

Latest Round-ups:

Midweek Action: The first day of October saw the return of the Les Phillips Cup, with the Preliminary Round played out during the week. The majority of ties took place on Tuesday evening, including Oldland Abbotonians 3-0 win at home to Bradford Town. Having taken the lead through Cash Vinall, the Abbots then wrapped up victory during the final quarter thanks to goals from substitutes Jai MacLeod and Freddie Kershaw. There was also a strong home performance from Brislington, with an excellent first half strike from Danny Constable helping lead them to a 2-0 triumph over Hallen. Also progressing are Devizes, with the youthful visitors securing a slender 1-0 win at Sturminster Newton where Jacob Reader scored the vital goal. It was much more of a one-sided affair at Paulton, where Leo Eglin struck a hat-trick in their 8-0 defeat of Keynsham. Rovers flexed their muscles over the First Division opponents, with three substitutes – Kitan Jaiyeoba, Dan McBeam and Corey Rawlings, all coming on and finding the back of the net. Nailsea & Tickenham also strolled to victory, with Lucas Vowles striking in either half of their 6-1 win at Longwell Green. The hosts put up a strong challenge before the break, but the Swags had too much in the tank and wrapped up victory thanks to further goals from Oscar Collins, Harvey Conroy and Jack Godfrey. There was late drama at Bitton where the home side required a stoppage time winner to knock out Mendip Broadwalk. Having gone ahead early in the second half through Ricky Davis, the hosts were pegged back 13 minutes from time due to a Dylan Whittle equaliser. With penalties on the horizon, Bitton had one more attack and it proved fruitful with Jacob Watson grabbing the late winner. One tie was decided on spot kicks, with First Division outfit Wells edging out Welton at West Clewes. A Tom Ovigne goal after only five minutes looked as though it would settle the tie, but Rovers kept pushing and secured a deserved late equaliser through Kieran Smith. Wells keeper Harley Wilkinson then proved to be the shootout hero, saving two Welton penalties as Wells won 4-2 to reach the next round. Another standout performer on Tuesday was Josiah McKayle, with his hat-trick leading Shirehampton to a 3-0 win at Bristol Telephones. Having given his side the perfect start by scoring inside the opening minutes, McKayle then struck twice during the second half to help the away side progress. Bridgwater were also victors that evening, with a couple of debutants netting in their 3-1 win over Calne. A Dave Rowe header late in the first half put United in front, but the much-changed Lilywhites soon got back on level terms with leading scorer Josh Pike-Bright bringing the visitors level shortly after the interval. Bridgwater finally pulled away in the closing stages, with debutant Lewis Smith restoring their lead, before another sub, Fin Koppa, made it 3-1 in stoppage time with a sublime finish. 24 hours later, Clevedon became the last side to progress from the preliminary round, with a break-neck start helping them cruise past Avonmouth by three goals to nil. After Glen Hayer headed them in front inside five minutes, teammate Sam Beresford then struck twice before the game reached the 20 minute mark to give the Seasiders a comfortable night at the Hand Stadium.

In the only league match on the midweek schedule, **Brixham** secured their sixth Premier Division win on the bounce by beating **Wellington** 4-0. Having lost 2-1 to the same opposition less than two months ago, Brixham wasted no time in asserting their command on the game and led by three at the interval thanks to goals from James Moxon, Charlie Johansen and Jaden Maslen. Moxon then struck at the beginning of the second half to complete the scoring and edging the Devonians into the top three by the close of play on Wednesday evening.



On the usual podcast this week, Ian catches up with Torpoint boss Ryan Fice, who talks about the rebuilding job he has undertaken, while also discussing the competitiveness of the Premier Division. There is also a conversation with Mendip Broadwalk joint-manager, Richard O'Connor, who describes their journey into the Western League, and then details his aims for the upcoming campaign. https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/podcast-episode-10

There is also a special episode of the podcast, where Ian interviews Shepton Mallet Chairman and Groundsman, Rodney Neale. They discuss Rodney's 50 years of caring for the Mallets pitch, and how he uses Premier League standard materials to keep it playable. https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/groundsman-question-time-special-podcast

Premier Division: Just eight points covers the entire top half of the table following another weekend of hard-fought contests, with the majority seeing the sides separated by just one or two goals. League leaders **Clevedon** were one such team to sneak home, beating **Oldland Abbotonians** by a goal to nil at the Aitchison Playing Field. Having drawn one apiece less than four weeks ago, Clevedon managed to come out on top this time around with Elliot Nicholson's goal early in the second half securing all three points for the visitors. Second-placed **Brixham** enjoyed a fast start in their 2-0 win at **Shepton Mallet**, ending their hosts six-match winning run. After breaking the deadlock in the night minute through Sean Adderley, the Devonians doubled their advantage in the 25th minute courtesy of a headed finish from James Moxon. The biggest surprise of the afternoon saw **Barnstaple** fall to defeat at **St Austell**, with the Cornish outfit securing a 2-1 win. A dream start for the home side saw them go ahead inside the opening 60 seconds through Liam Eddy. Town then got back on level terms just seven minutes later through Ryan Keates, but St Austell managed to gain revenge over the 4-2 defeat they suffered seven days previously with Matt Searle putting them back in front on the hour mark. Another side to overturn a loss to the same opponent this season was **Wellington** who beat **Paulton** 2-1 in Somerset. A Rohan Poulsom goal in first half stoppage time was added to by Jason Quick's header to put Welly two up, with Paulton only able to grab a late consolation courtesy of Will Hailston.



Another side to prevail by two goals to one were **Portishead**, who struck in injury time to complete a comeback victory over **Bridgwater**. Having fallen behind to Jack Taylor's first half effort, Town got back on level terms 17 minutes from time through Callum Eastwood. Portishead were then awarded a penalty in stoppage time, and Kyle Egan kept his nerve, slotting the ball into the back of the net to complete the dramatic come from behind win. There was also late drama in a windy **Ilfracombe**, where visitors **Ivybridge** nabbed all three points thanks to an 85th minute effort from CJ Pritchard. **Saltash** were another team to grab an away win on Saturday, defeating **Brislington** 2-1 at Ironmould Lane. Having gone ahead in just the fifth minute through Hayden Greening, the Ashes were pegged back midway through the first half. United then re-took the lead 20 minutes from time courtesy of Kieran O'Melia, and this time they managed to hold on and make it three league wins in a row. The only side to score more than two times on a busy afternoon of action were **Torpoint**, with a dominant performance helping them topple struggling **Welton** 8-0. First half goals from Luke Cloke, Jed Smale and Riley Crawford put the hosts in command at the interval, with a Harry Jeffery double and an impressive Mason Elliot hat-trick giving them their fourth win on the bounce in all competitions. Elsewhere, goals either side of the interval from Brad Probert and Lucas Vowles led **Nailsea & Tickenham** to a 2-0 win at **St Blazey**, while Callum Laird's back-post head cancelled out a Ryan Bush strike in **Street's** 1-1 draw with **Buckland**.

First Division: League leaders **Hallen** laid down a marker on Friday evening, putting four past **Shirehampton** in their return to winning ways. A three-game winless run in all competitions had stopped a rampant Hallen side in their tracks, but there was a return to business for the home side under the lights, with Elliot Gardner bagging a hat-trick. The star man struck twice in the opening 20 minutes to put the hosts in command, with an assist to Jack Askins followed by his third goal of the contest in the 89th minute to round out the 4-1 win.

The following afternoon, **Bradford's** Raphael Oppong went one better than Gardner, scoring four times in the final quarter of Town's 5-0 home win over **Mendip Broadwalk**. Following 67 goalless minutes, the game suddenly came to life with Oppong bagging a quickfire double. The frontman then completed his treble to put the game to bed, before adding his fourth in stoppage time just after teammate Will Stead had extended their lead further. The day's early kickoff also ended up being a one-sided affair with **Bitton** running out 6-2 winners at **Gillingham Town**. Ricky Davis scored crucial goals either side of the break to help the away side build a 4-2 advantage, before a brace from Sacha Tong during the final half hour helped Bitton pull away and extend their winning run. **Devizes Town** secured one of the most impressive wins of the day, with skipper Jon Bazley heading home during the second half to help them beat **Wells** 1-0. Another tight contest saw **Cadbury Heath** carve out a 2-1 win at **Bristol Telephones**, with Daniel Cardoso scoring the visitors winning goal midway through the second half. It was also 2-1 at **Boco**, where Ben Cullen and Ollie Williams scored for the hosts in their defeat of **Cheddar**, while **Sturminster** and **Longwell Green** battled out a 1-1 draw at Barnets Field. There was a thrilling comeback win in Bath, where **Odd Down** overturned a half-time deficit to beat **Hengrove** 2-1. With Jack Jones' free kick separating the sides at the break, Odd Down hit back through Dom Walter, before completing the turnaround ten minutes from time thanks to youngster Jasper Morris. The fast-improving **Radstock** were back in the winner's circle on Saturday, winning 2-0 at **Calne** who started the day in second spot. A perfect start for the Miners saw Jed Parfitt break the deadlock after only three minutes, with sub Matt Curnock then scoring at the back post to give Radstock another positive result. **Keynsham** and **Warminster** shared four goals in the opening 35 minutes of their fast-paced clash which eventually ended two apiece. K's skipper Billy Brock gave his side a ninth minute advantage which was soon overturned by goals from away duo Jack Newman and Seb Hounsell. Keynsham then grabbed a leveller of their own through Joss Lynden in what ended up completing the scoring.

Latest Results

Tuesday 1st October 2024

Les Phillips Cup

Bitton	2-1	Mendip Broadwalk
Bridgwater United	3-1	Calne Town
Brislington	2-0	Hallen
Bristol Telephones	0-3	Shirehampton
Longwell Green	1-6	Nailsea & Tickenham
Oldland Abbotonians	3-0	Bradford Town
Paulton Rovers	8-0	Keynsham Town
Sturminster Newton	0-1	Devizes Town
Welton Rovers	1-1 (2-4 pens)	Wells City

Wednesday 2nd October 2024

Premier Division

Wellington	0-4	Brixham

Les Phillips Cup

Clevedon Town	3-0	Avonmouth

Friday 4th October 2024

First Division

Hallen	4-1	Shirehampton

Saturday 5th October 2024

Premier Division

AFC St Austell	2-1	Barnstaple Town
Brislington	1-2	Saltash United
Ilfracombe Town	0-1	Ivybridge Town
Oldland Abbotonians	0-1	Clevedon Town
Portishead Town	2-1	Bridgwater United
Shepton Mallet	0-2	Brixham
St Blazey	0-2	Nailsea & Tickenham
Street	1-1	Buckland Athletic
Torpoint Athletic	8-0	Welton Rovers
Wellington	2-1	Paulton Rovers

First Division

AEK Boco	2-1	Cheddar
Bradford Town	5-0	Mendip Broadwalk
Bristol Telephones	1-2	Cadbury Heath
Calne Town	0-2	Radstock Town
Gillingham Town	2-6	Bitton
Keynsham Town	2-2	Warminster Town
Odd Down	2-1	Hengrove Athletic
Sturminster Newton	1-1	Longwell Green Sports
Wells City	0-1	Devizes Town

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 8th October 2024

Premier Division

Buckland Athletic	vs	Barnstaple Town	19:30KO
Ilfracombe Town	vs	Torpoint Athletic	19:45KO
Paulton Rovers	vs	Brislington	19:30KO

Wednesday 9th October 2024

Premier Division

Ivybridge Town	vs	Saltash United	19:30KO

First Division

Cribbs Reserves	vs	Mendip Broadwalk	19:45KO

Saturday 12th October 2024 (3pm Kick-off unless noted otherwise)

Premier Division

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

First Division

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

Leading Goalscorers

Premier Division

Freddie King (Clevedon Town) – 13
Lucas Vowles (Nailsea&Tickenham) – 10
Jared Lewington (Buckland) – 9
Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 9
Josh Jenkins (Shepton Mallet) - 9

First Division

Nathan Hall (Bitton) – 14
Luke Bryan (AEK Boco) – 10
Sacha Tong (Bitton) – 10
Luke Hopper (Devizes) – 9
Elliot Gardner (Hallen) – 9
Josh Pike-Bright (Calne) - 9

League Tables

	PREMIER DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Clevedon Town	13	9	3	1	27	30
2	Brixham	13	8	4	1	17	28
3	Portishead Town	12	8	2	2	17	26
4	Barnstaple Town	12	8	1	3	19	25
5	Ivybridge Town	13	8	1	4	7	25
6	Street	14	7	4	3	5	25
7	Buckland Athletic	11	7	3	1	25	24
8	Shepton Mallet	14	7	3	4	11	24
9	Brislington	13	7	1	5	16	22
10	Nailsea & Tickenham	11	7	1	3	7	22
11	Bridgwater United	14	6	1	7	-10	19
12	Oldland Abbotonians	12	5	2	5	4	17
13	Saltash United	15	5	2	8	-8	17
14	Paulton Rovers	12	5	1	6	-5	16
15	Wellington	13	5	0	8	-14	15
16	AFC St Austell	14	3	1	10	-11	10
17	Torpoint Athletic	13	3	0	10	-12	9
18	Ilfracombe Town	14	2	3	9	-13	9
19	St Blazey	13	2	3	8	-17	9
20	Welton Rovers	14	0	0	14	-65	0

	FIRST DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Hallen	15	10	3	2	21	33
2	Bitton	15	10	1	4	15	31
3	Bradford Town	13	10	0	3	20	30
4	Calne Town	15	9	3	3	15	30
5	Wells City	15	8	3	4	16	27
6	Cadbury Heath	15	8	3	4	6	27
7	Devizes Town	13	7	4	2	18	25
8	Sturminster Newton United	15	7	4	4	6	25
9	Longwell Green Sports	15	7	4	4	5	25
10	Bristol Telephones	15	7	3	5	14	24
11	Avonmouth	17	7	3	7	5	24
12	Mendip Broadwalk	16	6	4	6	-10	22
13	Cribbs Reserves	16	6	2	8	-1	20
14	Shirehampton	12	6	1	5	3	19
15	AEK Boco	16	5	3	8	-3	18
16	Warminster Town	14	3	5	6	-8	14
17	Odd Down	16	3	5	8	-13	14
18	Radstock Town	14	4	1	9	-10	13
19	Hengrove Athletic	15	3	4	8	-10	13
20	Keynsham Town	15	3	4	8	-19	13
21	Cheddar	15	2	2	11	-27	8
22	Gillingham Town	16	1	2	13	-43	5

Shepton Mallet support Mind in Somerset

To read more, please head to the following webpage….

https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/shepton-mallet-support-mind-support

