**Latest Round-ups:**

**#40**

**Season 2021/22**

**First Division Play-Offs:** The strength of the sides towards the top of the table in this season’s First Division was incredible, and for second placed **Warminster**, they managed to overcome **Radstock** by two goals to nil at Weymouth Street in their semi-final. After Conner McKay had slotted the ball home after eight minutes to put them in front, they then struck again at the end of the first half when Martin Johnson’s effort took a huge deflection off of Radstock’s Luke Ingram before nestling in the back of the net.

The second semi also went the way of the hosts, with **Welton** ending **Wincanton**’s 29-match unbeaten run in the league. The first half at West Clewes was particularly cagey, with Rovers forward Toby Cole going close on a couple occasions without hitting the target. The deadlock was finally broken 20 minutes from time thanks to a wicked set piece from Cam Allen. After Cole had been fouled on the edge of the box, Allen stepped up and whipped a left-footed free kick towards the corner and it did just enough to squirm under the keeper and find the back of the net. Connor Williams then went close to finding an equaliser for the visitors, but their hopes were then ended in the 83rd minute when a corner from substitute Chris Pile was turned home by Joe Ellis at the back post. The Wasps continued to push despite the two-goal deficit, and it was only thanks to a remarkable double save from 16-year-old keeper Alfie Kelsey that Welton preserved their clean sheet in the closing stages.

The final was a tight affair between two outstanding sides, with Joe Garland’s solitary goal giving **Welton** the 1-0 victory. Achieving promotion back to the Premier Division is just rewards for a top season by the Green Army, and in a game with nearly 700 spectators in attendance, the deciding moment came midway through the second half. Having also gone close in the first half, centre-back Garland popped up with the matchwinner when he found the bottom corner from the edge of the area to spark wild scenes amongst visiting players and supporters alike. Warminster went close on a couple of occasions, but despite having five minutes added on in second half stoppage time, they were unable to break down the Welton back five and missed out on promotion in heartbreaking fashion.

**For reaction to Welton’s play-off success, there are interviews with manager Tom Smith, and also club Secretary Gareth Paisey on the most recent Western League Podcast. Both guests reflect on the team’s victory over Warminster, with Smith also giving his thoughts on what life will be like in the Premier Division next season.**

<http://toolstationleague.com/season-2021-22-podcast-episode-41/>

**Les Phillips Cup Final:** In the showpiece event to bring the curtain down on the season, **Bridgwater** triumphed by one goal to nil to take home the Les Phillips Cup. Taking on **Cadbury Heath** at the Athletic Ground in Wells, it was a solitary goal in the early stages of the second half from Jack Taylor which proved to be the difference between the sides. A close-range header from Taylor after 58 minutes saw United take a deserved lead, and despite a battling effort from the Heath they were unable to force an equaliser. For the matchwinner Taylor, it caps another prolific season from the Bridgy frontman, and the victory will give his side a huge boost going into the Summer before they have another crack at gaining promotion from the Premier Division.

*To read the special commemorative matchday programme put together for the Les Phillips Cup Final, please head to the following link:*

<https://designrr.page/?id=196908&token=408052246&type=FP&h=6812>

**Recent Results**

**Tuesday 3rd May 2022**

**First Division Play-Off Semi Finals**

Welton Rovers 2-0 Wincanton Town

Warminster Town 2-0 Radstock Town 321

**Saturday 7th May 2022**

**First Division Play-Off Semi Finals**

Warminster Town 0-1 Welton Rovers

**Saturday 14th May 2022**

**Les Phillips Cup Final**

Cadbury Heath 0-1 Bridgwater United

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

**All Competitions**

**Liam Prynn (Tavistock) – 41**

**Jack Taylor (Bridgwater) – 39**

**Luke Bryan (Odd Down) – 38**

**Will Hailston (Keynsham) – 35**

**Adam Wright (Wells) – 33**

**Jordan Harris (Exmouth) – 29**

**Oaklan Buck (Bishop Sutton) – 28**

**Premier Division**

**Liam Prynn (Tavistock) – 35**

**Jack Taylor (Bridgwater) – 29**

**Jordan Harris (Exmouth) – 27**

**Will Hailston (Keynsham) – 23**

**Dean Griffiths (Bitton) - 21**

**Sam Hughes (Saltash) – 20**

**First Division**

**Luke Bryan (Odd Down) -37**

**Adam Wright (Wells) – 33**

**Oaklan Buck (Bishop Sutton) -28**

**Alex Murphy (Sherborne) – 24**

**Connor Williams (Wincanton) – 22**

**Toby Cole (Welton) - 21**

**2022/23 Allocations**

Recently, the FA unveiled the league constitutions for the 2022/23 season at Steps 5 & 6. They can be seen below, with a number of new sides joining the fold in the Western League ahead of next season.

