needed to secure consecutive 3rd-place finishes for two seasons running.

Standing in their way, however, is 2nd-placed Paignton. The visitors have enjoyed an exceptional season of their own, notching 15 wins and matching their runner-up finish from last year. Although Paignton cannot catch Wiveliscombe at the top, nor can they drop out of 2nd place, they will be desperate to end their campaign on a high with a statement victory at Pottington Road.

For Barnstaple Athletic, the mission is clear. First and foremost: secure that all-important bonus point to mathematically lock in 3rd place. But beyond the arithmetic, there is pride. The team wants to finish the season with a big win over the very side that handed them a brutal 50-19 hammering on Paignton's own ground on the opening day of the season. All of this sets the stage for an electrifying final match of the rugby season – one with the potential to be among the most entertaining and hard-fought games of the entire campaign. It is, without question, a fixture you will not want to miss.

So let's get every Barum supporter down to Pottington Road. Bring your voices, and let's give Athletic all the support we can to end the season in a style truly befitting Barnstaple Rugby.

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# BARNSTAPLE ATHLETIC



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- 2 GARRETH TURNER**  
*PLAN A SCAFFOLDING*
- 3 JOSH DAVIE**  
*LIMIT BREAK*
- 4 CHRIS PHILPOT**  
*SAM COX DIGGER HIRE*
- 5 CALLUM DOVELL**  
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JAMES**



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**BARNSTAPLE ATHLETIC v PAIGNTON**

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3. TBC
4. TBC
5. TBC
6. TBC
7. TBC
8. TBC
9. TBC
10. TBC
11. TBC
12. TBC
13. TBC
14. TBC
15. TBC

## Bench

- 16 TBC
- 17 TBC
- 18 TBC



## Match Officials

REF: Neil Gill

AR 1:

AR 2:

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# **One point from glory, one cup final to come, and two huge thank-yous Luke Berry Head Coach Athletic**



As we arrive at the final league game of the season, it's hard to believe how quickly it has come around. On behalf of all the players and staff, I would like to thank all our supporters for your incredible backing throughout the campaign. Once again, your support has been fantastic and greatly appreciated by everyone involved.

A point from today's match against Paignton would secure another third-place finish in the league, which would be a fantastic achievement for us in what has been a tough and challenging season.

Although this is our final league fixture, it is not the final game for the Tics. A date has now been confirmed for our Devon Intermediate Cup Final against Okehampton, which will take place on May 16th at Pottington Road. We hope to see as many supporters there as possible to cheer us on against the side who finished fourth in the league above.

Finally, we say goodbye to Jenny and Emma, who step down from their roles as team managers after three years of outstanding service. On behalf of myself, Scott, the players, and the club, I would like to thank them both for all their hard work and dedication over the past three years. They will be greatly missed.



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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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# Chiefs Run Riot in Season-Finale Thriller as Junior Sides Also Shine



What a weekend of action it was—not just for the Chiefs on the first-team stage, but also for our Colts and two of our junior sides, who flew the flag in cup competitions. While we’ve already covered Athletic’s ongoing campaign, pride of place this week goes to the Chiefs, who delivered an absolute exhibition of rugby in their final home game of the season, lighting up Pottington Road and giving the supporters a match to treasure for years to come.

## Fast Starts and Individual Brilliance

Playing hosts to first-time visitors Syston, the Chiefs exploded out of the blocks with a couple of early attacks that brought them within striking distance. But it was a Syston handling error that truly opened the floodgates. In a moment of individual genius, Cam Johnson reacted sharply to a loose, bobbling pass, scooping it up one-handed at full pace. He sprinted clear, chipped the last defender, regathered under pressure, and touched down even as the tackle came in. It was a try worthy of any “try of the week” shortlist—perhaps even try of the season. What an opener.

From that moment on, it was almost all Chiefs. Five more tries followed in the first half, with Syston managing just a solitary reply right before the break. The visitors went into halftime trailing 38–7, with the home crowd already sensing something special.



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## **Second-Half Surge and a Record-Breaking Scoreline**

The second half followed a similar—if slightly lower-scoring—pattern, as the Chiefs ran in three further tries to bring their total to nine on the afternoon. Ben Jago kick-started the half with a trademark pick-and-go, before Cam Johnson and Bertie Stretch each completed a well-earned brace. When the final whistle blew, the scoreboard read a staggering 57–14—Barnstaple Chiefs' highest score of the season, eclipsing the 52 points they put on Hinckley back in October. A day to remember for every Barnstaple Rugby supporter.

## **Forwards Laid the Platform, Backs Took the Gloves Off**

While the backs naturally grabbed the headlines with their pace and finishing, it was the forwards who provided the rock-solid platform from which the team could fire. Bertie Stretch, flirting dangerously with the wing, collected a perfectly weighted punt over the defensive line from Tom Swales, and the whole performance felt like a show of force from all fifteen players on the pitch.

## **Looking Ahead: A Perfect Send-Off?**

You simply cannot ask for a better way to finish the home season. If the Chiefs can reproduce that same fire and fluency away at Old Redcliffians this Saturday, they will lock in 6th place—and possibly even 5th, depending on how Hornets fare against 3rd-placed Hinckley. Either way, it's a fabulous time to be a Barnstaple Rugby supporter.

*Feel the Barum Spirit*

# BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS



## TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

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## **Colts Heartbreak in Devon Cup Final as Ivybridge Snatch Last-Gasp Victory**

The Colts headed down to Sidmouth for their Devon RFU Colts Cup Final against Ivybridge—and what a contest it turned out to be. In a high-octane, high-scoring thriller, both teams gave absolutely everything, trading blows from first whistle to last. But in the cruellest of finishes, the Barnstaple lads were left seconds from glory before Ivybridge ripped the trophy away with the final play of the game.

When the dust settled, the scoreboard read 40–43. A one-score defeat that simply does not reflect the courage, quality, and character shown by this young Barnstaple side.

### **So Close, Yet So Far**

For almost the entire match, the Colts went toe-to-toe with a strong Ivybridge outfit, exchanging tries and momentum swings in a breathless cup final. With the clock ticking down, Barnstaple were within touching distance of success—just seconds away from lifting the trophy. But rugby has a cruel sense of drama, and Ivybridge manufactured one last attack, crossing the whitewash on the game's very final action to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

### **A Season to Be Proud Of**

While the result wasn't what these lads deserved after such a monumental effort, their performance in the final—and across the entire season—has been nothing short of immense. They have carried themselves with pride, discipline, and no small amount of talent, earning the respect of everyone connected with Barnstaple Rugby.

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More importantly, this group now represents the future of the club. Many of these talented individuals are ready to make the step up and join the ranks of the senior squads, where they will undoubtedly bring the same hunger and heart shown in Sidmouth. The scoreline may have favoured Ivybridge on the day, but the Colts have won something far more valuable: the belief that they belong at the highest level.

Watch this space. The future is bright.

### **Under-14s Shine with Cup Glory as Under-16s Come Unstuck Against Classy Exeter**

The Under-16s headed down to Brixham for the Fisherman's Cup, hoping to cap their remarkable season with a big win. But on the day, they came up against a very good Exeter Athletic side who proved too strong, claiming the trophy with a 54–21 victory. It wasn't for lack of effort or ambition—Exeter simply delivered a clinical performance, and the Barnstaple lads were left to reflect on what might have been. We have a full round-up from Under-16s coach Ed Davey later in the programme, looking back at their incredible season and celebrating just how far this group has come.

### **Under-14s Rise to the Occasion**

That left the Under-14s to fly the flag for Barnstaple—and they did not disappoint. Competing for the Devon RFU Under-14s Cup, the young Chiefs produced an excellent, composed performance to defeat Ivybridge 34–7. From the first whistle, they played with intensity, intelligence, and a confidence that belied their age. The forwards laid the platform, the backs finished with flair, and defensively they were rock solid

throughout, conceding just a single try.

It was a cracking result for another junior squad enjoying an incredible season. Like their Under-16s counterparts, this group has grown week by week, and victories like this—in a county cup final—are the reward for all the hard work put in on the training paddock.

## **A Bright Future for Barnstaple Rugby**

Taken together, the Under-16s' battling display and the Under-14s' trophy-winning performance underline just how healthy the junior section is at Barnstaple. Cups aren't always won, but character is always built—and both squads have shown plenty of that. With talented age groups continuing to develop, the future of the senior ranks looks in very safe hands indeed.



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# An Outstanding season for the U16's



It's been a great season for the U16s. Five bonus point wins out of five saw us finish 2nd in the league table and through to the cup knockout stage.

After two solid performances at home we secured our spot in the fisherman's cup final against a strong Exeter Athletic side. It was a great experience for this group but ultimately it wasn't meant to be. Falling short to a well drilled and clinical opponent, showing why they have gone undefeated over the past 2 years. Nonetheless it has been a season to be proud of, they've worked incredibly hard and played some fantastic rugby throughout. It's been a privilege to coach these boys over the past 6 seasons and watch them grow into outstanding players and even better young men.

I'm excited to watch the boys progress through colts and into senior rugby, definitely some future 1st team players in the making. A massive thank you must go to Lucy for all her hard work to make mine and the coaches lives easier, she's been a star. A big thanks to all the parents for their support throughout the years, it hasn't gone unnoticed. Lastly thank you to our sponsors North Devon accounts, Nathan spice Roofing and Bray Leino for providing food and contributing to our coach kindly organised by Barnstaple Rugby Club and for everyone who travelled down to Brixham for finals day.

Ed Day - Head Coach Barnstaple RFC Under 16's.



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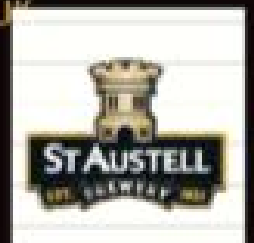
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**DARREL GILL**  
RGP ARCHITECTS

**DEAN DAVIES**  
LYNTON PACK

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## **PHYSIO / FIRST AIDER**

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**JESS ROGERS**

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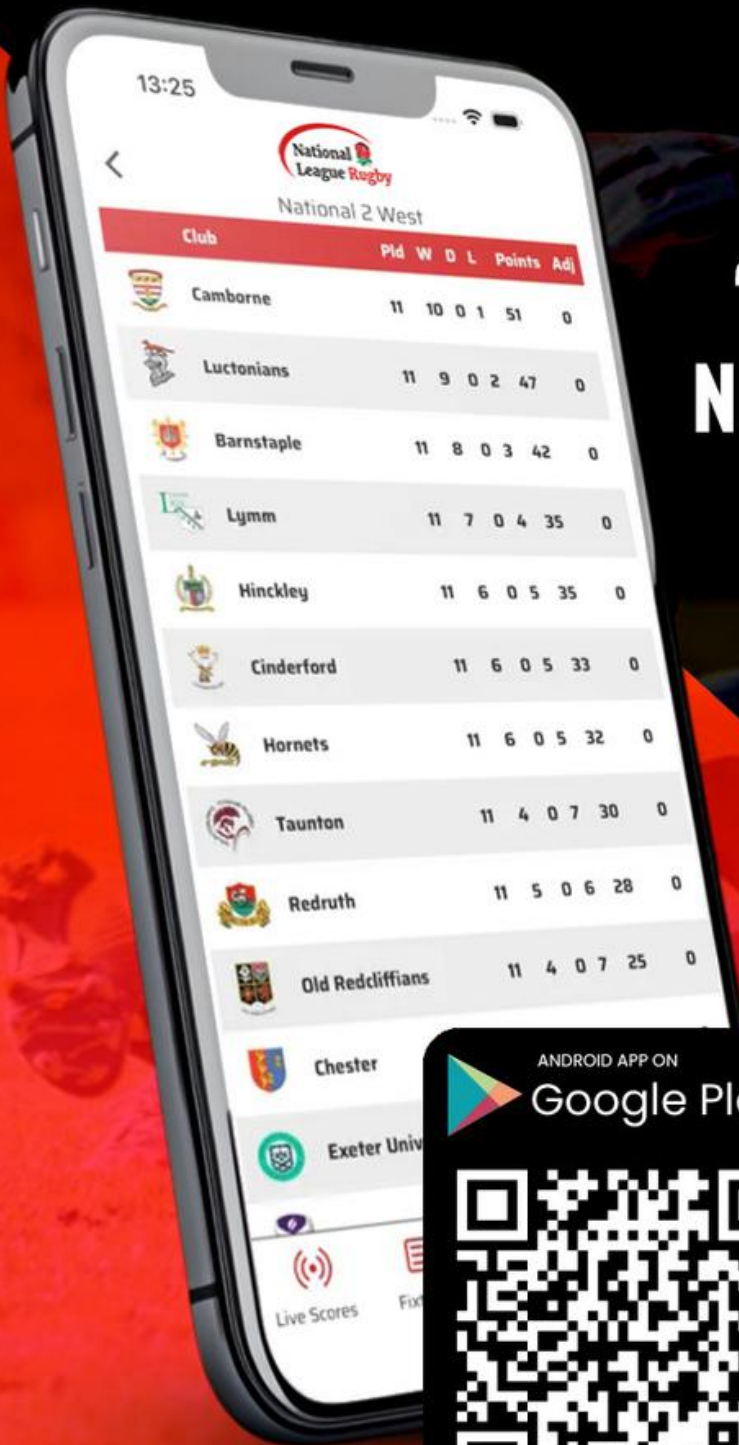
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**BUCC'S  
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# Barnstaple RFC Enjoying a Historic Season – And the Best Is Yet to Come

This has to be about the best season Barnstaple RFC has had in a very, very long time. Across every senior and junior squad, the signs of progress, silverware, and near-misses have painted a picture of a club very much on the rise.

Start with the Chiefs: finishing at the highest league position in their entire 149-year history is just one story – but what a story it is. That achievement alone would have made this a memorable campaign, but across the club, the momentum has been remarkable.

The Athletic have shown huge improvements too. Not only are they close to securing a second consecutive 3rd-place finish – should today's result go their way – but they also reached the Devon Intermediate Cup Final at the very first time of asking.

Proud to support  
Barnstaple Rugby Club  
for the 2025/26 season



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That kind of debut cup run speaks volumes about the character and quality within the squad.

For the Bucc's, it has been a season of rebuilding – steadying the ship, bleeding players, and laying foundations for the future. Meanwhile, the Colts came agonisingly close to glory, falling just seconds short of winning the Devon RFU Colts Cup Final against Ivybridge. Heartbreaking, yes, but also proof that this group can compete with the very best.

And what of the Juniors? Two finalists – and one of them bringing silverware home. It has genuinely been a season to remember, from the grassroots right through to the first team. And here's the best part: the season isn't finished yet.

The Devon RFU Intermediate Cup Final is still to be played, at Pottington Road, on May 16th – featuring Barnstaple Athletic versus Okehampton. A truly mouthwatering final, and one where every single Barum supporter needs to be there. Athletic will take on Regional 2's fourth-placed side Okehampton in what promises to be an epic battle for the cup. Mark the date, bring your voice, and let's pack the ground.

So celebrate this season – because the stage is already being set for something even bigger.

Next season, Barnstaple Rugby Club celebrates its 150th Birthday. We will have all sorts of events and treats for everyone throughout the new season as we celebrate in style. Think special kit, reunions, matchday festivities, and a whole host of surprises to mark a century and a half of Barum rugby. So enjoy your summer. Make sure you're rested. And return here in the autumn – because the best is yet to come.

# THE GASMAN

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The background of the advertisement features the crest of Barnstaple RFC. The crest is a shield with a red and white design, topped with a crown and surrounded by ornate scrollwork. A banner at the bottom of the crest contains the text 'ESTD 1866'.

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# DEVON INTERMEDIATE CUP FINAL



**Barnstaple Athletic**

*vs*

**Okehampton**













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BARNSTAPLE RUGBY CLUB POTTINGTON ROAD

# Counties 1 Tribute Ale Western West

## Stats definitions

#	TEAM	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	 Wiveliscombe	21	18	0	3	704	413	291	15	1	88
2	 Paignton	21	15	0	6	795	560	235	19	2	81
3	 Barnstaple II	21	11	2	8	556	493	63	13	4	65
4	 Truro	21	11	1	9	512	547	-35	13	1	60
5	 Redruth II	21	11	0	10	592	650	-58	14	2	60
6	 Torquay Athletic	20	10	1	9	516	479	37	11	3	56
7	 St Ives (SW)	20	10	0	10	487	498	-11	13	2	55
8	 Kingsbridge	20	9	0	11	483	560	-77	10	4	50
9	 Newton Abbot	21	8	0	13	587	671	-84	14	4	50
10	 Plymstock Oaks	21	8	0	13	478	708	-230	8	2	42
11	 Penryn	20	6	0	14	492	556	-64	11	7	42
12	 Saltash	21	5	0	16	532	599	-67	11	11	42

## Legend

Promotion

Relegation