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1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY



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BARNSTAPLE RFC 150 CLUB

Lottery winner

S Fuller has a guardian angel as he has won a second consecutive lottery of £150 as it was his name chosen at random Well done S Fuller. For your chance in Novembers draw sign up now for a chance of £150 drawn every 14th day of the month with the winner announced on Facebook and the website.

Supported by our great friends at the Sheep Show do you want to be £150 richer? There is nothing like the present; sign up now at. Barnstaple RFC 150 Lotto

That's right: just £10 a ticket per month and you could be our lucky winner of £150 CASH every single month, drawn on the 14th of each month like clockwork. But

here’s the really exciting part…

Every single penny raised goes straight back into OUR club – funding the projects that matter most to us. And we’re kicking things off with a BIG one – the long-overdue, much-needed refurbishment of our club kitchen! Further details can be found on our website at Barnstaple RFC

This isn’t just a lottery – it’s a team effort. A chance for every member, every family, every friend, and every supporter to chip in, have fun, and literally build a better club together.

Fireworks night at Barnstaple Rugby Club

And finally, to start November off, we have the Barnstaple and District Round table's spectacular fireworks display

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Fireworks Display

And to cap it all, we have Movember and a whole host of events as the players and staff once again look to raise funds. A month-long campaign held every November during which men grow moustaches to raise awareness and funds for men's health issues, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health.

The following events for Movember will include

31 OCT | SHAVE DOWN
After the senior games
Shave down ready for Movember

6 NOV | MO QUIZ
Doors 18:30 | Quiz 19:00
Teams of up to 6
entry £5pp. Social & fundraising afterwards

14 NOV | MO SISTERS DAY
12:00 – 14:00 Ladies Day… with a tash!
More info coming soon

THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER
Junior section Movember chats Weekly Mo & tash updates, Fundraising challenges & prizes.

SPONSOR OUR MOVEMBER TOPS!

The Chiefs & Tics will be wearing special Movember warm-up tops throughout November, and we have space for TWO sponsors to join us on them.

Interested? Get in touch: barnstaplerfcmedia@gmail.com

Grow. Move. Host. Mo Your Own Way.

There's more to Movember than a moustache.

WHAT'S ON THE CALENDAR: THE ROAD CALLS, THE PITCH RESTS, THE CLUB MARCHES ON

The season never pauses for long. The fixtures tumble forward like a river in spate. So let us cast our eyes beyond today's headline act and map the battles that lie ahead.

THIS SATURDAY: THREE FRONTS, THREE FIGHTS

The Chiefs hit the road. Old Redcliffians await,a side with three wins, a side that knows how to defend its own patch, a side that will relish the chance to derail Barnstaple's new found momentum. The Chiefs travel with belief in their sails. They must travel with steel in their boots.

The Buccs head to Exmouth. The Nomads stand in their path. Another road trip. Another test of character. Another chance for the second string to sharpen their claws.

The Colts? A weekend off. A chance to rest young legs, heal young bruises, and savour that thumping victory over Topsham. They have earned the breather.

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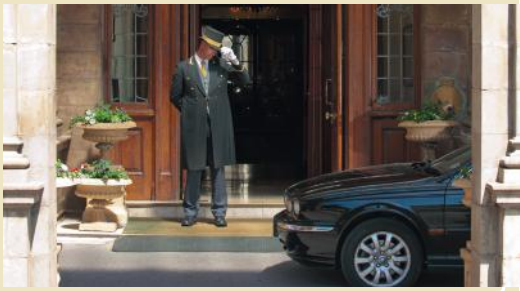

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NEXT WEEKEND: A SINGLE BEACON BURNS

Pottington Road takes a breath. The main pitch lies fallow. Only one fixture glows on the calendar—Athletic, away to Paignton.

Always a tough gig. Always a proper Devon scrap. Paignton on their own soil are a different beast entirely, and Athletic must pack their grit, their discipline, and their growing confidence for the journey south.

Everyone else? Resting. Recovering. Sharpening. The club takes stock before the next wave of battle.

Then on October 31st the Chiefs are back in town as the welcome Clifton to Pottington Road for the battle for the John Budd Memorial Cup.

The Trophy: Named in honor of John Budd, a long-serving club stalwart and character for both clubs. The trophy is contested during league matches between Barnstaple and Clifton and this will be the first time they have met since 11th March 2023 with Clifton winning at home 26-3 and are the current holders of the trophy.

KICK OFF IS 2pm from the 31st as the clocks would have already gone back

THE MARCH CONTINUES

Good luck to every Barnstaple team pulling on the shirt this weekend. Good luck to the Chiefs on the road. Good luck to the Buccs in Exmouth. Good luck to Athletic as they prepare for Paignton.

And wherever you are watching your rugby—on the touchline, in the clubhouse, or huddled around a screen—enjoy it. Savour it. This is what it means to follow Barnstaple Rugby Club.




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THE GHOST IS BURIED: CHIEFS UNLEASH SECOND-HALF AVALANCHE TO CLAIM FIRST HOME SCALP



The question hung in the gusty Pottington air. Can they finally claim that first home win? Can they banish the ghost of last weekend?

The wind swirled. Mischievous. Unpredictable. Kicking became a lottery. The flags on the posts danced like drunks at a wedding.

For twenty minutes, the ghosts lingered.

Cinderford struck first. Eighth minute. Their number eleven—a jinking, weaving, impossibly quick nightmare in opposition colours—sliced through the Chiefs' defence like a hot knife through butter. Untouched. Unstoppable. Seven points adrift.

But this Chiefs side? Different animal.

They hit back. Pounding forwards. Crashing bodies. Henry Sellick, a yard from the line, obliged. Five to seven. Cinderford

responded. Twelve to five. Callum Morgan struck. Ten to twelve. The tackles started to stick. The confidence solidified. By half-time, the Chiefs trailed by two—but owned the momentum, the territory, the belief.

THE AVALANCHE

For thirty minutes, Barnstaple played the best rugby I have witnessed so far this season. Passes stuck. Phases built. Pick-and-go's gave way to sweeping, ambitious attacks.

Brandon Moore crashed over. Chiefs take the lead. Then Cam Johnson, gathering a gorgeous Tom Swales long pass. Bonus point secured. Bertie Stretch, off the end of a maul, celebrated in the only way Bertie knows.

Eight minutes left. Stan Kift raced through a gap and covered half the pitch. Thirty-four to twelve.

THE FINAL STING

Cinderford are not a side to roll over. Two unconverted tries. Thirty-four to twenty-two. Hearts fluttered. But the Chiefs' tackling had grown assured. No way back



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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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for the Gloucestershire boys.

THE VERDICT

A response. A statement. A line drawn in the sand.

Head Coach Winston James: "We owed the Barum faithful a good performance and delivered one. Outstanding solo performances from Liam Ducker, Johny Carter and Tom Swales. Hopefully we take this momentum into next week."

The biggest plus? The lack of unforced penalties. Discipline was excellent.

Tom Swales returned to fly-half and delivered. Henry Sellick slotted back at full-back seamlessly. The balance between forwards and backs finally looked right.

If I was to be picky, tackling still needs work. But Cinderford's number eleven and thirteen were exceptional. Anyone would have struggled.

This was a really good performance with an exceptional thirty minutes that has drawn a line in the sand. Now we need that every week. This is a long, hard season.

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Old Redcliffians v Barnstaple Chiefs
National 2 West
Scotland Lane 17th October 2026 : kick off 3pm

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UPCOMING EVENTS

1st Nov Roundtable Fireworks

14th Nov Ladies Day

5th Dec Tables of 10 Christmas Lunch

19th Dec Members Christmas lunch

26th Dec Boxing Day Chrity Event

6th Mar Ladies Day

29th May Gala Dinner

BARNSTAPLE RUGBY CLUB

1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY

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Exmouth Nomads v Barnstaple Buccaneers
Paul Harris Merit Table
Imperial Recreation Ground 17th October 2026 : kick off 2.15pm

THE MARCH CONTINUES: BUCCS SEEK TO CONQUER EXMOUTH AND CEMENT THEIR PLACE ATOP THE DEVON LEAGUE



The Buccs are on the warpath.

Following that emphatic home victory over a strong Exeter Saracens outfit, Barnstaple's 3rd XV travelled to Teignmouth with revenge on their minds. Last season, Bitton Park Sports Field had been a graveyard—a 36-27 defeat that stung like a slap to the face. The memory lingered. The desire burned.

What followed was not revenge. It was annihilation.

THE DEMOLITION

Harry Clark drew first blood, crossing the whitewash with barely five minutes on the clock. The tone was set. The message delivered. Keyan McInerney added his own try before the half-time whistle, and the

Buccs strode into the break with their heads high and their tails up.

The second half? A masterclass in ruthlessness.

Harry Clark bagged his brace. Patrick Henry announced himself with a try three minutes later. The onslaught continued.

Patrick went over again with ten minutes to play, then completed his hat-trick almost immediately after—a stunning individual display that left Teignmouth grasping at shadows. Keyan McInerney sealed the rout with his second try in the dying moments, his fifth conversion of the afternoon putting the gloss on a performance that will echo around the Devon League.

Five converted tries. A demolition on the road. A statement to every other side in the division.

THE RISE CONTINUES

Each outing, these Buccaneers grow more formidable. The cohesion sharpens. The confidence swells. Game time together has transformed them from a collection of

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Last weekend's victory pushed them to the summit of the Paul Harris Devon League. Top of the hill. The number one team. And with that lofty perch comes a target on their backs.

Everyone wants to knock off the champions-elect. Everyone wants that scalp.

THE TEST AWAITS

Today, the Buccs travel to Exmouth to face the Exmouth Nomads.

This is no ordinary fixture. The Nomads sit just one point behind Barnstaple in second place. They are smarting—wounded by last Saturday's defeat at Topsham III, desperate to claw back ground, hungry to derail the Buccs' charge.

Last season, these two sides never met. The weather saw to that. No bragging rights were claimed. No score was settled.

This time? Everything is on the line.

The Nomads will fancy themselves. They will believe that home advantage, combined

with their hunger for redemption, can topple the league leaders. They will throw everything at the Buccs.

But this Barnstaple side does not flinch. It does not waver. It does not surrender.

THE MOMENT

This has all the makings of an absolute belter. Two of the league's finest, colliding on a Saturday afternoon with everything to play for.

For the Buccs, it is a chance to shine. A chance to prove that their perch atop the table is no accident. A chance to show the Devon League that the march will not be halted.

The forwards will rumble. The backs will fly. The tackles will thunder.

Exmouth awaits. The Buccs are ready.

THE VETS ANNOUNCE THEMSELVES IN EMPHATIC STYLE

The Vets started their campaign this season with a crushing win at South Molton Vets 52-0.

Their next game is on November 14th away to Exeter Saracens

COLTS STRIVE TO WIPE AWAY THE DIFFICULT LOSS AGAINST BIDEFORD WITH A BIG WIN AGAINST TOPSHAM COLTS.

Topsham Colts. Always a strong squad. Always dangerous. Always up for the fight. Arrived at Pottington road unexpecting what was to pass on last Saturday afternnon.

Unfortunately for Topsham, Barnstaple Colts unleashed their frustration of losing a match by the try count and not the scoreline which knocked them out the National Cup.

The first half they raced into 35-5 half time lead before completing the job 56-12 to remind everyone they are the real deal.

This performance must have pleased coach Ed Day as he see's the results of endless weeks of training and preperation giving the Colts all they need to succeed this season

BARNSTAPLE RUGBY 2026/27

1877 - 2027
150TH ANNIVERSARY

OCT 31ST - 2PM
NATIONAL 2 WEST
BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS VS CLINTON

NOV 7TH 2PM
DEVON MERIT TABLE
BARNSTAPLE BUCCS VS BRIXHAM ALBION

NOV 7TH - 2PM
DEVON COLTS LEAGUE
BARNSTAPLE COLTS VS OKEHAMPTON COLTS

NOV 14TH - 2PM
NATIONAL 2 WEST
BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS VS LOUGHBOROUGH

NOV 21ST - 2.30PM
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CHARLES HARPER: THE SECOND BARUM ENGLAND INTERNATIONAL AND A LIFE OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

A Family Affair

If the selection of Charles "Nobby" Thomas for England in 1894 had sent waves of pride through the North Devon town, the events of 1899 would bring yet further glory to Barnstaple Rugby Club. In that year, Charles Harper became only the second player from the club to earn the ultimate honour of an England cap, when he took the field against Wales in what would prove to be a momentous occasion not merely for the player himself, but for an entire family whose name had become synonymous with the club's fortunes.

The Harper name was already well established in Barnstaple rugby circles. Charles was but one of five brothers who would don the club's colours, a remarkable fraternal contribution that speaks to the



deep roots of the Harper family in the sporting life of the town. Indeed, such was the family's standing that Charles's father held the distinguished office of President of Barnstaple Rugby Club during that very season—a circumstance that must have made his son's international selection a source of particular and profound pride.

The International Debut

The match against Wales in 1899 represented a significant moment in the history of Barnstaple Rugby Club. Following in the footsteps of Nobby Thomas, Harper had the opportunity to demonstrate that the first international cap had been no mere stroke of fortune but rather evidence of a club capable of producing players of the highest calibre. Though details of Harper's performance in

that solitary international appearance are scarce, the very fact of his selection speaks to the quality he possessed as a forward during his playing days.

An Abbreviated Career

Tragically for Barnstaple supporters, Charles Harper's international career would prove to be fleeting. Harper was unable to add to his solitary England appearance. The explanation for this abbreviated international career lies not in any diminution of his abilities, but rather in a decision that would redirect his life along a quite different path.

Just one year after his England debut, Harper made the momentous decision to retire from rugby at the height of his powers. The lure of imperial service proved irresistible, and he accepted a position as a Cadet in the Colonial Service—the administrative apparatus that governed Britain's vast overseas possessions. It was a calling that would consume the remainder of his working life and would see him rise to positions of considerable influence and responsibility.



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A Distinguished Colonial Career

If Harper's rugby career had been brief but brilliant, his service to the Crown would prove to be both lengthy and distinguished. From his initial appointment as a Cadet, he climbed steadily through the ranks of the Colonial Service, demonstrating in administration the same dedication and capability that had marked his play on the rugby field.

The culmination of his colonial service came in 1919, when his contributions were formally recognised with the award of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)—a significant honour that acknowledged his dedication to the governance and welfare of Britain's colonial territories. Yet this was not to be the pinnacle of his recognition. In 1930, Harper received the ultimate accolade for a colonial administrator when he was knighted for his services to the Crown, becoming Sir Charles Harper and securing his place among the distinguished figures of the imperial establishment.

A Remarkable Dual Legacy

Charles Harper's life presents a remarkable

study in contrasts and continuities. On the one hand, he was a rugby player of sufficient quality to represent his country, following in the footsteps of Nobby Thomas to become only Barnstaple's second England international. On the other, he was a colonial administrator of such distinction that he would eventually receive a knighthood, his career in service spanning decades and continents.

The Harper family's connection to Barnstaple Rugby Club remains one of the most enduring legacies in the club's history. Five brothers representing the same club, a father serving as President, and one son earning international honours—such a concentration of rugby talent and dedication within a single family is a rare phenomenon that speaks to the central place of the sport in the Harper household.

A Proud Chapter

When Charles Harper retired from rugby in 1900 to embark upon his colonial career, Barnstaple lost a player of

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international quality. Yet the club could reflect with considerable pride on having produced not merely one, but two England internationals within the space of just five years—a remarkable achievement for a provincial club in the West Country.

While Harper's solitary cap stands in contrast to Thomas's four, his selection remains a significant milestone in Barnstaple's rugby history. The fact that he chose to pursue a different path, one that would lead to a knighthood and a lifetime of distinguished service, adds a further dimension to his legacy. Here was a man who excelled in two quite different arenas: the muddy fields of North Devon rugby and the corridors of imperial administration.

The story of Charles Harper is thus a reminder that the qualities which make a great rugby player—dedication, courage, teamwork, and leadership—are often the very same qualities that underpin success in other walks of life. In his case, those qualities carried him from the Barnstaple pitch to the highest echelons of colonial

governance, leaving behind a legacy that encompassed both sporting achievement and distinguished public service.

administrator of such distinction that he would eventually receive a knighthood, his career in service spanning decades and continents.

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ESME RAISTRICK
TARKA CLINIC

DONNA KNIGHT
TARKA CLINIC

	TEAM MANAGER/	PHYSIO/ FIRST AIDER
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Counties 1 Tribute Ale Western West

Stats definitions

#	TEAM	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Cullompton	3	3	0	0	121	68	53	3	0	15
2	Paignton	3	3	0	0	111	89	22	2	0	14
3	Camborne II	2	2	0	0	93	34	59	2	0	10
4	Kingsbridge	3	2	0	1	62	58	4	1	0	9
5	St Ives (SW)	3	2	0	1	68	76	-8	1	0	9
6	Torquay Athletic	3	1	0	2	120	98	22	3	2	9
7	Newton Abbot	3	1	0	2	95	143	-48	3	0	7
8	Truro	3	1	0	2	64	75	-11	1	1	6
9	Saltash	3	0	0	3	82	105	-23	2	2	4
10	Redruth II	1	0	1	0	29	29	0	1	0	3
11	Devonport Services II	3	0	1	2	58	98	-40	1	0	3
12	Barnstaple II	2	0	0	2	41	71	-30	0	1	1

BARNSTAPLE RUGBY CLUB

1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY



Saturday
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