

Latest Round-ups:

Midweek Action: On Tuesday evening, **Street** overcame an early deficit to beat **Paulton** and make it back-to-back wins to start their Premier Division campaign. The Cobblers managed to level affairs just before half-time courtesy of Callum Laird, with second half efforts from Josh Radford and Toby Stephens helping to complete the comeback. The other side to win two from two during the first week were **Bridgwater United,** with Josh Wadham's 76th minute penalty helping them edge to a 1-0 win at home to **Ilfracombe**. 1-0 was a popular result during the first midweek fixtures of the season, with Tom Rogers firing **Barnstaple** to victory over **Ivybridge**, while **Portishead** hung on to beat **Oldland** thanks to a far-post finish from Hamish Hurst. It was slightly more one-sided in the other games that night, including **Nailsea & Tickenham**'s 3-0 win at home to **Wellington**. A Charlie Saunders double was the main catalyst for the Swags, with Luke Osgood also on target to hand them their first three points this term. Home comforts also helped **Shepton Mallet**, for whom Josh Jenkins, Charlie Bateson and Jacob Sloggett all got on their scoresheet in their 3-0 triumph over fellow Somerset outfit **Clevedon.** Meanwhile down in Cornwall, Torpoint suffered a 3-0 loss at home to Brixham, who remain unbeaten thanks to goals from Kieran Parkin, Tom Mortimore and Charlie Johansen. There was also a Wednesday fixture between two Cornish sides, where **St Blazey** battled back form an opening day loss to beat **Saltash** 4-1. Goals at the end of the first half from Jacob Rowe and Ryan Downing put the Blaze in command, only for the visitors to hit back in the early stages of the second period. A Gary Hird effort restored the hosts' two goal advantage, before a late own goal completed the scoring.

Free-scoring **Avonmouth** were in fine form again on Tuesday evening, putting four past **Wells City** to rack up their second consecutive win. A relatively tight first half saw the hosts lead by a solitary goal, which came in the fourth minute via Josh Pearce, with Alfie Taylor then tucking home a spot kick to double their advantage shortly after the interval. Wells reduced the arrears with a goal of their own, but Avonmouth weren't to be deterred and pushed on to secure the 4-1 win thanks to a goalscoring double from debutant Evan Howes. Fellow new-boys **Calne** are also two-from-two after Josh Pike-Bright fired them to a 1-0 win over **Sturminster Newton**, while **Bristol Telephones** stormed to a 7-1 mauling of **Cheddar**. Archie Dark was the star of the show for the Phones, bagging a hat-trick and helping his side lay down an early season marker in their first away outing this term. **Bitton** are another side to have secured six points from two games, with Adey Harvey backing up his opening day double with another goal in their 2-1 win at home to **Longwell Green**. Over in Bath, **Shirehampton's** strong start to the season continued apace, with Tom Trimble, Anele Nkubee and Trystan Baker all finding the back of the net in their 3-2 win away at **Odd Down** *(pictured, right).*



There was also an away win for **Hallen**, with Cory Thomas-Baker scoring twice in their 3-0 defeat of **Keynsham**, while **Devizes** beat **Gillingham Town** 3-1 in front of a very healthy midweek crowd at Nursteed Road. The other winners on Tuesday night were **Mendip Broadwalk**, who struck late to beat **Cribbs Reserves** 2-1 in Bristol. Following an opening day draw, the hosts made a strong start in their first home game, going ahead in the 11th minute thanks to Dylan Whittle. The visitors fought their way back into the contest, and looked set to deny Mendip a first Western League win, but Elliot Moore had other ideas, beating the keeper with his 88th minute penalty to secure all three points at the death. 24 hours later, Matt Isaacs scored the only goal in **Cadbury Heath's** 1-0 win at home to **Boco**, while Warminster and Hengrove battled out a 1-1 draw in Wiltshire.



In the latest episode of the podcast, Clevedon Town manager, Alex White, joins the show to discuss their up-and-down start to the campaign, while setting out his targets the Seasiders. Ian also catches up with Bitton boss, Will Justin, who discusses their hard per-season, with an eye on gaining promotion back to the Premier Division.
George McCaffery also joins Ian to draw the Preliminary Round matches for this season's Les Phillips Cup.
https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/podcast-episode-2

First Division: **Calne Town** bagged their third win in a week on Saturday afternoon, storming home in the second half to defeat **Avonmouth** 5-3. Having fallen behind in the first couple of minutes to Zac Cheetham's opener, Calne hit back through Nat Bell to leave the game level at one apiece at the end of the first half. Nick Mills then struck on the hour mark to give the Lilywhites their first lead of the afternoon, and they didn't look back, scoring twice more in quick succession through Josh McGrory and Ackeem Stewart. Having moved further clear thanks to a Matt Capel goal, the away side conceded a couple of late goals to Josh Pearce and Charlie Aldom, but had done enough to hand Avonmouth their first loss of the campaign. The only other side remaining with a 100% winning record are **Bradford Town,** who claimed a 2-1 victory away at **Bristol Telephones**. A dream start saw the Bobcats surge ahead after only three minutes, with Jake Hiscocks firing home an excellent set-piece goal. The Phones hit back instantly however, with James Batchelor netting their leveller, but it was Bradford who secured maximum points thanks to Callum Demkiv's winning strike. In another tight contest, **Radstock** struck deep into stoppage time to grab a 3-2 win over new-boys **Mendip Broadwalk**. A wild end to the first half saw Radstock go ahead thanks to a Tom Ellis-Ricketts volley, before the visitors responded from the penalty spot through Elliot Moore. That wasn't the end of the scoring however, and with their next attack, Town were awarded a penalty of their own which was also converted by Jed Parfitt to make it 2-1 at the interval. The late drama then kicked in, with Mendip looking like they had done enough to secure a share of the points when Rhys Hickery forced the ball home after a goalmouth scramble. Radstock weren't to be denied however, and after six minutes of added time, Ellis McDonald was the right man in the right place and managed to beat the visiting keeper to settle a thrilling contest. There was also late drama at Barnets Field, where **Shirehampton's** winning start was ended by ten-man **Sturminster Newton**. Having forged ahead courtesy of Louis Snailham's 20th minute goal, Shirehampton were pegged back in the final couple of moments when Nick Hewlett headed the hosts to a well-earned point. **Devizes** have made a strong return to life in the Western League, making it seven points from their first three games thanks to a 3-1 win away at the previously unbeaten **Bitton**. A first minute goal from Jamie Walters set Town on their way, before Lewis Russell's free kick drew the hosts level during a sin-bin period for Devizes. It remained level for the majority of the second half, but Devizes finished the stronger, scoring twice in the closing stages through Jack Baker and Dan Skinner.

Over in Somerset, **Keynsham** came out on top against **Cheddar** to end their winless start to the campaign. An early Victor Carvalho strike set the K's on their way, with Kaylen Edwards then tapping into an empty net to double their advantage. Dean Chrisostomou had cut Town's lead in half, but Carvalho was on hand right at the beginning of the second half to make it 3-1. That was how it remained until the final few minutes, when Lewis Chappell struck to give Cheddar hope, but they couldn't find an equaliser and have just one point to show after three games. **Wells City** finally bagged their first win of the campaign, with Tyson Pollard scoring twice in their 5-0 defeat of **Cribbs Reserves**, while **Hallen** remain unbeaten after goals either side of the break from Scott Cousins and Cory Thomas-Barker led them to a 2-0 win at **Cadbury Heath**. Another side to prevail by a two-goal margin were **Longwell Green**, with second half efforts from Finley Burnell and Zac Tucker helping them see off **Warminster** *(pictured, left).* Also securing their first victory this term was **Hengrove**, with a strong showing seeing them beat **Boco** 3-1. Antonio Nurse and Pete Sheppard were among the scorers for Hengrove, with the away side claiming a late consolation from the penalty spot courtesy of Luke Bryan. Both **Gillingham** and **Odd Down** secured their first points after drawing one apiece at Woodwater Lane, with Town's Joe Aikhuele cancelling out an early Francois Allen strike.



FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round: As is always the way, it was a mixed bag of results in the opening round of FA Cup action, with a few Western League sides falling at the way-side. Of those moving on to the next round, **Nailsea & Tickenham** were among the most impressive, winning 2-1 at **Cinderford**. Goals from Charlie Saunders and Luke Osgood were enough for the Swags, who conceded a late penalty while being reduced to ten men. **Paulton** were another side to progress, with Kye Simpson and Kitan Jaiyeoba scoring early goals in their 2-1 win over **Bashley**, while **Shepton Mallet** defeated **Horndean** thanks to a solitary goal from Charlie Bateson. Sunday's big win for **Clevedon** put a perfect cap on the weekend, with Harrison Kyte netting twice in their 4-1 defeat of **Berks County**. Early goals from Oscar Bridgman and Kyte put Town in command early, before the hosts pulled a goal back late in the first half through Luke Hayden. Kyte then struck again on the stroke of half-time to restore the two-goal advantage, with Glen Hayer heading home the fourth after half-time.

There was also a trio of all-Western League clashes, with **Brixham** coming out on top against **Saltash** thanks to goals either side of the interval from James Moxon and Charlie Johansen. A 19th minute penalty from Miles Quick helped **Wellington** edge past **Buckland** in a hard-fought contest, while a strong late showing from **Ivybridge** saw them win 3-1 at **St Blazey**. Having gone ahead through Connor Rush, Town were egged back early in the second half when Jacob Rowe turned home a Will Tinsley cross. Ivybridge then surged home in the final ten minutes, with new signing Rory Busby putting them back in front, before Sean Thomson chipped the home keeper to cap an impressive performance.

The only side who will face a midweek replay after **Barnstaple**, after they held higher-ranked opposition in **Helston** to a thrilling 3-3 draw. Having fallen two goals behind, Town produced an incredible ten-minute spell midway through the second half which began when Jake Williams netted to get Barum back into the game. Ryan Keates then struck two minutes later to draw the sides level, with an own-goal then completely turning the game on its head. Helston were able to find a second wind, claiming a late equaliser, meaning the sides will meet again in Cornwall on Tuesday evening. Among those to have their run ended at the first hurdle, **Bridgwater** were edged out by **Bideford,** while former Western League outfit **Falmouth** thumped **Torpoint** 5-0 thanks to four goals from Oscar Massey. **Oldland** produced a strong showing at home to **Amersham,** leading 2-1 at the interval before falling to a 4-2 defeat, with **Street** also putting up a good fight, only going down to a 1-0 loss at **Exmouth** despite finishing the game with nine men.

Latest Results

Tuesday 30th July 2024

Premier Division

Barnstaple Town	1-0	Ivybridge Town
Bridgwater United	1-0	Ilfracombe Town
Nailsea & Tickenham	3-0	Wellington
Oldland Abbotonians	0-1	Portishead Town
Shepton Mallet	3-0	Clevedon Town
Street	3-1	Paulton Rovers
Torpoint Athletic	0-3	Brixham

First Division

Avonmouth	4-1	Wells City
Bitton	2-1	Longwell Green Sports
Calne Town	1-0	Sturminster Newton United
Cheddar	1-7	Bristol Telephones
Devizes Town	3-1	Gillingham Town
Keynsham Town	0-3	Hallen
Mendip Broadwalk	2-1	Cribbs Reserves
Odd Down	2-3	Shirehampton

Wednesday 31st July 2024

Premier Division

St Blazey	4-1	Saltash United

First Division

Cadbury Heath	1-0	AEK Boco
Warminster Town	1-1	Hengrove Athletic

Saturday 3rd August 2024

First Division

Avonmouth	3-5	Calne Town
Bitton	1-3	Devizes Town
Bristol Telephones	1-2	Bradford Town
Cadbury Heath	0-2	Hallen
Cheddar	2-3	Keynsham Town
Gillingham Town	1-1	Odd Down
Hengrove Athletic	3-1	AEK Boco
Longwell Green Sports	2-0	Warminster Town
Radstock Town	3-2	Mendip Broadwalk
Sturminster Newton United	1-1	Shirehampton
Wells City	5-0	Cribbs Reserves

FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round

Barnstaple Town	3-3	Helston Athletic
Bideford	1-0	**Bridgwater United**
Brislington	0-2	Wallingford & Crowmarsh
Brixham	2-0	**Saltash United**
Cinderford Town	1-2	**Nailsea & Tickenham**
Exmouth Town	1-0	**Street**
Falmouth Town	5-0	**Torpoint Athletic**
Ilfracombe Town	0-2	Tavistock
Melksham Town	3-0	**Welton Rovers**
Oldland Abbotonians	2-4	Amersham
Paulton Rovers	2-1	Bashley
Portishead Town	0-1	Easington Sports
Shepton Mallet	1-0	Horndean
St Blazey	1-3	**Ivybridge Town**
Wellington	1-0	**Buckland Athletic**
Willand Rovers	2-0	**St Austell**

Sunday 4th August 2024

FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round

Berks County FC	1-4	**Clevedon Town**





Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 6th August 2024

Premier Division

Welton Rovers	vs	Brislington	19:30KO

First Division

Odd Down	vs	Cadbury Heath	19:45KO

FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Replay

Helston Athletic	vs	**Barnstaple Town**	19:45KO

Wednesday 7th August 2024

First Division

Cribbs Reserves	vs	Avonmouth	19:45KO
Shirehampton	vs	Bristol Telephones	19:45KO

Saturday 10th August 2024 (3pm Kick-off unless noted otherwise)

Premier Division

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

First Division

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

