

# BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS



14th February 2026  
Kick off 2pm



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**Luctonians**

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# WELCOME TO POTTINGTON ROAD

## The Heart of Devon



Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and a very warm welcome back to Pottington Road for what promises to be an absolutely colossal encounter in National 2 West. Today, we witness a true battle at the top end of the table as our very own Barnstaple Chiefs go head-to-head with the second-placed Luctonians.

We extend the sincerest of welcomes to the players, coaching staff, committee members, and the travelling supporters who have made the three-and-a-half-hour pilgrimage from Herefordshire to join us here in North Devon. We hope you enjoy your stay, the hospitality, and the rugby—though perhaps not the result!

Today's fixture is proudly sponsored by **Partners&** and **Ian Tucker, Associate Partner of St. James's Place PLC**, long-term supporters of Barnstaple Rugby Club. Your continued commitment over the years makes a tremendous difference to us and plays a vital role in enabling this club to compete at the heights we enjoy today. Thank you.

### **Action Elsewhere at the Club**

Before we turn our full attention to the main event, there is another crucial fixture taking place just alongside us on the second pitch. Barnstaple Colts are hosting Paignton Colts in the

Devon RFU Cup quarter-final, with kick-off slightly earlier at 1.30pm. Be sure to lend your support to the next generation of Barum talent as they look to book their place in the semi-finals.

## **What's On the Horizon**

Before we dive into today's team sheets and tactics, here are a few important dates and events coming up over the next few months here at Barnstaple RFC:

We are still awaiting a date for Barnstaple Athletics Devon Intermediate cup final against Okehampton. All we do know currently is that it will still be held here at Pottington Road, when we get a date you will be the first to know.

## **Six Nations in the Clubhouse**

We'll be showing every single one of England's matches live in the clubhouse, alongside the best of the remaining Six Nations fixtures on Saturdays. Full details are on the poster below, come down, bring friends, and enjoy the rugby on the big screen, supplied kindly by HBH Woolacotts, visit their new store at Brannams Retail Park, Roundswell for all your entertainment and appliance needs. Visit their website at:-

<https://www.hbh-woolacotts.co.uk/>

## **Ladies' Day – Friday 21st March**

One of the standout dates in our social calendar returns as the Chiefs take on current league leaders Camborne. Tickets are almost completely sold out, but there are very limited number still available. Tickets are priced at £28. For any enquiries regarding availability, please email Rhiane Easton directly at

[rhiane.easton@gmail.com](mailto:rhiane.easton@gmail.com)

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**BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS V LUCTONIANS 2PM**

**IRELAND V ITALY 2:10PM**

**SCOTLAND V ENGLAND 4:40PM**

FEB 21ST

**BARNSTAPLE ATHLETIC V ST. IVES (SW) 2PM**

**ENGLAND V IRELAND 2:10PM**

**WALES V SCOTLAND 4:40PM**

MARCH 7TH

**BARNSTAPLE COLTS V BIDEFORD COLTS 2PM**

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**ITALY V ENGLAND 4:40PM**

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### **End of Season Dinner – Friday 9th May**

Our popular End of Season Dinner returns, following the same successful format as last year. Further details will be released closer to the time, but for now, simply mark the date in your diaries and keep it free.

### **County Championship – Saturday 23rd May 2026**

We are absolutely delighted to confirm that Barnstaple will host Devon Senior Men as they take on Gloucestershire in the County Championship. Kick-off is at 2:30pm, and Devon will be aiming to make it three consecutive years at Twickenham. Further details to follow, but this is another massive occasion for the club and the county.

### **Now to the Main Event**

When these two sides met back in October at Luctonians, the Chiefs ran into a defensive brick wall, eventually falling to a 28-10 defeat. But it wasn't without promise. Barnstaple actually held a slender lead approaching half time thanks to two superbly taken tries from Brandon Moore and Viliame Kotobalavu before the home side snatched one back to retake the lead. At the break, the scoreboard read 14-10 and the travelling Barum faithful dared to dream of an upset. However, Luctonians came out with renewed fire in the second half, shutting out the Chiefs adding two further tries of their own to seal a deserved victory. Since that afternoon, both sides had remained neck-and-neck, with just six points separating them in the upper echelons of National 2 West. But 2026 has rewritten the narrative.



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For Luctonians, it has been a relentless charge. Four bonus-point victories from four have kept them hot on the heels of league leaders Camborne, just six points adrift with promotion firmly in their sights. They arrive at Pottington Road in ominous form, with momentum, confidence, and an immovable ambition.

For Barnstaple, the new year has been cruel. A brutal run of injuries has ravaged the squad, compounded by a fixture list that has kept us largely away from home soil. January offered just one game here at Pottington Road, and the Chiefs are still searching for that first win of 2026. Yet, even in adversity, this side has shown resilience—five bonus points secured in testing, hostile environments stand as testament to that.

Today, after a well-earned weekend off, we hope to see some familiar faces return to the fold. The physio room has been busy, and a number of key players have hopefully recovered sufficiently to take their place in the matchday squad. With home advantage, the energy of this crowd, and the spirit that defines this club, the Chiefs have every chance of restoring Fortress Pottington.

Make no mistake—Luctonians will accept nothing less than a five-point haul. They are hunting down Camborne with single-minded purpose, and they know a slip-up here could be costly. But this is Pottington Road. This is our turf. And when this team runs out through the smoke and the noise, they run out for you.

So let's pack the banks. Let's raise the roof. be the sixteenth man that drives this Barum warriors side over the line. This has

all the makings of a classic—intense, physical, and unapologetically thrilling.

Whatever the outcome, you will not want to take your eyes off this one.

### **After the Final Whistle**

And once the dust settles here at Pottington Road, make your way into the clubhouse where we'll be showing another titanic clash of the Six Nations, as Scotland welcome England to Murrayfield. The perfect end to a massive day of rugby.

Now, let's hear you, welcome the teams, and let the battle commence!



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# BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS



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*THE PRIDE*
- 11 CAMERON GRIZZLE-JOHNSON**  
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*ANDY STAFF*
- 13 RYAN LEE**  
*ACCESS AN AREA*
- 14 BEN PARSONS**  
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- 15 HENRY SELICK**  
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**NATIONAL 2 WEST**

**POTTINGTON ROAD, FEB 14TH 2026 | KO 2PM**

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# Luctonians

1. Rhys Roberts
2. Ben Link
3. Dan Powell
4. Harry Whiteman
5. Charlie Overton
6. Owien Harriot-Davis
7. Caleb Montgomery
8. Jack Goodwin
  
9. Jonty Monk
10. Bryn Goodall
11. Rob Aikman
12. Frank Kelly
13. James Wheeler
14. Charlie Grimes
15. George Bennett

## Replacements

16. Ben Randall
17. Joel Middleton
18. John Kelly
19. James Mear
20. Owen Randall



## Match Officials

**REF: Lloyd Davies**

**AR 1: Ewan Leadbeater**

**AR 2: Fredrick Spong**

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# Barnstaple Athletic Banish Ghosts in Commanding Victory Over Newton Abbot



After two weather-induced postponements, Barnstaple Athletic finally made their long-awaited entrance onto the main pitch at Pottington Road last Saturday. Their opponents were a Newton Abbot side with a familiar face at the helm—former Barnstaple Chiefs head coach Steve Perry—and sitting just three points above the Tics in the Counties 1 Western West table. This fixture, however, transcended the league standings. For Athletic, it presented a critical opportunity to exorcise the demons of their previous four outings, all marred by the haunting pattern of squandering decisive first-half leads in the final forty minutes. To that pressing challenge, they delivered a resounding answer, running out comfortable 27-12 winners and banishing those recent doubts.

Athletic signalled their intent from the first whistle, launching into the game at a ferocious pace. They attacked with purpose and met the visitors' defensive line with palpable conviction. The reward was immediate, coming within just two minutes. After multiple phases originating on the halfway line, centre Kyran McManus spotted a gap, stepped inside the covering defender, and flew through to score a beautifully worked opening try.

The match's frantic opening ten minutes saw Newton Abbot strike back with a try of their own, but Athletic's response was a powerful statement. From a scrum on the visitors' 10-metre line, they drove forward with intent to the 22. There, prop Fin Body

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received a sharp pass from scrum-half Oscar Lambert, identified a seam in the defence, and smashed his way through to cross the line for a fabulous score.

From that point, Barnstaple largely dominated. Their defence, particularly in the midfield, became an impenetrable wall, stifling any hope of Newton Abbot gaining momentum. As the half progressed, the Tics' backline speedsters began to shine. With fifteen minutes remaining, winger Joe Hastie was the beneficiary of another sustained period of attacking play that sucked in the defence, before the ball was spun wide for him to dot down in the corner.

Ten minutes later, a penalty lineout led to a driving maul that edged towards the 22. Eight phases of relentless pressure, spreading the ball from touchline to touchline, culminated in a pop pass to Alex Rowe near the line, who spun expertly to ground the ball for the bonus-point try. Then, on the stroke of half-time, captain Ollie James charged down a kick on the halfway line, gathered the loose ball, and offloaded to the supporting Haydn Gosling, who sprinted clear to score. The try sealed a breathtaking first-half display, sending Athletic into the break with a 27-5 lead to the delight of the 200-strong crowd.

The second half, however, began under a cloud of recent history. Memories of those four previous collapsed leads seemed to surface, and a nervous opening saw Athletic concede three quick penalties, allowing Newton Abbot to drive into the 22 and score within minutes. The old anxieties flickered.

Yet, this time, Athletic refused to be denied. They picked themselves up, dusted themselves down, and produced a

masterclass in game management. Their defensive work for the remaining 35 minutes was exceptional, utterly stifling any further attacks from the visitors. They dominated both possession and territory, controlling the clock and the flow of the game to secure a vital 27-12 victory.

The performance was a testament to Barnstaple's quality, particularly in a first-half blitz where all their points were scored. Defensively, they were rock-solid for the majority; after Newton Abbot's early second-half try, it is difficult to recall the visitors spending any meaningful time in Athletic's half. While the coaches will be delighted with the response and the resilience shown to hold the lead, work remains. The most glaring area for improvement is their second-half finishing: despite overwhelming dominance in possession and territory, they failed to add to their score, held partly by a valiant Newton Abbot rearguard but also by their own final-pass inaccuracy.

Nonetheless, this was a performance to restore belief. The primary objective—to maintain a commanding lead for the full 80 minutes—was achieved in style.

Attention now turns to a major test and a chance for redemption. This Saturday, Athletic travel to Redruth, a side that haunts them from their October encounter at Pottington Road, where a last-gasp try snatched a 31-28 victory for the visitors. With Redruth sitting just one place and two points above them in the table, this is a prime opportunity for the Tics to build on last weekend's win. The mission is clear: convert a brilliant 40-minute display into a complete 80-minute performance to claim not only a crucial win but long-awaited revenge. To do so, they will need to operate at 110% for the duration, but having laid recent ghosts to rest, they

will travel with renewed confidence, bolstered further by the memory of a narrow 26-21 loss there last season.

Next weekend, Athletic return to Pottington Road for another rescheduled fixture, this time against St Ives (SW), offering another platform to build momentum and launch a strong second half of the season reminiscent of last year's campaign. Kick-off for that clash is at 2:00 PM.



To see the full set of photos taken on the day click the link below  
[Barnstaple Athletic v Newton Abbot photos](#)

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# BARNSTAPLE ATHLETIC



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# **Buccaneers Blow Off Cobwebs in Spirited Friendly Victory as Merit Table Frustrations Continue**



After nearly two months without a game, the Buccaneers finally returned to action last Saturday — though not in the Merit Table fixture they had been anticipating. Originally scheduled to host Honiton in what promised to be a keenly contested league clash, the Bucc's instead found themselves facing a willing Torrington side, themselves left disappointed after their own fixture fell through.

Kicking off at 2pm on the second pitch at Pottington Road, there was a palpable sense of relief and hunger among the home side. Two months is a long time in a rugby season, and rust was inevitable. But from the opening whistle, the Buccaneers showed little sign of sluggishness.

Playing down the slope in the opening 40 minutes, the Bucc's clicked into gear with real intent. The try count mounted steadily as ball retention improved and support play cut through the Torrington defence. By the time the half-time whistle blew, the hosts had amassed 33 unanswered points — at least until a late response from Torrington made it 33-7 at the break. It was a near-perfect first half, given the circumstances.

Torrington emerged for the second period with renewed purpose and, now enjoying the slope themselves, began to ask

more questions of the Buccaneers' defence. The visitors added 17 points after the interval, applying sustained pressure and reminding the home side that this was far from a one-sided exhibition.

To their credit, the Bucc's dug in. There was no collapse, no surrender of momentum. They added a further eight points of their own to close out a 41-24 victory in what developed into a high-spirited, competitive friendly — the kind both sides clearly needed.

The Buccaneers now turn their attention to this weekend, when Merit Table rugby finally resumes. Today they travel to face Exeter Engineers 2nd XV, buoyed by Saturday's performance and eager to translate that momentum into league points. With five points on offer, the message from the camp is clear: the friendly was a necessary step, but competitive rugby is where the real business lies. If the Bucc's can carry even a fraction of that first-half intensity into today's clash, they stand every chance of returning home with maximum reward.

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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 BUCCANEERS



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2 TBC

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SHORT**

3 KIERON SHORT

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9 SAM PALMER  
*RD CONSTRUCTION*

10 KEYAN MCINERNEY (C)  
*KEYS FLOORING*

11 TOM YEO

12 PATRICK HENRY  
*MOUNT SANDFORD HOUSE*

13 CHARLIE FISHER

14 CAMERON DULLARD  
*J & S BUILDING CONTRACTOR*

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## EXETER ENG II V BARNSTAPLE BUCCANEERS

DEVON MERIT TABLE

OIL MILL LANE 14TH FEB 2026 | KO TBC

### BUCC'S SQUAD

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PAUL DRYDEN

# Colts Face Devon Cup Quarter-Final Test After a month Without Rugby



the Colts have been starved of competitive rugby — but today they get their chance, and it comes with the highest possible stakes.

Having not played a match of any description for a month, and with their last competitive fixture dating all the way back to December 13th, the young Colts now face the unenviable task of shaking off months of rust in a Devon Colts Cup quarter-final. Their opponents? Paignton. The venue? Pottington Road's second pitch. The occasion? One that demands immediate sharpness, courage, and collective belief.

Kick-off is at the slightly earlier time of 1.30pm, and there is no room for a gentle reintroduction.

Eight weeks without a competitive game is a significant lay-off at any level, but for a developing Colts side, it presents particular challenges. Momentum, rhythm, match fitness — these are not easily stored and retrieved. They are built week by week, collision by collision. December 13th feels a lifetime ago.

Yet there has been no shortage of effort behind the scenes. Training has continued, commitment has not wavered, and the squad has remained determined to keep their cup dream alive. That determination will now be put to the severest test.



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If the Colts are to progress to the semi-finals, they will need to draw deeply on everything that has defined their season to date. Enthusiasm will be non-negotiable — the kind that closes down space, chases lost causes, and refuses to accept second best. Skill will be required in abundance, particularly in the handling and decision-making that tends to fray after long breaks. And sheer desire? That may well prove the deciding factor.

Today the Colts have an opportunity. A win would not only secure a place in the last four of the Devon Colts Cup — it would send a powerful message about the depth and character of rugby being developed at the club.

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# BARNSTAPLE COLTS



## TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

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ANTECH DIAGNOSTICS
- 2 NOAH BAZLEY**  
SLEE BLACKWELL SOLICITORS
- 3 ZAC TURTON**  
THE COMBES GOLF PARK LTD
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SEA
- 14 JACK BARROW**
- 15 JACOB ASKEW**  
A GIFT FOR GAV - STAND UP TO BRAIN CANCER

**HENRY  
HAYNES**



## BARUM SQUAD

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A4 APPAREL

**EVAN RAY**  
COSY DEVON

**NOAH DUERDEN**  
M D CARPENTRY

**ARTHUR REDDEN**

**JAMES FYERS**  
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## BARNSTAPLE COLTS V PAIGNTON COLTS

DEVON COLTS CUP QUARTER FINAL

POTTINGTON ROAD, 14TH FEB 2026 | KO 1.30PM



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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 diagonal pattern, topped with a crown and surrounded by ornate scrollwork. A banner at the bottom of the crest contains the text 'ESTD 1880'.

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**DARREL GILL**  
RGP ARCHITECTS

**DEAN DAVIES**  
LYNTON PACK

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**EMMA SMITH**  
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**JAMES HUDSON**

## **PHYSIO / FIRST AIDER**

**RICHARD FLEMMING**

**JESS ROGERS**

**ESME RAISTRICK**  
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**DONNA KNIGHT**  
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**BUCC'S  
STAFF**

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# BARNSTAPLE RUGBY 2025/26



**FEB 21ST 2PM**  
COUNTIES 1 WESTERN WEST  
**BARNSTAPLE ATHLETIC  
VS ST IVES (SW)**

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**FEB 28TH - 2PM**  
NATIONAL 2 WEST  
**BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS  
VS REDRUTH**

---

**MARCH 7TH 2PM**  
FRIENDLY  
**BARNSTAPLE COLTS  
VS BIDEFORD COLTS**

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**MARCH 14TH - 2PM**  
NATIONAL 2 WEST  
**BARNSTAPLE BUCCANEERS  
VS TOPSHAM II**

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**MAR 21ST - 2PM**  
NATIONAL 2 WEST  
**BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS  
VS CAMBORNE**

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**Pottington Rd, Barnstaple EX31 1JH**  
**email - [info.barnstaplerugby@gmail.com](mailto:info.barnstaplerugby@gmail.com)**  
**website - [www.barnstaplerugby.co.uk](http://www.barnstaplerugby.co.uk)**





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Proud to support  
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# **BARNSTAPLE ATHLETIC**

## **VS**

# **ST IVES (SW)**

**COUNTIES 1 TRIBUTE WESTERN WEST**  
**SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2026 | 2PM**

# NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO WEST - 2025-26

Club	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	PD	TBP	LBP	Points	Adj
 Camborne	18	17	0	1	741	413	328	15	1	84	0
 Luctonians	18	15	0	3	580	346	234	15	1	76	0
 Hinckley	17	10	0	7	574	495	79	14	2	56	0
 Barnstaple	18	10	0	8	504	532	-28	15	1	56	0
 Cinderford	18	10	0	8	521	485	36	12	3	55	0
 Hornets	18	10	0	8	493	470	23	10	2	52	0
 Taunton	17	8	0	9	526	504	22	12	8	52	0
 Redruth	18	8	0	10	482	488	-6	12	4	48	0
 Old Redcliffians	18	8	0	10	484	514	-30	11	4	47	0
 Chester	18	7	1	10	513	604	-91	12	4	46	0
 Lymm	18	8	0	10	544	599	-55	11	2	45	0
 Exeter University	18	6	0	12	594	639	-45	11	1	36	0
 Loughborough Students	18	4	1	13	520	683	-163	12	4	34	0
 Syston	18	3	0	15	420	724	-304	9	1	22	0