

Latest Round-ups:

Midweek Action: It was a high scoring Tuesday night of action across the leagues, with **Mendip Broadwalk** and **Bradford Town** sharing six goals in an entertaining 3-3 draw in Bristol. The First Division clash gave Bradford the opportunity to climb into top spot, and they made a strong start, leading 1-0 at the interval thanks to a goal from leading scorer Raphael Oppong after 20 minutes. Mendip regrouped at the break, and came bounding out of the blocks, scoring twice within ten minutes of the restart through Jordan Hughes and Jack Cousins to completely turn the game on its head. Things looked to be going from bad to worse for the visitors when Will Stead was given his marching orders, but the ten men managed to level things up with Oppong crossing for Dan Demkiv to drive home for two apiece. Dylan Whittle's bullet header ten minutes from time looked to have edged Mendip towards victory, but the Bobcats responded well once more and secured a late point courtesy of Fabian Stanislas who equalised in the final few minutes. Over in Bath, **Devizes** eased to a 3-0 win at **Odd Down**, thanks to goals in either half from Rhys Talmash, and another from leading marksman Luke Hopper. Elsewhere, **Wells City** secured their third consecutive victory after overturning an early deficit to beat **Shirehampton** 5-1. Debutant Callum Dunn edged the visitors ahead, only for Wells to hit back late in the first half through Adam Wright and Braeden Symes to take a one-goal lead to the break. City then dominated much of the second half, with Ross McErlain, Ollie Bryant and Neil Martin all finding the back of the net to cap a comfortable home win. Up in the Premier Division, **Street** followed up their hard-fought victory at the weekend with a 3-0 win over **Oldland Abbotonians** thanks to goals from Harry Foster, Zeph Collins and the in-form Callum Laird. 24 hours later, **Wellington's** home clash with **Portishead** was abandoned late in the first half after strong fog descended on their North Street ground to make conditions unplayable.

Premier Division: **Clevedon Town** retook ownership of top spot on Saturday afternoon, with a 3-0 win at **Ivybridge** helping them leapfrog Portishead who weren't in action over the weekend. An early strike from Joe Teall put the visitors in front, before Lucas Vowles then added to that advantage thanks to an excellent finish into the bottom corner. Vowles then provided the finishing touches, making it 3-0 in added time, with the league leaders finally securing a clean sheet following nine league fixtures without one. There was also a comfortable victory for **Paulton Rovers,** with two goals in either half leading them to a 4-0 win over **Brislington**. It took only three minutes for the home side to go in front courtesy of a Milo Murgatroyd effort, before Will Hailston made it 2-0 on the half-hour mark. A third goal early in the second half from Jack Farion all-but ended the contest, with Dan McBeam then completing the scoring just a couple of minutes after he had missed a penalty. In the battle between 6th and 7th, **Shepton Mallet** secured a hard-fought 1-0 win at **Buckland** thanks to an early Jacob Sloggett strike. In a game of few chances, Sloggett's early effort proved to be enough for the visitors, with a vital stoppage time save from Owen Crawford maintaining their slender advantage.

The other two fixtures each ended one apiece, which included the game at The Mill, where Torpoint battled back to secure a point in their home clash with Nailsea & Tickenham. After saving three penalties last weekend, Torpoint keeper Ryan Rickard was given an early opportunity to repeat the trick, but despite going the right way he couldn't stop Owen Humphries effort, with the Swags taking a 1-0 lead after just 11 minutes. The home side then got back on level terms just before half-time, with a corner from Sam Morgan swinging into the back of the net. There was also a 1-1 draw at Oldland, with Abbots forward Cash Vinall scoring during the second half to cancel out Ryan Downing's earlier effort which had put St Austell ahead at the interval.

First Division: There are also new leaders in the First Division, with Bradford going top following a tense 1-0 win over Devizes. The only difference between the teams was a penalty late in the first half from Jordan Pinder, with the Bobcats managing to keep their visitors at bay during the second half to secure their 20th league victory of the campaign. There was another strong home showing from Calne Town, with three different scorers leading them to victory over Mendip Broadwalk at Bremhill View. Gabe Costello's strike handed the Lilywhites a one-goal advantage at the interval, with further efforts from Ollie Crosby-Clarke and Jude Crawley wrapping up their third consecutive victory on home turf. Fourth-placed Bitton mirrored Calne's 3-0 scoreline, with Sacha Tong's terrific goal the pick of the bunch in their defeat of Gillingham Town. Having already led thanks to an early tap-in from Scott Gregory, Tong then unleashed an unstoppable long-range strike to double their advantage late in the first half. A left-footed finish from Lewis Russell completed the scoring 20 minutes from time, with Bitton rebounding from a couple of tough performances in their most recent games either side of New Year. One side who have enjoyed the start to 2025 are Longwell Green, with a 2-1 win at home to Radstock giving them their third win on the bounce. A fifth minute goal from Zac Tucker set things up perfectly for the home side, only for the Miners to hit back midway through the first half thanks to a well-taken chipped finish from Jacob Bird. Longwell Green then retook the lead just prior to half-time with Matt Brown scoring from the edge of the area in what turned out to be the game-winning strike. There was late drama in a couple of fixtures, including at Shirehampton, where substitute Eddie Polaine headed home deep into stoppage time to give the home side a 1-1 draw with Warminster. Having fallen behind late in the first half, Shirehampton made a strong push during the second period, and finally got their rewards in the 95th minute, with Polaine's header finding the back of the visitors net to make it one-each. A last gasp winner for Sturminster Newton saw them extend their winning run to six matches, with United coming up clutch to beat the Bristol Telephones 2-1. Having gone ahead in the first half through Nick Hewlett, Sturminster were pegged back by their hosts after half-time, with Leon Britton grabbing the Phones equaliser. It remained 1-1 until the closing stages, when Owen Peart popped up with the late winner to keep the good times coming for the Dorset club. There was also a 2-1 victory for Boco in their home clash with Cribbs Reserves thanks to goals either side of the break from Joe Carter and Ollie Williams, while Hengrove drew one-all with Avonmouth.

Les Phillips Cup: Saturday also saw a pair of Quarter-Final ties in the Les Phillips Cup, with penalties required to decide the all-Devon clash between Barnstaple and Brixham. Both sides struck in a three-minute spell at the end of the first half, with Scott Piper putting Barnstaple in front, only for Reece Somers to then level things up in added time. A goalless second half then led to a shootout, with Brixham eventually prevailing 5-4 to book their place in the last four of the competition. Joining Brixham in the semis are Street, with the in-form Premier Division outfit picking up a 3-1 win away at Cheddar. It was a dominant opening 45 minutes which ultimately sealed the Cobblers progression, with an early own goal then followed by Harry Foster's brace to put them three-up at the interval. Lewis Chappell gave the home fans some late cheer when he scored the goal of the game, but it was too little, too late for the rapidly improving Cheesemen.

Latest Results

Tuesday 14th January 2025

Premier Division

Street	3-0	Oldland Abbotonians

First Division

Odd Down	0-3	Devizes Town
Mendip Broadwalk	3-3	Bradford Town
Wells City	5-1	Shirehampton

Wednesday 15th January 2025

Premier Division

Wellington	A-A	Portishead Town

Saturday 18th January 2025

Premier Division

Buckland Athletic	0-1	Shepton Mallet
Ivybridge Town	0-3	Clevedon Town
Oldland Abbotonians	1-1	St Austell
Paulton Rovers	4-0	Brislington
Torpoint Athletic	1-1	Nailsea & Tickenham

First Division

AEK Boco	2-1	Cribbs Reserves
Bitton	3-0	Gillingham Town
Bradford Town	1-0	Devizes Town
Bristol Telephones	1-2	Sturminster Newton United
Calne Town	3-0	Mendip Broadwalk
Hengrove Athletic	1-1	Avonmouth
Longwell Green	2-1	Radstock Town
Shirehampton	1-1	Warminster Town

Les Phillips Cup

Barnstaple Town	1-1 (4-5 pens)	Brixham
Cheddar	1-3	Street

On this week's podcast, we get the intel of Ryan Rickard's hat-trick of penalty saves, with Torpoint manager Ryan Fice joining Ian to reflect on that victory as well as touching on what has been a tough season in a highly competitive division. Bradford Town boss, Chris Carr, provides his thoughts on their promotion target, while giving credit to the Wiltshire sides supporters who are helping them to come out on top in close encounters.

https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/podcast-episode-23



Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 21st January 2025

Premier Division

Nailsea & Tickenham	vs	Oldland Abbotonians	19:30KO
Saltash United	vs	Ivybridge Town	19:30KO
Torpoint Athletic	vs	St Blazey	19:45KO

Les Phillips Cup Quarter-Final

Portishead Town	vs	Clevedon Town	19:30KO

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

Premier Division

Wellington	vs	Barnstaple Town	19:45KO

Saturday 25th January 2025 (3pm Kick-off unless noted otherwise)

Premier Division

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

First Division

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

Leading Goalscorers

Premier Division

Freddie King (Clevedon) – 21
Lucas Vowles (Clevedon) – 19
Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 17
Ryan Bush (Buckland) – 16
Rikki Sheppard (Saltash) – 15
Josh Parry (Barnstaple) – 14
Jack Taylor (Bridgwater) - 14

First Division

Nathan Hall (Bitton) – 19
Sacha Tong (Bitton) – 18
Elliot Gardner (Hallen) – 17
Josh Pike-Bright (Calne) - 16
Raphael Oppong (Bradford) – 16
Luke Hopper (Devizes) – 16
Fin Burnell (Longwell Green) - 14
Rhys Hickery (Mendip) -14

League Tables

	PREMIER DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Clevedon Town	23	16	5	2	45	53
2	Portishead Town	23	16	3	4	37	51
3	Street	26	14	6	6	14	48
4	Brixham	24	14	4	6	23	46
5	Barnstaple Town	21	14	3	4	32	45
6	Shepton Mallet	25	13	5	7	23	44
7	Buckland Athletic	24	13	4	7	30	43
8	Paulton Rovers	23	12	3	8	6	39
9	Nailsea & Tickenham	23	12	2	9	10	38
10	Saltash United	27	10	3	14	2	33
11	St Austell	25	10	3	12	-4	33
12	Ivybridge Town	24	9	5	10	3	32
13	Bridgwater United	25	10	2	13	-13	32
14	Brislington	24	9	4	11	4	31
15	Oldland Abbotonians	23	9	4	10	0	31
16	Wellington	23	10	1	12	-14	31
17	Ilfracombe Town	25	6	4	15	-24	22
18	Torpoint Athletic	25	6	2	17	-18	20
19	St Blazey	23	4	5	14	-29	17
20	Welton Rovers	26	0	0	26	-127	0

	FIRST DIVISION	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points
1	Bradford Town	27	20	4	3	46	64
2	Hallen	27	19	5	3	38	62
3	Calne Town	29	19	3	7	35	60
4	Bitton	27	19	2	6	31	59
5	Devizes Town	26	15	6	5	44	51
6	Sturminster Newton United	26	15	4	7	15	49
7	Longwell Green Sports	28	14	6	8	13	48
8	Wells City	24	14	3	7	29	45
9	Mendip Broadwalk	29	12	6	11	-5	42
10	Shirehampton	26	12	5	9	2	41
11	Cadbury Heath	29	12	4	13	-1	40
12	Cribbs Reserves	28	12	3	13	1	39
13	Bristol Telephones	25	11	5	9	19	38
14	Avonmouth	29	10	5	14	-1	35
15	AEK Boco	27	10	4	13	-4	34
16	Radstock Town	26	8	4	14	-7	28
17	Hengrove Athletic	25	6	6	13	-10	24
18	Odd Down	28	5	5	18	-36	20
19	Cheddar	27	5	5	17	-41	20
20	Warminster Town	26	4	7	15	-37	19
21	Keynsham Town	28	4	5	19	-55	17
22	Gillingham Town	29	1	5	23	-76	8


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