

Latest Round-ups:

Midweek Action: The First Division was front and centre during the week, with eight sides in action at the start of the busy festive period. On Tuesday evening, **Bitton** continued their ascendancy up the table thanks to a hard-fought 2-1 victory at home to **Keynsham**. With the league's second highest scorers taking on a team who had been conceding heavily over recent weeks, the expectation may have been that Bitton would enjoy a comfortable night's work. That wasn't the case however, and it took the home side an hour to finally break the deadlock, with Ash McGrane tucking home a penalty. McGrane then repeated the trick five minutes later to double Bitton's advantage, but they were then forced to hang on during the final quarter-hour after Jeremy Agyemang cut into their lead with a well-taken goal for the visitors. There was also a 2-1 victory for **Sturminster Newton**, with Elliot Bevis and Ashley Clarke scoring in quick succession to help them defeat **Radstock**. After those quickfire goals midway through the opening half, Town then cut into their deficit when a deflected Ben Wickens found the back of the net. Unfortunately for Radstock, their hopes of a second half fightback took a blow around the hour mark when James Payton was given his second yellow of the night, with the ten-man Miners falling to a tight defeat. Elsewhere, bottom side **Gillingham Town** showed strong battling qualities to claim a 1-1 draw in their home clash with **Shirehampton**. Having fallen behind to Trystan Baker's 14th minute opener, the Dorset side levelled things up in first half stoppage time courtesy of Duncan McCabe. 24 hours later, **Cadbury Heath** maintained their topsy-turvy run of form with a 2-0 win at home to **Hengrove**. In-form striker Josh Williams gave the Heath a perfect start at Springfield with a tenth minute opener, giving him his sixth goal from the previous three games. Williams was then given his marching orders in the closing stages after accumulating two yellow cards, but the home side managed to extend their lead in his absence with Tyler Lane scoring in stoppage time to confirm the 2-0 victory. There was also a Les Phillips Cup tie on Wednesday evening, with **Clevedon** scoring four second half goals on their way to a thumping 5-0 win at home to **Brislington**. With Elliot Nicholson's early opener all that separated the sides at the interval, Town then made a strong start to the second period with Alex Camm capitalising on some slack defending from the visitors to score a quickfire double. Clevedon then eased their way through to the quarter-finals, with Joe Teall adding a fourth, before Henry Westlake scored the goal of the game to wrap things up late on.

Les Phillips Cup Quarter-Final lineup

1) Barnstaple Town vs Brixham **2) Oldland Abbotonians vs Wells City**

3) Cheddar vs Street **4) Portishead Town vs Clevedon Town**

Ties to be played on January 18th

Premier Division: In one of the games of the season, Portishead Town overcame a terrific fightback from Saltash, before eventually prevailing by four goals to three. Things looked to be going serenely for the home side who led 2-0 at the interval thanks to Jay Murray and Mitch Osmond, with the second goal an excellently placed free-kick. The Ashes then came out firing after the break, and after Kieran O'Melia's screamer had halved the deficit, Rikki Sheppard then struck after 55 minutes to bring the game level. Leading scorer Ethan Feltham restored Portishead's lead 20 minutes from time, but Saltash had another fightback in them and brought the scores level once again thanks to Sheppard's second goal of the afternoon. It was however the home side who would end the afternoon on top, with Feltham turning provider, and crossing for teammate Callum Eastwood who made it 4-3 during the final knockings of a thrilling encounter. That result, coinciding with Brixham's 3-1 defeat at St Austell saw Portishead move into top spot, with Town now unbeaten in 12 in all competitions. Previous leaders Brixham weren't at the races on Saturday afternoon, and found themselves facing a two-goal half-time deficit at Poltair Park following goals from Matt Searle and Adam Carter. Fin Newell then pulled a goal back in the early stages of the second half, before Neil Slateford's penalty gave St Austell the two-goal advantage which they maintained until the final whistle. At the opposite end of the table, Torpoint secured a rare win, scoring two second half goals in their 2-0 defeat of Wellington *(pictured, left).* Elliot Crawford's penalty early in the second half put the visitors one-up, and they then added a second in the fourth minute of stoppage time, with Kev McCallion netting against a luckless Welly side who finished the game with nine men. Another standout away victory came from Nailsea & Tickenham, with Dylan Tate's hat-trick leading them to a 4-0 triumph at Bridgwater. After 40 goalless minute, the Swags suddenly came to life in the closing stages of the opening period, with Tate scoring one of their two quickfire goals. Tate then stretched the lead out further five minutes into the second half, before completing his wonderful treble just as the game headed into the final quarter. Four goals were also enough for fourth-placed Clevedon, with a dominant start helping them secure a 4-1 win at home to St Blazey. The hosts have some in-form strikers at the moment, and they were to the fore once again at the Hand Stadium, with both Freddie King and Lucas Vowles adding to their tallies during the opening 12 minutes of action. Alex Camm then scored in first half stoppage time to extend the lead further, with George King's late penalty making it 4-0 prior to a consolation strike from Tom Hensman. Ivybridge Town enjoyed their biggest win of the season, putting ten unanswered goals past bottom-side Welton, while Paulton snuck past Buckland by a goal to nil to move within a point of their visitors. With Will Hailston's 70th minute strike looking set to be enough for Paulton, they could have thrown away two points late on after conceding a penalty, but Jared Lewington's unsuccessful spot kick helped the hosts maintain their clean sheet. The biggest crowd of the afternoon took in the Shepton Mallet's local derby with Street, where the visitors came away with maximum points thanks to a 2-1 comeback victory. After falling behind to Callum Gould's 15th minute opener, Street levelled things up late in the first half thanks to a volleyed finish from Harry Foster. The Cobblers then completed their comeback 13 minutes from time on a day that will be remembered for the terrific fundraising efforts and the *'March to the Mallet'.*



First Division: League leaders Hallen moved four points clear on Friday evening following a 3-0 win away at Shirehampton. A Jack Jones header after 31 minutes put Hallen in front, as they went in search of a third win over the same opponent this term. With the sides still only separated by one goal as the game headed into the final minutes, the visitors finally pulled away, with sub Tom Cheeseman, and then Jack Askins adding some gloss to the scoreline late on. Bitton then moved back to within a point of top spot after beating Wells City 3-0 in the pick of Saturday's ties. A quiet first half eventually came t life in the closing stages, with Lewis Russell firing the visitors ahead against a Wells side who have enjoyed plenty of home success this season. That wasn't repeated against Bitton however, with the second place side adding further goals after the break from Toby Cole and Nathan Hall to run out easy winners. Calne Town now seem to be back in good shape, and secure back-to-back wins thanks to a one-sided 6-0 defeat of Warminster. After going in front early on through Gabe Costello, the Lilywhites had leading scorer Josh Pike-Bright to thank for their first half dominance, with his double putting them three-up after 45 minutes. Calne then added three late goals to give the scoreline a different complexion, with Stu Windsor, Sam Francis and Theo Black all netting during the final stages. Things were tighter for fourth-placed Bradford Town, who held off an attempted fightback from Odd Down, before holding on to claim the 2-1 win *(pictured, right).* Two goals inside the opening 20 minutes from Josh Fowler fired the Bobcats ahead early on, but the goals dried up from there and after the visitors cut the deficit it made for a tense final hour with Bradford ending the win with ten men. There was also victories for top-half duo Devizes and Sturminster, with a 27th minute penalty from Luke Hopper proving to be enough for the Wiltshire side in their slender 1-0 win over Cadbury Heath. Sturminster meanwhile, had goals from Aaron Lane-Leney and Harry Smith to thank as they secured a 2-0 win at home to Avonmouth. Another side to receive some festive cheer was Radstock, with their 4-1 victory at Keynsham extending their strong run of results away from home. After an own goal had put them in front five minutes before the interval, Radstock then broke the game open early in the second half with Aelfric Bidder slammed home a quickfire double. An 'Olympico' corner then gave Keynsham hopes of a late comeback, but that was extinguished by Jacob Bird who added a fourth for the Miners just before the 90 minute mark. Bottom side Gillingham repeated their midweek resilience, scoring late in the piece at Cheddar to secure a 1-1 draw. After the Cheesemen had taken a late lead through Lewis Chappell, things didn't look good for the away side, but they battled back manfully and claimed a share of the spoils courtesy of Jensen Doerr's 88th minute leveller. There was also a return to winning ways for Cribbs Reserves, beating Longwell Green 2-1 to gain revenge for the recent cup defeat against the same opponent.





Latest Results

Tuesday 17th December 2024

First Division

Bitton	2-1	Keynsham Town
Gillingham Town	1-1	Shirehampton
Radstock Town	1-2	Sturminster Newton United

Wednesday 18th December 2024

First Division

Cadbury Heath	2-0	Hengrove Athletic

Les Phillips Cup

Clevedon Town	5-0	Brislington

Friday 20th December 2024

First Division

Shirehampton	0-3	Hallen

Saturday 21st December 2024

Premier Division

AFC St Austell	3-1	Brixham
Bridgwater United	0-4	Nailsea & Tickenham
Clevedon Town	4-1	St Blazey
Ivybridge Town	10-0	Welton Rovers
Oldland Abbotonians	P-P	Barnstaple Town
Paulton Rovers	1-0	Buckland Athletic
Portishead Town	4-3	Saltash United
Shepton Mallet	1-2	Street
Wellington	0-2	Torpoint Athletic

First Division

Bradford Town	2-1	Odd Down
Calne Town	6-0	Warminster Town
Cheddar	1-1	Gillingham Town
Devizes Town	1-0	Cadbury Heath
Hengrove Athletic	P-P	Bristol Telephones
Keynsham Town	1-4	Radstock Town
Longwell Green	1-2	Cribbs Reserves
Sturminster Newton	2-0	Avonmouth
Wells City	0-3	Bitton

On the latest podcast, Ian and Tom look ahead to the upcoming Festive period. Saltash boss Mackenzie Brown reflects on a challenging few months for the Cornish club, and explains why better things are to come in 2025. Later in the episode, Cheddar management duo Ethan Spencer and Lauren Hodge make their debut on the podcast, setting out their plans to make the Cheesemen a force in the First Division.
https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/podcast-episode-21



Christmas Fixtures

Thursday 26th December 2024

Premier Division

Brislington	vs	Portishead Town	13:30KO
Brixham	vs	Ivybridge Town	11:00KO
Ilfracombe Town	vs	Barnstaple Town	13:00KO
Nailsea & Tickenham	vs	Clevedon Town	12:30KO
Paulton Rovers	vs	Oldland Abbotonians	13:30KO
Saltash United	vs	Torpoint Athletic	11:00KO
St Blazey	vs	St Austell	11:00KO
Street	vs	Bridgwater United	12:00KO
Wellington	vs	Buckland Athletic	13:00KO
Welton Rovers	vs	Shepton Mallet	13:00KO

First Division

Avonmouth	vs	Shirehampton	13:30KO
Bristol Telephones	vs	Keynsham Town	15:00KO
Calne Town	vs	Devizes Town	13:00KO
Gillingham Town	vs	Sturminster Newton United	15:00KO
Hengrove Athletic	vs	Mendip Broadwalk	12:30KO
Longwell Green	vs	AEK Boco	13:00KO
Odd Down	vs	Radstock Town	12:00KO
Warminster Town	vs	Bradford Town	13:00KO
Wells City	vs	Cheddar	13:00KO

Saturday 28th December 2024

First Division

Bitton	vs	Cadbury Heath	15:00KO
Hallen	vs	Cribbs Reserves	15:00KO

Leading Goalscorers

Premier Division

Freddie King (Clevedon) – 19
Lucas Vowles (Clevedon) – 16
Ryan Bush (Buckland) – 14
Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 14
Jack Taylor (Bridgwater) - 12
Josh Parry (Barnstaple) – 12

First Division

Nathan Hall (Bitton) – 18
Sacha Tong (Bitton) – 17
Raphael Oppong (Bradford) – 15
Luke Hopper (Devizes) – 14
Elliot Gardner (Hallen) – 13
Rhys Hickery (Mendip) -13



League Tables

	PREMIER DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Portishead Town	20	14	3	4	32	45
2	Brixham	21	13	4	4	22	43
3	Barnstaple Town	20	13	3	4	28	42
4	Clevedon Town	19	12	5	2	34	41
5	Street	22	12	5	5	11	41
6	Shepton Mallet	22	10	5	7	15	35
7	Buckland Athletic	20	10	4	6	28	34
8	Paulton Rovers	19	10	3	6	4	33
9	Ivybridge Town	20	9	5	6	12	32
10	Brislington	21	9	4	8	13	31
11	Nailsea & Tickenham	18	10	1	7	12	31
12	Wellington	21	10	0	11	-13	30
13	Bridgwater United	23	9	2	12	-13	29
14	Oldland Abbotonians	19	8	3	8	4	27
15	St Austell	21	8	2	11	-4	26
16	Saltash United	24	7	3	14	-14	24
17	Ilfracombe Town	23	6	4	13	-19	22
18	St Blazey	21	4	5	12	-24	17
19	Torpoint Athletic	22	5	1	16	-17	16
20	Welton Rovers	24	0	0	24	-111	0

	FIRST DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Hallen	24	17	5	2	34	56
2	Bitton	24	18	1	5	29	55
3	Calne Town	26	17	3	6	31	54
4	Bradford Town	22	16	3	3	41	51
5	Devizes Town	22	13	6	3	36	45
6	Sturminster Newton United	23	12	4	7	11	40
7	Longwell Green Sports	25	11	6	8	9	39
8	Cadbury Heath	27	12	3	12	0	39
9	Mendip Broadwalk	24	11	5	8	1	38
10	Wells City	21	11	3	7	22	36
11	Shirehampton	21	11	3	7	5	36
12	Bristol Telephones	23	10	5	8	15	35
13	Cribbs Reserves	24	11	2	11	2	35
14	Avonmouth	26	10	3	13	0	33
15	AEK Boco	25	9	4	12	-3	31
16	Radstock Town	24	8	4	12	-5	28
17	Hengrove Athletic	22	5	5	12	-12	20
18	Cheddar	25	5	4	16	-39	19
19	Warminster Town	23	4	6	13	-27	18
20	Odd Down	25	4	5	16	-29	17
21	Keynsham Town	26	3	5	18	-56	14
22	Gillingham Town	26	1	5	20	-65	8


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