

Play-Off Round-up:

Semi-Finals: During the warmest week of the year to date, there was some red-hot playoff action starting on Tuesday evening, with all four semi-finals taking place simultaneously. In the Premier Division, both home teams came out on top to set up a final between the sides who finished second and third in the table. For Clevedon Town, they will have hosting privileges for the playoffs after coming out on top by three goals to one in their semi-final win over Buckland. Having already beaten their opponents twice, and drawn once during the previous meetings this season, Clevedon would have been full of confidence going into the fixture, and certainly came firing out of the blocks in the opening minutes. An early disruption for the visitors saw Jack Baxter subbed off after picking up an injury after less than five minutes, and their tough start was compounded when Alex Camm fired home a penalty to put Town ahead. Things went from bad to worse for Buckland who fell two goals behind after only 12 minutes, with Camm scoring his second of the game, converting a pin-point cross from teammate Sam Beresford. Having re-grouped somewhat, Buckland started the second half with the required urgency and managed to half the deficit when they were awarded a penalty of their own which was stroked into the right corner by Ryan Bush. Up until their recent defeat to Nailsea & Tickenham, Clevedon's home form has been impeccable, and they made sure of their spot in the final ten minutes from time when Freddie King's free-kick was headed home by Glen Hayer to restore the two-goal advantage. In the other semi-final, Brixham rebounded from a recent defeat to the same opponent by beating Barnstaple 3-0 in a relatively one-sided affair. Scott Robinson headed home a corner after 15 minutes to open the scoring, with James Moxon then making it 2-0 before the midway point of the first half. Barnstaple came close to reducing the deficit on a couple of occasions, but they weren't able to break down the home defence, and saw any chances of a fightback ended just after the hour mark when Kieran Parkin's excellent free-kick put Brixham three goals to the good.



Action from Brixham's win over Barnstaple, courtesy of Steve Screech

Things were incredibly tight in the two First Division semi-finals, which should have been excepted considering only four points separated all four competing sides at the end of a 42-game season. In the game at Bremhill View, **Calne** snuck past **Wells City** by a goal-to-nil, with Ackeem Stewart's fourth-minute effort proving enough to decide the outcome. The home team had come out on top in the two games between these sides earlier this season, and that was repeated in the playoff cauldron, with the Lilywhites back-five producing a resolute defensive performance to keep Wells' array of attacking stars at arm's length for the entire 90 minutes to earn themselves a shot at promotion. In the other semi-final, **Bradford** became the only away side to prevail on a night of high-drama at Nursteed Road, with a penalty heartbreak ending the season of **Devizes Town**. Things started brightly for the hosts, and they surged into a sixth minute lead through Jack Baker, which they maintained throughout the entirety of the first half. Bradford fought their way back into the contest, and levelled things up ten minutes after the break, with Dan Demkiv lobbing the ball into the home net after Jordan Pinder's free-kick had been punched clear by the home keeper. The 1-1 scoreline set up the shootout, where Bradford scored with all four of their spot kicks, as opposed to their opponents who had an early miss, before Will Stead then saved the fifth Devizes penalty to confirm his side's place in the final.

Finals: At the start of the Bank Holiday weekend, stakes were high for the four sides involved in the two play-off finals with all shooting for promotion. In the Premier Division, **Brixham** produced a dramatic late turnaround to topple **Clevedon Town**, overturning a half-time deficit to win 2-1 at the Hand Stadium. With only six points separating the two teams at the end of a long campaign, and having each won away from home during the league season, it was always likely to be a tight tussle, and it certainly proved to be just that during the opening stages. It was the home side who managed to break the deadlock after half an hour, with Freddie King's cross met at the back-post by Sam Beresford who scored from close range. They did all they could to add to that tally during the final minutes of the opening half, but couldn't beat Brixham keeper Marko Radovanovic who did well to keep the score down to one. The importance of those saves came to the fore during the second half, with Brixham mounting their fightback through top scorer James Moxon. His first goal, and the visitor's equaliser came round the 67th minute, with a well-placed header making it one apiece. With the tie in the balance, both sides came close to going ahead in the closing stages, and with one of their final possible attacks, another cross into the home box found the head of Moxon, with his looping effort nestling in the back of the net to spark scenes of celebration for the Devon outfit.



In the First Division, it was also the away side who came out on top, with **Bradford Town** completing an incredible playoff double, and beating the two teams who finished directly above them at the end of the season. In the end, the 5-0 scoreline shone a light on the terrific performance of the Bobcats, who went ahead at **Calne** in the 21st minute when Jaiden Pearce towered over the home defenders to head home Curtis Dunn's expert delivery. Bradford then doubled their advantage late in the first half, with Dan Demkiv scoring from close range to put the finishing touches on a well-worked corner routine. It remained 2-0 up until the 75th minute, when the away side finally put the tie to bed, with Callum Demkiv producing a composed finish to fire the ball high into the back of the net. There was then time in the final couple of moments for a couple more Bradford players to add their name to the scoresheet, with both Sam Jordan and Raphael Oppong netting to make it 5-0, and surging to promotion.



Play-Off Results

Tuesday 29th April 2025

Premier Division Play-Off Semi Finals

Brixham	3-0	Barnstaple Town
Clevedon Town	3-1	Buckland Athletic

First Division Play-Off Semi Finals

Calne Town	1-0	Wells City
Devizes Town	1-1 (3-4 Pens)	Bradford Town

Saturday 3rd May 2025

Premier Division Play-Off Final

Clevedon Town	1-2	Brixham

First Division Play-Off Final

Calne Town	0-5	Bradford Town

Upcoming Fixtures

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
Harry Foster (Street) – 20
Ryan Bush (Buckland) – 19
Josh Parry (Barnstaple) - 19
Rikki Sheppard (Saltash) – 18

First Division
Elliot Gardner (Hallen) – 26
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
Elliot Gardner (Hallen) - 26
Lucas Vowles (Clevedon) – 26
Sacha Tong (Bitton & Oldland) – 25
Jay Murray (Portishead) – 25

Mind Chairty News



To read about the Jewson Western League's continued support for local Mind charities, please head to the following link on our website: https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/western-league-and-devizes-town-celebrate-mental-health-collection-wiltshire-mind

Ian headed to Devizes Town on Good Friday, for their local derby with Calne. With an incredible crowd of over 700 in attendance for the fixture, there was a very generous contribution to the campaign which is in it's third year.

Final 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	38	25	5	8	36	80
PO	Barnstaple Town	38	21	5	12	26	68
PO	Buckland Athletic	38	19	8	11	36	65
6	Shepton Mallet	38	19	5	14	22	62
7	Nailsea & Tickenham	38	19	5	14	14	62
8	Street	38	18	6	14	4	60
9	Paulton Rovers	38	18	5	15	6	59
10	Oldland Abbotonians	38	16	7	15	-2	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	38	15	5	18	-1	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	38	7	8	23	-44	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	42	31	6	5	74	99
PO	Calne Town	42	27	5	10	52	86
PO	Devizes Town	42	25	9	8	60	84
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	42	23	7	12	17	76
9	Bristol Telephones	42	17	13	12	30	64
10	Mendip Broadwalk	42	18	10	14	2	64
11	Shirehampton	42	18	8	16	2	62
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	42	15	7	20	-4	52
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	42	7	10	25	-55	31
R	Keynsham Town	42	5	8	29	-87	23
R	Gillingham Town	42	1	5	36	-112	8


WESTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
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