

Toolstation
Western League



The Bulletin

Issue 27

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The Round-Up

- MIDWEEK ACTION -

Ilfracombe produced a strong second-half showing to overturn a two-goal deficit against ten-man Bishop Sutton in Tuesday night's Les Phillips Cup tie.

The lower-ranked side were really impressive in the opening stages of the match, and after Ethan Ballantine had put them ahead, leading scorer Craig Wilson then converted a 40th minute penalty to double the visitors advantage.

In what proved to be a major turning point, Ballantine was then given a red card early in the second half, allowing Ilfracombe to come back into the game.

Liam Short and Tyler Evans-Loude struck in quick succession to draw Town level, and it was then left to Charlie Prentice to score the winner ten minutes from time, completing the turnaround.

The standout individual performance that evening belonged to Ashton & Backwell's Miles Hardidge, with his hat-trick propelling United to a 4-0 win over Wellington in the Premier Division.

Having seen their winning run come to an end last Saturday, Ashton responded strongly, with Hardidge's treble complemented by Charlie Saunders' late strike to cap the comprehensive victory.

Buckland's Jared Lewington scored twice in the first half to help lead them to a 2-0 win over Falmouth, while Bridgwater claimed their first league win of 2023 by thumping Torpoint 5-1 in Cornwall.

An early own goal set Bridgwater on their way, with further goals from Conor Hartley and Mark Armstrong putting them three-up at the interval. Torpoint threatened a fight-back when they scored early in the second-half, but any

hopes they had were put to bed thanks to a quickfire double from Jack Thorne as the game headed into the final quarter.

There was a seven-goal thriller on Wednesday evening, with Street overcoming a poor start to beat Clevedon Town 4-3. The Seaside were quick out of the blocks, and led by two goals to nil within the opening seven minutes thanks to Alex Camm's deflected effort and an Ethan Feltham header.

Street responded well however, and having already halved the deficit, Harry Foster was then on hand to draw the hosts level towards the end of the first half as he continued his strong goalscoring form.

The game then really came to life during the final 15 minutes, with Paulo Borges' free-kick giving the Cobblers their first lead of the night.

It was then Clevedon's turn to fight back, and having been tripped in the box, Camm dusted himself down before sending the keeper the wrong way with the resulting spot kick to seemingly grab a share of the spoils.

That wasn't to be however, and Street secured the seventh and decisive goal of the contest, with Merson Ham scoring for the second consecutive fixture to bring the curtain down on a rip-roaring contest.

On an incredible Tuesday night of First Division action, three sides who started the evening in the bottom four spots all claimed victories! Radstock Town's rip-roaring start to the New Year shows no signs of slowing down after first half goals from Jack Pearson and Corey Rawlings fired them to a 2-1 win over Tytherington Rocks.

The improvement of Bishops Lydeard also continued away at Gillingham, with Adam Willis scoring the only goal of the game ten minutes

after the break. Three points also went the way of Almondsbury, with a late substitution proving crucial in their 2-1 win over Wincanton.

A dream start for the Almonds saw Finley Coombs hand them a sixth-minute lead, before they were pegged back by Wincanton just prior to half-time.

Then, with around 15 minutes left on the clock, Coombs was replaced by Tom Manley and he made a near-instant impact, converting a corner to score what turned out to be a crucial winner.

There was also a tight victory for Warminster, with Corey Gardner's sixth-minute effort proving to be enough to see off Hallen by a goal-to-nil.

The lone Wednesday fixture also finished 1-0, with Calum Townsend's 35th minute free kick handing Portishead a slender victory over Shirehampton.

- FA VASE -

Bridgwater's excellent run in the competition was brought to an end on Saturday afternoon, after they fell to a 1-0 defeat at home to Ascot United.

A single goal from Harry Grant 11 minutes from time was the difference between the two sides, with the brother of the goalscorers, Alfie proving the assist for the match-winner.

For Bridgwater, Jack Thorne came closing to breaking the deadlock in either half, but they were kept at bay by their Berkshire opponents, and are now fully concentrated on league matters where a title challenge is still very much on the cards.

- PREMIER DIVISION -

Saltash took full advantage of Bridgwater's cup involvement by beating Wellington 4-0 to stretch their lead atop the league table to seven points.

United certainly didn't have it all their own way at the Kimberley Stadium, and only led by a single goal going into the final 15 minutes after Sam Farrant's early volley.

The Ashes really came home with a wet sail however, and after Harrison Davis had eased the nerves by making it 2-0, Sam Hughes was then on target twice during stoppage time to add some gloss to the scoreline.

Third-place Mousehole put themselves firmly in the title race after securing a 3-1 win away at Welton Rovers.

Having gone ahead in just the third minute through Hayden Turner, the visitors saw their lead disappear in the lead up to half time when Will Gould drew Rovers level.

Mousehole responded brilliantly to that setback thanks to a slammed finish from Mark Goldsworthy, and then with the game headed towards a denouement, Turner struck for the second time to keep their hosts at bay.

The biggest scorers of the day in the Premier Division were Helston, for whom Rikki Sheppard scored a brilliant hat-trick to spearhead their 5-1 win over Street.

In a tight first half, only one goal separated the sides, with Sheppard reacting quickest to the loose ball in the box after teammate Jordan Copp saw his penalty effort saved by the Cobblers keeper.

Sheppard then doubled his, and Helston's tally early in the second half, before completing his treble in the 65th minute to put the destination of the points beyond doubt.

Steven Colwell's long ranger, and a debut home goal for Ross Dunstan completed the scoring for Helston who bounced back well from back-to-back shutouts.

Millbrook prevailed over Keynsham in the day's early kickoff, with a pair of first half strikes from Sean Thomson and Jake Foster leading them to a 2-0 victory.

There were also tight victories for the Devon duo of Barnstaple and Ilfracombe, with 1-0 wins over Ashton & Backwell, and Cadbury Heath, respectively.

A second-half effort from Callum Laird did the

business for Barnstaple, while a smart finish in the 20th minute from Tyler Evans-Loude helped Ilfracombe claim a first league win since October which came against the same Heath side.

Buckland repeated the trick of their midweek victory over the same opponent, beating Falmouth 2-0 for the second time in four days.

Having scored both goals in Tuesday's home clash, Jared Lewington was on target once again at Bickland Park, slotting home a tenth minute penalty.

Falmouth were given a dream opportunity to draw level after half-an-hour when they awarded a penalty of their own, but Tim Nixon was thwarted by visiting keeper Andy Collings.

It was the left to Ryan Bush to add the finishing touches for Buckland who have now won four league games on the spin.

Torpoint look to be turning things around in 2023, gaining seven points from a possible 12 this year thanks to a 3-1 win at home to Clevedon.

A couple of headed finishes helped Athletic move two goals ahead at the interval, with Sam Hillson and Ryan Richards both finding the back of the net.

The Seaside pulled one back through Tom Kemble early in the second half, before a smart close-range finish from Jake Smith helped the Cornish outfit wrap up maximum points.

- FIRST DIVISION -

Brislington continue to pile pressure onto the top two, with six different goalscorers netting in their thumping 8-0 win away at Wincanton.

In a scarcely believable result, Bris stormed out of the gate, plundering three goals inside the opening eight minutes through Asa White, Dean Griffiths and Jordan Metters.

Further first half strikes George Jones and Danny Dodimead extended the lead to five, before Joe McLennan became the sixth visiting player to find the back of the net on the hour mark.

White and Dodimead added to their personal tallies during the closing stages as Brislington maintained their recent goalscoring surge.

Usual suspects Luke Osgood and Joe Berry were on target once again for Nailsea & Tickenham in their 2-1 win away at Warminster, while goals after the break from Michael Duffy and Jake Curtis helped Wells City beat fifth-placed FC Bristol at the Athletic Ground.

The other member of the top five are Oldland Abbotonians, and they stretched their unbeaten league run to eight games following a 1-0 win away at AEK Boco.

The only goal of the game came after 20 minutes from Owen McCallum, with that strike helping the Abbots make it nine points from nine in their recent run of away fixtures.

Another side to win on their travels were Shirehampton who bounced back from their midweek defeat by handing Longwell Green Sports a 4-2 loss at Shellards Road.

Despite going behind in the early stages of the contest, Shirehampton held their nerve, with Scott Bamford scoring in either half, alongside further goals from James Kenway and Will Gallagher.

Portishead's Calum Townsend scored the decisive goal for the second time this week in their slender victory over Cheddar.

Having struck the winner in Wednesday's hard-fought win at Shirehampton, Townsend was on target once more against the Cheesemen to help Town bag back-to-back 1-0 wins. I

It was another matchday where a number of sides lower down the division managed to secure victories, including the seemingly unstoppable Radstock Town who have doubled their points tally since the turn of the year.

The amazing turnaround which has taken place since the turn of the year continued on Saturday afternoon thanks to a storming 6-0 win at home to Bishops Lydeard.

Youngster Jack Farion and Corey Rawlings

scored in quick succession to put Radstock two-to-the-good at half time, before Rawlings then added two more at the beginning of the second half to complete his hat-trick.

Seth Wain and Harrison Newman added two more goals in the closing stages, with Radstock now up into 18th spot.

Bristol Telephones secured a rare away victory over Gillingham, with Rob Moore, Mike Grist, Dan Sutton and Archie Dark all beating the home keeper in their 4-1 triumph.

In Bath, the deadlock remained unbroken between Odd Down and Almondsbury, with Hallen and Bishop Sutton also sharing the points following a 1-1 draw in their mid-table clash.

Elliot Gardner gave the home side a flying start,

netting after just three minutes, but Sutton managed to grab a share of the spoils thanks to a long-range free kick from top scorer Craig Wilson just prior to the interval.

Tytherington Rocks moved off the bottom of the division after coming from behind to beat Hengrove 2-1.

Having won the reverse fixture 5-0 back in August, Hengrove looked to be targeting a similar result when they went ahead in the 20th minute, only for Ryan Sharp to level affairs with the Rocks next attacking foray.

Another goal early in the second half from Levi Senior put Tytherington in the lead, but they were forced to battle until the closing stages with keeper Kyreese Johnson saving an injury time penalty to preserve the victory.

- Leading Goalscorers - All Competitions -

Jack Thorne (Bridgwater/N&T) – 26

Scott Bamford (Shirehampton) – 25

Luke Bryan (Odd Down) – 25

Sacha Tong (FC Bristol) – 24

Curtis Damerell (Torpoint) – 24

Adam Wright (Wells) – 22

Craig Wilson (Bishop Sutton) – 19

Luke Osgood (Nailsea & Tickenham) – 19

Jacob Brown (Bridgwater) – 18

On the latest podcast, Welton manager, Tom Smith, reflects on his side's last-gasp victory over Bridgwater, and also comments on the good run of form Rovers are currently enjoying. There is also a conversation with Liam Greening, where the Shirehampton boss proves an insight into his footballing philosophy, and tells Ian how his team have been at their best with their backs against the wall.

<http://toolstationleague.com/season-2022-23-podcast-episode27/>



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Latest Results & Fixtures

Latest Results

Tuesday 7th February 2023

Les Phillips Cup

Ilfracombe Town 3-2 Bishop Sutton

Premier Division

Ashton & Backwell United 4-0 Wellington

Buckland Athletic 2-0 Falmouth Town

Torpoint Athletic 1-5 Bridgwater United

First Division

Almondsbury 2-1 Wincanton Town

Gillingham Town 0-1 Bishops Lydeard

Hallen 0-1 Warminster Town

Odd Down A-A FC Bristol

Radstock Town 2-1 Tytherington Rocks

Wednesday 8th February 2023

Premier Division

Street 4-3 Clevedon Town

First Division

Shirehampton 0-1 Portishead Town

Saturday 11th February 2023

FA VASE - Fifth Round

Bridgwater United 0-1 Ascot United

Premier Division

Ashton & Backwell Utd 0-1 Barnstaple T

Falmouth Town 0-2 Buckland Athletic

Helston Athletic 5-1 Street

Ilfracombe Town 1-0 Cadbury Heath

Millbrook 2-0 Keynsham Town

Saltash United 4-0 Wellington

Torpoint Athletic 3-1 Clevedon Town

Welton Rovers 1-3 Mousehole

First Division

AEK Boco 0-1 Oldland Abbotonians

Gillingham Town 1-4 Bristol Telephones

Hallen 1-1 Bishop Sutton

Longwell Green Sports 2-4 Shirehampton

Odd Down 0-0 Almondsbury

Portishead Town 1-0 Cheddar

Radstock Town 6-0 Bishops Lydeard

Tytherington Rocks 2-1 Hengrove Athletic

Warminster 1-2 Nailsea & Tickenham

Wells City 2-0 FC Bristol

Wincanton Town 0-8 Brislington

Upcoming Fixtures

Wednesday 15th February 2023

Premier Division

Clevedon Town vs Keynsham Town - 19:30

Falmouth Town vs Saltash United - 19:45

Wellington vs Barnstaple Town - 19:45

First Division

Bristol Tele vs Radstock Town - 19:45

FC Bristol vs Oldland Abbotonians - 19:45

Hengrove Ath vs Bishops Lydeard - 19:30

Shirehampton vs Tytherington R - 19:30

Warminster Town vs Bishop Sutton - 19:45

Saturday 18th February 2023

(3pm kick-off unless noted)

Premier Division

Barnstaple Town vs Street - 14:00

Bridgwater United vs Torpoint Athletic

Buckland Athletic vs Clevedon Town

Falmouth Town vs Millbrook

Helston Athletic vs Ilfracombe Town

Mousehole vs Ashton & Backwell United

Shepton Mallet vs Saltash United

Wellington vs Cadbury Heath

First Division

Bishop Sutton vs Odd Down

Bishops Lydeard vs Bristol Telephones

Brislington vs Almondsbury

Gillingham Town vs Hallen

Nailsea & Tickenham vs Longwell Green

Oldland Abbotonians vs Radstock Town

Portishead Town vs AEK Boco - 14:00

Shirehampton vs Warminster Town

Tytherington Rocks vs Wincanton Town

League Tables

PREMIER DIVISION

		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	SALTASH UNITED	26	18	5	3	37	59
2	MOUSEHOLE	23	16	6	1	39	54
3	BRIDGWATER UNITED	24	16	4	4	41	52
4	BUCKLAND ATHLETIC	25	15	2	8	15	47
5	BARNSTAPLE TOWN	22	14	2	6	14	44
6	SHEPTON MALLET	21	13	4	4	24	43
7	HELSTON ATHLETIC	23	10	7	6	6	37
8	ASHTON & BACKWELL UNITED	24	11	3	10	9	36
9	FALMOUTH TOWN	23	9	6	8	6	33
10	WELTON ROVERS	27	8	4	15	-30	28
11	STREET	23	8	3	12	-20	27
12	MILLBROOK	24	7	5	12	-15	26
13	CLEVEDON TOWN	22	7	4	11	-10	25
14	ILFRACOMBE TOWN	21	5	9	7	1	24
15	TORPOINT ATHLETIC	24	6	6	12	-15	24
16	SHERBORNE TOWN	23	5	4	14	-12	19
17	WELLINGTON	21	4	6	11	-13	18
18	CADBURY HEATH	23	3	5	15	-27	14
19	KEYNSHAM TOWN	25	3	3	19	-50	12

FIRST DIVISION

		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	NAILSEA & TICKENHAM	30	22	3	5	57	69
2	WELLS CITY	28	22	3	3	45	69
3	BRISLINGTON	26	21	2	3	52	65
4	OLDLAND ABBOTONIANIS	26	17	5	4	30	56
5	FC BRISTOL	29	15	4	10	8	49
6	SHIREHAMPTON	27	14	4	9	16	46
7	ODD DOWN (BATH)	29	11	10	8	16	43
8	WINCANTON TOWN	27	13	4	10	11	43
9	WARMINSTER TOWN	28	13	4	11	2	43
10	PORTISHEAD TOWN	25	12	3	10	5	39
11	BISHOP SUTTON	25	11	5	9	3	38
12	HALLEN	28	10	6	12	4	36
13	HENGROVE ATHLETIC	30	9	6	15	-9	33
14	AEK BOCO	28	10	3	15	-21	33
15	CHEDDAR	30	8	6	16	-12	30
16	LONGWELL GREEN SPORTS	29	8	5	16	-21	29
17	BRISTOL TELEPHONES	30	7	9	14	-15	27
18	RADSTOCK TOWN	29	5	11	13	-14	26
19	GILLINGHAM TOWN	28	7	5	16	-17	26
20	ALMONDSBURY	32	6	8	18	-57	26
21	TYTHERINGTON ROCKS	29	5	7	17	-43	22
22	BISHOPS LYDEARD	27	5	5	17	-40	20



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