

KEN THOMPSON

1939 - 2026

Ken Thompson: The Man Who Built the Heartbeat of Barum Rugby



Some men leave records. Some leave trophies. Ken Thompson left a production line of talent that would define Barnstaple Rugby Club for generations.

His legacy? Enormous. Immeasurable. Written not in stone, but in the names and careers of every young player who pulled on a Barnstaple shirt and learned what it meant to be a Chief.

The league structure soon to arrive in rugby union. The game changed. Clubs scrambled to adapt. Barnstaple needed someone to build from the ground up. Ken answered the call. He took charge of the Colts—coaching, managing, nurturing, demanding. What followed was not merely a successful period. It was a revolution.

Seven consecutive Devon Colts Cup wins. Seven. Starting from the 1985-86 season, a feat no one has matched since. A dynasty forged in mud and

sweat and Ken's unwavering belief that young men, properly guided, could achieve extraordinary things.

Andy Swales, one of those Colts, remembers: "The success of Barnstaple 1st XV during the late-1980s and throughout the 1990s was built largely on the foundations laid by an outstanding Colts side that won seven County Cups in seven consecutive years. The club was fortunate to have Kenny Thompson leading many of these successful teams."

Swales continues: "Kenny commanded the respect of every player through his firm, passionate coaching and his unwavering commitment to Barnstaple Rugby Club. With Barnstaple in his



veins, and living just down the road in Pottington, he was always at the heart of the club."

The senior players had a name for the newcomers who arrived in the first team, fresh from Ken's tutelage. They called them "Kenny's Chicks." A tribute. A badge of honour. A recognition that these young men had been shaped, sharpened, and polished by the master.

Before long, the vast majority of the 1st XV had progressed through the Colts system. Ken's system. The production line hummed. The talent flowed. A strong junior section became the backbone of the club's identity—a truth Ken understood long before anyone else.

Just look some of the names Martin and Stevie Southworth, The Sloman Brothers, Jeremy Chugg, Andy and his brother Swales to name a few, all to become regulars in the Chiefs.

His influence did not stop at the Colts.

The 1990s arrived. Ken stepped up. He took charge of the 1st XV and guided the club to promotion into South West One. The winning culture he had built continued to blossom, to flourish, to bear fruit at the highest level.

THE LEGACY

Ken Thompson is gone. But his legacy breathes in every young player who walks through the gates of Pottington Road. It echoes in every Colts victory, every promotion, every moment of pride that Barnstaple Rugby Club has experienced since he first picked up a whistle and began to teach.

He was firm. He was passionate. He was Barnstaple.

And he will never be forgotten.

Rest In Peace Ken from all at Barnstaple Rugby Club



BARNSTAPLE RUGBY CLUB

1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY



CALLUM MORGAN

Saturday 31st Oct 2026 2pm

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF RUGBY EXCELLENCE

Barnstaple Chiefs VS Clifton

NATIONAL 2 WEST

Gourmet burger, coleslaw & Chips with a pint or glass of wine

£10

National League Rugby

ACCREDITED RFU CLUB

DEVON RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

RESPECT THE GAME
RESPECT OFFICIALS



BARNSTAPLE RUGBY CLUB WILL NOT TOLERATE ABUSE OF THE OFFICIALS

IT DAMAGES THE CLUBS REPUTATION
IT HURTS THE PLAYERS ON THE FIELD
IT DAMAGES THE GAME OF RUGBY

As one famous referee said
“this is not soccer”

JOIN US IN PROMOTING A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE BY SHOWING RESPECT FOR THE GAME AND ITS OFFICIALS AT ALL TIMES

WELCOME TO

POTTINGTON ROAD

The Heart of Devon



Chiefs Host Clifton in National 2 West Showdown – With the John Budd Trophy on the Line

Good afternoon everybody and welcome to a very special day at the club as we throw open the gates of Pottington Road and welcome our friends from Clifton for what promises to be an absolute thriller of a National 2 West encounter against our Barnstaple Chiefs. To their players, coaches, committee and the supporters who have made the long journey down to North Devon, we extend the warmest of welcomes and hope you enjoy every minute of your visit – though perhaps not quite every minute of the match itself.

The same courtesy flows towards Saltash, who have travelled here today to take on Barnstaple Athletic on the second pitch, and we hope your visit to our corner of the world is a memorable one.

We would also like to thank our match ball sponsors for the season **The Bridge - Espresso & Wine Bar** for providing today's match balls

It has been several years since these two great clubs last locked horns – March 2023, to be precise, when Clifton defended their home turf with a 26-3 victory. Since then, the men from Bristol have tasted life in National One before tumbling back down to National 2 following relegation last season. But here's the thing about relegation – it can either break a club or sharpen its teeth. For Clifton, it has done the latter. They arrive sitting pretty in fourth place with just one defeat to their name all season, a lone blemish at Luctonians, and they will prove fiercely competitive opponents today.

As for the Chiefs, the picture is brightening. The team are finding their feet, finding their confidence, finding that rhythm that had eluded them in the early weeks. The win here against Cinderford and then two hard-earned points brought home from Old Redcliffians – always a hostile place to



WIN BIG

£150

BARNSTAPLE RFC
150 CLUB

NEW MONTHLY LOTTO!

1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY

PRIZE DRAW EVERY MONTH

Checkout the Website today
www.barnstaplerugby.co.uk

PLAY NOW

Supported by

THE SHEEP SHOW

prise anything from – have injected fresh belief into this squad. Today's game will be a stern examination against one of the league's favourites, but with the wind in their sails now, the Chiefs should be able to carry the day or at the very least make Clifton work hard for every single yard.

But today isn't just about league points. Today carries a deeper resonance, a thread of history woven through the afternoon

Today, we compete for the John Budd Trophy.

If you are unaware, John Budd was a very colourful character – the kind of man rugby clubs are built upon – who pulled on the shirt for both Barnstaple and Clifton. Upon his passing, the John Budd Memorial Trophy was donated for the two clubs to compete for whenever they meet. The current holders are, of course, Clifton, following that win in 2023. The trophy sits in their cabinet, polished and proud.

It will be up to Barnstaple to push hard, to dig deep, to wrest that silverware from their grasp.

See more of the ball

Book an eye test at Specsavers Barnstaple

Book an eye test
at specsavers.co.uk

Barnstaple
Gammon Lane
Tel 01271 373 233

Specsavers

Lineal®

Your Trusted IT Partner Since 1988

01271 375999 lineal.co.uk @linealsoftware



Local IT Support Cyber Security Cloud Services

Keep your business running smoothly with reliable IT support that prevents problems before they cause disruption.

Protect your business, build your team's confidence and get more from Microsoft 365 while you focus on what you do best.

Proud to sponsor Barnstaple Rugby Club

BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS

1877 - 2027

TH ANNIVERSARY

1 Dominic Robson
Harry's Cafe

2 George Snell
Solar PV Tech

3 Callum Davies
M & V Escapes

4 Matt Gohl
Lynton Pack

5 Arthur Marks
S A Safety

6 Casey George
Aysha George Training & Fitness

7 Max Moore
SPR services

8 Brandon Moore
L Watton Mechanical

9 Ross Swales
Stannp Ltd

10 Tom Swales
The Green Man

11 Cameron Grizzle-Johnson
Cor Floors

12 Alex Penny
Tiffin

13 Johny Carter
Andy Staff

14 Callum Morgan
A.S Cars

15 Ben Saunders
Tarka Clinic



Max Moore

16 Sam Vickery
Harpers Feeds

17 Bryn-Lee Jago
Boyd Countryside & tree Services

18 Ryan Smale
Paiges lane Barbers

19 Mitch Turner
Fyrex

20 Haydn Gosling
North Devon Footcare Ltd

Barnstaple Chiefs v Clifton
National 2 West
Pottington Road 31st October 2026 : kick off 2pm

Howards Motor Group



FOR ALL YOUR MOTORING NEEDS IN BARNSTAPLE

- New Cars in Stock
- Used Cars in Stock
- Motability Scheme
- Servicing & MOT
- Parts & Accessories

SCAN ME TO FIND OUT MORE

Howards Avenue, Barnstaple EX32 8QA **Tel: 01271 440888** | **howardsgroup.co.uk**

CLIFTON

1 Ricky Cano
2 Ethan Allen
3 Jake Buckley
4 Dan Owen
5 Freddie Myatt
6 Niall Gibbons
7 Brad Talbot
8 Harry Hone

9 Max McCarthy
10 Tom Quinlan
11 Zak Hamid (c)
12 Dylan Power
13 Harry Tovey
14 Ollie Harris
15 Chris Packer

BENCH

16 Conor Thomas
17 James Bonia
18 Ollie Thraves
19 Oscar Rees
20 Ollie Millner



Clifton Rugby

Match Officials

REF: James Walker
AR 1: Dean Crossley
AR 2: Ben Branson


BARNSTAPLE R.F.C.
FREE
DELIVERY
TO THE RUGBY CLUB
SELECT
'PICK UP FROM
PLYMOUTH STORE'
AT CHECKOUT
WE WILL DELIVER
ALL ORDER TO
BARNSTAPLE RFC
W/C 7/12/2026
ORDER BY 06/11/2026
KITWORLD
MAKO

DEVON & CORNWALL'S MOST LUXURIOUS

HOTELS, RESTAURANTS & SPAS









For over 50 years, the Brend Collection has been a prominent family-run hospitality business in the South West. With a passion for excellence, we always strive to exceed your expections from extending a warm welcome to delivering exceptional service, you'll always be made to feel like part of the family.



brendhotels.com

01271 340000 | sales@brendhotels.com

Small Hotel Group of the Year 2025/26

BREND COLLECTION

WHATS HAPPENING AT BARNSTAPLE RUGBY

BARNSTAPLE RFC 150 LOTTO

For your chance in Novembers draw sign up now for the 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

Tomorrow night we start November off, with the Barnstaple and District Roundtable’s spectacular fireworks display

North Devon's biggest fireworks night is back at Barnstaple Rugby Club. Grab something hot from the food traders and a drink from the bar. Get the music going with Tamsin Ball, then count down with thousands of others as the sky over the Taw lights up. The crowd, the countdown, the bangs you feel in your chest: you only get that from inside the ground.

MOVEMBER

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.

Grow. Move. Host. Mo Your Own Way.

There's more to Movember than a

moustache.

CHRISTMAS BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH

Following the success of Barnstaple Rugby's first ever bottomless brunch we are giving you the chance to join us again for plenty of drinks and high jinx the date with BRFC's CHRISTMAS BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH on December 12th

12:30-14:00 £39 per person

Your ticket includes:

A burger of your choice

Eight drinks per person

Entry to the match

Christmas-themed food and drinks will be available! Keep your eyes peeled; the full drinks selection will be announced closer to the event

Get your group chat going, gather your table and join us for a day of festive cheer!

Tickets are available now - book yours through the link in our bio!

https://shop.ticketmonkey.co.uk/.../



MOSISTERS

DAY

14TH NOVEMBER
12:00 - 14:00

£29pp

TO INCLUDE ENTRY TO THE MATCH, PROSECCO ON ARRIVAL & 3 COURSE MEAL

BOTTOMLESS

BRUNCH

12TH DECEMBER

12:00 - 14:00

£39pp

TO INCLUDE ENTRY TO THE MATCH, A BURGER OF CHOICE & 8 DRINKS**

Barnstaple Round Table

ANNUAL FIREWORKS!

1st November 2026

Barnstaple Rugby Club, Mill Road, Barnstaple

Gates Open - 5.30pm

Display Starts - 7.00pm

EARLY BIRD TICKET

Child - £6.50

Adult - £7.50

Family Ticket (2 adults + 2 children) - **£20.00**

ON THE GATE

Child - £7.00

Adult - £8.00

Family Ticket £25.00

Scan the QR code for earlybird tickets

Brought to you by Barnstaple Round table

M&E

EST 1984

Alarms

Security & Fire Specialists

proud to support Barnstaple Rugby Club

Wishing you the best of luck for the
2026/27 Season



01271 321221

www.**mandealarms**.co.uk

ONE AND TWO BEDROOM RETIREMENT APARTMENTS TO BUY OR RENT

Exclusively for the over 60s



Key features

• No exit fees • No ground rent • 3 year warranty

• Competitive service charge

• Lodge Manager • Communal Lounge • Guest Suite • Lift

• 24-Hour Support • Free Parking • Landscaped Grounds

Barum Lodge, Barnstaple

01271 500771

Churchill Living

Your lifestyle • Your choice

THE CHIEFS ARE RISING

TWO WEEKS THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING



It's been a better couple of weeks for Barnstaple Chiefs since Hinckley. They rebounded really well with an excellent home win, their first of the season, against Cinderford, where a 30-minute second-half spell completely demolished the opposition.

Brandon Moore crashed over, Cam Johnson followed at pace, Bertie Stretch powered through, and Stan Kift sealed the deal. Four second-half tries tore the visitors apart. Add first-half efforts from Callum Morgan and Henry Selick, and the Chiefs had six tries, thirty-four points, and a victory that tasted like vindication.

But for the surge by Cinderford as they looked for their bonus point the Chiefs won 34-22. A solid win with a dominant 30 minutes against the 7th placed team in the league and finally signs that last season's Chiefs were back. You can read the full

match report here Barnstaple Chiefs v Cinderford Match Report

OLD REDCLIFFIANS: THE ROAD WARRIORS

The Chiefs then followed that up with a trip to Old Redcliffians, not a great hunting ground for the Chiefs, losing 42-19 there last season, although in 2023 it was much closer losing 36-31. It was that performance that the Chiefs were looking towards to maybe unsettle the 6th placed team on their own soil.

A tough first 20 mins where the only noticeable event, unfortunately, was a yellow for the Chiefs. A man down Old Reds seized the advantage and scored twice in ten minutes. The scoreboard groaned. The task grew steeper.

Yet the Chiefs back to full strength hit back twice in just 4 minutes at the end of the half. Cam Johnson, whose clever chip over the defence was fumbled by a retreating defender, pounced. He nudged the ball on. He chased. He scored. And then he



A brand new community of 2 to 5 bedroom homes & bungalows coming to the charming village of Landkey.

Register Now

Acland.Vale@lovell.co.uk

LOVELL HOMES

Barnstaple Rugby Club is supporting North Devon Hospice



When someone is diagnosed with a life-limiting illness, life for that person and for those around them is never the same again.

North Devon Hospice provides free care and support to patients and families faced with the impact of a life-limiting illness. We believe in being there for all the family.

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

T: 01271 344248 E: info@northdevonhospice.org.uk
registered charity number 286554

www.northdevonhospice.org.uk

North Devon Hospice
being there for all the family

North Devon Hospice, Deer Park, Newport, Barnstaple EX32 0HU

converted his own try. A moment of pure, instinctive brilliance.

Then, on the stroke of halftime, a couple of pick-and-goes sucked in the defence before the ball spun wide to Callum Morgan. He raced down the wing. 14-12 at the break. Within touching distance. Alive.

Second half and the Old Reds burst out of the gate with two tries before 10 minutes of play had passed to retake command of the game.

Minutes later from a barnstaple lineout on Old Reds 5 meter line the maul was being pushed backwards by the homeside when scrum half Stan Kift saw the gap and taking the ball from behind the maul raced down the touchline to score.

Old Reds again stretched their lead to 31-17 and for 25 minutes the Chiefs battled hard to grab those all important bonus points and with three minutes to go Callum Davies went over from a foot out following some pick ‘n’ goes for the Chiefs with Cam Johnson’s conversion allowing the Chiefs to come home with two very deserving

See more of the ball

Book an eye test at Specsavers Barnstaple

Book an eye test at specsavers.co.uk

Barnstaple
Gammon Lane
Tel 01271 373 233

Specsavers

points on the road.

So not a win but something much more important grabbing points on the road and getting back the confidnece of last season. There is still a lot to work on but this Chiefs side are finally realising their potential.

Today its the John Budd cup to be fought against Clifton who are currently 4th in the league before the 3 hour trip next weekend where the Chiefs have a massive task as they travel to 3rd placed Luctonians, who like Clifton, have only lost once this season, before coming home on November 14th to face Loughborough Students.



1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY

BARNSTAPLE RUGBY CLUB

150 YEARS OF RUGBY IN BARNSTAPLE

UPCOMING EVENTS

1st Nov Roundtable Fireworks

14th Nov Ladies Day

5th Dec Tables of 10 Christmas Lunch

12th Dec Christmas Bottomless Brunch

19th Dec Members Christmas lunch

26th Dec Boxing Day Chrity Event

6th Mar Ladies Day

29th May Gala Dinner

Andrew Symons LTD

GROUNDCARE & GARDEN MACHINERY



Full Line Groundcare Specialist for Commercial, Golf & Domestic

Lawnmowers, Chainsaws, Strimmers, Hedge Cutters, Leaf blowers and much more.







Holsworthy
01409 254040

South Molton
01769 574455

Crediton
01363 720430

www.andrewsymons.co.uk



THE TIC'S TIDE IS TURNING: FORTY POINTS, SIX TRIES, AND A DRAW THAT FELT LIKE A STATEMENT



Newton Abbot Held at Bay in Eighty-Point Thriller – Now Saltash Stand in the Way

The heavens opened last weekend and swiped a fixture clean off the calendar, denying Barnstaple Athletic the chance to build on the embers of something stirring. But make no mistake – the fire has not gone out. It has been banked, waiting, smouldering.

Rewind 14 days and Pottington Road was alive with anticipation as Athletic strode out onto the main pitch for the first time this season, the headline act with Newton Abbot in town and the stage set for something special.

What unfolded was pure, unfiltered rugby chaos – the kind that leaves defenders gasping and spectators hoarse. Six minutes in and Callum Dovell set the tone with the early dagger, and the crowd barely had time to settle before the scoreboard flickered into life again. Joe Hastie crashed over. Connor Swan followed. Ollie James

joined the party. Four tries before the half-time whistle, three of them converted by the metronomic boot of Haydn Gosling, and twenty-six points on the board with the try bonus point already bagged and stuffed into the kit bag before the oranges had been sliced.

This was Athletic unleashed. This was the Tic's announcing themselves.

Newton Abbot, to their credit, are no pushovers, and the second half belonged to the visitors as a comeback charge gathered pace like a freight train hurtling downhill. The lead shrank, the nerves jangled, and the visitors drew level. But here's what mattered – Athletic didn't fold, didn't crumble, didn't let the game slip through their fingers without a fight. Two converted tries in ten minutes, Hastie again and then Jack Barrow, halted the surge and shoved the tide back, buying precious breathing room. Then, with minutes left on the clock, Newton Abbot found one last surge and drew level.

Full time. 40-40. Breathless. End-to-end. A draw that felt simultaneously like a missed opportunity and a giant leap forward.

Let's not sugar-coat it – the Tic's are still hunting

for that first win – but the scent is getting stronger. Look closer. This season the opposition has levelled up, every team seemingly finding another gear, and this will be the hardest campaign Barnstaple has faced in yet with no easy Saturdays and no gimme fixtures. Tricky times? Absolutely. But progress is being measured in inches rather than miles, and the Tic's are inching forward with every outing. The attack is firing – forty points in one game tells you that much. The resilience is there – halting Newton Abbot's second-half surge when lesser sides would have buckled. That first win is coming. You can feel it building.

And what better stage than today, when the second pitch plays host while the Chiefs command the main pitch for their clash with Clifton. Don't let the geography fool you – this fixture matters. Saltash are the visitors, the benchmark, the measuring stick, and the Cornishmen have had their own struggles this season with just one win to their name, though it came on the road against Torquay Athletic, proving they can travel and proving they can bite when the mood takes them. For Athletic, this is more than a game. This is a statement opportunity. Win this and the top three isn't just a dream – it's a target, a destination, a line in the sand. Lose it and the season's narrative shifts

towards more rebuilding, more patience, more waiting for the pieces to click.

The Tic's need this win. And they know it.

So today, as the mist rolls off the moor and the crowds gather, two teams will fight for the soul of their season. The Chiefs will battle Clifton on the main pitch, but on the second pitch another battle will be fought – quieter, perhaps, but no less fierce. Barnstaple Athletic. Saltash. A chance to turn the tide, to claim that elusive first victory, to announce that the Tic's aren't just here to make up the numbers. The defence held firm against Newton Abbot. The attack exploded. Now comes the synthesis. Now comes the win.

CIVIL ENGINEERING & GROUNDWORKING
SINCE 2001
MJL
Contractors Ltd
WE ARE RECRUITING GROUNDWORKERS & APPRENTICE
GROUNDWORKERS ACROSS THE SOUTH WEST
CHECK OUT WWW.MJL-LTD.COM FOR MORE DETAILS

BARNSTAPLE ATHLETIC

1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY

1 Addy Turner
MJN Carpentry

2 Garreth Turner
Plan A Scaffolding

3 Fin Body
Atlantic Bricklaying Company

4 Chris Philpot (c)
Streets Coachways LTD

5 Brendan Darley
Together Financial Services

6 Senon Harris
A'Dore of Appledore

7 Ollie james
FYREX

8 Darcy Barker
Jack Barker Constructions

9 Stan Kift
The Williams Arms

10 James Fyers
Stacey & Fyers Resin

11 Jack Barrow
Peninsula Fire Safety SW LTD

12 Joe Hastie
Woolacombe Bay Holiday Parks

13 Jonson Tuhakaraina
Devon Building Supplies

14 George Turner
EMG Property

15 Issac Squire
Blue Elephant Childcare



Jack Barrow

16 Josh Davie

17 Ieuan Jago
Taw and Torridge Tree Services

18 Oscar Lambert
Platform Gym

Barnstaple Athletic v Saltash
Counties 1 Western West
Pottington Road 31st October 2026 : kick off 2pm

Bray Leino is pleased as punch to be sponsoring BRFC again.

Come on Barum.



We've a mighty successful team here too.
If you think you have the skills to make it stronger, visit our careers page at **brayleino.co.uk/careers** for the latest on our live vacancies.

bray leino®

Whatever It Takes

BARNSTAPLE RUGBY CLUB

1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY

MEMBERSHIPS FOR THE 2026/27 SEASON NOW AVAILABLE

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF RUGBY EXCELLENCE AT BARNSTAPLE RUGBY CLUB AND ENJOY FREE ENTRY TO ALL BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS AND BARNSTAPLE ATHLETICS HOME LEAGUE MATCHES

GO GET YOUR MEMBEMBERSHIP NOW GO TO BARNSTAPLERUGBY.CO.UK AND CLICK ON MEMBERSHIP

SCAN ME

THE BUCCANEERS' JUGGERNAUT ROLLS ON: SEVENTY POINTS, TEN TRIES, AND A WARNING TO THE LEAGUE



Exmouth Nomads Swept Aside as Barnstaple's Buccaneers Hunt Down Crediton

The juggernaut doesn't slow. It doesn't stumble. It doesn't even glance in the rear-view mirror.

Each encounter adds another layer of steel, another notch of momentum, and on the road the Buccaneers have become something close to unstoppable. Teignmouth was dismantled 17-48. The next trial awaited at Exmouth, the Nomads lying in wait. What followed was not a contest – it was a demonstration.

The Buccs raced out of the traps like men possessed. Cameron Dullard struck inside the first minute, the ball barely cold before he was dotting down, and captain Keyan McInerney added the extras with the calm of

a man who knew exactly what was coming next. Ten minutes gone. Fourteen points to the good. The tone had been set.

But that was merely the appetiser.

James Hare helped himself to a brace, Sam Palmer muscled his way onto the scoresheet between them, and Cameron Dullard grabbed his second of the afternoon. Keyan McInerney, unerring from the tee, converted every single one. Forty-two points by the break. The Nomads trudged off wondering what had hit them.

And yet more was to come.

Patrick Henry scored straight from the kick-off, the second half barely a breath old, and then completed his brace just minutes later. Sam Young joined the foray with his try halfway through the half, and Ted Lee finished the rout and with Keyan 100% from the tee the final score was 19-70. Ten tries. A completely dominant, utterly ruthless display.

Last weekend brought a bye – a chance to rest, recover, and savour the wins, and

Andrew Symons LTD
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS



DEDICATED TO AGRICULTURE SINCE 1987



Quality New & Used Tractors, Harvesters & Farm Machinery



Holsworthy 01409 254040
South Molton 01769 574455
Crediton 01363 720430

www.andrewsymons.co.uk

Proud to support Barnstaple Rugby Club for the 2026/27 season







Chichester DEVELOPMENTS

Building quality homes in desirable locations

another weekend of rest as the game at Topsham is also called off. But the dragon stirs again next weekend when the Bucc's welcome Brixham Albion to Pottington Road

The league table tells its own story. The Buccs sit just three points behind Crediton 3rd XV, breathing down their necks, hard on their heels, hunting them down with every passing week.

Can they find that same blistering rhythm again? Can they brush aside all comers and keep this remarkable charge alive?




WEST BUCKLAND
SCHOOL
Discover
WEST BUCKLAND
SCHOOL
WHOLE SCHOOL OPEN DAY
SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 0930
SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING
WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 1830
FIND OUT MORE & REGISTER:
WESTBUCKLAND.COM OR CALL 01598 760179
EXETER RUGBY Chiefs
Community CHIEFS
EXETER CHIEFS
PROUD ASSOCIATION SCHOOL

THE COLTS: A Trip to Newquay to Shake Off the Rust Before Okehampton Come Calling



Fifty-six points. Twelve conceded. A statement delivered with both barrels at Pottington Road.

That was the Colts' last outing – a demolition of Topsham that had the crowd purring and the coaches grinning. The kind of performance that plants seeds of belief, that whispers of something building, that makes you want to see what comes next.

No fixture last weekend. No chance to fan the flames. The wind that had filled their sails was suddenly stolen, the momentum frozen mid-stride. Frustrating.

The Colts are back on the road, heading to Newquay for a friendly that matters more than the scoreboard will ever show. This is about shaking off the rust, finding the rhythm again, reminding bodies and minds what it feels like to compete. It's preparation, pure and simple – a tune-up before the real business resumes.

BARNSTAPLE RUGBY 2026/27

1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY

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 - 2PM
COUNTIES 1 WESTERN WEST
BARNSTAPLE ATHLETIC
VS ST. IVES (SW)

DEC 5TH - 2PM
NATIONAL 2 WEST
BARNSTAPLE CHIEFS
VS DEVONPORT SERVICES



Pottington Rd, Barnstaple EX31 1JH
email - info.barnstaplerugby@gmail.com
website - www.barnstaplerugby.co.uk

We will TACKLE anything!

From kick off to the final whistle, we'll get your property sale over the line!



SCAN FOR YOUR FREE VALUATION

CALL US 01271 327878

PS&D

BUY · SELL · LET

rightmove PrimeLocation

OnTheMarket ZOOPLA

And what business that is. Next weekend, Okehampton arrive at Pottington Road for a league clash that could shape the season's trajectory. The Colts need to be sharp. They need to be ready. Today is where that sharpening begins.

So watch this space. The Colts are stirring again, and when they find their stride, the rest of the league had better take notice.

Newquay today. Okehampton next weekend. The charge resumes.



THE GASMAN

Commercial Gas & Refrigeration

Unit 12 Gratton Court, Grattan Way, Barnstaple,
EX31 3NL

Office: 01271 372 902
Emergency: 07805 906 807
www.gasman-sw.co.uk
info@gasman-sw.co.uk

REFCOM® F-GAS CERTIFICATED

GAS safe® REGISTER



BARNSTAPLE COLTS

1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY



1 Harry Tancock
MT Plastering

2 Tyler Ryan
The Duck Dive

3 Rex Hibberd
Springfield Nursery

4 Sam Hare (c)
Putsbrough Sands LTD

5 Arthur Redden
The Fireworks

6 Harvey Evans
Anderson & Evans LTD

7 Joe Mullens
Putsborough Sands LTD

8 Dexter Chambers
March End Lodges

9 Joe West
WS Mortgage & Protection

10 Harry Baker
The Worx

11 Charlie Squance
Blue Box Self Storage

12 Brodie Hicks
Alba & Bright

13 Jake Stevenson
Jo Tickle Racing

14 Rhys Gordon
M Ferne Electrical

15 Harry Cohen
Cafe Croyde Bay

16 Youseff Aldalti

17 Jacob Hassall
T M Gym

18 Jackson Poole
The Hub Hair Salon

19 Riley Short

20 Max Woosey
North Devon Accounts

21 Will Argent

22

Newquay Colts v Barnstaple Colt
Friendly
Yeoman Way 31st October 2026 : kick off 2.30pm

THE GOLDEN AGE OF BARUM RUGBY: TRIUMPHS, RIVALRIES, AND THE MAKING OF WEST COUNTRY CHAMPIONS

Devon Rugby Enters a New Era

The wider context of Devon rugby was itself undergoing a transformative period. The formation of the Devon Rugby Football Union had brought structure and organisation to the county game, and their announcement of the inaugural Devon County Challenge Cup competition sent waves of excitement through every club in the region. Here was an opportunity for clubs of all sizes to compete for silverware on a level playing field, with the prestige of being crowned county champions at stake.

For Barnstaple, the Challenge Cup presented both opportunity and formidable challenge. The draw for the first round pitted them against United Services College of Westward Ho! in an away fixture, a daunting prospect for any side, particularly when

facing the unfamiliar conditions of an opponent's home ground against a brutal, hyper-competitive team. Nevertheless, Barnstaple approached the contest with characteristic determination, viewing it as a chance to announce their arrival as serious contenders on the county stage.

Having negotiated the first-round hurdle, Barnstaple faced an even sterner test in the second round when the favourites Tiverton arrived at Rock Park. Tiverton were widely regarded as the team to beat, boasting a squad of seasoned campaigners and a tactical sophistication that had brought them considerable success in other competitions. The visit of such esteemed opponents to Rock Park was itself a sign of Barnstaple's growing status—this was now a fixture that demanded attention from the county's rugby intelligentsia.

The Devon Senior Cup Legacy

By 1890, the Devon County Challenge Cup had been rechristened as the Devon Senior Cup, a name that would become synonymous with the highest level of county competition. For Barnstaple, this trophy

would come to represent one of the most significant threads in their proud history. In 1894 Barnstaple won the Devon senior Cup trophy for the first time with 12 matches played resulting in 11 wins and just the solitary loss. the decades that followed, the club would establish a remarkable record in the competition, ultimately becoming the second most successful club in the trophy's history, surpassed only by the formidable Exeter Chiefs.

This enduring success in the Devon Senior Cup speaks to the solid foundations laid during the golden era of the 1880s and 1890s. The club's ability to compete consistently at the highest level of Devon rugby, across different eras and against changing opposition, demonstrates the strength of the culture and values established during this formative period. The trophy remains a source of immense pride for Barnstaple supporters, a tangible link to the achievements of those Victorian pioneers who first competed for county honours.



BARRY HEWS
AUTO SERVICES

- Service
- Repairs
- MOT's
- Diagnostics
- Air conditioning
- Tyres

01271 378222

enquiries@barryhewsautoservices.co.uk

Unit B Riverview Park, Riverside Rd,
Pottington Business Park, Barnstaple, EX31 1QN

BOSCH Service

AdvancedScaffolding
01271 321100

Advanced Scaffolding is proud to support Barnstaple Rugby Club

For all your scaffolding needs please contact us!

01271 321100

www.advancedscaffoldingltd.co.uk

The Merger That Shaped a Club's Identity

A pivotal moment in Barnstaple's history arrived on 11th July 1890, when the club held its Annual General Meeting. It was at this gathering that representatives of Barnstaple Football Club and Rock Park Football Club agreed to a merger that would fundamentally reshape the identity of rugby in the town. The two clubs, which had previously existed as separate entities with their own traditions and followings, now united under the single banner of Barnstaple Football Club.

The decision to merge was driven by pragmatic considerations as much as sporting ambition. By combining their resources, the two clubs could field stronger teams, share administrative burdens, and present a united front in the increasingly competitive landscape of Devon rugby. The merger also brought together different playing styles and philosophies, creating a richer sporting culture that drew on the strengths of both traditions.

Perhaps the most visible symbol of this new beginning was the adoption of new club colours. The members agreed that scarlet would henceforth be the colour of Barnstaple Football Club—a bold, striking choice that would become instantly recognisable across Devon and beyond. Remarkably, this decision has proved enduring, with scarlet remaining the club's primary colour to this day. The sight of players taking to the field in scarlet jerseys continues to evoke the spirit of that transformative AGM, connecting the present-day club with its Victorian origins.

A Return to Newport and Commercial Realities

The merger also brought a significant change in venue, as the newly unified club elected to return to the cricket ground at Newport. This move was driven by a practical consideration that reflected the growing commercial sophistication of the club: the Newport ground allowed for the charging of a gate fee. While the concept of paying to watch rugby may seem unremarkable to modern audiences, it

represented a significant shift in the club's financial model and a recognition that the popularity of the sport could be monetised to support its ongoing development.

The ability to generate revenue through gate receipts enabled the club to invest in facilities, attract better players, and underwrite the costs of travel to away fixtures. It also demonstrated the growing status of rugby as a spectator sport, with sufficient public interest to justify charging for admission. The Newport ground would become synonymous with Barnstaple rugby for generations, its stands and terraces witnessing countless memorable matches and dramatic moments.

A Decade of Rising Prominence

As the 1890s dawned, Barnstaple Rugby Club had already established itself as a formidable force in the West Country. Yet the decade that followed would elevate the club to unprecedented heights, transforming it from a respected provincial side into a genuine powerhouse capable of challenging the very best that England and Wales could offer. The men in scarlet captured the

imagination of spectators wherever they played, their attacking verve and defensive resilience earning them a reputation that extended far beyond the borders of North Devon.

The fixtures that excited the greatest anticipation, however, were those contested against their bitter rivals from across the county. The meetings between Barnstaple and Devonport Albion had become the stuff of legend, contests that divided households, filled grandstands, and produced some of the most memorable moments in West Country rugby during the Victorian era.

The Agony of Near Misses

The 1891/92 season brought Barnstaple tantalisingly close to glory. When the final calculations were made, the club found themselves finishing in second place behind their nemesis Devonport Albion—and by the agonisingly slender margin of just three points. It was a disappointment that might have broken lesser clubs, but Barnstaple's response was to redouble their efforts and return the following season with renewed determination.

Yet fate, it seemed, had a cruel sense of humour. The 1892/93 season unfolded with Barnstaple again performing magnificently, only to discover that history had repeated itself with almost unimaginable precision. For the second successive year, the club finished as runners-up to Devonport Albion, this time falling short by a solitary point. The anguish of such narrow defeats must have been almost unbearable for players and supporters alike, yet these setbacks served only to deepen the resolve that would eventually carry the club to glory.

A Song to Inspire Champions

Such was the intensity of the rivalry between these two great West Country clubs that it inspired the creative talents of a local songwriter, who composed a stirring anthem specifically for the meeting between the sides in 1893. The song, crafted to rouse the Barnstaple players and galvanise their supporters, captured the passion and pride that characterised this fierce local derby.

HBH Woolacotts

ELECTRICAL SUPERSTORE

NOW OPEN

Brannams Retail Park, Roundswell

BARNSTAPLE



www.hbh-woolacotts.co.uk

FREE DELIVERY IN DEVON & CORNWALL

IN HOUSE SERVICE & REPAIRS

LOCAL FAMILY RUN BUSINESS

PRICE MATCH PROMISE

Barum v Albion
The eighteenth of the month it seems,
Will be a noted day,
The BARUM and the ALBION teams,
At Bladderley will play.
Chorus:
When "ALBION" beat "BARUM" last year,
'Twas only by a "try",
So cheer up "Barum" never fear,
Your victory is nigh.
There is Monte in the centre bold,
Little wonder on the wing,
While Middleton the threequarter holds,
They'll make the ALBION spring.
They've nine of the best forwards,
That Devon can produce,
They've Toller, Hayman, Harper,
All good to run and push.
Pitts-Tucker, Dalling and Thomas,

Three good ones as they'll find,
With Manderson and Arnold,
A "Forward" team combined.
We don't forget our BARUM half,
The full back on our side,
Our Penny and our Hannaford,
They are our BARUM pride.
So cheer up dear old BARUM,
You'll beat the ALBION trash,
You'll show them at the finish,
Your "penny's" worth their "cash".
"Brave Arnold" is your Captains name,
A good man and true,
Led by him you've ne'er lost a game,
And you'll win this one too.

Whether it was the power of the song, the accumulated frustration of two near-misses, or simply the exceptional quality of the Barnstaple side, the 1893 encounter would

prove a turning point in the club's history. The players took to the field with a fire in their bellies, and when the final whistle sounded, Barnstaple had secured their first tournament in the Devon Senior Cup—a triumph made all the sweeter by the agonising disappointments of the two previous seasons. The song, which had been composed to inspire the team, had done precisely that, and it would be



Barnstaple Football Club. Winners Devon Senior Cup 1894.

Back row L to R: **Not known, H.Taylor, Not known, Not known, H.Stoyle, Not known.**

Middle row L to R: **J.R.Harper (President), Not known, A.Hannaford, C.Thomas, Not known, Not known, Not known, R.Harper (Hon.Secretary), J.Jordan (Hon.Treasurer).**

Front row L to R: **Mr. R.Matta, R.H.Hayman, F.H.Toller, M.H.Toller, G.C.Middleton, Not known.**

remembered in club folklore for generations to come.

New Horizons and New Honours

The 1893/94 season saw Barnstaple's ambitions extend beyond the traditional boundaries of West Country rugby. The fixture list now included visits from the Welsh sides Penarth and Aberavon, contests that introduced new challenges and demonstrated the club's growing reputation. To face such formidable opponents from across the Bristol Channel was a measure of how far Barnstaple had progressed, and the players rose to the occasion with characteristic determination.

This season also witnessed a significant innovation in the club's history, as Barnstaple awarded caps for the first time. These coveted honours were presented to those members of the club who had demonstrated the most consistent excellence throughout the previous 1892/93 season. A total of eighteen caps were awarded, marking the beginning of a tradition that would continue to recognise outstanding service and performance for

decades to come. For the recipients, these caps represented not merely a token of appreciation but a tangible symbol of their contribution to the club's growing stature.

The Champions of the West

The 1896/97 campaign would prove to be the crowning achievement of Barnstaple's golden decade. Such was the quality of their performances and the magnitude of their victories that the club was widely acclaimed as the "Champions of the West"—a title that carried immense prestige and reflected the respect in which they were held by rugby followers throughout the region.

This glorious season was built upon an extraordinary run of results that saw Barnstaple overcome some of the most celebrated clubs in the land. Most notably, they secured landmark victories against the premier English and Welsh giants, including the formidable Llanelli and the renowned Saracens. These were no mere friendly encounters but fiercely contested matches against opponents of the highest calibre, and Barnstaple's success in these fixtures elevated their status far beyond the county

borders of Devon. The club's name now commanded respect wherever rugby was played.

The foundation of this success was an impregnable home record that stretched over two consecutive seasons. At their original field at Rumsam, Barnstaple were virtually unbeatable, turning their home ground into a fortress that visiting teams approached with trepidation. The Rumsam pitch became known throughout the rugby world as a place where even the most illustrious sides came to grief.

The One That Got Away

Yet for all their dominance, Barnstaple's path to regional perfection was blocked by the one opponent who continued to plague them. The fixture against Devonport Albion remained the most eagerly anticipated of the season, and in 1896/97 it produced one of the most talked-about matches in West Country rugby history.

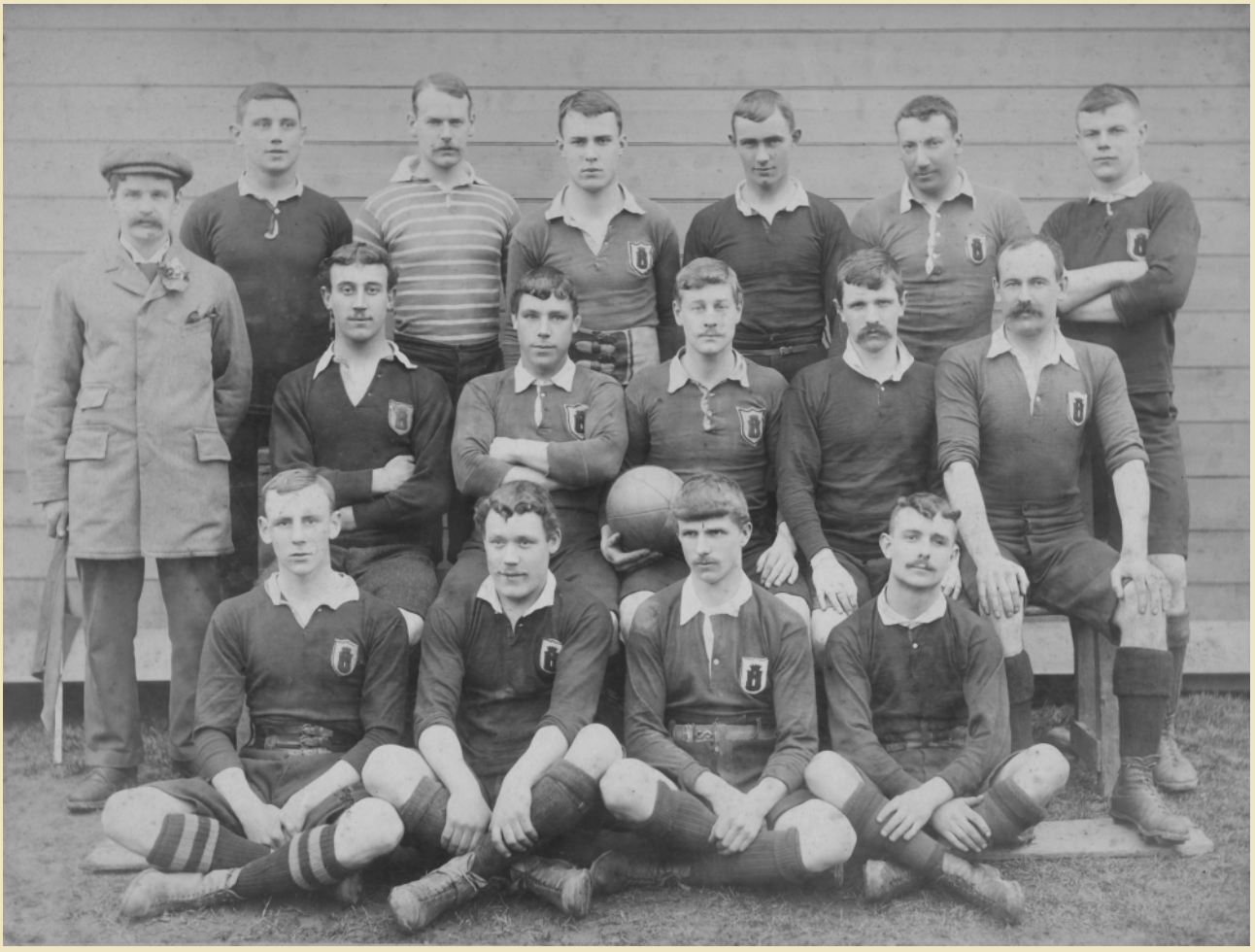
A massive crowd estimated at 8,000 spectators packed into Devonport's

ground—a remarkable attendance that testified to the pulling power of this fierce rivalry. The atmosphere was electric as the two great rivals contested what would prove to be an epic encounter. In the end, the match was decided by the narrowest of margins, with Devonport securing a razor-thin victory of one try to nil. For Barnstaple, it was a heartbreaking defeat, the single score representing the difference between an undefeated season and the bitter taste of local disappointment.

Despite that narrow loss to their bitter rivals, Barnstaple's achievements during the 1896/97 season could not be diminished. Their body of work against elite touring sides—the victories over Llanelli, Saracens, and other premier opponents—ensured their legacy as the dominant force of the West Country for that sporting year. The title "Champions of the West" was not merely a self-proclaimed honour but an acknowledgement from the wider rugby community of Barnstaple's pre-eminence.

The 1890s had witnessed the transformation of Barnstaple Rugby Club

from a respected local side into a genuine national force. Through narrow defeats and glorious victories, through the awarding of caps and the hosting of Welsh internationals, through the composition of inspirational songs and the achievement of historic titles, the club had forged an identity that would endure for generations. The foundations laid during this golden decade would sustain Barnstaple through the challenges that lay ahead, ensuring that the name of the North Devon club would forever be associated with the very best of West Country rugby.



Champions of the west Barnstaple RFC 1896

1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY

BARNSTAPLE RUGBY PLAYING STAFF

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY
PHIL GORDON-OKE
THE RECOVERY BUS

CHAIR OF RUGBY
CRAIG BULLEY
BOOM BOOM MEDIA

SENIOR COACHES

WINSTON JAMES
LYNTON PACK

JOHNY CARTER
ANDY STAFF

JAMES STARKEY
EVERYTHING ELLIE

JOSH SQUIRE
THE LOOKOUT

LUKE BERRY
TARKA SCHOOL OF GYMNASTICS LTD

JAMES CREEK
J M E SCAFFOLDING LTD

BUCC'S
LEWIS JOCE

TOM CROKER
JOLLY TALES BOARDING AND DAYCARE

COLTS
ED DAY

1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY

BARNSTAPLE RUGBY BACKROOM STAFF

TEAM MANAGERS

VERITY WHITE
LYNTON PACK

DARREL GILL
RGP ARCHITECTS

ALEXA COYLE
STREETS COACHWAYS LTD

LEON INCLEDON

JIM HUDSON
EVERYTHING ELLIE

PHYSIO / FIRST AIDER

RICHARD FLEMMING
TARKA CLINIC

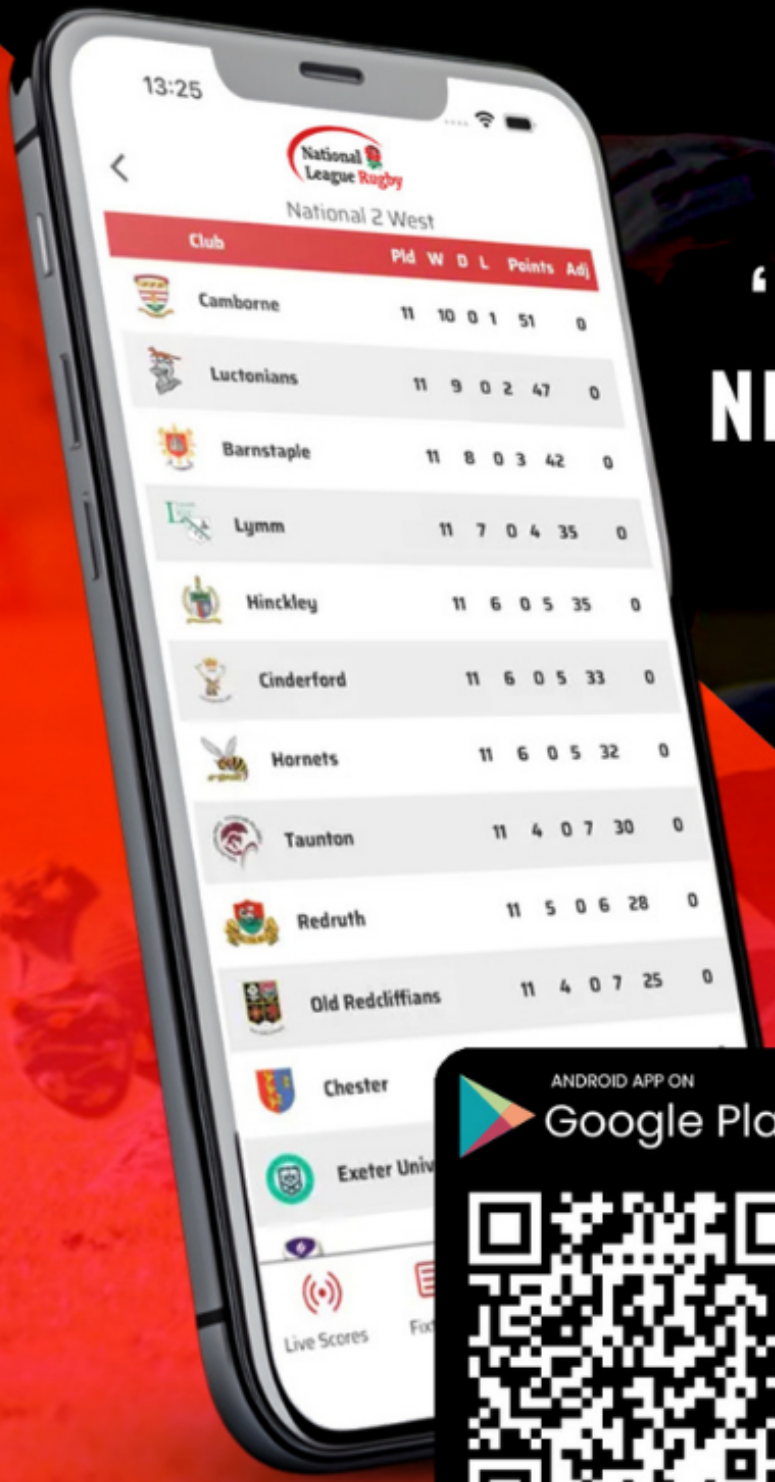
JESS NADAUBALE
THE WINDSOR ARMS

ESME RAISTRICK
TARKA CLINIC

DONNA KNIGHT
TARKA CLINIC

	TEAM MANAGER/	PHYSIO/ FIRST AIDER
BUCC'S STAFF	ROBBIE WALKER	CARRIS GAMMON TARKA CLINIC
	CALLUM JOSSLYN CT1	
COLTS STAFF	LUCY SHADDICK	PAUL MARTIN

DOWNLOAD NOW



National League Rugby

‘Version 1’ of the NLR App features:

- Fixtures & Results
- Predictor Game
- Live Scores
- Standings
- News

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

Available on the App Store

Instant access at the touch of a button!

National League 2 West

Stats definitions

#	TEAM	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Redruth	7	7	0	0	304	128	176	6	0	34
2	Hinckley	7	6	0	1	277	125	152	6	0	30
3	Luctonians	7	6	0	1	271	134	137	6	0	30
4	Clifton	7	6	0	1	315	201	114	6	0	30
5	Taunton Titans	7	5	0	2	281	156	125	5	2	27
6	Old Redcliffians	7	4	0	3	225	212	13	6	1	23
7	Cinderford	7	4	0	3	262	282	-20	6	0	22
8	Lymm	7	4	0	3	205	241	-36	5	1	22
9	Hornets	7	2	0	5	231	245	-14	5	4	17
10	Loughborough Students	7	2	0	5	242	287	-45	6	2	16
11	Barnstaple	7	2	0	5	163	205	-42	3	2	13
12	Bournville	7	1	0	6	217	421	-204	6	1	11
13	Devonport Services	7	0	0	7	157	369	-212	3	1	4
14	Exeter University	7	0	0	7	172	316	-144	3	0	3

Legend

Promotion

Promotion playoff

Relegation playoff

Relegation

BARNSTAPLE RUGBY CLUB

1877 - 2027

150TH ANNIVERSARY



Saturday 7th Nov 2026 2pm

KEYAN MCINERNEY

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF RUGBY EXCELLENCE

Barnstaple Buccaneers **VS** **Brixham Albion**

DEVON MERIT TABLE

Barnstaple Colts v Okehampton Colts

Kick Off 2pm

National League Rugby

ACCREDITED RFU CLUB

DEVON RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION