

Latest Round-ups:

Midweek Action: Portishead Town strengthened their position atop the Premier Division on Tuesday night, with a thumping 6-2 win over Street. Following their weekend defeat at Barnstaple, the pressure was amped up on Portishead, but they responded excellently and powered into a four-goal first-half lead over the Cobblers. A header from Dean Griffiths put the home side in front after 22 minutes, with Town keeper Ryan Thacker then making a huge impact by saving a Street penalty to help maintain the lead. Shortly after the failed spot kick, Street fell further behind with Ethan Feltham finishing well for 2-0, with further goals from Jay Murray and Griffiths all-but ending the tie after 45 minutes. The second half then belonged to Portishead's leading scorer Feltham, with his 30th and 31st goals of the campaign seeing him complete another hat-trick for the title favourites. Street have had a tough run of away fixtures over recent weeks which has then fall behind in the race for a top-five finish, but they ended the game with some positives thanks to late goals from Eli Collins and Freddie Haden.

Devizes Town registered a huge win in the chase for the First Division playoffs, beating Bitton 2-0 to leapfrog their opponents up into fifth spot. A volleyed finish from skipper Jonathan Bazley put the home side in front, before Luke Hall-Cousins then added to their lead after the break, with Devizes' winning streak in all competitions extended to six matches at the business end of the season. For league-leaders Hallen, they edged to a nervy 1-0 win over Wells City to extend their advantage at the top to five points. Since their surprise defeat at home to Radstock last month, Hallen have returned to title winning form, reeling off five consecutive wins, with Cory Thomas-Barker's goal midway through the first half helping them see off the challenge of a playoff-chasing Wells outfit. Elsewhere on Tuesday evening, bottom-half duo Radstock Town and Cadbury Heath battled out a rare goalless draw.

Premier Division: Clevedon beat Saltash for the second time in the space of seven days to move back within four points of top spot. After a six-goal blowout at the Hand Stadium, Clevedon's task was much more difficult down in Cornwall, and they faced an opponent looking to gain the most instant of revenge. It was the title challengers who prevailed however, with Joe Teall pouncing on a loose ball to put them in front after just 11 minutes, before Sam Beresford's empty-net finish completed the win during the final quarter. Third-placed Brixham still remain mathematically in the title race after they held off Brislington to win 2-1 at Wall Park. An early effort from Aaron Wellington put the hosts in front, with Charlie Johansen then on hand to make it 2-0 midway through the second half. Brislington set up a nervy finish when they reduced the arrears courtesy of Jordan Scadding, but they couldn't level things up and saw their three-match winning streak come to an abrupt halt.

There was a huge goal in the race for the playoffs at Homers Heath, where **Buckland**'s Todd Hanrahan struck in the seventh minute of injury time to complete a 2-1 come-from-behind win over **Ilfracombe Town**. Having fallen behind to Aidan Barrow's 17th minute strike, it looked like the Bucks were about to make it five games on the bounce without tasting victory. The home side had other ideas however, and after top scorer Ryan Bush got them level ten minutes from time, they then had Hanrahan to thank for the late, late winner as they pulled off an incredible heist in the dying seconds. **Shepton Mallet** also remain in the shake-up for a top-five finish after they secured an impressive 2-1 win away at **St Austell**. Having gone in front thanks to a Will Banks header in the eighth minute, Shepton were pegged back by their hosts on the hour mark when Adam Carter finished off a well-worked team goal. There was a hint of fortune about the winner, but Mallet will be more than happy to have taken home maximum points, with a cross-come-shot from Charlie Bateson nestling in the back of the net to put them back ahead. **Nailsea & Tickenham**'s late season surge also picked up apace on Saturday afternoon, with their 2-1 defeat of **Torpoint** giving them their third win in four. The away side were among the hottest teams heading into the game, but they found themselves behind at the break following a cracking goal from Luke Osgood *(pictured, left)* in the closing stages of the opening period. Ryan Crawford then extended the Swags advantage during the second half, and that goal proved to be crucial in the final running, after Curtis Damerell scored what ended up being a consolation for the in-form Cornish-side late in the piece. **Ivybridge Town** also kept themselves in the race for fifth after securing a stunning 5-2 win over **Barnstaple**. In their final home game of the season, the Ivies fell behind to Stu Bowker's early opener, before then storming back to lead 3-1 at the interval. Bowker then struck again for the in-form Barnstaple, but any hopes of a fightback were soon extinguished, with Ivybridge scoring twice more to claim a huge victory, and ending their five-match winless streak. Elsewhere, **St Blazey** claimed a crucial point, with Jacob Rowe levelling from the spot in their 1-1 draw at **Oldland**, while **Wellington** defeated **Welton** 3-1 thanks to goals from Nathan Byrne, Phil Mendonca and Jacob Shore.



First Division: Just as it looked as though **Hallen** were putting some distance between themselves and the chasing pack, the Gloucestershire side suffered a 1-0 loss at **Bradford Town**, and were reminded of how difficult it will be to wrap up the First Division title. The league leaders had won ten of their last 11 in the league, but will be now need to regroup ahead of a tough away game at Wells City next weekend after falling to defeat at Trowbridge Road on Saturday afternoon. The only goal of the game came midway through the second half, with an outrageous piece of skill from Dan Demkiv preceding a smart finish from the same man as Bradford secured a huge three points which will have huge ramifications over the final weeks of the campaign. There was also a tight 1-0 victory for fourth-placed **Devizes**, with leading scorer Luke Hopper grabbing his 20th league goal of the season to help Town see off the challenge of **Hengrove** at Nursteed Road.

The remaining three sides who were chasing points in the race for a playoff spot all spluttered and ended up drawing, with eighth-placed **Sturminster Newton** held to a goalless draw by **Cribbs Reserves**. There was late heartbreak for **Bitton**, who conceded a last minute equaliser in their 1-1 draw away at **Mendip Broadwalk.** Having lost in midweek, it looked like Bitton had done enough to bounce back at the first opportunity after Harry Simons' early long-range screamer saw them lead for much of the game at Creswicke Road. It was the home side who had the last laugh however, and Dylan Whittle was in the right-place at the right-time to knock home Mendip's leveller two minutes from time. For **Wells City**, they were on the right end of some late drama of their own, with Harvey Wilkinson's 94th minute heading grabbing them a 1-1 draw away at **Keynsham**. The K's haven't won since New Years Day, so it was huge surprise when they went ahead on the hour mark against the playoff-chasers thanks to a goal from Riley Gifford-Hobbs. Town weren't quite able to hang on however, and Wilkinson's glancing header saved Wells' blushes in added time. It seemed to be a day full of late dramatics, with **Shirehampton** also scoring two goals in the closing stages of their 2-1 comeback win over **Radstock**. Having fallen behind to Joe Kemmery's opener, Trystan Baker made it one-apiece after 80 minutes, before Scott Bamford then struck during injury time to complete the last-gasp turnaround. **Cheddar** substitute Nico Cottle also got in on the late heroics, scoring twice off the bench to help his side capture a 3-1 win away at **Warminster** *(pictured, left).* After Jack Busby had scored from a tight angle to make it 1-0 early on, the Cheesemen were pegged back 15 minutes from time in the bottom-four battle. Cottle had entered the fray just prior to that equaliser, but he ended up playing a starring role for his side, restoring their advantage in the 81st minute, before then notching again shortly after to hand Cheddar a rare away victory. **Odd Down** are another side who don't secure too many victories away from home, but that changed at **Avonmouth**, where a quickfire double from Jack Kelsey and Alfie Andrews during the final 15 minutes led the Bath side to a 2-0 triumph *(pictured, below).* Elsewhere, Matt Binding, Josh Williams and Tyler Lane were all on target during **Cadbury Heath's** 3-0 defeat of **Gillingham**, while the mid-table clash between **Boco** and **Bristol Telephones** finished 1-1 under the Friday night lights.





To read about the Western League's latest fundraising collection for **Bath Mind**, please head to the following link https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/mind-bucket-collection-22nd-march-2025

Latest Results

Tuesday 25th March 2025

Premier Division

Portishead Town	6-2	Street

First Division

Devizes Town	2-0	Bitton
Hallen	1-0	Wells City
Radstock Town	0-0	Cadbury Heath

Friday 28th March 2025

First Division

AEK Boco	1-1	Bristol Telephones

Saturday 29th March 2025

Premier Division

AFC St Austell	1-2	Shepton Mallet
Brixham	2-1	Brislington
Buckland Athletic	2-1	Ilfracombe Town
Ivybridge Town	5-2	Barnstaple Town
Nailsea & Tickenham	2-1	Torpoint Athletic
Oldland Abbotonians	1-1	St Blazey
Saltash United	0-2	Clevedon Town
Wellington	3-1	Welton Rovers

First Division

Avonmouth	0-2	Odd Down
Bradford Town	1-0	Hallen
Cadbury Heath	3-0	Gillingham Town
Devizes Town	1-0	Hengrove Athletic
Keynsham Town	1-1	Wells City
Mendip Broadwalk	1-1	Bitton
Shirehampton	2-1	Radstock Town
Sturminster Newton	0-0	Cribbs Reserves
Warminster Town	1-3	Cheddar

The latest episode of the podcast was a Press Box special, with Ian and Tom joined by a pair of local journalists. Both Ross Reid and Paul Jenkins cover the league for several outlets, and they touched on plenty of topics during the hour conversation, looking ahead to the run in, while also giving an insight into who might joining from the South West Peninsula next term.

https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/podcast-episode-33



Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 1st April 2025

First Division

Radstock Town	vs	Wells City	19:45KO

Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Premier Division

Wellington	vs	Street	19:45KO

Saturday 5th April 2025 (3pm Kick-off unless noted otherwise)

Premier Division

AFC St Austell	vs	Oldland Abbotonians
Barnstaple Town	vs	Street
Brislington	vs	Bridgwater United
Ilfracombe Town	vs	Clevedon Town
Nailsea & Tickenham	vs	Ivybridge Town
Shepton Mallet	vs	Buckland Athletic
St Blazey	vs	Portishead Town
Wellington	vs	Saltash United
Welton Rovers	vs	Brixham

First Division

AEK Boco	vs	Devizes Town
Bitton	vs	Avonmouth
Calne Town	vs	Hengrove Athletic
Cheddar	vs	Bradford Town
Cribbs Reserves	vs	Keynsham Town
Gillingham Town	vs	Radstock Town
Longwell Green	vs	Mendip Broadwalk
Odd Down	vs	Bristol Telephones
Shirehampton	vs	Cadbury Heath
Warminster Town	vs	Sturminster Newton United
Wells City	vs	Hallen

Leading Goalscorers

Premier Division

Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 27
Freddie King (Clevedon) – 26
Lucas Vowles (Clevedon) – 23
Rikki Sheppard (Saltash) – 18
Ryan Bush (Buckland) – 18
Jack Taylor (Bridgwater) – 16
Josh Parry (Barnstaple) – 16
James Moxon (Brixham) – 16

First Division

Nathan Hall (Bitton/Odd Down) – 21
Luke Hopper (Devizes) – 20
Jamie Noble (Bristol Telephones) - 20
Josh Pike-Bright (Calne) - 19
Sacha Tong (Bitton) – 19
Elliot Gardner (Hallen) – 18
Jack Guthrie (Cribbs Reserves) – 17

League Tables

	PREMIER DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Portishead Town	34	26	3	5	66	81
2	Clevedon Town	34	24	5	5	67	77
3	Brixham	34	22	5	7	32	71
4	Barnstaple Town	33	19	4	10	24	61
5	Paulton Rovers	35	17	5	13	7	56
6	Buckland Athletic	33	16	7	10	31	55
7	Nailsea & Tickenham	33	17	3	13	12	54
8	Shepton Mallet	34	16	5	13	20	53
9	Ivybridge Town	35	14	9	12	12	51
10	Street	32	15	6	11	5	51
11	Brislington	33	14	5	14	4	47
12	Oldland Abbotonians	33	13	6	14	-1	45
13	St Austell	34	14	3	17	-3	45
14	Saltash United	34	13	3	18	0	42
15	Torpoint Athletic	35	13	3	19	-5	42
16	Wellington	33	13	2	18	-25	41
17	Bridgwater United	34	11	6	17	-20	39
18	St Blazey	33	6	8	19	-38	26
19	Ilfracombe Town	34	6	6	22	-41	24
20	Welton Rovers	34	1	0	33	-147	3

	FIRST DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Hallen	37	27	5	5	61	86
2	Calne Town	38	26	3	9	52	81
3	Bradford Town	38	24	7	7	47	79
4	Devizes Town	37	23	6	8	57	75
5	Longwell Green Sports	38	22	7	9	38	73
6	Bitton	38	23	6	9	25	71*
7	Wells City	37	21	7	9	41	70
8	Sturminster Newton United	37	20	6	11	14	66
9	Bristol Telephones	37	16	10	11	26	58
10	Shirehampton	38	17	7	14	1	58
11	Cadbury Heath	38	16	6	16	-3	54
12	Cribbs Reserves	38	15	8	15	5	53
13	AEK Boco	38	15	8	15	4	53
14	Mendip Broadwalk	37	14	9	14	-9	51
15	Avonmouth	37	13	6	18	-4	45
16	Hengrove Athletic	38	8	11	19	-14	35
17	Odd Down	38	9	8	21	-36	35
18	Radstock Town	37	9	5	23	-28	32
19	Cheddar	38	7	7	24	-46	27*
20	Warminster Town	37	6	9	22	-50	27
21	Keynsham Town	38	4	8	26	-80	20
22	Gillingham Town	37	1	5	31	-101	8


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