**Latest Round-ups:**

**#32**

**Season 2021/22**

**Midweek Action:** In what was a busy midweek schedule, there was plenty of action for Western League sides, with both cup and league fixtures dishing up goals galore. Tuesday saw a trio of Les Phillips Cup ties, with **Brislington** claiming a 3-1 win to knock out one of the tournament favourites **Bitton**. A pair of outstanding finishes from Ash Kington in either half helped lead the home side to victory, with Bitton’s late attempted fightback falling short. There was also a 3-1 victory for **Keynsham** away at **Hengrove** thanks to a trio of second half strikes from Will Hailston, Jack Dancey and Jamie Noble, while **Radstock** required a 5-4 shootout victory to knock out **Gillingham** after their tie had finished 2-2 at the end of normal time. Penalties were also required in Wednesday’s Les Phillips offering, with **Warminster** keeper Sam Thompson pulling off a couple of saves to help his side knock out **Lebeq** after they had been held to a 1-1 draw at the end of 90 minutes.

The standout midweek fixture saw second meet third in the Premier Division, with **Exmouth** beating **Mousehole** 3-0 to move within a point of top spot. The home side made a strong start, and took the lead after just 11 minutes when Ace High powered home a header. It was then over to Exmouth’s leading scorer to complete the victory, with Jordan Harris adding a goal in either half to wrap up the crucial three points. In what was a big night at the top of the division, **Saltash United** moved up into fifth spot after surviving with ten-men to beat fourth-placed **Bridgwater** 2-1 down in Cornwall. Having moved ahead after 25 minutes through Reece Thompson, the Ashes hard-work looked to have been undone when Callum Martindale was given a red card towards the end of the first half. The hosts managed to find extra resolve after the interval, and the ten-men managed to stretch their advantage when Sam Hughes popped up to score in the 66th minute. Bridgwater finally made the extra man pay when Jacob Spence headed home a Jake Llewellyn corner 15 minutes from time, but they were unable to find the equaliser with Spence’s goalbound effort in stoppage time pushed away by Ryan Rickard to preserve the win for Saltash.

There was plenty of goals in the First Division clash on Wednesday, with **Oldland Abbotonians** coming from behind to beat **Bristol Telephones** 5-2. Having fallen behind in the opening stages, Oldland responded well and took a 2-1 lead to the break thanks to goals from Jack Mills and Jacob Reader. The away side managed to equalise on the hour mark after beating the offside trap, but Oldland managed to forge back ahead soon after thanks to a header from close range by Mitch Dann. Rather than enduring a nervous finish, the home side continued to push forward in the closing stages, and added to their advantage thanks to goals in the final ten minutes from Cash Vinall and Owen McCallum. 24 hours earlier, **Longwell Green** beat the bottom-side **Devizes** by the same scoreline, with Zac Cheetham, Rob Belcher, Liam Oswin, Ben Mitchell and Kyle Parsons all getting their names on the scoresheet thanks to the big win at Nursteed Road. A late blitz from **Portishead** saw them come from behind to beat **Bishops Lydeard** 3-1, with the visitors having led for much of the contest following a sweet strike from George Sinnott. Then, with 15 minutes left on the clock, Calum Townsend equalised from the spot for Portishead, and from there they didn’t look back, with Townsend scoring again soon after to turn the game on its head before youngster Billy Pring sealed the victory in the final few moments. In the game at Lakeview, **Wincanton** stretched their unbeaten run in all competitions to 20 matches after goals from Connor Williams and Louis Irwin helped them to secure a 2-1 win over **Bishop Sutton**.

**Premier Division: Shepton Mallet**followed up their derby day victory last weekend with an impressive 5-1 win over **Ilfracombe Town**. Jacob Sloggett was the star performer for the hosts during the first half, opening the scoring after five minutes with a bullet header, before then providing assists for Joe Morgan and Aaron Seviour as the hosts powered into a three-goal lead. A penalty from Nick Hewlett then stretched the lead further, with Seviour adding a late fifth after the visitors had struck a consolation. **Saltash United** gained revenge over **Keynsham**, securing a 3-0 victory at the Crown Fields. Since losing to the K’s a fortnight ago, Saltash had claimed a couple of hard-fought wins, with their latest three points helping establish their spot in the top five. An excellent finish to the first half saw Reece Thompson and Sam Hughes score in the space of five minutes, with Callum Martindale wrapping up the victory from the spot on the hour mark. There was also a 3-0 triumph for **Cadbury Heath** at home to **Buckland Athletic**, with Matt Huxley scoring in either half for the Gloucestershire outfit. The Heath are becoming a really tough side to beat on their home patch, and that continued on Saturday afternoon, with Huxley’s brace putting them in control of the contest, before Harry Goldspink adding a third in the closing stages. **Mousehole**are now just three points off top spot after easing to an 8-1 thumping of bottom-side **Bridport**. Callam McOnie and Mark Goldsworthy both struck hat-tricks for the Cornish side, with Louis Price and Hayden Turner also getting their names on the scoresheet. There was late drama elsewhere in the county of Cornwall, with **Wellington**’s late salvo helping them grab a 2-2 draw away at **Millbrook**. With the hosts seemingly home and dry following goals from Sean Thompson and Ryan Knight, Wellington gave themselves a flicker of hope when Jordan Casey cut the deficit five minutes from time. The visitors then completed their late comeback with the final kick of the game, when Jake Quick slotted the ball home. 2-2 was also the score at **Street**, where the hosts grabbed a stoppage time equaliser to deny **Ashton & Backwell** at the death. Having gone in front through Fin Skiverton, the Cobblers were given another boost when the visitors were reduced to ten men. Incredibly, Ashton managed to score twice during the second half to go 2-1 up, but then with Street pushing for an equaliser they managed to restore parity when Elliot Hegarty found the back of the net. The points were also shared in the highly-anticipated clash between **Bridgwater** and **Helston**, with the game at Fairfax Park ending goalless *(pictured above right, courtesy of John Pool).*

**Action from Shepton Mallet’s 5-1 win over Ilfracombe Town, courtesy of Haydn Jones.**

**First Division:** A spirited fightback from **Welton Rovers** help them keep pace in the title race, coming from 2-0 down to prevail by three goals to two away at **Devizes Town**. A first half brace from Sam Hughes helped Devizes build a surprise two-goal lead at the interval, with Welton cutting into the deficit five minutes into the second half through Courtney Charles. Charles then struck again 15 minutes from time to draw the Green Army level, with Toby Cole heading home a dramatic winner to complete the turnaround. **Sherborne Town** have now won league games on the spin after beating **Portishead** 5-0 at Raleigh Grove. The contest was pretty much over by half-time, with Josh Williams and George Mapletoft making it 2-0, before Declan Cornish produced an excellent chipped finish to make it 3-0 after just 35 minutes. Aaron’s White long-ranger extended the lead to four, before the Zebras benefited from a late own-goal to complete the rout. **Warminster Town** relied on a late charge to remain in second spot, finally breaking down a gallant **Bristol Telephones** side at Weymouth Street. Following 70 goalless minutes, the hosts finally broke the deadlock when Lewis Graham fired home, with Seth Wain and Ian Jeffery then adding further goals in injury time to help Warminster return to winning ways. **Wincanton**’s long-running unbeaten run shows no signs of letting up, with a brace from Matt Garner, and another goal from Connor Williams handing them a 3-0 victory away at **Longwell Green Sports**. The comeback of the day belonged to **Lebeq** United, with the home side coming from two-down to beat**Tytherington** 3-2. The Rocks had been in decent form over the past couple of weeks, and they put themselves in position to grab another win when Ryan Sharpe and Max Wilding put them two goals to the good. Lebeq had other ideas however, and they forged an excellent fightback, led by Jennison Williams, with his double and a further goal from Elan Plummer handing them maximum points. Another player to score a crucial brace was Luke Bryan, with the league’s leading scorer notching two goals in the opening 25 minutes to help lead **Odd Down** to a 2-1 win over **Bishop Sutton** in Bath. **Oldland Abbotonians** finished with just nine-men, but survived to claim a 0-0 draw away at **Boco**, while Pete Sheppard struck in either half as **Hengrove** defeated **Bishops Lydeard** 3-0 at the AVB Stadium.



On the bumper 200th episode of the Official Western League Podcast, there are a plethora of interviews for listeners to enjoy. Ian catches up with **Martin Cassidy** from Ref Support UK, who gives an update on their bodycam campaign and the role our league have played in it. Saltash manager **Dave Bunney** also joins the show to talk about the importance of being able to grind out results, while **Andy Crabtree**, the boss at Warminster Town, explains how the top four in the First Division could have walked away with the title in any other season. There is also a chat with the Godfather of grassroots social media in the South West, **Ross Reid**, who looks back on the story of this season, and the incredible contribution our clubs have made in promoting Western League football via their social platforms.

<http://toolstationleague.com/season-2021-22-podcast-episode-32/>

**Recent Results**

**Tuesday 8th March 2022**

**Les Phillips Cup**

Brislington 3-1 Bitton

Hengrove Athletic 1-3 Keynsham Town

Radstock Town 2-2 (5-4 pens) Gillingham Town

**First Division**

Bishop Sutton 1-2 Wincanton Town 52

Devizes Town 2-5 Longwell Green Sports 65

Portishead Town 3-1 Bishops Lydeard

**Wednesday 9th March 2022**

**Les Phillips Cup**

Warminster Town 1-1 (5-3 pens) Lebeq United

**Premier Division**

Exmouth Town 3-0 Mousehole 183

Saltash United 2-1 Bridgwater United 86

**First Division**

Oldland Abbotonians 5-2 Bristol Telephones 40

**Saturday 12th March 2022**

**Premier Division**

Bridgwater United 0-0 Helston Athletic

Cadbury Heath 3-0 Buckland Athletic 35

Keynsham Town 0-3 Saltash United 150

Millbrook 2-2 Wellington

Mousehole 8-1 Bridport 103

Shepton Mallet 5-1 Ilfracombe Town 174

Street 2-2 Ashton & Backwell United

**First Division**

AEK Boco 0-0 Oldland Abbotonians 262

Devizes Town 2-3 Welton Rovers 102

Hengrove Athletic 3-0 Bishops Lydeard 57

Lebeq United 3-2 Tytherington Rocks

Longwell Green Sports 0-3 Wincanton Town 143

Odd Down 2-1 Bishop Sutton

Sherborne Town 5-0 Portishead Town 105

Warminster Town 3-0 Bristol Telephones

The Quarter-Final draw for the Les Phillips Cup was made on Tuesday evening, with the regionalised aspect helping to ensure fixtures are feasible over the final few months of the season.

**· Tavistock** or **Helston Athletic** vs **Exmouth Town** or **Saltash United**

· **Bridgwater United** or **Radstock Town** vs **Wincanton Town** or **Shepton Mallet**

· **Cadbury Heath** or **Brislington** vs **Clevedon Town** or **Ashton & Backwell United**

· **Keynsham Town** or **Tytherington Rocks** vs **Almondsbury** or **Warminster Town**

**Upcoming Fixtures**

**Tuesday 15th March 2022**

**Les Phillips Cup**

Almondsbury vs Warminster Town 19:30KO

Bridgwater United vs Radstock Town 19:45KO

Keynsham Town vs Tytherington Rocks 19:45KO

Tavistock vs Helston Athletic 19:45KO

**Premier Division**

Wellington vs Ilfracombe Town 19:45KO

**First Division**

Welton Rovers vs Bristol Telephones 19:30KO

**Wednesday 16th March 2022**

**Les Phillips Cup**

Cadbury Heath vs Brislington 19:30KO

Clevedon Town vs Ashton & Backwell United 19:30KO

**First Division**

Bishops Lydeard vs AEK Boco 19:30KO

Lebeq United vs Wells City 19:30KO

**Saturday 19th March 2022 (3pm kick-off unless noted)**

**Les Phillips Cup**

Shepton Mallet vs Wincanton Town

**Premier Division**

Bitton vs Clevedon Town

Buckland Athletic vs Mousehole

Exmouth Town vs Street

Helston Athletic vs Brislington

Ilfracombe Town vs Cadbury Heath

Millbrook vs Keynsham Town

Saltash United vs Wellington

**First Division**

Bishop Sutton vs Bristol Telephones

Bishops Lydeard vs Odd Down

Gillingham Town vs Almondsbury

Oldland Abbotonians vs Cheddar

Portishead Town vs AEK Boco

Sherborne Town vs Warminster Town

Tytherington Rocks vs Devizes Town

**Leading Goalscorers** (Stats courtesy of FA Fulltime Website)

**Premier Division**

**Liam Prynn (Tavistock) – 30**

**Jack Taylor (Bridgwater) – 28**

**Jordan Harris (Exmouth) – 26**

**Will Hailston (Keynsham) – 20**

**Dean Griffiths (Bitton) – 19**

**First Division**

**Luke Bryan (Odd Down) -30**

**Oaklan Buck (Bishop Sutton) -27**

**Adam Wright (Wells) - 24**

**Alex Murphy (Sherborne) - 23**

**Bailey Croome (Tytherington) -20**

**All Competitions**

**Liam Prynn (Tavistock) – 36**

**Jack Taylor (Bridgwater) – 32**

**Luke Bryan (Odd Down) – 30**

**Oaklan Buck (Bishop Sutton) – 27**

**Jordan Harris (Exmouth) – 27**

**Will Hailston (Keynsham) – 26**

**League Tables**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | PREMIER DIVISION | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | GD | Points |
| 1 | **Tavistock** | 28 | 18 | 6 | 4 | 43 | **60** |
| 2 | **Exmouth Town** | 28 | 18 | 5 | 5 | 46 | **59** |
| 3 | **Mousehole** | 27 | 18 | 3 | 6 | 38 | **57** |
| 4 | **Bridgwater United** | 30 | 16 | 4 | 10 | 27 | **52** |
| 5 | **Saltash United** | 28 | 15 | 5 | 8 | 30 | **50** |
| 6 | **Shepton Mallet** | 30 | 13 | 8 | 9 | 33 | **47** |
| 7 | **Helston Athletic** | 27 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 18 | **45** |
| 8 | **Bitton** | 28 | 13 | 6 | 9 | 10 | **45** |
| 9 | **Clevedon Town** | 29 | 11 | 11 | 7 | 14 | **44** |
| 10 | **Keynsham Town** | 30 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 6 | **44** |
| 11 | **Ilfracombe Town** | 28 | 13 | 5 | 10 | 6 | **44** |
| 12 | **Millbrook** | 28 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 10 | **39** |
| 13 | **Buckland Athletic** | 28 | 11 | 6 | 11 | 8 | **39** |
| 14 | **Wellington** | 28 | 7 | 8 | 13 | -18 | **29** |
| 15 | **Brislington** | 27 | 8 | 4 | 15 | -39 | **28** |
| 16 | **Cadbury Heath** | 30 | 8 | 3 | 19 | -31 | **27** |
| 17 | **Street** | 27 | 6 | 4 | 17 | -25 | **22** |
| 18 | **Ashton & Backwell United** | 28 | 5 | 5 | 18 | -32 | **20** |
| 19 | **Bridport** | 31 | 1 | 1 | 29 | -144 | **4** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | FIRST DIVISION | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | GD | Points |
| 1 | **Sherborne Town** | 33 | 24 | 6 | 3 | 72 | **78** |
| 2 | **Warminster Town** | 31 | 21 | 5 | 5 | 39 | **68** |
| 3 | **Welton Rovers** | 30 | 20 | 6 | 4 | 36 | **66** |
| 4 | **Wincanton Town** | 30 | 19 | 5 | 6 | 49 | **62** |
| 5 | **Radstock Town** | 31 | 16 | 7 | 8 | 7 | **55** |
| 6 | **Odd Down** | 32 | 14 | 7 | 11 | 8 | **49** |
| 7 | **Lebeq United** | 32 | 12 | 9 | 11 | 5 | **45** |
| 8 | **Oldland Abbotonians** | 29 | 14 | 3 | 12 | 3 | **45** |
| 9 | **Wells City** | 31 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 8 | **43** |
| 10 | **AEK Boco** | 30 | 11 | 9 | 10 | -2 | **42** |
| 11 | **Tytherington Rocks** | 33 | 11 | 9 | 13 | -10 | **42** |
| 12 | **Cheddar** | 30 | 11 | 8 | 11 | 2 | **41** |
| 13 | **Hengrove Athletic** | 33 | 11 | 8 | 14 | -10 | **41** |
| 14 | **Bishop Sutton** | 34 | 11 | 7 | 16 | -2 | **40** |
| 15 | **Longwell Green Sports** | 34 | 10 | 9 | 15 | -13 | **39** |
| 16 | **Portishead Town** | 32 | 12 | 4 | 16 | -5 | **37\*** |
| 17 | **Gillingham Town** | 33 | 9 | 9 | 15 | -13 | **36** |
| 18 | **Almondsbury** | 29 | 10 | 2 | 17 | -22 | **32** |
| 19 | **Bristol Telephones** | 32 | 7 | 4 | 21 | -44 | **25** |
| 20 | **Bishops Lydeard** | 31 | 5 | 6 | 20 | -34 | **21** |
| 21 | **Devizes Town** | 32 | 4 | 3 | 25 | -74 | **12\*** |