

Good Friday Round-up:

Premier Division: Portishead were confirmed as champions on Friday lunchtime, after Clevedon's home defeat to Nailsea & Tickenham meant they would not be able to catch the table-toppers. In one of the day's early kick-offs, Nailsea played with the desperation of a side chasing a playoff spot and claimed victory over the Seasiders thanks to a second half strike from Charlie Saunders. That result took any pressure off Portishead, but it didn't stop the back-to-back champs from claiming another three points with substitute Jack Packham scoring the only goal of the game in the closing stages of their 1-0 defeat of Brislington.



The standout result of the day saw 19th placed Ilfracombe boost their survival hopes with a stunning 3-0 win away at fourth-placed Barnstaple. The North Devon rivals may be at opposite ends of the ladder, but it was the strugglers who dominated proceedings, with Finn King-Smith converting penalties in either half. Riley Malin was also on target for the visitors who claimed their first league victory since the final day of November! Among the other playoff chasers, Shepton Mallet edged to a 1-0 win over bottom-side Welton Rovers thanks to a goal from Charlie Walton, while Street remain in contention after Harry Foster's early effort helped lead them to a slender 1-0 victory away at Bridgwater. Despite the three sides below them all winning, Buckland Athletic remained in fifth spot at the end of the day after they stormed to a 4-0 win at home to Wellington. A goal late in the first half from Ryan Bush set the ball rolling for the home side, with the same man then striking again shortly after the break, colliding with the post in the process. Jack Baxter then scored the third to put the game to bed after an hour, with Jared Lewington heading home the final goal in added time.

The remaining three games all ended with home side's coming out on top, including the in-form Torpoint who beat Saltash 2-1 to continue their rise up the table. After James Rowe had opened the scoring early on, Ryan Richards then doubled Torpoint's advantage early in the second half with a strong finish. Tom Payne scored on the hour mark to get the Ashes back into the game, but they couldn't level things up, meaning Torpoint had secured their seventh consecutive home win. St Austell ended a six-match winless run by beating St Blazey 2-0 thanks to goals from George Marris and Neil Slateford, while Oldland Abbotonians ended Paulton's playoff hopes by scoring twice in the final ten minutes to grab a come-from-behind 2-1 victory.



First Division: In front of a huge home crowd, Devizes produced a brilliant comeback to beat Calne Town 2-1 and remain in the driver's seat for a playoff spot. It was the Lilywhites who started strongest at Nursteed Road, and they took a deserved lead after 20 minutes through Harry Stiles. The home side responded well, levelling affairs through Matt Swann, before then going ahead early in the second half thanks to a cracking goal from Jack Baker. Bradford Town just about managed to hang on to fourth spot after scoring a stoppage time winner in their 2-1 win at home to Warminster. Having gone ahead through Tom Mack, Bradford were pegged back late in the first half with Jake Wright levelling things up for the visitors. There was plenty more drama to come after the break, with Bradford's Tyson Pollard seeing his penalty saved 15 minutes from time to keep the game level at 1-1. With time running out, Sam Jordan saved Pollard's blushes, netting a dramatic winner during injury time to secure the vital three points.

There were also victories for the three remaining playoff hopefuls, with Bitton still outsiders for a top five finish despite winning 2-0 at Cadbury Heath courtesy of goals from Tristan Plummer and Louie Millard. It was also a 2-0 winning margin for Wells City, with an Adam Wright penalty and a curling effort from Tom Ovigne helping them beat Cheddar. Things certainly weren't as straight forward for Longwell Green Sports, who twice fell behind before eventually winning 3-2 at AEK Boco. Jack Ball proved to be a thorn in side of Longwell Green, and having already lobbed the keeper to make it 1-0, he then struck again shortly after half-time to put Boco back ahead. The second of Ball's goals had made it 2-1 after Billy Hensler had calmly slotted home late in the first half to score Longwell Green's 100th goal of the campaign. Despite the plethora of goals this season, it looked like the away side's promotion hopes were going to take a huge dent when they headed into the final five minutes still trailing. They still had plenty left in the tank however, and after Sonny Passco had planted a header into the top corner to make it 2-2, Longwell Green then secured a priceless three points when Matt Brown fired home a 95th minute winner to cap a brilliant smash-and-grab. The individual performance of the day saw Bristol Telephones frontman Jamie Noble leap to the top of the goalscoring charts thanks to his hat-trick in their 5-0 win at Keynsham. There was also an away win for Avonmouth at Shirehampton thanks to Josh Pearce's second half strike, while Mendip Broadwalk beat Hengrove 2-1 thanks to two late goals from Fin Hodge and Jack Cousins. In-form Radstock made it three wins on the spin after a second-half brace from Ben Wickens led them past ten-man Odd Down by two goals to nil.

There was also a pair of Thursday night fixtures, which included champions **Hallen's** away game at **Cribbs Reserves**, which ended in a 2-0 win. It was a double from Elliot Gardner which did the business for Hallen, keeping them on target for a 100-point finish. **Sturminster Newton** also won by two goals to nil, with Adam Hall and Ashley Clarke on target in their defeat of bottom-side **Gillingham Town**.

Easter Monday Round-up:

Premier Division: It was another dramatic afternoon in the race for the playoffs, with all of the sides jostling for a position in the top five involved in games affected by late goals. With the three teams at the top already locked into their finishing positions, the chance to clinch a playoff berth remained open for several teams including **Barnstaple** who travelled to third-place **Brixham** *(pictured, right).*



Things went well for the away side during the first 45 minutes, and they took a deserved lead to the break thanks to a goal late in half from Lee Gardiner. Brixham came out strongly after the interval, levelling things up through James Moxon, before Barnstaple hit back to re-take the lead through Billy Hopcroft just after the hour mark. Knowing that no result would affect their standing on the table, it is to their credit that Brixham continued to push during the final minutes, and it looked like they were going to be rewarded with a point when Reece Somers drew them back level five minutes from time. However, Barnstaple did have that urgency, and having already let two leads slip, they went ahead for the third time in the dying embers of the game through Josh Parry, leaving no time for another Brixham response and secured the 3-2 win and the three points needed to confirm a top-five finish. In another incredibly tight game, which had big ramifications at both ends of the table, **Buckland**'s Jared Lewington scored in the third minute of stoppage time to give his side a 1-0 win at **Ilfracombe**. Having played out an equally tight contest just three weeks ago, nothing separated the during the 90 minutes, but then as both teams went in search of a much-needed winner, Lewington managed to bundle the ball over the line with his chest to give Buckland the victory which all-but locked them into fifth spot. For hosts Ilfracombe, the loss was a painful one, and coinciding with **St Blazey's** 1-0 win over **Torpoint**, it sees Town finish in 19th spot. It was celebration time at Blaise Park however, with Tom Strike's 58th minute header proving to be enough for the home side in their victory over an in-form Torpoint, and securing their survival with one game remaining.

One of the sides to miss out on a spot in the playoffs by a slender margin were **Shepton Mallet,** despite winning 2-1 at **Brislington** on Monday afternoon. With both Barnstaple and Buckland prevailing, the win wasn't enough for Shepton, who also used some late magic to secure maximum points. Having gone ahead through Kieran Bailey's back-heeled finish after an hour, Mallet were then pegged back by a Shea Mannings effort 12 minutes from time, before going ahead for good four minutes into added time thanks to substitute Josiah McKayle.

Despite their best efforts, Nailsea & Tickenham will also fall just short unless they can overturn a 22-goal swing on the final day. Tasked with taking on the champion Portishead Town side, Nailsea found themselves 2-0 down at the interval courtesy of goals from Jay Murray and Dean Griffiths. The Swags produced a stirring second-half fightback, and after trimming the deficit through Luke Osgood, they then secured a share of the spoils in stoppage time courtesy of Charlie Saunders. Elsewhere, Oldland Abbotonians secured their third win on the bounce with Reece Ferguson-Obamwonyi scoring in their 1-0 defeat of Bridgwater, while Sam Beresford scored the only goal in Clevedon's 1-0 win at Street. Another side to finish their campaign with a flourish were Wellington, with Mark Cornish and Jake Quick both on target during the 2-0 victory over Ivybridge which saw them pass the 50-point mark. St Austell took home Cornish bragging rights, with Matt Searle completing their comeback in stoppage time to beat Saltash 2-1 at the Kimberley Stadium, while Paulton beat Welton by the same scoreline thanks to Corey Rawlings 71st minute winner.



First Division: Hallen kept alive their charge for a 100-point season after overturning an early deficit, before eventually running out comfortable 6-1 winners over Boco. With the visitors making the early running, and taking the lead through in-form striker Jack Ball, Hallen required a strong response, and got what they were looking for from one of the stars of their championship-winning campaign. Now leading the scoring charts in the division, Elliot Gardner single-handedly led Hallen's fightback on Monday, scoring twice in quick succession to put his side 2-1 up at the interval. Gardner then struck again in the 63rd minute to make it 3-1, before further goals from Harry Barter, Jordan Greenwood and Jack Jones completed another one-sided home victory for the table-toppers. There was plenty up for grabs among the other sides in the top six, with playoff spots and positioning going down to the wire. The much-cherished fifth place was only decided in the final few minutes, with Wells pipping Longwell Green on goal difference thanks to a 2-0 win at home to an in-form Radstock side. Jake Brown had put Wells ahead late in the first half, but with the game remaining on a knives edge for the remainder of the game, they finally confirmed victory in the closing stages when Jake Brown doubled their advantage. For the luckless Longwell Green Sports, 82 points has proven not be enough for them to have a shot at promotion despite ending their season with a last-gasp 2-1 win over Cadbury Heath. Things started brightly for the home side, with Charlie Perkins scoring his first goal of the season to put them 1-0 up inside 20 minutes. Cadbury Heath grabbed a late equaliser through Dominic Anderson, but Longwell Green had the last word, and secured victory in stoppage time thanks to a fierce finish by Tyler Wood from inside the area. Bradford Town could have missed out if they had suffered a defeat to Calne Town in their final game, but managed to confirm a top-four finish thanks to their 1-1 draw. A Callum Demkiv strike had put Bradford in front at Bremhill View, and they were only pegged back during the final ten minutes when Gabe Costello brought the Lilywhites level. The two sides could yet meet again in a playoff semi-final, depending on how Devizes fare in their final game next weekend.

For **Devizes**, a stoppage time equaliser from Jacob Reader away at **Warminster** was enough to mathematically secure their place in the playoffs, and they will now be challenging for a second-place finish. Having led early on through Jack Baker, Devizes were then hit by a sucker-punch just prior to half time when Ryan Benson and Jake Wright scored in quick succession to put Warminster 2-1 up. Fortunately for Devizes, their superior goal difference would have meant a defeat wasn't terminal to their playoff hopes, but they kept pushing during the final few minutes and pinched a point courtesy of Jacob Reader and will now host a semi-final against either Bradford or Wells depending on the outcome of their final match.

Shirehampton were among the sides to end their season on a high, with Louis Snailham, Ryan Radford, Oscar Collins and Luke Marshall all finding the back of the net during their big 4-1 win away at **Bitton**. There was also a high-scoring victory for **Cheddar** in their final game, with Morgan Bacon's two penalties helping lead them to a 4-0 triumph away at **Hengrove**. Aaron Coleman also struck twice to lead **Cribbs Reserves** to a 2-1 win away at **Bristol Telephones**, with **Sturminster Newton** victorious away from home as well, after goals from Ashley Clarke and Jamie Danoris saw them beat **Odd Down** 2-1 in Bath. On a good afternoon for away sides up and down the division, **Mendip Broadwalk** surged to a 4-0 win at **Avonmouth**, with Dylan Whittle, Jack Medjedoub and Jack Haggett all striking after half-time to add to Jack Cousins' early headed effort. Finally, in the battle between the bottom two, **Keynsham**'s Jeremy Agyemang came off the bench to score an 89th minute winner in the K's 1-0 win on the road at **Gillingham Town**.



Easter Results

Thursday 17th April 2025

First Division

Cribbs Reserves	0-2	Hallen	51
Sturminster Newton	2-0	Gillingham Town	323

Friday 18th April 2025

Premier Division

St Austell	2-0	St Blazey	290
Barnstaple Town	0-3	Ilfracombe Town	522
Bridgwater United	0-1	Street	302
Buckland Athletic	4-0	Wellington	179
Clevedon Town	0-1	Nailsea & Tickenham	220
Oldland Abbotonians	2-1	Paulton Rovers	120
Portishead Town	1-0	Brislington	519
Shepton Mallet	1-0	Welton Rovers	153
Torpoint Athletic	2-1	Saltash United	205

First Division

AEK Boco	2-3	Longwell Green Sports	112
Bradford Town	2-1	Warminster Town	209
Cadbury Heath	0-2	Bitton	40
Cheddar	0-2	Wells City	133
Devizes Town	2-1	Calne Town	721
Keynsham Town	0-5	Bristol Telephones	84
Mendip Broadwalk	2-1	Hengrove Athletic	97
Radstock Town	2-0	Odd Down	116
Shirehampton	0-1	Avonmouth	279

Monday 21st April 2025

Premier Division

Brislington	1-2	Shepton Mallet	212
Brixham	2-3	Barnstaple Town	256
Ilfracombe Town	0-1	Buckland Athletic	220
Nailsea & Tickenham	2-2	Portishead Town	363
Oldland Abbotonians	1-0	Bridgwater United	120
Saltash United	1-2	AFC St Austell	137
St Blazey	1-0	Torpoint Athletic	338
Street	0-1	Clevedon Town	
Wellington	2-0	Ivybridge Town	101
Welton Rovers	1-2	Paulton Rovers	213

First Division

Avonmouth	0-4	Mendip Broadwalk	94
Bitton	1-4	Shirehampton	64
Bristol Telephones	1-2	Cribbs Reserves	66
Calne Town	1-1	Bradford Town	323
Gillingham Town	0-1	Keynsham Town	68
Hallen	6-1	AEK Boco	81
Hengrove Athletic	0-4	Cheddar	75
Longwell Green	2-1	Cadbury Heath	240
Odd Down	1-2	Sturminster Newton United	90
Warminster Town	2-2	Devizes Town	195
Wells City	2-0	Radstock Town	250



Upcoming Fixtures

Saturday 26th April 2025 (3pm Kick-off unless noted otherwise)

Premier Division

Brislington	vs	Brixham	14:00KO
Buckland Athletic	vs	Nailsea & Tickenham	
Oldland Abbotonians	vs	Barnstaple Town	
Street	vs	St Blazey	

First Division

Bristol Telephones	vs	Devizes Town	
Hallen	vs	Sturminster Newton United	
Mendip Broadwalk	vs	Gillingham Town	
Warminster Town	vs	Avonmouth	

Playoff Semi Finals will be played on the evenings of Tuesday 29th & Wednesday 30th April, before the Premier Division & First Division playoff finals take place on Saturday 3rd May.

Sunday 11th May 2025

Les Phillips Cup Final

Brixham	vs	Portishead Town	15:00KO

Leading Goalscorers

Premier Division
Freddie King (Clevedon) – 30
Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 27
Lucas Vowles (Clevedon) – 23
Jay Murray (Portishead) - 21
Ryan Bush (Buckland) – 19
Harry Foster (Street) – 19
Rikki Sheppard (Saltash) – 18

First Division
Elliot Gardner (Hallen) – 24
Jamie Noble (Bristol Telephones) - 23
Nathan Hall (Bitton) – 22
Luke Hopper (Devizes) – 20
Josh Pike-Bright (Calne) - 19
Sacha Tong (Bitton) – 19
Jack Guthrie (Cribbs Res.) - 18

All Competitions
Freddie King (Clevedon) – 33
Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 32
Lucas Vowles (Clevedon) – 26
Sacha Tong (Bitton & Oldland) – 25
Jay Murray (Portishead) – 25
Elliot Gardner (Hallen) - 24

On the podcast this week, we hear from Saltash manager, Mackenzie Brown, who reflects on their upturn in form, and how he believes there is more to come from his talented group of players. Ian is then joined by Hallen boss, Karl Baggaley, who celebrates their title winning season, setting out his route to the championship for what he believes were one of the divisions unfancied sides.
https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/podcast-episode-36



League Tables

	PREMIER DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
C	Portishead Town	38	29	4	5	77	91
PO	Clevedon Town	38	27	5	6	68	86
PO	Brixham	37	24	5	8	35	77
PO	Barnstaple Town	37	20	5	12	21	65
PO	Buckland Athletic	37	19	7	11	36	64
6	Shepton Mallet	38	19	5	14	22	62
7	Nailsea & Tickenham	37	19	4	14	14	61
8	Paulton Rovers	38	18	5	15	6	59
9	Street	37	17	6	14	3	57
10	Oldland Abbotonians	37	16	7	14	3	55
11	St Austell	38	16	4	18	-3	52
12	Ivybridge Town	38	14	9	15	0	51
13	Wellington	38	16	3	19	-24	51
14	Brislington	37	15	5	17	0	50
15	Torpoint Athletic	38	15	3	20	-2	48
16	Saltash United	38	14	4	20	5	46
17	Bridgwater United	38	12	6	20	-22	42
18	St Blazey	37	7	8	22	-43	29
R	Ilfracombe Town	38	7	6	25	-44	27
R	Welton Rovers	38	1	1	36	-152	4

	FIRST DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
C	Hallen	41	31	5	5	74	98
PO	Calne Town	42	27	5	10	52	86
PO	Devizes Town	41	25	8	8	60	83
PO	Bradford Town	42	25	8	9	45	83
PO	Wells City	42	25	7	10	49	82
6	Longwell Green Sports	42	25	7	10	41	82
7	Bitton	42	25	6	11	20	77*
8	Sturminster Newton United	41	23	6	12	17	75
9	Bristol Telephones	41	17	12	12	30	63
10	Shirehampton	42	18	8	16	2	62
11	Mendip Broadwalk	41	17	10	14	-2	61
12	Cribbs Reserves	42	17	9	16	6	60
13	Cadbury Heath	42	17	7	18	-5	58
14	AEK Boco	42	15	8	19	-5	53
15	Avonmouth	41	14	7	20	-8	49
16	Radstock Town	42	12	1	25	-29	41
17	Odd Down	42	10	9	23	-38	39
18	Hengrove Athletic	42	9	11	22	-19	38
19	Cheddar	42	9	7	26	-44	33*
20	Warminster Town	41	7	10	24	-51	31
R	Keynsham Town	42	5	8	29	-87	23
R	Gillingham Town	41	1	5	35	-108	8


WESTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
ESTABLISHED 1892
JEWSON