

Latest Round-ups:

Premier Division: On Wednesday evening, Clevedon Town returned to action with a thumping 4-1 win at home to Paulton Rovers. Having not played for a couple of weeks due to postponements, the hosts looked like they were still bang in form, and led 3-0 at the interval following a dominant 45 minutes. Freddie King, Lucas Vowles and Alex Camm all found the back of the net to put the Seasiders in command at the break, with Vowles then scoring again early in the second half to extend the lead further. Milo Murgatroyd pulled a goal back for Paulton 20 minutes from time, but it was an off night for the visitors who suffered their first league defeat since early October.

Clevedon then followed their midweek victory up with a 2-1 win away at Brixham on Saturday afternoon. Town went ahead from the spot midway through the first half, with Alex Camm tucking home the penalty following a trip on teammate Henry Westlake. It was then Joe Teall who added to the lead early in the second half, with that goal proving crucial due to a late consolation from Brixham's in-form striker James Moxon. The individual performance of the day, without doubt, belonged to Torpoint keeper Ryan Rickard who saved a hat-trick of penalties to help his side beat Paulton 3-2! The game started well for the hosts who went in front thanks to a deflected effort from Will Sullivan, before the returning Curtis Damerell then struck to make it 2-0 after 22 minutes. Milo Murgatroyd scored from the edge of the area to get Paulton back into the game, before Rickard pulled off his first penalty save late in the first half to preserve the host's slender advantage. Rickard then repeated the trick on 70 minutes, with Paulton punished instantly as Torpoint counter-attacked and extended their advantage to 3-1 thanks to a goal from James Rowe. Just five minutes later, Rovers earned their third penalty of the afternoon, but once again Rickard came out on top to complete a remarkable hat-trick. Paulton did give themselves hope of grabbing a late point when Kye Simpson headed home nine minutes from time, but they ran out of time and had to give credit to the home side's shot-stopper extraordinaire. Street returned to winning ways in their home clash with Ivybridge, overturning an early deficit to prevail by two goals to one at the Tannery Ground. Despite being reduced to ten men after just nine minutes, it was Ivybridge who broke the deadlock, however they weren't ahead for long with Callum Laird adding to his recent tally with a quickfire equaliser. Street then struck again through Jordan Ewing, and his 25th minute goal ended up being the final one of the game to help the home side maintain their position in the top five. Another side to win 2-1 were St Austell, with the Cornish side beating Ilfracombe to give them their first points of 2025. Goals from Adam Carter and Matt Searle either side of the break were enough to lead St Austell to victory, with Ilfracombe getting a late consolation in their first outing since Boxing Day.

Saltash took no pity on bottom side Welton, scoring six goals in either half of their 12-1 victory at the Kimberly Stadium. Having defeated the same side 4-0 less than a month previously, Saltash frontman Rikki Sheppard was in ruthless goalscoring form, scoring seven during the one-sided clash, four in the first and three more after the break. It all started early on with Kieran O'Melia's 25 yard rocket, and then from that moment on it was Sheppard who took over the contest, leading the Ashes to a fourth win in five. Buckland Athletic are another side who are enjoying an impressive run of results, winning 3-2 away at Nailsea & Tickenham to give them their third win on the spin. Following a slow start to the game, Cieran Bridger's strike after 23 minutes suddenly sparked things at the both ends, with Bridger's teammate Ryan Bush scoring just moments later to put the away side two-up. Nailsea knew they needed to hit back, and they did so in quick time with Joe Bishop halving the deficit after half an hour to set up an entertaining second half for the neutral. It was then Bridger's time to shine again, with his second goal coming just after the hour mark to restore Buckland's two-goal advantage. The Swags kept pushing, and pulled another goal back in the closing stages through Luke Osgood, but were unable to level things up and saw their recent winning streak ended. In the FA Vase, Portishead saw their run in the competition shudder to a halt after they suffered a 4-0 home defeat at the hands of AFC Stoneham.

First Division: Hallen just about did enough on Saturday afternoon to secure a home victory over Hengrove Athletic, with a goal early in the second half from Elliot Gardner all that separated the sides. Gardner has been one of the star performers for the current league leaders, and his 53rd minute effort proved to be enough for the Armadillos to grab maximum points at the MB Frames Stadium. Second-place Bradford Town left it late before winning at Avonmouth, with their third lead of the afternoon finally helping them hold on to a 3-2 victory. Having gone ahead in the tenth minute through Curtis Dunn, Bradford were pegged back late in the first half following a goal from Theo Thordarson. Town's Dan Demkiv then restored the visitors advantage, only for Avonmouth to draw level for the second time when Charlie Boorman struck midway through the second half. With the game headed towards a draw, Sam Jordan was the right man in the right place and found the back of the net to give Bradford a last-gasp victory, making it four wins on the bounce. There was also a dramatic finale at Shellards Road, where Longwell Green overturned a 2-0 defeat to beat Shirehampton 4-3 in a seven-goal thriller. The first half was a relatively quiet affair, with Ethan McMahon's flicked finish handing Shirehampton an early advantage. Lewis Robinson then doubled the lead shortly after half-time, before Longwell Green finally kicked in to action, scoring twice in quick succession through Sonny Passco and Fin Burnell to suddenly make it two apiece. Burnell was then on target again to take his tally for the season to 14, only for Shirehampton to find a second week and get a leveller of their own through Louis Snailham to set up a nail-biting finale. Longwell Green hadn't been in action since Boxing Day, but they managed to maintain their concentration until the final minutes, with a stoppage time winner from Alex Grimshaw helping them prevail at the end of a thrilling second half. Elsewhere, Buddy O'Shea's double led Sturminster Newton to a 2-1 win at home to Mendip Broadwalk, while Nico Cottle scored on the stroke of half-time to secure a point for Cheddar in their 1-1 draw at home to Cribbs Reserves.

Earlier in the week, Shirehampton defeated Cribbs Reserves 2-0 to leapfrog their hosts and move up into the top half. A Ryan Radford effort put the visitors in front just prior to half-time, before Lewis Robinson added to his earlier assist with a goal of his own to put the game to bed midway through the second half.

Latest Results

Wednesday 8th January 2025

Premier Division

Clevedon Town	4-1	Paulton Rovers

First Division

Cribbs Reserves	0-2	Shirehampton

Saturday 11th January 2025

FA Vase

Portishead Town	0-4	AFC Stoneham

Premier Division

AFC St Austell	2-1	Ilfracombe Town
Brixham	1-2	Clevedon Town
Nailsea & Tickenham	2-3	Buckland Athletic
Saltash United	12-1	Welton Rovers
Street	2-1	Ivybridge Town
Torpoint Athletic	3-2	Paulton Rovers

First Division

Avonmouth	2-3	Bradford Town
Cheddar	1-1	Cribbs Reserves
Hallen	1-0	Hengrove Athletic
Longwell Green	4-3	Shirehampton
Sturminster Newton	2-1	Mendip Broadwalk

On the first podcast of 2025, Nailsea & Tickenham duo, Nic Steadman and Jamie Smith reflect on a very happy start to the New Year, with success coming on and off the pitch. Wells City boss, Shaun Potter, also joins Ian to look ahead to the ambitious project he's inherited. He discusses the challenges managers can encounter during a midseason regime change, but explains why it is one he is willing to accept.

https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/podcast-episode-22







Above, there's action from Longwell Green's 4-3 win over Shirehampton, while on the right, Torpoint keeper Ryan Rickard is given his Man of the Match award after completing a hat-trick of penalty saves in their win over Paulton Rovers.

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 14th January 2025

Premier Division

Street	vs	Oldland Abbotonians	19:30KO

First Division

Odd Down	vs	Devizes Town	19:45KO
Mendip Broadwalk	vs	Bradford Town	19:30KO
Wells City	vs	Shirehampton	19:30KO

Wednesday 15th January 2025

Premier Division

Wellington	vs	Portishead Town	19:45KO

Saturday 18th January 2025 (3pm Kick-off unless noted otherwise)

Premier Division

Buckland Athletic	vs	Shepton Mallet
Ivybridge Town	vs	Clevedon Town
Oldland Abbotonians	vs	St Austell
Paulton Rovers	vs	Brislington
Torpoint Athletic	vs	Nailsea & Tickenham

First Division

AEK Boco	vs	Cribbs Reserves
Bitton	vs	Gillingham Town
Bradford Town	vs	Devizes Town
Bristol Telephones	vs	Sturminster Newton United
Calne Town	vs	Mendip Broadwalk
Hengrove Athletic	vs	Avonmouth
Longwell Green	vs	Radstock Town
Shirehampton	vs	Warminster Town

Les Phillips Cup

Barnstaple Town	vs	Brixham
Cheddar	vs	Street

Leading Goalscorers

Premier Division

Freddie King (Clevedon) – 21
Lucas Vowles (Clevedon) – 19
Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 17
Ryan Bush (Buckland) – 16
Rikki Sheppard (Saltash) – 15
Josh Parry (Barnstaple) – 14
Jack Taylor (Bridgwater) - 14

First Division

Nathan Hall (Bitton) – 19
Sacha Tong (Bitton) – 18
Elliot Gardner (Hallen) – 17
Josh Pike-Bright (Calne) - 16
Raphael Oppong (Bradford) – 15
Luke Hopper (Devizes) – 15
Fin Burnell (Longwell Green) - 14
Rhys Hickery (Mendip) -13

League Tables

	PREMIER DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Portishead Town	23	16	3	4	37	51
2	Clevedon Town	22	15	5	2	42	50
3	Brixham	24	14	4	6	23	46
4	Barnstaple Town	21	14	3	4	32	45
5	Street	25	13	6	6	11	45
6	Buckland Athletic	23	13	4	6	31	43
7	Shepton Mallet	24	12	5	7	22	41
8	Nailsea & Tickenham	22	12	1	9	10	37
9	Paulton Rovers	22	11	3	8	2	36
10	Saltash United	27	10	3	14	2	33
11	Ivybridge Town	23	9	5	9	6	32
12	St Austell	24	10	2	12	-4	32
13	Bridgwater United	25	10	2	13	-13	32
14	Brislington	23	9	4	10	8	31
15	Wellington	23	10	1	12	-14	31
16	Oldland Abbotonians	21	9	3	9	3	30
17	Ilfracombe Town	25	6	4	15	-24	22
18	Torpoint Athletic	24	6	1	17	-18	19
19	St Blazey	23	4	5	14	-29	17
20	Welton Rovers	26	0	0	26	-127	0

	FIRST DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Hallen	27	19	5	3	38	62
2	Bradford Town	25	19	3	3	45	60
3	Calne Town	28	18	3	7	32	57
4	Bitton	26	18	2	6	28	56
5	Devizes Town	24	14	6	4	42	48
6	Sturminster Newton United	25	14	4	7	14	46
7	Longwell Green Sports	27	13	6	8	12	45
8	Wells City	23	13	3	7	25	42
9	Mendip Broadwalk	27	12	5	10	-2	41
10	Shirehampton	24	12	4	8	6	40
11	Cadbury Heath	29	12	4	13	-1	40
12	Cribbs Reserves	27	12	3	12	2	39
13	Bristol Telephones	24	11	5	8	20	38
14	Avonmouth	28	10	4	14	-1	34
15	AEK Boco	26	9	4	13	-5	31
16	Radstock Town	25	8	4	13	-6	28
17	Hengrove Athletic	24	6	5	13	-10	23
18	Odd Down	27	5	5	17	-33	20
19	Cheddar	27	5	5	17	-41	20
20	Warminster Town	25	4	6	15	-37	18
21	Keynsham Town	28	4	5	19	-55	17
22	Gillingham Town	28	1	5	22	-73	8


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