JEWSON WESTERN LEAGUE 2025/26 BULLETIN #35

Latest Round-ups:

Midweek Action: It was another huge couple of nights in the First Division promotion race during the week, with the top six all in action. Sturminster Newton had to come from behind in their home clash with 19th placed Cheddar, eventually winning 2-1 thanks to a couple of late goals. United were seemingly headed towards a shock defeat when Liam Bailey stroked the visitors ahead in the 70th minute, with the Cheesemen chasing their first win since early January. However, substitute Sean Hart came off the bench to save Sturminster, levelling affairs in the final minute of normal time, with Nick Hewlett then scoring the 95th minute winner to snatch all three points at the death *(pictured, right, courtesy of @KyleTagg).* Devizes also won by a single goal, beating Wells City in a massive match involving two of the title hopefuls. With only three points separating the sides at kickoff, it was another late goal which sealed victory for Devizes with half-time sub Jack Baker converting a set-piece ten minutes from time. Another contest involving two members of the top six saw Avonmouth hold off Bitton to strengthen their playoff hopes. Having gone ahead early on through Charlie Aldom, Avonmouth were pegged back by their visitors when Josh Gilborson converted a penalty after half-an-hour. It was then a goal at the beginning of the second half which settled the tie, with Avonmouth's top scorer Josh Pearce burying the opportunity to give the hosts a crucial 2-1 victory. Capitalising on Bitton's defeat were Bristol Telephones, who jumped up into fifth spot after coming from behind to beat Welton 2-1 on Wednesday evening. Rovers have been improving rapidly over recent times, and it was no real surprise when they took the lead after 25 minutes when Harry Cade stabbed home. Archie Dark then scored an excellent goal to get the Phones level just prior to half-time, with a header from Jamie Noble then completing their comeback three minutes into the second period. Tuesday's other fixture had seen Almondsbury hand bottom-side Hengrove a 4-0 defeat, with Liam Nicholls and Paolo Pali firing them into an early two-goal lead, before Kieran Burpitt added the finishing touches with a late brace.



In the Premier Division, table-topping **Clevedon** saw their lead trimmed to eight points after they were pegged back by **Street** in a 2-2 draw at the Tannery. Town had won the reverse fixture 3-1 earlier this season, and looked to be on their way to another victory after goals from Jacob Sloggett and Sam Beresford had put them two-up early in the second half. Street then started to come back into the game, and managed to half the deficit 17 minutes from time when substitute Scott Laird scored with a header. Just two minutes later, Preston Hopwood scored the goal of the game, unleashing a half-volley from close to 30 yards out to bring the Cobblers back on level terms. It was then Street, and Laird, who came closest to clinching victory, but his stoppage time effort came back off the bar, meaning both sides had to settle with a point apiece. Second-place **Torpoint** ended a three-match winless run in dramatic fashion, surviving a hat-trick from Louis Price to beat **Newquay** 4-3 in Cornwall. The visitors started the game in the ascendancy, and had built a two-goal advantage within the opening 20 minutes courtesy of two Price goals. Torpoint's Curtis Damerell then reduced the arrears at the end of the first half, with Dave Barker then making it 2-2 in the 66th minute. The turnaround was then complete shortly after, with Damerell converting a penalty after Gary Hird had been brought down inside the area. The side from the West of the county then got themselves an equaliser, with Price completing his hat-trick 15 minutes from time, but it was Torpoint who ended the night on top with Callum O'Brien heading home the dramatic injury time winner. **Barnstaple** also remain firmly in the title race, with Luke Mortimore's double leading them to a 4-0 win at home to **Saltash**. After leading scorer Josh Parry had fired Town into an early lead, Neil Slateford then doubled the advantage with his first goal of the club. Mortimore then got in on the act, heading home a Gabby Rogers to make it 3-0, with the same combination teaming up to complete the scoring during the second half. Elsewhere on Tuesday evening, **Oldland Abbotonians** gained a morale boosting 2-1 win at home to **Bradford**. Second-half strikes from Ben Bament and Sam Watkins helped the Abbots come from behind to register the victory, with Charlie Maddison having edged Bradford into an early lead.

Premier Division: League leaders **Clevedon** kept the chasing pack at bay during another round of matches, with their 2-0 win away at **Saltash** maintaining their eight point lead at the top. With the three sides directly below them each having at least three games in hand, the pressure remains on Clevedon to keep picking up results, and a strong second half showing at the Kimberley Stadium allowed them to do so. Following 45 goalless minutes, the Seasiders went ahead in the early stages of the second period when a cross from Harlee Vozza was turned into his own net by a member of the home defence. Town then added their second goal 15 minutes from time, with Jamie King producing a smart back-heeled finish after Jacob Sloggett's effort had rebounded back to him off the post. **Torpoint Athletic** claimed a dramatic victory away at **Street**, overcoming their in-form hosts by two goals to one thanks to Curtis Damerell's last-gasp winner. The Cobblers were unbeaten in seven heading into the game, and managed to secure the lead two minutes after half-time when Chris Barrett blasted the ball into the back of the net. Torpoint's equaliser midway through the second half came in slightly fortuitous circumstances, with an Elliott Crawford causing chaos in the home box before crossing the line following a deflection. Then, with the game on a knife edge heading into the final moments, shots rained down on the Street goal, and despite producing some heroic defending, a loose ball fell to Damerell inside the area, and his clinical finish put Torpoint 2-1 ahead.

It is now Paulton who occupy third spot, with their seventh win from eight matches keeping them fully involved in the title race. The latest three points came courtesy of a convincing 5-1 win away at Helston, with the Cornishmen being the last side to beat Paulton in a league game all the way back in October. This time around, it was Rovers who dominated proceedings from the moment Max Williams exquisite finish put them one-up in the 15th minute. Kitan Jaiyeoba's screamer then made it 2-0, with Krystian Woods quickly applying the finishing touches to extend the lead further before half-time. A Liam Kemp penalty eight minutes into the second half did the Paulton backline breached, but their forwards were close to perfect at Kellaway Park, with Williams scoring the fourth, before then applying the assist for Wayne Nderemani who completed the scoring in the 89th minute. Slipping down into fourth place were Barnstaple, with two points dropped by the Devon side in their 1-1 draw away at playoff-chasing Newquay. Having gone ahead in the tenth minute thanks to a Luke Mortimore header, the visitors were pegged back towards the end of the first half following a Cam Turner equaliser. There were no further goals for either side, but there was still plenty of drama after the intermission, with red cards handed out to players of both teams in a high-quality contest.



The points were also shared following a goalless draw between Ivybridge and Oldland, with the Somerset derby between Wellington and Bridgwater ending in a stalemate, too. Just like the game at Newquay, both sides had players sent off during the second half, but the goals were at a premium, meaning on the occasion of his 300th Bridgwater game, Jack Taylor and his teammates were forced to settle for a share of the points. Elsewhere, Sidmouth Town saw their playoff hopes take a boost after they secured a 2-1 win away at St Blazey. Goals in either half from Will Collins put the visitors in control, with the Devonians then holding off their hosts during the final quarter following a tap-in from Blaze defender Tom Cavanagh. Buckland Athletic now only hold onto the final playoff spot thanks to goal-difference, after they were held to a 2-2 draw by Brislington. After debutant Josiah McKayle had put Buckland ahead in eighth minute, they then saw their lead evaporate, with Shea Mannings making one-apiece after half an hour. Bris then completed the turnaround late in the first half courtesy of a Lewis Dunn goal, but Buckland managed to respond well and grabbed a share of the spoils in first half stoppage time when Toby Pullman found the back of the net.

Podcast Episode 32

On the podcast this week, **Buckland Athletic** boss, Matt Cusack, explains why his focus is solely on getting his side in the playoffs, and discusses their recent form.

Ian also catches up with Liam Greening, and the **Shirehampton** manager reflects on the challenges his young charges have faced this season, which has recently kickstarted following a win over Boco.

https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/podcast-episode-32-1



First Division: The top two could not be separated in their potential title-deciding clash at Barnett's Field, with hosts Sturminster Newton probably ending the day in a brighter mood after battling back to draw 2-2 with Devizes. With two points separating the sides at kickoff, Devizes knew a victory would see them leapfrog their opponents on the ladder, and they performed well during the first 45 minutes to earn a 2-0 lead through goals from Oaklan Buck and Callum Parsons. United's George Coleman then scored from the spot to trim the deficit, and having got themselves back into the contest, the table-toppers maintained their advantage at the summit after a wonder goal at the death from Sean Hart saw them end the afternoon on level terms. The biggest beneficiaries of that draw were Avonmouth, with their 6-2 mauling of Warminster moving them closer to the top two. It certainly wasn't plain-sailing for the visitors, who twice fell behind at Weymouth Street, but a Josh Pearce-inspired second half fightback saw them earn the big victory. Pearce's first goal to make it 2-2 was soon followed by his second to give Avonmouth their first lead of the afternoon, and when he struck again 15 minutes from time, he had completed a quickfire hat-trick to single-handedly turn the game on its head. Incredibly, there was still time for Pearce to add to his tally in the closing stages, claiming his fourth late on, with teammate Charlie Aldom completing his own double in added time. Avonmouth were part of a six-pack of away sides who prevailed on their travels on Saturday afternoon, with Bitton also among those after beating Cheddar 3-0 in Somerset. A header late in the first half from Luke Osgood boosted the visitors, with the playoff-hopefuls then adding to their advantage after the break through Charlie Oates and Mickey Parsons. Another of those sides chasing a top-five finish are Bristol Telephones, and they came through an exceedingly tough game at Radstock, twice falling behind before eventually securing a 3-2 victory at the death. Having scored a goal apiece during the first period, Radstock took their second lead of the afternoon around the 65 minute mark when Tai Bewes fires the hosts in front. That goal kicked the Phones back into life, and after levelling things up again through James Batchelor, the Bristol side then pinched all three points in stoppage time when Scott Gregory managed to find the back of the net. An equally wild encounter at West Clewes saw Welton Rovers mirror Bristol Telephones' efforts, falling behind on two occasions before pulling out a 3-2 win over AEK Boco. Goals from Reeko Best and Corey Rawlings had twice given the visitors a slender lead, but it wasn't enough on either occasion, with Will Ford striking first for the Rovers, before Matt Morris then converted an 80th minute penalty to make it 2-2. With a draw seemingly the likeliest outcome, Welton had other ideas, and they jumped up into 16th spot in the process, after a long-range curler from Courtney Charles in the 106th minute saw them come out on top at the end of a breathless contest. It was a tough afternoon for Keynsham who saw Harry Womersley score in either half of Calne Town's 2-0 win at Bremhill View, while bottom side Hengrove lost 2-0 against Cadbury Heath, for whom Josh Williams and Matt Huxley got their names on the scoresheet. 2-0 was also the winning margin for Odd Down, with Alfie Kelsey's brace leading them past Almondsbury, while the best Wells could muster away at Shirehampton was a clean sheet during their goalless draw. Mendip Broadwalk were one of the day's big winners, ending two weeks of inactivity by beating Longwell Green Sports 5-2. After putting six past Radstock in their most recent outing two weeks ago, Mendip were in the mood again, with goals either side of the break from Jacob O'Donnell and Jack Jones putting them two-up. After Issac Flynn had cut the deficit, Mendip then pulled away again, with Jones grabbing his second to make it 3-1, before player of the match, Rohan Hartery, extended the lead further late on. A Nico Baird consolation gave the hosts some late cheer, but it was Jordan Hughes who had the final say, completing the scoring in a 5-2 game which got out of hand during a breakneck second half.

Latest Results

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Premier Division

Barnstaple Town	4-0	Saltash United
Oldland Abbotonians	2-1	Bradford Town
Street	2-2	Clevedon Town
Torpoint Athletic	4-3	Newquay

First Division

Almondsbury	4-0	Hengrove Athletic
Avonmouth	2-1	Bitton
Devizes Town	1-0	Wells City
Sturminster Newton	2-1	Cheddar

Wednesday 18th March 2026

First Division

Bristol Telephones	2-1	Welton Rovers

Saturday 21st March 2026

Premier Division

Buckland Athletic	2-2	Brislington
Helston Athletic	1-5	Paulton Rovers
Ivybridge Town	0-0	Oldland Abbotonians
Newquay	1-1	Barnstaple Town
Saltash United	0-2	Clevedon Town
St Blazey	1-2	Sidmouth Town
Street	1-2	Torpoint Athletic
Wellington	0-0	Bridgwater United

First Division

Almondsbury	0-2	Odd Down
Calne Town	2-0	Keynsham Town
Cheddar	0-3	Bitton
Hengrove Athletic	0-2	Cadbury Heath
Longwell Green	2-5	Mendip Broadwalk
Radstock Town	2-3	Bristol Telephones
Shirehampton	0-0	Wells City
Sturminster Newton	2-2	Devizes Town
Warminster Town	2-6	Avonmouth
Welton Rovers	3-2	AEK Boco

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Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 24th March 2026

Premier Division

Bradford Town	vs	Clevedon Town	19:30KO
Ivybridge Town	vs	St Blazey	19:30KO
Oldland Abbotonians	vs	Paulton Rovers	19:30KO
Saltash United	vs	Sidmouth Town	19:30KO
Shepton Mallet	vs	Barnstaple Town	19:30KO

First Division

AEK Boco	vs	Hengrove Athletic	19:30KO
Almondsbury	vs	Mendip Broadwalk	19:45KO
Devizes Town	vs	Bristol Telephones	19:30KO
Odd Down	vs	Cadbury Heath	19:45KO
Shirehampton	vs	Welton Rovers	19:30KO

Wednesday 25th March 2026

Premier Division

Buckland Athletic	vs	Torpoint Athletic	19:30KO
Wellington	vs	Brislington	19:45KO

Thursday 26th March 2026

Premier Division

Almondsbury	vs	Wells City	19:45KO

Saturday 28th March 2026 (3pm kick off unless noted)

Premier Division

Barnstaple Town	vs	Shepton Mallet
Brislington	vs	Torpoint Athletic
Buckland Athletic	vs	Oldland Abbotonians
Helston Athletic	vs	Bradford Town
Ivybridge Town	vs	Paulton Rovers
Sidmouth Town	vs	Newquay
Street	vs	St Blazey
Wellington	vs	Saltash United

First Division

AEK Boco	vs	Wells City
Avonmouth	vs	Mendip Broadwalk
Bitton	vs	Welton Rovers
Cadbury Heath	vs	Bristol Telephones
Cheddar	vs	Keynsham Town
Devizes Town	vs	Almondsbury
Hengrove Athletic	vs	Calne Town
Odd Down	vs	Warminster Town
Radstock Town	vs	Longwell Green Sports
Shirehampton	vs	Sturminster Newton United

League Tables

	PREMIER DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Clevedon Town	30	22	3	5	40	69
2	Torpoint Athletic	26	19	4	3	28	61
3	Paulton Rovers	27	18	5	4	42	59
4	Barnstaple Town	27	18	4	5	31	58
5	Buckland Athletic	29	14	8	7	21	50
6	Sidmouth Town	29	15	5	9	11	50
7	Newquay	28	13	5	10	15	44
8	Saltash United	28	11	5	12	-11	38
9	Bradford Town	30	10	6	14	-6	36
10	Bridgwater United	30	10	6	14	-11	36
11	Street	27	9	8	10	9	35
12	Ivybridge Town	27	9	4	14	-15	31
13	Helston Athletic	28	8	4	16	-30	28
14	Wellington	26	7	5	14	-12	26
15	Shepton Mallet	27	6	8	13	-17	26
16	St Blazey	28	6	8	14	-23	26
17	Brislington	26	3	5	18	-34	14
18	Oldland Abbotonians	25	3	3	19	-38	12
19	St Austell	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Nailsea & Tickenham	0	0	0	0	0	0

	FIRST DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Sturminster Newton United	32	23	4	5	57	73
2	Devizes Town	32	21	8	3	53	71
3	Avonmouth	32	19	9	4	23	66
4	Wells City	32	21	2	9	48	65
5	Bristol Telephones	32	19	7	6	25	64
6	Bitton	33	18	9	6	17	63
7	Mendip Broadwalk	31	13	8	10	3	47
8	AEK Boco	32	13	7	12	13	46
9	Longwell Green Sports	33	13	4	16	-7	43
10	Warminster Town	33	11	9	13	2	42
11	Almondsbury	29	12	6	11	-3	42
12	Calne Town	33	11	8	14	-1	41
13	Odd Down	31	11	7	13	-3	40
14	Cadbury Heath	32	10	7	15	-21	37
15	Shirehampton	31	8	7	16	-24	31
16	Welton Rovers	31	8	4	19	-24	28
17	Radstock Town	31	5	12	14	-22	26*
18	Keynsham Town	33	7	5	21	-40	26
19	Cheddar	33	3	10	20	-50	19
20	Hengrove Athletic	32	2	9	21	-46	15