

Latest Round-ups:

Cup Action: The weather allowed for a pair of midweek Les Phillips Cup clashes to take place, with higher ranked Premier Division sides sneaking through to the last eight. At **Hengrove,** one goal was all that separated the sides in **Portishead**'s favour, with leading marksman Ethan Feltham scoring just before half time. In a game which was tight throughout, Feltham reacted quickest after teammate Callum Dunn saw his effort on goal deflected, firing home to secure their passage through to the quarter-finals. Also moving on are **Street** who edged past **Devizes** by three goals to two at Nursteed Road. Early efforts from Harry Foster and Callum Laird gave the Cobblers a strong footing, helping them move into a 2-1 half-time lead. Joel Jackson then wrapped things up in the closing stages, helping Street hold off a late charge from their hosts who made a strong return following some recent postponements.

Saturday then saw a trio of FA Vase contests, but none of the Western League sides were able to join Portishead in the fourth round. For **Brixham**, a tough afternoon saw them fall to a 4-0 defeat at **AFC Stoneham**, with Duarte Martins scoring two first half goals for the home side. **Wells City** suffered a tight 1-0 loss away at **Hartpury University**, while **Clevedon** faced penalty heartbreak in their away clash with **Andover New Street**. Having fallen behind early on, the Seasiders finished the game on top and drew level ten minutes from time through Freddie King. Town's Elliot Nicholson then had a header ruled out in stoppage time for offside, and that proved vital, with Andover prevailing 4-2 on spot kicks.

Premier Division: With Brixham concentrating on their cup tie, **Portishead** moved within a point of top spot following a dominant 5-1 win at home to **Torpoint**. Player of the Match, Owen Punselie, was first to find the back of the net, making no mistake after being played through to make it 1-0 after half an hour. Town continued to push forward in the remaining moments of the first half, with Kyle Egan's penalty and another Punselie strike putting them three up at the interval. Ethan Feltham then scored for the fourth consecutive game to put further distance between the sides, with Jay Murray wrapping up the hosts scoring prior to a late consolation from the Cornishmen. **Barnstaple** dropped down into third spot despite twice coming from behind to draw 2-2 with **Paulton** at Mill Road. Just one goal separated the sides after the opening 45 minutes, with Kye Simpson pouncing on a loose ball to fire Rovers ahead. An own goal then got Barnstaple back on level terms, but that didn't last for long, with Milo Murgatroyd making it 2-1 to the visitors less than two minutes later. That scoreline remained until injury time, with Barnstaple grabbing a dramatic late leveller courtesy of Callum Deemer.



At the opposite end of the table, St Austell were among the early season strugglers to secure maximum points on Saturday afternoon thanks to a 1-0 win at Wellington *(pictured in action, right).* Despite being reduced to ten men during a goalless opening half, the Cornish visitors battled strongly and secured an impressive away victory thanks to a thumping header from Adam Carter just as the game passed the hour mark. St Blazey ended their six-match winless run with a strong comeback victory at home to Ilfracombe, eventually prevailing by four goals to one. Having fallen behind in the 15th minute, the home side drew level through Tom Hensman, before then completing the turnaround at the end of the first half through Jacob Rowe. The second half then belonged exclusively to Rowe, and having already netted to make it 3-1, he then slotted home a late penalty to complete his hat-trick and cap a near-perfect individual, and team performance. Saltash's Rikki Sheppard went one better than Rowe, scoring all four of his sides goals in their 4-0 win at bottom side Welton. Sheppard struck twice in either half to lead the Ashes to victory, with the hope for them that after a near-month of inactivity, that this result can propel them to a sustained period of strong showings over the busy festive period. The result of the afternoon may well have belonged to Oldland Abbotonians who stormed out of the blocks on their way to securing a 3-2 win away at Buckland. A stunning start for the away side saw them score with their first two attacks on goal, to lead 2-0 within four minutes of the opening kickoff. Buckland slowly got themselves back into the contest, drawing level thanks to goals from usual suspects Ryan Bush and Ryan Richards, but it was the Abbots who took home the three points with both Charlie Davis and Harry Haughton on target for the visitors. Elsewhere, Callum Laird's early second half strike led Street to a 1-0 win at home to Nailsea & Tickenham, while Ivybridge hit back just before the break to grab a 1-1 draw at Shepton Mallet who had led courtesy of an early Charlie Bateson penalty. There was also a 1-1 draw at Fairfax Park between mid-table duo Bridgwater and Brislington. An own goal forced by Bridgwater's Fin Koppa had put the home side ahead, but they were pegged back shortly after with Jude McCarthy making it one apiece in the 39th minute.

First Division: Calne Town became the second side to reach the 50-point mark this season after coming out on top in an eight-goal thriller away at Cadbury Heath. The sides shared four goals during an entertaining opening half, with Ackeem Stewart and Josh Bright twice putting Town in front, only for the Heath to hit back through in-form strike duo Josh Williams and Hassan Hussein. Calne then started to pull away when Sam Francis and Bright struck in quick succession to make it 4-2, before Williams scored a penalty ten minutes from time to keep the game in the balance. Fortunately for the Lilywhites, it was they who scored the eighth and final goal of the game, with Tom Dowell making it 5-3 late in the piece to bring the curtain down on a thrilling back-and-forth contest.

The game at Springfield wasn't the highest scoring of the afternoon however, with that honour going to the **Avonmouth-Keynsham** contest, where home striker Josh Pearce made a remarkable start to the game. Having already scored two early goals, Pearce completed his hat-trick after just 12 minutes, scoring shortly after Keynsham themselves had netted during a frantic opening to the game. The unbelievable start showed no signs of slowing, and Pearce made it 4-1 after 14 minutes thanks to a third Cody Winkler, with goal number five for Pearce and Avonmouth taking only 25 minutes to arrive. Incredibly, Pearce was unable to add to his tally during the remainder of the contest, but after seeing their four-goal lead cut in half, the hosts struck twice more during the closing stages through Ty Fudgell and Alfie Taylor to eventually prevail 7-3. Sacha Tong was on target again for **Bitton**, adding to goals from Mickey Parsons and Ash McGrane in their 3-0 win at **Bristol Telephones**, while George Coleman and Adam Hall were the scoring heroes during **Sturminster Newton's** 2-0 victory away at **Cribbs Reserves**. There was also a 2-0 win for **Shirehampton** at **Warminster** thanks to goals in either half from Alfie Marchant, while **Mendip Broadwalk** snuck past **Longwell Green** thanks to a 43rd minute effort from Jacob O'Donnell. In the battle between fourth and fifth, **Devizes Town's** Kieron Gleed scored a quickfire brace in the final 15 minutes to help salvage a 2-2 draw at home to **Bradford Town.** With the Bobcats leading 2-0 courtesy of goals at either end of the first half from Dan Demkiv and Raphael Oppong, Devizes gave themselves a glimmer of hope when Gleed converted from a corner in the 75th minute. Little over three minutes later, Gleed was on target again to make it two apiece, helping his side grab a share of the spoils. There was also a late leveller from **Radstock's** Bartek Grzywa in their 1-1 draw with **Hengrove,** while in Bath, Treyvond Anderson and James Hare scored in either half of **Odd Down's** 2-0 win at home to **Gillingham** *(pictured, left).* Fellow bottom-four side **Cheddar** also registered a rare victory, dominating the opening half of their 3-1 defeat of **AEK Boco**. A trio of goals from Toby Hucker, Travis Yule-Turner and Jack Busby between minutes 25 and 40 powered the Cheesemen to victory, with Ollie Williams' late consolation all the visitors had to show for their afternoon at Bowdens Park.



On the latest podcast, Portishead Town Chairman, Adrian Green, celebrates his clubs historic FA Vase run, while also discussing the new 4G surface at Bristol Road. Ian also catches up with Harry Foster of Street, who promotes their Walk to the Mallet charity fundraiser and explains why we should all #bemorelikeolivia
https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/podcast-episode-20



Latest Results

Tuesday 10th December 2024

Les Phillips Cup

Devizes Town	2-3	Street
Hengrove Athletic	0-1	Portishead Town

Saturday 14th December 2024

FA Vase Third Round

AFC Stoneham	4-0	**Brixham**
Andover New Street	1-1 (4-2 Pens)	**Clevedon Town**
Hartpury University	1-0	**Wells City**

Premier Division

Barnstaple Town	2-2	Paulton Rovers
Bridgwater United	1-1	Brislington
Buckland Athletic	2-3	Oldland Abbotonians
Portishead Town	5-1	Torpoint Athletic
Shepton Mallet	1-1	Ivybridge Town
St Blazey	4-1	Ilfracombe Town
Street	1-0	Nailsea & Tickenham
Wellington	0-1	St Austell
Welton Rovers	0-4	Saltash United

First Division

Avonmouth	7-3	Keynsham Town
Bristol Telephones	0-3	Bitton
Cadbury Heath	3-5	Calne Town
Cheddar	3-1	AEK Boco
Cribbs Reserves	0-2	Sturminster Newton United
Devizes Town	2-2	Bradford Town
Mendip Broadwalk	1-0	Longwell Green Sports
Odd Down	2-0	Gillingham Town
Radstock Town	1-1	Hengrove Athletic
Warminster Town	0-2	Shirehampton



Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 17th December 2024

First Division

Bitton	vs	Keynsham Town	19:30KO
Gillingham Town	vs	Shirehampton	19:30KO
Radstock Town	vs	Sturminster Newton United	19:45KO

Les Phillips Cup

Brislington	vs	Clevedon Town	19:45KO

Wednesday 18th December 2024

First Division

Cadbury Heath	vs	Hengrove Athletic	19:30KO

Friday 20th December 2024

First Division

Shirehampton	vs	Hallen	19:45KO

Saturday 21st December 2024 (3pm Kick-off unless noted otherwise)

Premier Division

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

First Division

Bradford Town	vs	Odd Down
Calne Town	vs	Warminster Town
Cheddar	vs	Gillingham Town
Devizes Town	vs	Cadbury Heath
Hengrove Athletic	vs	Bristol Telephones
Keynsham Town	vs	Radstock Town
Longwell Green	vs	Cribbs Reserves
Sturminster Newton	vs	Avonmouth
Wells City	vs	Bitton

Leading Goalscorers

Premier Division

Freddie King (Clevedon) – 18
Lucas Vowles (Clevedon) – 15
Ryan Bush (Buckland) – 15
Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 13
Jack Taylor (Bridgwater) - 12
Josh Parry (Barnstaple) – 11

First Division

Nathan Hall (Bitton) – 17
Sacha Tong (Bitton) – 17
Raphael Oppong (Bradford) – 15
Elliot Gardner (Hallen) – 13
Rhys Hickery (Mendip) -13
Luke Hopper (Devizes) – 13
Jack Guthrie (Cribbs Reserves) – 12

League Tables

	PREMIER DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Brixham	20	13	4	3	24	43
2	Portishead Town	19	13	3	4	31	42
3	Barnstaple Town	20	13	3	4	28	42
4	Clevedon Town	18	11	5	2	31	38
5	Street	21	11	5	5	10	38
6	Shepton Mallet	21	10	5	6	16	35
7	Buckland Athletic	19	10	4	5	29	34
8	Brislington	21	9	4	8	13	31
9	Paulton Rovers	18	9	3	6	3	30
10	Wellington	20	10	0	10	-11	30
11	Ivybridge Town	19	8	5	6	2	29
12	Bridgwater United	22	9	2	11	-9	29
13	Nailsea & Tickenham	16	9	1	6	9	28
14	Oldland Abbotonians	19	8	3	8	4	27
15	Saltash United	23	7	3	13	-13	24
16	St Austell	20	7	2	11	-6	23
17	Ilfracombe Town	23	6	4	13	-19	22
18	St Blazey	20	4	5	11	-21	17
19	Torpoint Athletic	21	4	1	16	-19	13
20	Welton Rovers	23	0	0	23	-101	0

	FIRST DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Hallen	23	16	5	2	31	53
2	Calne Town	25	16	3	6	25	51
3	Bitton	22	16	1	5	25	49
4	Bradford Town	21	15	3	3	40	48
5	Devizes Town	21	12	6	3	35	42
6	Longwell Green Sports	24	11	6	7	10	39
7	Mendip Broadwalk	24	11	5	8	1	38
8	Wells City	20	11	3	6	25	36
9	Cadbury Heath	25	11	3	11	-1	36
10	Bristol Telephones	23	10	5	8	15	35
11	Shirehampton	19	11	2	6	8	35
12	Sturminster Newton United	21	10	4	7	8	34
13	Avonmouth	25	10	3	12	2	33
14	Cribbs Reserves	23	10	2	11	1	32
15	AEK Boco	25	9	4	12	-3	31
16	Radstock Town	22	7	4	11	-7	25
17	Hengrove Athletic	21	5	5	11	-10	20
18	Warminster Town	22	4	6	12	-21	18
19	Cheddar	24	5	3	16	-39	18
20	Odd Down	24	4	5	15	-28	17
21	Keynsham Town	24	3	5	16	-52	14
22	Gillingham Town	24	1	3	20	-65	6


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