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15th November 2025

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Vs
Loughborough
University



Brandon Moore

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WELCOME TO **POTTINGTON ROAD**

The Heart of Devon



Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and a very warm welcome to Pottington Road! We are delighted to have you with us for what promises to be a thrilling National Two West clash, as our very own Barnstaple Chiefs prepare to take on Loughborough University.

It's a fixture that is growing in familiarity, with Loughborough making their second visit in a number of years, and we anticipate a fantastic contest. The Chiefs come into this match in resolute form, full of confidence and looking to solidify their standing. Their opponents, while navigating a challenging start to the season, have shown recent signs of clicking into gear. This contrast in trajectories sets the stage for a truly compelling encounter—one where passion, strategy, and sheer determination will be on full display. This is precisely the kind of rugby you love to watch!

A Heartfelt Thank You to Today's Match Day Sponsors

None of what we do here at Barnstaple Rugby Club would be possible without the incredible support of today's Match Day Sponsors **Bray leino**, our good friends and long-time supporters, who also do fantastic work supporting the North Devon Hospice and Les Western Brickworks, who are new to our club this season

To both of our sponsors, we hope you have a fantastic day with us. Your backing means the world to this club and has been a fundamental part of our journey and success.

Before we get into today's game we have a Christmas Roast lunch special on Saturday December 6th followed by another top of the table clash as Barnstaple Chiefs welcome Lymm to Pottington Road.

There are a limited number of places available for this wonderful 2 course meal. An absolute bargain at just £25 plus entry so get in early and book your place at bookings.barnstaplerugby@gmail.com

A Special Welcome to Loughborough University

We would also like to extend a very warm Barnstaple welcome to our opponents today, Loughborough University. We know it's a tremendous trip down the M5, roughly 4 hours. To their players, coaches, committee members, and every one of their supporters who have made the long journey to North Devon this weekend. We hope you have a fantastic day out and enjoy the famous hospitality at our club.

The Chiefs have continued their excellent form, consolidating their position in the top three as we move into the second third of the season. With 17 games still to play, Wins over Chester and at Redruth continue the momentum and we have a brief resume of them later in the program

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Loughborough University, it must be said, have not had the start to the season they would have hoped for, with three wins so far placing them 12th in the table. However, we would urge everyone in the ground not to be fooled by their league position for a single minute.

Yes, they faced difficulties, particularly in September, but they are a team finding their momentum at just the right time. Significantly, two of their three wins have come in their last three games, with impressive victories over both Exeter University and Taunton at home. This indicates a squad that is rapidly gelling and discovering the confidence in their game plan. The Chiefs will need to be acutely aware of this resurgent threat.

So, what can we expect this afternoon? A cracking game of rugby, without a doubt. On one side, you have the Barnstaple Chiefs, a side brimming with confidence, playing with momentum and a sense of purpose in front of a home crowd.

On the other, you have a Loughborough University side that has weathered an early storm and is now building a head of steam of its own, gradually gaining confidence with each performance.

The last time these two met it was honours even with the Chiefs narrowly winning at Pottington Road thanks to a Tyler Gordon-Oke 80th minute penalty 36-33. So expect another close game as this has all the makings of a tough, uncompromising competition where any slip in concentration or momentary hesitation will be pounced upon. It is a classic clash of a settled force against a resurgent challenger.



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We also have some fantastic rugby at the club as England take on New Zealand. It's going to be a massive game for both sides as they look to secure their top six seeding for the world cup draw.

Don't forget it is still Movember as the lads continue to raise funds and awareness for all the dads, brothers, sons and mates in our lives. Please donate to support men's health.

So far they have raised £844 let's get them over the £1000 mark
To make a donation click this link

<https://movember.com/t/barnstaple-rugby?mc=63>

Next Saturday as we welcome Barnstaple Athletic back to our home pitch! as they prepare to face a Penryn side in what promises to be a hard-hitting and fascinating battle. With both teams known for their passionate play, this is a fixture you won't want to miss.

Make a Day of It!

Kick-off is at 2:00 PM, but we encourage you to get here early to secure your spot and enjoy a fantastic pre-match meal. Our brilliant caterers, Royal Class Catering, are serving up a delicious deal:

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Junior Section Update

By Heather Collins

The junior section season is now in full swing, and our Sunday mornings are busier than ever! It's wonderful to see all our teams back out training, with the older juniors also taking part in midweek sessions to continue developing their skills, confidence, and teamwork.

We're delighted to share that our brand-new Under 7s team is now fully established. Watching their energy and enthusiasm is truly heart-warming – who knows, we may even have a future England player among them!

Our girls' section continues to grow from strength to strength under the dedicated leadership of Head Coach Jay Carr. The team has been buzzing with excitement after watching the Red Roses' World Cup victory, which has truly inspired them to keep pushing forward and dreaming big.

We're very fortunate to have TJ Hyam (Ruggerbees) providing ongoing coaching input and guidance for our volunteer coaches, ensuring consistency and quality across all age groups. This support, combined with the regular involvement of senior players at both Sunday and midweek training sessions, is making a real difference in the development and confidence of our young players. It's fantastic to see the whole club pulling together to nurture the next generation.

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to our new Sunday morning kit swap shop, where families can donate and

exchange outgrown kit to support our younger players. It's been a great success so far and perfectly reflects the caring, community spirit that defines our club.

Last Sunday, the entire junior section came together to pay their respects for Remembrance Sunday – a proud and meaningful moment for all involved.

We're also extremely proud to announce that a number of our Colts players have been selected to represent Devon. This is a tremendous achievement and a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the support of our brilliant coaching team.

At present, we are at full capacity, with every age group continuing to grow in numbers this season. If you'd like your child to join our thriving junior section, please keep an eye on our social media channels, where any new spaces will be advertised.

Finally, it's wonderful to see many of our former juniors now playing for our senior teams – an inspiring reminder to our younger players of what can be achieved through hard work, teamwork, and a love of the game.



Barnstaple Juniors pay their respects on Remembrance Sunday



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Barnstaple Chiefs Forge a New Identity with Gritty, Dramatic Wins

With the program absent for a couple of weeks we look at the last two fixtures for the chiefs that were mammoth games. Over two thrilling fixtures, this squad has demonstrated a resilience that is quickly becoming their trademark, winning in a fashion that cements belief and puts the entire league on notice.

Battle at Pottington Road: Chiefs Edge Chester in Tense Affair

The Chiefs' match against Chester was a classic, hard-fought contest that showcased both their explosive power and their fortitude.

From the first whistle, Barnstaple laid down a marker. Applying immense pressure from the outset, they were rewarded in just the fifth minute. The ever-reliable driving maul and pick-and-go game—the team's undeniable "bread and butter"—propelled Brendan Darley over the line for the opening score.

The dominance continued, and within the first ten minutes, the fans were treated to a try of pure beauty. After being held up over the line, the Chiefs recycled from the goal-line restart. Jake Murphy delivered a deft offload to the charging Dominic Robson, who sliced through the heart of the Chester defence. As the cover closed in, Robson had the presence of mind to

offload to Callum Morgan, who cantered in unopposed under the posts. Henry Sellick added the extras, continuing what would be a perfect day with the boot.

However, Chester proved why they were not here to just make up the numbers as they methodically worked their way back into the game with two converted tries either side of halftime, levelling the scores at 14-14. The Chiefs, feeling the momentum shift, went back to what they know best. Another relentless series of pick-and-goes culminated with Matt Gohl crashing over to reclaim the lead. Yet again, Chester responded instantly, setting up a nerve-shredding final ten minutes with the scores locked at 21-21.

The decisive moment came from the boot and the brain of Henry Sellick. After earning a penalty and kicking for touch, the resulting lineout set up a powerful maul. The ball was spun wide through the hands, finding Sellick who ran a razor-sharp line, puncturing a hole in the tiring Chester defence to score. His subsequent conversion sealed a hard-earned 28-21 victory, preserving the Chiefs' perfect home record and proving they could win a dogfight.

A Historic Comeback in the Cauldron of Redruth

If the Chester win was a display of grit, the trip to Redruth was the stuff of legend. In a top-of-the-table clash billed as a "season-defining moment," the Chiefs authored an unforgettable comeback that will be talked about for years.

The home side started strong, crossing for a converted try

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inside ten minutes. But Barnstaple, unfazed, responded in kind. After a punishing maul sucked in the defence, the ball was moved swiftly through the hands. A powerful carry from Dominic Robson fixed multiple defenders, and in the next phase, Bertie Stretch identified a sliver of space, bursting through to score. The tit-for-tat battle was on.

Redruth edged ahead again, only for Bertie Stretch to double his tally, once again leveraging the Chiefs' formidable maul from a penalty to touch down from close range. Just as Barnstaple thought they would head in level, Redruth struck a blow on the stroke of halftime, taking a 19-12 lead.

The second half was a titanic, arm-wrestle. The Chiefs' breakthrough came from a set-piece gem. Camped on Redruth's five-meter line, multiple phases compressed the defence before Jake Murphy's flat, miss-pass found Henry Sellick hitting a perfect line at pace, straightening to score. The missed conversion, however, left them trailing 19-17.

With ten minutes remaining, Redruth seemed to have slammed the door shut, scoring a converted try to stretch their lead to 26-17. At this point, the realistic goal was a four-try bonus point.

With just two minutes left, Brendan Darley burrowed over from a pick-and-go, bringing the score to 26-22. Securing two bonus points was an admirable result for any travelling side.

But this Barnstaple Chiefs team is not "any side."

Instead of settling, they went for the jugular. From the restart,

they launched one of the most dramatic counter-attacks seen all season. With Koto leading the charge, they raced from their own half. Callum Morgan carried the momentum just short of the Redruth 22, and from the ensuing ruck, Jake Murphy's long pass found Ryan Lee. What happened next was pure magic: Lee with in excess of 30 meters still to run shredded two desperate tackles with a powerful fend and explosive step, diving over to complete a stunning 26-27 victory—the Chiefs' first at Redruth in modern memory.

While these last-gasp victories are spectacular, they are not for the faint of heart. The last three games have been decided by a final-minute penalty against Cinderford, a late try against Chester, and a two-try explosion in the dying moments at Redruth. The entertainment value is sky-high, but the cardiac stress on fans is immense! However, this pattern is not a fluke; it is the product of a clear identity built on three pillars:

Unshakeable Belief: This team genuinely believes it is never beaten. The decision to go for the win, at Redruth speaks volumes about the culture in the dressing room.

Superior Fitness: To execute with such precision and power in the 78th and 79th minutes requires a level of conditioning that is paying massive dividends.

Impeccable Discipline: While opponents have faltered under pressure—the Chiefs have maintained their composure. This discipline allows them to build pressure, force penalties, and ruthlessly exploit numerical advantages, as they did for three of their five tries in Cornwall.

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The Road Ahead: A Marathon, Not a Sprint

The Chiefs now sit proudly in third place with seven wins from nine. The victory at Redruth is a monumental milestone, a statement win that breeds immense confidence.

But as the old adage goes, the season is a marathon, not a sprint. This was one game, one five-point haul. With two-thirds of the season still to play, the true test is sustainability.

The challenge now is to channel the emotion of that historic win into a focused, professional performance against Loughborough Students. Maintaining this momentum is crucial. The marathon continues, and this team has shown it has the heart, the legs, and the spirit for the long run.



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Barnstaple Athletic Script a Tale Triumphs to Secure Historic Cup Final Berth



While the Chiefs were lighting up the scoreboard elsewhere, their clubmates, Barnstaple Athletic, were embroiled in their own high-stakes drama, culminating in a historic achievement.

The Tics have carved their name into the Devon Intermediate Cup final for the first time in their history, a feat sealed through a display of sheer dominance in the semi-final.

The road to the final was paved with a compelling narrative of revenge. Athletics' challenge was a semi-final trip to face Paignton, a team that had handed a devastating 50-19 defeat to the Tics in the season's opening fixture. This cup clash, however, was about more than just victory; it was about exorcising old ghosts for Athletic.

Heading south with a potent mix of anticipation and expectation, Athletic knew they were in for a battle. They exploded from the gates, with Chris Philpott crossing the line after just two minutes, a try coolly converted by Harvey Rostock. Yet, Paignton lived up to their tough reputation, hitting back with two swift tries to seize a 10-7 lead by the 20-minute mark.

But that was the high-water mark for the hosts. From that moment on, Barnstaple Athletic gave no quarter. The tide turned decisively as Josh Ridewood-Williams powered over for a crucial try. The momentum was firmly cemented by a blistering brace from Ben Jago, sending the Tics into the halftime break with a commanding 10-28 lead.

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The second half saw a more physical, toe-to-toe struggle for the first 15 minutes. However, Athletic's resilience shone through. Hayden Gosling broke the deadlock, and Euan Kent put the final exclamation point on the performance, scoring ten minutes from time to seal an emphatic and vengeful 10-40 victory. The mission was accomplished: painful memories were erased, and a historic ticket to the final was punched.

A Weekend of Grit and Grace in Cornwall

The cup heroics were just one part of a demanding and successful fortnight for the North Devon side. To complete a "North Devon Invasion of Cornwall," Athletic then travelled to Truro for a gruelling Counties 1 Western West league encounter.

This was always destined to be a challenging affair, and the Tics were forced to dig deeper than they had against Paignton. Max Moore announced intentions by grabbing the first of a brace after 15 minutes. Callum Dovell, making a welcome return to the squad, added another shortly after. Despite these efforts, Athletic found themselves trailing 21-12 in a fiercely contested first half. A critical try from Josh Ridewood-Williams right on the halftime whistle narrowed the gap to a tantalizing 21-19, setting up a grandstand finish.

The second half was a monumental, bruising battle where neither side gave an inch. Harvey Rostock slotted a penalty in the 64th minute to keep the Tics in touch. Then, in a thrilling finale, Athletic showcased the unshakeable belief that defines their season. With just five minutes remaining, Max Moore crashed over for his second try, with Harvey Rostock's conversion the Tic's were just three points adrift. The full-back then capped a brilliant personal performance, holding his nerve to slot a final, decisive penalty

with only two minutes left, securing a hard-fought 32-32 draw and three invaluable league points.

The contrast between the two performances could not be starker. One was a display of utter dominance, a systematic dismantling of a familiar foe. The other was a war of attrition, a testament to grit and composure under pressure. Together, they reveal the true character of this Barnstaple Athletic squad: a team with the firepower to blow opponents away and the unwavering resilience to battle until the final whistle.

After such bone-crunching encounters, the squad has earned a well-deserved rest this weekend. The club now awaits confirmation of their final opponent, which will be decided in the other semi-final between Plymstock Oaks and Okehampton this Saturday. The Devon Intermediate Cup final is scheduled for the weekend of February 7th/8th, with the exact venue, date, and time to be confirmed imminently.

Following their break, Athletic will return to Pottington Road to face Penryn in another crucial Counties 1 Western West fixture. Bolstered by their historic achievement and settled squad, the Tics are now perfectly positioned to push on and challenge for the top spots, ready to write the next chapter in their remarkable season.

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Barnstaple Buccaneers: A Trial by Fire for a Team in the Making



In the gruelling world of sport, there are periods where the bounce of the ball never seems to go your way, and for the Barnstaple Buccaneers, this is the challenging reality of the current campaign. The quest for that first, season-defining victory has become a narrative of agonising near-misses and frustrating setbacks, testing the mettle of this promising but fledgling squad.

The Buccaneers' recent journey has been a tale of what might have been. They fought tooth and nail in two intensely close contests, coming within a whisker of that elusive first win—a feeling so tangible they could almost touch it. That hard-earned momentum, however, met a stern reality check upon their return to Pottington Road. They faced a formidable and well-drilled Crediton III side, whose experience and organisation were on full display. The match unfolded as a fairly one-sided battle, a classic clash between a seasoned, cohesive unit and a Buccaneers team still very much in its formative stages.

This is the core of the Buccaneers' story: they are a new assembly of talent, blending a handful of experienced heads with a vibrant cohort of youth. They are in the vital, sometimes painful, process of forging their identity. The crucial on-field relationships are still being developed. These bonds are not built

overnight, and matches against opponents like Crediton serve as a harsh but invaluable lesson in the level required to compete consistently.

Just as the team was steeling itself for a fresh assault, fortune delivered another cruel blow. Last weekend, a golden opportunity to finally break their duck presented itself, only for the visiting team to withdraw from the fixture, unable to field a full side. The cancellation denied the Buccs not just a chance at victory, but the precious match-day experience they so desperately need to accelerate their growth.

This weekend's rest is not merely an empty Saturday; it is a gift of time. It provides a crucial window to regroup, refine their structures on the training pitch, and continue the vital work of building chemistry without the immediate pressure of a match.

All focus now turns to the horizon and the promise of next weekend. The Buccaneers will return to the familiar turf of Pottington Road to host Ilfracombe. The question on everyone's lips is a hopeful one: could this be the one? While only time will tell, every team deserves a turn of fortune, and the law of averages suggests the rub of the green must eventually swing their way.

This young Buccaneers side has shown flashes of its potential and has endured its baptism by fire. The foundation, though currently hidden beneath a layer of frustration, is being laid. With continued hard work and a resilient spirit, their perseverance is bound to be rewarded, and that long-awaited victory will taste all the sweeter for the struggle that preceded it.

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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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Barnstaple Colts Unleash Offensive Onslaught to Maintain Perfect Record

After a period of enforced hiatus, the Barnstaple Colts stormed back into league action with a statement victory that reverberated across the Devon Colts table. Travelling to Cullompton a fortnight ago, the undefeated Colts were a team on a mission, carrying the pressure of a perfect three-win record and a burning determination to solidify their status as genuine title contenders.

Any fears of rust were obliterated in a breath-taking opening blitz. The Colts came flying out of the blocks, showcasing a blend of precision and power that left the hosts reeling. Within a devastating five-minute spell, Noah Bazley and Jacob Askew both sliced through the defence to cross the try line, setting a formidable early tone. The clinical start was compounded by the unerring boot of James Fyers, who slotted both conversions, beginning a near-flawless personal tally for the day.

The first-half dominance was relentless. Bazley reinforced his threat by crashing over for a second try, further extending the lead. As the half drew to a close, Rhys Hadley rounded off a masterful forty minutes of rugby, dotting down to send the Colts into the break with a commanding 7-26 lead. The performance was a perfect blend of explosive attacking and disciplined execution.

Any notion of a Cullompton fightback was swiftly extinguished as the second half began precisely where the first had left off.

Jacob Askew secured his brace, underscoring his influential performance. The Colts, however, are far from a two-man team, and the victory truly became a squad showcase as Davies, Haynes, and Barrow all added their names to the scoresheet.

When the final whistle blew, the scoreboard told a story of utter supremacy: a 12-54 victory that maintained their pristine 100% record and cemented their position in the upper echelons of the table, currently holding a strong third place.

The challenge now intensifies as the Colts turn their attention to the next hurdle: a trip to face Exeter Athletic in the Ashburton Motor Works Devon Colts Merit Table. History offers a confidence boost, having secured a 26-0 victory over the same opponents at Pottington Road back in September. Yet, this rematch presents a entirely different proposition. On Exeter's home turf, pride and a desire for redemption will be powerful motivators.

This sets the stage for what promises to be a highly electrifying contest between two quality sides. The central question is compelling: Can the Barnstaple Colts navigate this tough away fixture, maintain their flawless record, and keep the intense pressure on the teams above them? The answer will define their character and their credentials as true championship contenders.

BARNSTAPLE COLTS



TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

1 EVAN RAY
COSY DEVON

2 NOAH BAZLEY
SLEE BLACKWELL SOLICITORS

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12 JONSON TUHAKARAINA
LONGCROSS SCAFFOLDING SOUTH WEST

13 JAC DAVIES
SEA

14 JACK BARROW

15 JAMES FYERS
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**EVAN
RAY**



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EXETER ATHLETIC COLTS V BARNSTAPLE COLTS

ASHBURTON MOTOR WORKS DEVON COLTS MERIT TABLE
BRAVELANDS, OIL MILL LANE 15TH NOV 2025 | KO 2PM



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BARNSTAPLE RUGBY BACKROOM STAFF

TEAM MANAGERS

VERITY WHITE
LYNTON PACK

DARREL GILL
RGP ARCHITECTS

DEAN DAVIES
LYNTON PACK

JENNY BEER
WINDSOR ARMS

EMMA SMITH
TARKA CLINIC

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PHYSIO / FIRST AIDER

RICHARD FLEMMING

JESS ROGERS

ESME RAISTRICK
TARKA CLINIC

DONNA KNIGHT
TARKA CLINIC

**BUCC'S
STAFF**

CALLUM JOSSLYN
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TOM CROKER



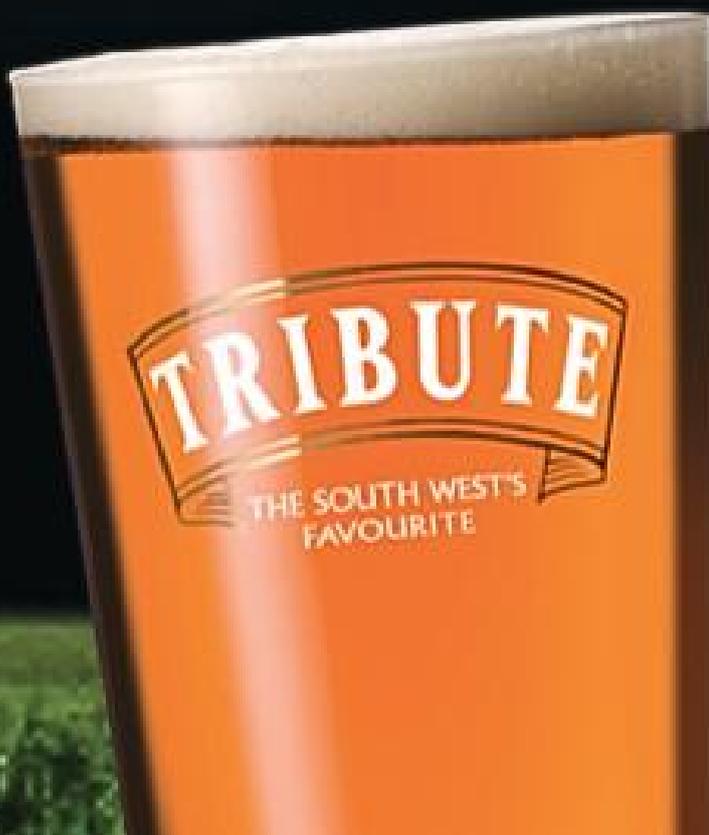
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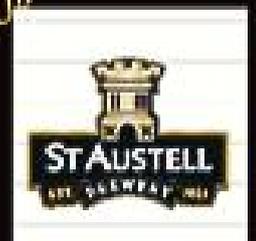
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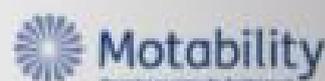
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 Barnstaple	9	7	0	2	273	238	35	8	0	36	0
 Lymm	9	6	0	3	307	282	25	5	1	30	0
 Redruth	9	5	0	4	250	239	11	6	2	28	0
 Hornets	9	5	0	4	258	242	16	5	0	25	0
 Hinckley	9	4	0	5	277	289	-12	7	2	25	0
 Taunton	9	3	0	6	291	295	-4	7	5	24	0
 Cinderford	9	4	0	5	265	273	-8	6	1	23	0
 Chester	9	4	0	5	283	296	-13	5	2	23	0
 Old Redcliffians	9	3	0	6	227	239	-12	5	3	20	0
 Loughborough Students	9	3	0	6	252	328	-76	6	1	19	0
 Exeter University	9	3	0	6	281	368	-87	5	1	18	0
 Syston	9	0	0	9	209	381	-172	4	0	4	0