

Latest Round-ups:

Cup Games: The majority of first round ties in the Les Phillips Cup were completed over two nights, with tight matches and plenty of penalty drama. On Tuesday, **Devizes** beat Premier Division opponents **Bridgwater** 2-0 at Nursteed Road in one of the big surprises. Goals from Declan McStavick and Keiron Gleed proved to be enough for the home side who are enjoying plenty of knockout cup success this season. The biggest shock of the round potentially occurred at **Cheddar**, where the home side came from behind to defeat **Ilfracombe** 2-1. The visitors aren't having the best of it themselves, but looked to be in reaching distance of the second round thanks to a goal early in the second half from Tom Chastey. The Cheesemen had different ideas however, and having netted twice in their victory at the weekend, Jamie Moss repeated the trick, scoring his second double of the week to power the hosts through to victory. **Brislington** also pulled off a comeback of their own, overturning a half-time deficit to beat **Shirehampton** 2-1. After Josh Jenkins had put the visitors ahead, Bris drew level in the 65th minute through Dean Griffiths, with the same man then popping up in stoppage time to complete the dramatic turnaround. Down in Cornwall, goals from Dan Wilson and Callum Deemer led **Barnstaple** to a 2-0 win at **Saltash**, while **Wellington** went one better, with a 3-0 defeat of **Gillingham** coming thanks to efforts from Nathan Byrne, Sam Pashen and Jake Mawford. **Shepton Mallet** utilised their aerial prowess, scoring from a string of corners to beat **Paulton** 4-2 in an entertaining high-scoring encounter *(pictured below, courtesy of Jenny Short).*



After Charlie Bateson had put Mallet in front after seven minutes, Paulton built their way back into the game and found themselves leading 2-1 early in the second half thanks to a Kye Simpson double. A trio of corners then all ended up with Shepton scoring during the final half hour, with Paul Braithwaite the first to benefit with a headed effort to make it 2-2. Joel Sisson was next to score, making it 3-2 in the 72nd minute, with the final goal of the contest coming in unfortunate circumstances when the visiting keeper was credited with an own goal following another wicked set piece late on. **Street** were forced to battle back in their home tie with **Warminster**, eventually running out 3-1 winners despite Braden Humphreys heading Town into a fifth minute lead. Skipper Jake Horsey got the Cobblers back on level terms late in the first half, with Harry Foster and Josh Radford completing the comeback during a nervy final 20 minutes.

Brixham may be enjoying a long winning run in the league, but they didn't have it all their own way in the cup against St Blazey, holding off their visitors to eventually prevail by three goals to two. Having gone ahead through Tom Mortimore in just the third minute, Brixham were pegged back midway through the opening period by Blaze forward Alfie Fothergill. Kieran Parkin then took over the contest, scoring twice in quick succession to make it 3-1 at the interval, with a Jacob Rowe goal threatening to spark a second half fightback from the Cornish outfit. Oldland progressed to the second round after beating Bitton on penalties at the end of a pulsating 2-2 draw. Following a goalless opening half, the game shot to life after the break, with Lewis Russell firing Bitton ahead early on. Reece Ferguson then drew the Abbots level on the hour mark, with substitute Brandon Oputeri then making it 2-1 to the hosts after coming on 20 minutes from time. Bitton then staged a fightback of their own, levelling in the closing stages through Cody Vile, but it was Oldland who held their nerve on spot kicks, scoring with five of their six attempts to complete the win. The other shootout on Tuesday saw St Austell knock out hosts Torpoint after their game had also ended two apiece. Torpoint had twice gone ahead during the opening 45 minutes through Luke Cloke and Mason Elliott, but St Austell responded well on each occasion, with Neil Slateford and Henry Wilson twice levelling affairs. There was then a stalemate for the entirety of the second half, with the game decided on penalties and going in St Austell's favour thanks to a 4-3 shootout scoreline.

In the pick of Wednesday's games, Radstock completed a 3-2 win away at Cadbury Heath to reach the second round. Having fallen behind to Hassan Hussein's 7th minute opener, Ben Wickens was on hand to draw the Miners level after quarter of an hour with a driven finish into the bottom corner. A Jacob Bird penalty, which he both won and converted, made it 2-1, with Jed Parfitt then extending Radstock's advantage further late in the first half thanks to a close range finish. The Heath got back into the game three minutes after half-time through Brandon Dack, but despite piling on the pressure they were unable to find the all-important equaliser and fell to defeat. Portishead also progressed, after first half goals from Tom Llewellyn and Owen Punselie led them to a 2-0 win over Cribbs Reserves. The remaining two games ended with penalty shootout's, including at Clevedon where they survived a scare to knock out Boco. Having gone in front midway through the second half courtesy of Joe Teall, Clevedon saw their lead disappear in the closing stages following a penalty from Boco strike Romiah Nevers. Home keeper James Dunn then excelled during the shootout, saving two Boco penalties to help his side claim a 4-3 penalty victory. Buckland were the other team to reach the next round on spot kicks after defeating Ivybridge. Former Ivies frontman Luke Forward had scored for Buckland early in the second half to make it one apiece, with the home side then missing three of their four penalties to allow their opponents to progress.

Then on Saturday afternoon, there was a trio of First Round contests in the FA Vase involving Western League outfits. The lone winner was Portishead who powered to a 3-0 victory at home to Fleetlands. After going ahead midway through the first half thanks a Mitch Osmond strike, Town then made it 2-0 shortly after the break through Kyle Egan. A late third from Luke Attwell then wrapped things up, with Portishead reaching the second round for the first time in their history. Bitton were on the wrong side of a 3-0 defeat, conceding early on before falling to Fareham Town in Hampshire. It was a slightly different story for Ivybridge who went ahead early before suffering a 3-1 defeat at Tadley Calleva. A sixth minute penalty from Rio Daly gave the Ivies a dream start, but it was Tadley who progressed thanks to a double from Alex Miller.

Premier Division: It was a tough afternoon for those sides residing in the top few position in the league, with the top four all falling to win on Saturday afternoon. For leaders **Brixham**, they suffered a second league defeat of the campaign, going ahead early before losing 3-2 at **Paulton**. The Devonians led as early as the 18th minute, but soon found themselves level when Milo Murgatroyd struck for the home side. The game then turned in Paulton's favour during a spell either side of the half-time break, with Will Hailston striking twice to establish a two-goal advantage. Brixham did reduce the arrears on the hour mark, but that was as good as it got for them and they saw their nine-match winning run in the league come to an abrupt halt. Second met third at the Hand Stadium, and they couldn't be split, with **Street** twice coming from behind to secure a 2-2 draw away at **Clevedon**. The Seasiders enjoyed the best of the opening half, and found themselves leading by a goal to nil with recent signing Lucas Vowles striking in the 28th minute. The Cobblers regrouped at the interval, and got themselves back on level terms just prior to the hour mark with Ross McLain making it one apiece. Another Vowles goal then instantly restored Clevedon's advantage, but they were pegged back once again with McLain's replacement Callum Laird lashing home after 65 minutes. The other member of the top four unable to add to their points tally were **Barnstaple**, with an early goal seeing them fall to a 1-0 loss at **Shepton Mallet**. The home side had lost back-to-back league games coming into this one, but they made a strong start with Paul Braithwaite's free header edging them in front early on. Shepton's early promise threatened to derail when Cam Allen was given a red card in just the 15th minute, but they battled on resolutely with ten men to secure a hard-fought victory. The biggest win of the afternoon belonged to **Nailsea & Tickenham**, with the returning Joe Berry completing a hat-trick in their 7-1 defeat of bottom-side **Welton**. Having re-joined the club earlier in the week, Berry took no time at all in making his mark, scoring twice inside the opening five minutes to put the Swags in control early on. Rovers then did then pull a goal back after half an hour, but that only delayed the inevitable with Berry scoring again late in the first half to complete his treble. Another goal in first half stoppage time from Jake White made it 4-1 at the break, before Andy Head, Oscar Collins and Seb Scott added to the victory margin during the second 45 minutes. The remaining five fixtures were all much tighter affairs, including at **Wellington**, where the home side edged their way to a 1-0 win over **Oldland Abbotonians**. Recent improvements from Welly look to be continuing, and they added another three points to their tally thanks to a 69th minute penalty from Sam Towler. 1-0 was also the result at Blaise Park, where the 19th placed hosts pulled off one of the shocks of the month by beating **Buckland**. It was a goal on the quarter hour which proved to be enough for **St Blazey**, with George Newton smashing home to hand them their first win since last August, and just their third of the entire campaign. At The Mill, Jamie Hearsey was **Ilfracombe's** match-winner, scoring both of their goals in a tight 2-1 victory over **Torpoint**. After breaking the deadlock in the 20th minute, Hearsey netted again on the half hour to put the visitors two-up. Torpoint's Luke Cloke then scored from close range to reduce the deficit after 58 minutes, but that was as good as it got for them, and Ilfracombe hung on despite ending the game with nine men.



St Austell's recent upturn in form continued at home to Brislington, with a strong second half leading them to a 2-1 win at Poltair Park. Neither side had anything to show from the opening 45 minutes, but the home side came out firing after the interval with Ryan Downing scoring inside 60 seconds of the restart. Liam Eddy then scored a second for the home side, and that proved to be a crucial strike, after Brislington pulled a goal back from the spot ten minutes from time. Saltash United rebounded well from a tough couple of weeks, starting both halves on fire to secure a 2-1 win at Bridgwater. Kieran O'Melia was the difference between the two sides on Saturday afternoon, and he couldn't have made a better start to the game, scoring almost directly from the opening kickoff to put the Ashes in front. The Somerset side then got themselves back on level terms courtesy of a Liam Winter free-kick, but in a repeat of the first half, O'Melia scored right at the beginning of the second period to make it 2-1, and that was how it remained to bring an end to Saltash's four-match winless run.

First Division: Unlike the Premier Division, many of the top sides chasing promotion from the First enjoyed success on Saturday afternoon, with the top three all securing victory. First placed Hallen relied on a tenth minute effort from leading scorer Elliot Gardner to see off Cheddar, with his 11th league goal extending their unbeaten home start. Calne also came out on top of their home clash with Shirehampton, with a quickfire double from Nat Bell and Ackeem Stewart giving them a 2-0 win. The most one-sided game of the day took place at Keynsham, with in-form striker Raphael Oppong completing a hat-trick in Bradford's thumping 8-0 victory. After heading the Bobcats ahead early on, Oppong then scored again towards the end of the first half, sandwiching an effort from teammate Dan Demkiv. Matty Morris became the third Bradford player to head home, making it 4-0, before Jack Witcombe added a fifth from the penalty spot. Oppong then scored his hat-trick goal 15 minutes from time, with the Demkiv brothers, Callum and Dan adding some more gloss to the scoreline during the closing stages.

Bristol Telephones leapfrogged opponents Avonmouth up into 11th spot after handing them a 3-0 defeat on Friday night. Having lost their other three fixtures this month, the Phones dominated under the lights with goals from Stefan Lee, Leon Britton and Archie Dark leading them to the impressive victory. In another mid-table battle on Saturday afternoon, Sturminster Newton enjoyed their highest-scoring outing of the season, beating Devizes 4-1 thanks to four different goalscorers. Having already lost twice to the same opponent in recent months, United got some semblance of revenge, with Aaron Lane-Leney, Will Guppy, Adam Hall and Elliot Bevis all finding the back of the net. Hengrove also enjoyed a big win, with Pete Sheppard's brace helping fire them to a 6-1 victory away at Gillingham. Brad Skidmore followed up his goal in the reverse fixture with another on Saturday, alongside teammates Rohan Hartrey, Oscar Sullivan and James Horrocks who completed the scoring. Another side to win away from home was Cribbs Reserves, who struck three times in the final half hour to defeat Cadbury Heath. In what was a tight contest for much of the afternoon, Cribbs duo Jack Guthrie and Andy Forward scored in quick succession to put them two up, with Tom Headford adding the finishing touches in stoppage time. Mendip Broadwalk also did all their heavy-lifting during the second half, with Elliot Moore and Dylan Whittle each scoring in their side's 2-0 win over Wells City. Elsewhere, there was a 3-0 win for Boco over Radstock thanks to goals from Ben Cullen, Joe Carter and Romiah Nevers, while Longwell Green came from behind to win 4-2 at Odd Down. After Jack Baber had cancelled out the Raphael Waugh's opener, Longwell Green's Zac Tucker stepped up to score twice after the break to lead the away side to a win which helped them rise to fifth.

Latest Results

Tuesday 22nd October 2024

Les Phillips Cup – First Round

Brislington	2-1	Shirehampton
Brixham	3-2	St Blazey
Cheddar	2-1	Ilfracombe Town
Devizes Town	2-0	Bridgwater United
Gillingham Town	0-3	Wellington
Oldland Abbotonians	2-2 (5-4 pens)	Bitton
Saltash United	0-2	Barnstaple Town
Shepton Mallet	4-2	Paulton Rovers
Street	3-1	Warminster Town
Torpoint Athletic	2-2 (3-4 pens)	AFC St Austell

Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Les Phillips Cup – First Round

Cadbury Heath	2-3	Radstock Town
Clevedon Town	1-1 (4-3 pens)	AEK Boco
Ivybridge Town	1-1 (1-3 pens)	Buckland Athletic
Portishead Town	2-0	Cribbs Reserves

Friday 25th October 2024

First Division

Bristol Telephones	3-0	Avonmouth

Saturday 26th October 2024

Premier Division

AFC St Austell	2-1	Brislington
Bridgwater United	1-2	Saltash United
Clevedon Town	2-2	Street
Nailsea & Tickenham	7-1	Welton Rovers
Paulton Rovers	3-2	Brixham
Shepton Mallet	1-0	Barnstaple Town
St Blazey	1-0	Buckland Athletic
Torpoint Athletic	1-2	Ilfracombe Town
Wellington	1-0	Oldland Abbotonians

First Division

AEK Boco	3-0	Radstock Town
Cadbury Heath	0-3	Cribbs Reserves
Calne Town	2-0	Shirehampton
Gillingham Town	1-6	Hengrove Athletic
Hallen	1-0	Cheddar
Keynsham Town	0-8	Bradford Town
Mendip Broadwalk	2-0	Wells City
Odd Down	2-4	Longwell Green Sports
Sturminster Newton	4-1	Devizes Town

FA Vase – First Round

Fareham Town	3-0	**Bitton**
Portishead Town	3-0	Fleetlands
Tadley Calleva	3-1	**Ivybridge Town**

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 29th October 2024

Premier Division

Portishead Town	vs	Oldland Abbotonians	19:30KO

First Division

Bitton	vs	Calne Town	19:30KO
Bradford Town	vs	Longwell Green Sports	19:30KO
Cheddar	vs	Devizes Town	19:45KO
Radstock Town	vs	Warminster Town	19:45KO

Les Phillips Cup – First Round

Hengrove Athletic	vs	Nailsea & Tickenham	19:30KO
Odd Down	vs	Wells City	19:45KO

Friday 1st November 2024

First Division

Cheddar	vs	Warminster Town	19:45KO

Saturday 2nd November 2024 (3pm Kick-off unless noted otherwise)

Premier Division

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

First Division

Bitton	vs	Hengrove Athletic
Bradford Town	vs	Sturminster Newton United
Devizes Town	vs	Avonmouth
Hallen	vs	Cadbury Heath
Longwell Green	vs	Gillingham Town
Odd Down	vs	Calne Town
Radstock Town	vs	Bristol Telephones
Shirehampton	vs	AEK Boco
Wells City	vs	Keynsham Town

On the latest episode of the podcast, Oldland Abbotonians boss, Craig Laird, pays tribute to the work done by his club off the pitch which have helped to fuel their lofty ambitions. Ian also catches up with Avonmouth manager, Tom Morgan, who talks about getting their players ready for Western League football, but without compromising their attacking front-footed style of play.
https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/podcast-episode-13



League Tables

	PREMIER DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Brixham	16	10	4	2	19	34
2	Clevedon Town	14	9	4	1	27	31
3	Street	16	8	5	3	7	29
4	Barnstaple Town	14	9	1	4	21	28
5	Nailsea & Tickenham	14	9	1	4	13	28
6	Buckland Athletic	13	8	3	2	26	27
7	Shepton Mallet	16	8	3	5	11	27
8	Ivybridge Town	16	8	3	5	5	27
9	Portishead Town	13	8	2	3	14	26
10	Brislington	15	7	1	7	13	22
11	Paulton Rovers	14	7	1	6	-1	22
12	Bridgwater United	17	7	1	9	-11	22
13	Saltash United	19	6	3	10	-12	21
14	Wellington	15	7	0	8	-12	21
15	Oldland Abbotonians	14	5	2	7	2	17
16	AFC St Austell	17	5	2	10	-8	17
17	Ilfracombe Town	17	4	3	10	-14	15
18	Torpoint Athletic	16	4	0	12	-11	12
19	St Blazey	14	3	3	8	-16	12
20	Welton Rovers	16	0	0	16	-73	0

	FIRST DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Hallen	18	12	4	2	24	40
2	Bradford Town	16	13	0	3	32	39
3	Calne Town	18	12	3	3	22	39
4	Bitton	16	11	1	4	18	34
5	Longwell Green Sports	18	9	4	5	7	31
6	Wells City	17	9	3	5	18	30
7	Cadbury Heath	18	9	3	6	5	30
8	Cribbs Reserves	20	9	2	9	5	29
9	Sturminster Newton United	16	8	4	4	9	28
10	Mendip Broadwalk	20	8	4	8	-10	28
11	Bristol Telephones	17	8	3	6	14	27
12	Avonmouth	20	8	3	9	1	27
13	Devizes Town	15	7	5	3	15	26
14	Shirehampton	14	7	1	6	2	22
15	AEK Boco	19	6	4	9	-2	22
16	Hengrove Athletic	18	5	4	9	-7	19
17	Warminster Town	15	3	6	6	-8	15
18	Odd Down	19	3	5	11	-21	14
19	Radstock Town	16	4	1	11	-16	13
20	Keynsham Town	18	3	4	11	-29	13
21	Cheddar	18	3	2	13	-30	11
22	Gillingham Town	18	1	2	15	-49	5

Leading Goalscorers

Premier Division

Freddie King (Clevedon Town) – 13
Lucas Vowles (Clevedon Town) – 12
Luke Cloke (Torpoint) – 10
Jared Lewington (Buckland) – 9
Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 9
Josh Jenkins (Shepton Mallet) – 9
Ryan Bush (Buckland) – 9
Josh Parry (Barnstaple) - 9

First Division

Nathan Hall (Bitton) – 17
Sacha Tong (Bitton) – 12
Raphael Oppong (Bradford) - 13
Elliot Gardner (Hallen) - 11
Luke Bryan (AEK Boco) – 10
Rhys Hickery (Mendip Broadwalk) - 10
Jack Guthrie (Cribbs Reserves) – 10

WESTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE ESTABLISHED 1892
JEWSON