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24th appearance

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Good afternoon, everyone, and a massive welcome to Pottington Road for what promises to be a thrilling National 2 West encounter!



This afternoon, Barnstaple Chiefs prepare for a compelling clash against Hinckley, in a fixture that guarantees fierce competition and no shortage of drama on the pitch. We extend a particularly warm welcome to our visitors from Hinckley—their players, coaches, committee, and all the travelling supporters who have made the long journey down the M5 to be with us today. We hope you enjoy your stay in North Devon and experience the famous hospitality we pride ourselves on.

A colossal thank you must also go to our incredible Matchday Sponsors, Peninsula Fire Safety SW and Peninsula Management. Your unwavering support is so much more than just sponsorship; it is a cornerstone of this club and the foundation we build upon. We cannot thank you enough for being such a vital part of our team.

A Fortnight to Savour!

What a fantastic two weeks it has been for Barnstaple Rugby! Both the Chiefs and Athletic have well and truly clicked into gear, delivering a series of impressive and statement-making victories.

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The Chiefs ignited this purple patch right here at Pottington Road with a dominant 43-17 win over Hornets. They then carried that brilliant form on the road last Saturday, securing their third win of the season in an absolute thriller against Taunton, 34-41.

Not to be outdone, the Athletic produced a devastating display of their own, travelling to Cullompton and booking a semi-final spot with a commanding 0-43 victory.

You can find more in-depth coverage of both these superb performances inside the program. For now, let's turn our attention to the main event: today's crucial National 2 West clash!

This afternoon's clash renews a relatively young but competitive rivalry. Barnstaple Chiefs and Hinckley are familiar foes from the Chiefs' last stint at this level, having faced off four times across the 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons.

The historical ledger makes for challenging reading, with Hinckley currently holding the bragging rights. Of our four previous encounters, they have emerged victorious on three occasions. Barnstaple's sole victory in this fixture was a hard-fought, nail-biting affair right here at Pottington Road, secured by a narrow 13-10 margin with the Chiefs crossing the whitewash for a single, decisive try.

Our visitors today are a model of consistency in National 2 rugby. Since their return to this level in 2016, Hinckley have established themselves as a permanent and respected fixture,

now embarking on their ninth consecutive season.

They are widely regarded as a solid, mid-table outfit, with their most impressive campaign coming in 2022/23 where they achieved a fifth-place finish—matching their previous best from the 2018 season in National League 2 North.

This season, Hinckley find themselves in 11th place and will be looking to climb the table. Their campaign has been ignited by a standout performance at their Leicester Road ground, where they secured a convincing 38-24 victory over a talented Loughborough Students side.

Today, they arrive at Pottington Road determined to build on that momentum hoping to add another win to their tally, setting the stage for a fascinating and hard-fought contest.

Facing them though is our very own Chiefs brimming with confidence and a fiercely determined mindset. The electric atmosphere following two consecutive bonus-point victories has created a palpable sense of belief throughout the squad and the wider club.

The Chiefs are not merely hoping to continue this run; they are utterly focused on maintaining the high-intensity, disciplined rugby that has delivered these results. The team knows that the challenges of National 2 West are unrelenting, and consistency is the key to a successful campaign.

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As they prepare for this encounter, the objective is clear: secure a fourth victory. With the potent combination of home advantage and the roaring support of the Pottington Road faithful behind them, the Chiefs are ready to give everything in what promises to be a compelling and physical contest.

All the ingredients are in place for a truly colossal encounter here at our fortress by the river. So, take up your positions and ready your voices! It's time to play our part. Let's raise the roof with the mighty Barum roar and drive the Chiefs on to victory in what promises to be an unforgettable 80 minutes. Let's get ready for battle!

Feel the Barum Spirit



BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS



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- 2 BERTIE STRETCH**
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NATIONAL 2 WEST

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CHIEFS CONQUER TAUNTON IN HISTORIC THRILLER

Barnstaple's finest silence the home crowd with a stunning five-point haul.

What a fabulous Saturday afternoon that was last weekend as Barnstaple Chiefs beat Taunton in what can only be described as an absolute thriller of a match with the Chiefs coming home with all 5 points as they beat the home side 34-41. Of course the last time they beat Taunton in November 2017 was at Pottington Road, this time however it was on the Titans home turf.

On a lovely sunny afternoon the Chiefs buoyed by their start this season were soon scrambling as Taunton came out of the gates at breakneck speed to score within the first five minutes. The response was swift. From a lineout, the forward pack assembled a devastating maul that rumbled with intent. The ball was swiftly moved to the centres, where Jake Murphy sold the defence a dummy with a beautifully disguised pass, putting Connor Swan through a gaping hole. Swan's brilliant, line took him under the posts untouched, and with Henry Sellick's conversion, his first of three, the Chiefs calmly nudged ahead 5-7.

Facing adversity with a technical yellow card that reduced them to 14 men, the Chiefs watched as Taunton capitalised with two quick tries. Yet, the men in red never panicked. Their answer was emphatic and came from their most reliable weapon: the unstoppable driving maul. From a five-metre lineout, the pack thundered forward as a single unit, with the powerful Bertie Stretch bursting through the heart of the defence to reduce the deficit.

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Even when a late Taunton penalty stretched the lead to 22-12, the Chiefs showcased the heart of champions. In a breathtaking final five-minute blitz before the break, they seized control of the match. First, the relentless Dominic Robson grounded the ball after a series of sustained, pick-and-go assaults that showcased the pack's raw determination. Then, in a moment of magic, Jake Murphy latched onto a sublime offload from Callum Davies to slice through and thrust the Chiefs into a deserved half-time lead at 22-26, leaving the home support in a state of shock.

The second half began with another Taunton surge, as they reclaimed the lead with two quick tries. But the final thirty minutes belonged solely, and emphatically, to Barnstaple.

What followed was a ten-minute spell of rugby so thunderous and clinical it will be spoken of for seasons to come. The magnificent Connor Swan grabbed his second, finishing a sublime, sweeping move that flowed through the hands of every Chiefs back in a dazzling display of attacking precision.

Not to be outdone, the forward pack reasserted their dominance. From 15 yards out, the driving maul was again unleashed, gathering pace like a runaway train and carving through Taunton's crumbling defence, with the irrepressible Bertie Stretch powering over for his second score.

The final, decisive blow was a masterpiece. From the halfway line, the Chiefs' backs executed a mesmerising series of interchanges, tearing the tiring Taunton defence to shreds. It was Ben Parsons who applied the finishing touch, accepting a lovely opening on the 22, executing a devastating side-step that left his marker grasping at air, and sprinting away to seal the victory with a glorious try.

The final 20 minutes were a testament to the Chiefs' fitness and sheer desire.

A defensive stand followed, that repelled everything Taunton threw at them, with the final whistle sparking scenes of unbridled joy and celebration.

This match was an instant classic, a rollercoaster of momentum swings that ultimately showcased the superior resilience and attacking firepower of this courageous Chiefs side.

This victory was a testament to the unbreakable spirit of this Barnstaple Chiefs side. Twice they were knocked down, and twice they rose from the canvas with even greater force, refusing to be denied. While the scoreboard tells a tale of a thrilling contest, the nature of the performance by the Chiefs will warm every Barnum supporters hearts.



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Barnstaple RFC

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Now, thanks to a powerful blend of vision, generosity, and sheer hard work, Barnstaple Rugby Club has elevated that match experience to a whole new level with the arrival of a fantastic new permanent outside can bar.

Dubbed an instant game-changer by members and supporters, the bar was championed by the club's dedicated Facilities Manager, Amy Elkins.

More than just an idea, Amy provided the materials for the project, turning a simple concept into a tangible asset for the entire club community and with her husband Big 'H' put the whole thing together

The new structure provides a dedicated, efficient, and social hub on key match days. Located perfectly for spectators to grab a refreshing pint without missing a moment of the action, it alleviates pressure on the main clubhouse bar and keeps the festive atmosphere flowing freely outdoors. It's all about enhancing the match day experience for everyone.

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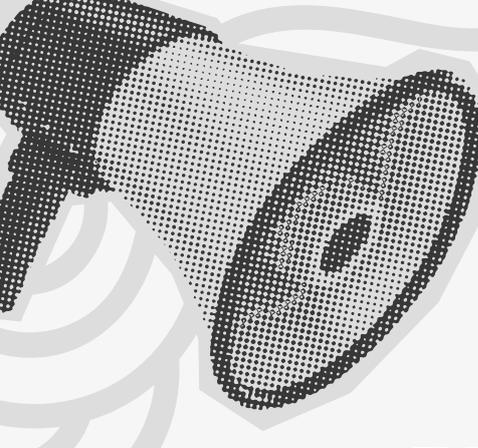
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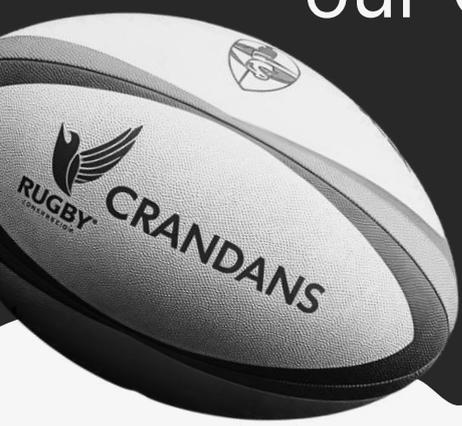
BARNSTAPLE RUGBY CLUB

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

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



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Barnstaple Athletic Storm Into Semi-Finals With Emphatic Cup Statement



A dominant, seven-try shutout against higher-league opposition has sent a clear message to the rest of the Devon Intermediate Cup: Barnstaple Athletic are a force to be reckoned with.

Fresh off a week's rest and buoyed by a stellar performance a fortnight ago, Barnstaple Athletic delivered a masterclass in controlled aggression and free-flowing rugby, dismantling a struggling Cullompton side 0-43 on their own turf to book a historic place in the semi-finals of the Devon Intermediate Cup.

In their maiden voyage in this competition, the Tic's were not just participants; they were predators. Bolstered by the returning firepower of Scott Incledon, Kyran McManus, and Ryan Lee, the squad approached this tricky away fixture against a side from a league above with a steely determination.

The opening quarter was a tense, tactical arm-wrestle, with both defences holding firm. However, it was Athletic who inevitably broke the deadlock, with Harvey Rostock crossing the line for the first of what would become a personal brace. That try opened the floodgates for a devastating 10-minute spell that showcased the team's ruthless efficiency. Captain Ollie James led from the front, crashing over, and he was swiftly followed by the returning vice-captain, Scott Incledon, whose score helped cement a commanding 0-17 half-time lead.



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Any hopes Cullompton harboured of a second-half resurgence were systematically extinguished by an Athletic side in full flight. The Tic's took complete charge, orchestrating a breath-taking 15-minute blitz that left the home side reeling. Kyran McManus announced his return with a try, followed swiftly by scores from Reuben Faulkner and Alex Macmillan as the visitors' attack proved simply unplayable.

The final, emphatic statement came from Harvey Rostock, who capped a magnificent personal performance with his second try, sealing a seven-try feast and a precious shutout. To travel to a higher-ranked opponent and leave with a 0-43 victory is more than a result; it is a declaration of intent.

This performance is not an anomaly but a continuation of the formidable standards set last season, showcasing the incredible depth and health of the entire Barnstaple Rugby club.

Preview: A Rivalry Renewed Under the Lights

The challenge now is to carry this formidable momentum into the league, and it presents itself this weekend with a trip to newly promoted Torquay. While the history books favour Athletic—with three wins from their four encounters in Counties 2—this promises to be their toughest test yet.

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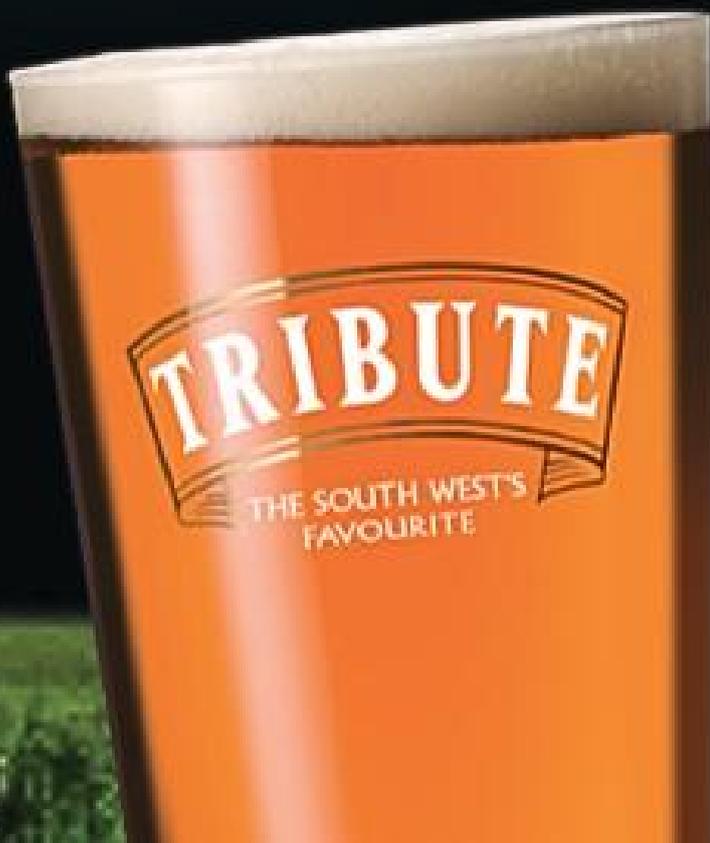
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Torquay, though yet to register a win, have proven themselves to be a dangerous and resilient side. They come into their first home game of the season having run up 41 points in a narrow loss to Plymstock Oaks and pushing Newton Abbott to the brink in a 25-24 thriller. They will be hungry to prove themselves in front of their home supporters, and Athletic must be prepared for an early onslaught and a fiery atmosphere.

The question is not just about Athletic's firepower, which is clearly abundant, but about their ability to silence a partisan crowd and weather the expected storm. Based on the evidence from Cullompton—their defensive discipline, attacking cohesion, and unbreakable spirit—this Barnstaple Athletic side has all the tools required. Expect their free-flowing rugby and unwavering confidence to prevail once again, cementing their status as a team on the rise.



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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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Colts Forge Ahead After Frustrating Fixture Postponement

It was a weekend of immense frustration for the Colts, as their scheduled Devon Colts Merit Table clash was abruptly cancelled after their opponents were unable to raise a side.

This disappointment is particularly keenly felt by the squad of youngsters. After building formidable momentum with two emphatic, bonus-point victories—a dominant run that saw them score 79 points while conceding a mere 7 against Exeter Athletic Colts and Teignmouth Colts—they were cruelly halted just as they hit their stride. It's a scenario akin to a sprinter being pulled up at full pace, with the next official merit table fixture not until Saturday, 1st November, when they travel to Cullompton.

However, to suggest the Colts are now in a period of inactivity would be a grave misconception. Far from sitting idle, the squad is channelling their frustration into a packed and purposeful schedule designed to maintain their sharpness and team cohesion.

The action resumes immediately! This Sunday, 5th October, they host Hornets Colts in a crucial RFU Cup match at home. The 2:30 pm kick-off represents a perfect opportunity for the community to rally behind the team. Your vocal support from the side-lines could provide the vital push they need to advance in the national competition.

This cup fixture is just the beginning of a busy autumn programme. In the intervening weeks before the Cullompton trip,



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the Colts will face a second cup challenge and two additional friendly matches on the road. This carefully arranged schedule ensures the team's rhythm and competitive edge won't be blunted by the unforeseen break.

While the unexpected pause in league action was a shame, this resilient group has already shown their quality. The upcoming blend of high-stakes cup rugby and developmental friendlies is the ideal recipe to ensure they return to merit table action in November not just rested, but razor-sharp and ready to pick up right where they left off.

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COOKIE

JEREMY CHUGG

JULES LAMBERT

BARNSTAPLE COLTS v TOPSHAM COLTS

ASHBURTON MOTOR WORKS DEVON COLTS GROUP 1

POTTINGTON ROAD 5TH OCT 2025 | KO 2.30PM

Buccaneers Battle Hard in Building Season

Well, it was another tough shift at the office for the Buccaneers this past weekend, falling at home to a strong South Molton II side with a final score of 17-43.

Let's be real, it's been a challenging start for this newly-formed squad. It takes time for a team to truly gel, and they're right in the thick of that process. But here's the important takeaway—the lads showed massive signs of improvement and real fight. In fact, if you'd left at halftime, you'd have seen a team absolutely in the contest, at 12-14! It was a proper arm-wrestle. The second half unfortunately just got away from them, but that first-half performance is the benchmark.

There's no time to dwell, because the schedule doesn't get any easier. In fact, it throws up a massive challenge today as the Buccs travel to face Crediton.

For those who remember last season, you'll know this fixture needs no extra spice. Crediton were our biggest rivals, pipping us to the title by a heart-breaking two points. So, we know exactly what we're up against—this is arguably our toughest test of the season so far.

But here's the way we see it: this is exactly the kind of game this developing squad needs. It's a chance to measure our progress against the best, to learn, and to show that the fight we displayed in the first half last week can be a full-80-minute performance. It's a steep hill to climb, but it's also a golden opportunity for further progress.

BARNSTAPLE BUCCANEERS



TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

1 ADDY TURNER

2 JACK NEILL
KINGSLEY PLASTICS LTD

3 BILLY GRANT (CC)
GRANT HOUSEKEEPING LTD

4 EWAN DAVIES

5 JOSH SLUMAN (VC)

6 SCOTT ALEXANDER
EDMUNDSON ELECTRICAL

7 BRAD DOWN
CT1

8 TOM CROKER

9 SAM GRANT

10 KEYAN MCINERNEY (CC)

11 CAMERON DULLARD

12 JOE HASTIE
WOOLACOMBE BAY HOILDAY PARKS LTD

13 SAM YOUNG

14 THOMAS YEO

15 SAM PALMER
RD CONSTRUCTION

**BRAD
DOWN**



BUCC'S SQUAD

CALLUM HUXTABLE

RYAN WOODS

FELIX PACEY

MATT PURCHASE

TBC

COACHES

LEWIS JOCE

TEAM MANAGER

CALLUM JOSSELYN

TOM CROKER

CREDITON III v BARNSTAPLE BUCCANEERS

DEVON MERIT TABLE NE 1

EXHIBITION ROAD 4TH OCTOBER 2025 | KO TBC

BARNSTAPLE RUGBY 2025/26



OCT 11TH - 2.30PM

NATIONAL 2 WEST

**BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS
VS CINDERFORD**

OCT 18TH - 2.30PM

COUNTIES 1 WESTERN WEST

**BARNSTAPLE ATHLETIC
VS REDRUTH II**

OCT 25TH - 2.30PM

NATIONAL 2 WEST

**BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS
VS CHESTER**

NOV 1ST - 2PM

DEVON MERIT TABLE NE1

**BARNSTAPLE BUCCANEERS
VS CREDITON III**

NOV 8TH - 2PM

DEVON COLTS MERIT TABLE

**BARNSTAPLE COLTS
VS NEWTON ABBOT COLTS**

Pottington Rd, Barnstaple EX31 1JH

email - info.barnstaplerugby@gmail.com

website - barnstaplerugby.co.uk



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**BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS
VS CINDERFORD**

NATIONAL 2 WEST

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER | 2.30PM

MATCHDAY CARVERY £12

Club	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	PD	TBP	LBP	Points
 Camborne	4	4	0	0	160	80	80	4	0	20
 Cinderford	4	3	0	1	131	93	38	4	0	16
 Barnstaple	4	3	0	1	131	111	20	4	0	16
 Luctonians	4	3	0	1	136	84	52	3	0	15
 Lymm	4	3	0	1	125	98	27	1	1	14
 Hornets	4	3	0	1	128	104	24	2	0	14
 Redruth	4	3	0	1	114	115	-1	2	0	14
 Exeter University	4	2	0	2	111	124	-13	1	0	9
 Taunton	4	1	0	3	132	161	-29	3	2	9
 Old Redcliffians	4	1	0	3	105	114	-9	2	2	8
 Hinckley	4	1	0	3	106	122	-16	2	1	7
 Chester	4	1	0	3	90	131	-41	2	1	7
 Loughborough Students	4	0	0	4	106	169	-63	3	1	4
 Syston	4	0	0	4	84	153	-69	1	0	1