



Latest Round-ups:

Midweek Action: **Bridgwater United** followed up their opening day win with a come-from-behind victory against **Brixham** to go two from two in the Premier Division. After both sides struck towards the end of the first half, the visitors went ahead 12 minutes after the break through Ewan Howarth. Having scored a headed hat-trick three days previously, Jack Thorne maintained his storming start with a late equaliser, before second-half sub Adam Wright grabbed United's winner five minutes from time. The other side to maintain their winning start to the campaign was **Torpoint**, with star striker Ryan Richards scoring all four of their goals in the away victory at **Buckland**. Richards' first-half double had put the visitors in command at the interval, only for the Bucks to hit back, with Jared Lewington's penalty followed up soon after by a leveller from Sam Morcom. With only six minutes remaining, Richards was on target once more to complete his hat-trick, before then adding his fourth in stoppage time to cap an incredible individual performance. After star performer during Tuesday night's feast of action was Rikki Sheppard, with his brace helping **Helston** secure an eye-opening 4-0 win away at **Saltash**. Former Ashes defender Callum O'Brien was also on target at the home of his previous club, with Curtis Damerell also scoring his first Helston goal after joining from Torpoint at the end of last season. Two goals from Joe Berry and a Lucas Vowles strike were enough for **Nailsea & Tickenham** to pick up their first three points of the season thanks to a 3-0 win over **Oldland**, while Alex Wharton's strike was the difference between the sides at Bickland Park where **Falmouth** beat **St Blazey** 1-0. Another home side to triumph were **Shepton Mallet**, with goals from Will Banks and Josh Jenkins helping them see off ten-man **Wellington**. Both **Barnstaple** and **Street** remain unbeaten after two games following their entertaining 2-2 draw which had seen Charlie Prentice fire the hosts into a slender half-time lead. The Cobblers then turned the tables, with Jakob Dickens and Jake Mawford scoring twice in five minutes, before Stu Bowker's long-ranger managed to rescue a point for Barnstaple. The spoils were shared at West Clewes also, where Alex Camm's dramatic 98th minute equaliser for **Clevedon** meant that **Welton** remain winless after two home games despite leading for much of this game courtesy of Joe Durrant.

All 22 First Division sides were back in action during the week, with five teams managing to secure their second successive victories to open the season. One of those with six points from six are **Bradford Town**, with a quickfire start helping them beat **Longwell Green Sports** by three goals to one. Efforts inside the opening six minutes from both Tom Mack and Ben Wickens gave Town a dream start, before the visitors managed to trim the deficit courtesy of a Kieran Williams strike after half an hour. Scott Hatcher was then dismissed in first half stoppage time, but the ten-man hosts managed to actually increase their lead five minutes after the restart through Jack Witcombe, holding on to secure the 3-1 win.

Wincanton have also made a flying start to their campaign, and overturned an early deficit to thump **Keynsham** 6-1 on Tuesday evening. The game was very much in the balance at half-time, before Wincanton enjoyed an incredible start to the second half, with Matt Garner scoring four times during their one-sided victory. **Hengrove Athletic** equalled the result of Wincanton, capitalising on an early red card to topple **Warminster** by six goals to one at the AVB Stadium. An early brace from Pete Sheppard set the Grove on their way, with his two goals inside the opening quarter sandwiching the red card to Warminster's Tyler Gane. The extra man worked very much in Hengrove's favour, and they ran out big winners thanks to further goals from Jack Jones, Rohan Hartrey, Mickey Parsons and late sub Sonny Parker. New-boys **Middlezoy Rovers** made it back-to-back wins, with Charlie Lintell helping them edge past **Bishop Sutton**, while reigning champions **Brislington** got back on track, with Oaklan Buck and Joe McLennan both on target in their 2-0 win at home to **AEK Boco**. The points were shared in Bath, where Milo Mutgatroyd struck a late leveller for Odd Down, after Hallen had surged ahead during the second half following a quickfire double from Patryk Kosciolek and Harrison Fairman. Tuesday's other games went the way of the home sides, with Corey Rawlings and Matt Curnock striking in **Radstock's** 2-1 victory over **Portishead**, while **Cheddar** defeated **Gillingham** 4-1 thanks to goalscoring doubles from Dean Chrisostomou and Lewis Chappell. In the pick of Wednesday's games, **Cribbs Reserves** made it two wins from two after coming out on top in a seven-goal thriller at home to **Bristol Telephones**. After Luke Marshall had put the hosts ahead inside the opening minute, Kieran Clayton was then on hand to double Cribbs' advantage with less than 20 minutes on the clock. The Phones hit back soon after, but the home side soon restored their two-goal advantage, leading 3-1 at the break thanks to Jack Guthrie's first goal of the season. The visitors enjoyed the better of the second half, and managed to claw their way back into the contest, looking like they had secured a share of the spoils, only for Momodou Janneh to pop up eight minutes from time with a strong finish to give Cribbs the 4-3 victory. There was also a 2-0 win for **Bitton** away at **Shirehampton**, courtesy of goals from Stefan Lee and Jack Jenkins, while Callum Whooley's double was enough for **Cadbury Heath** to capture a 3-2 win at home to **Wells**.



After an entertaining opening day, Bridgwater boss Dave Pearse joins Ian to look ahead to the upcoming season with a reflection on how disappointing they were at the end of the 2022/23 campaign. There is also an introduction to Cribbs Reserves, with co-manager Alec Mills describing his side's meteoric rise through the feeder leagues, while also discussing the relationship with their Southern League bound First Team.

[Season 2023/24 Podcast Episode 2 | Toolstation Western League \(toolstationleague.com\)](https://www.toolstationleague.com)

First Division: A trio of sides maintained their winning starts to the season on Saturday afternoon, with **Wincanton**'s superior goal difference handing them top spot at the end of the opening week of action. The Wasps third successive victory came away at **Bishop Sutton**, with a strong second half showing allowing them to grab maximum points. Having fallen behind to Finley Maddern's 23rd minute opener, the away side got back on level terms after half an hour through Jamie Thompson. A poked finish from Cam Vere then turned the tie in Wincanton's favour, before further goals from Jamie Irwin and Brad Pike wrapped up the victory. **Bradford Town** are another side who have enjoyed a stellar start, and just like their fellow early leaders, they were forced to overturn an early deficit to capture their third win. **Middlezoy** had broken the deadlock after only 13 minutes, but Town weren't behind for long with Ben Wickens heading home a leveller. Jack Witcombe's 32nd minute effort gave Bradford their first lead of the afternoon, and they held on for the remainder of the contest before adding a third in the closing stages through Corey Gardner. The third side to maintain a 100% record are **Radstock**, with an early Jack Farion effort and a late Kyle Thomas penalty helping them win 2-0 away at **Bristol Telephones**. At the opposite end of the table, there are four sides who remain pointless after three games including Keynsham who suffered a tough 5-0 loss at home to Hengrove. Pete Sheppard struck in either half for the visitors who could have been even further out of sight if it hadn't been for an impressive performance by K's keeper Louis Smith who saved a penalty towards the end of the first half. **Warminster**'s tough start shows no signs of slowing, and they fell away at the hands of **Hallen**, with Corey Thomas-Barker, Sam Cousins and Sam Hedges all notching during the second half of a 3-0 victory for the Bristolians. Another side to prevail by three goals to nil were **Cadbury Heath**, with Matt Huxley making an instant impact in their victory away at **Gillingham**. Having entered the fray early in the second half, Huxley struck with one of his first touches to break the deadlock, before Callum Whooley and Zac Cheetham struck in quick succession during the final ten minutes to lead the Heath to victory. A tense affair at **Bitton** saw Joe Beardwell's 24th minute strike help lead the hosts to a 1-0 win over **Cribbs Reserves**, while two goals from Liam Oswin and a Zac Feltham effort helped **Longwell Green** come from behind to beat **Shirehampton** 3-1. There were also big victories for a couple of sides, with Luke Bryan continuing his excellent start to life at **AEK Boco** during their 5-0 win away at **Cheddar**. The former Odd Down has really hit the ground running at his new club, and he claimed a hat-trick in Somerset, with Seb Scott also on target twice during the big win. Bryan's former side look to be struggling without his services, with the Bath outfit falling to a heavy 6-0 defeat at the hands of **Portishead**. An Ethan Feltham header was all that separated the teams at the break, but that soon changed in the early knockings of the second period, with another Feltham header followed up in quick succession by further goals from George Fowler and Calum Townsend. Feltham then secured ownership of the match-ball when he completed his hat-trick in the closing stages, with Callum Eastwood capping a near perfect performance in stoppage time.

FA Cup: Several of the Western League sides in action on Saturday produced strong showings in the Extra Preliminary Round of the FA Cup, giving hope of a long run in this season's competition. Included among the big winners on Saturday afternoon were **Helston Athletic**, who produced a strong second half performance to see off **Willand Rovers** by three goals to one. Having gone in front during stoppage time at the end of the first half through Aaron Bentley, Helston were pegged back in the early knockings of the second period when Doug Camilo fired home for the visitors. Jamie Simmonds then restored Helston's advantage just prior to the hour mark, and they eventually booked their passage through to the next round



Luke Cloke fires home during St Blazey's 3-1 victory away at Wendron United, courtesy of @sportscornwall

when Curtis Damerell wrapped things up in added time. For **St Blazey**, it was Luke Cloke's brace which proved influential in their 3-1 win away at **Wendron United**. Following 44 goalless minutes, Cloke smashed the visitors in front from close range, before the same man then struck again right at the beginning of the second half to double the Cornish side's advantage. A goal

for the home side on the hour mark gave St Blazey a slight scare, but the outcome was put to bed not long after when Callum Kenny restored the two-goal difference between the sides. **Nailsea & Tickenham** will also be taking their place in the next round, after goals from Nick Buxton and Luke Osgood led them to a 2-0 win away at **Tring**. Syd Camper's winning effort 20 minutes from time saw **Clevedon Town** defeat **Wantage** 2-1, while **Falmouth** came from behind to beat **Exmouth** by the same scoreline thanks to second half strikes from Tom Annear and Luke Brabyn. Unfortunately, a few sides did fall at the first hurdle, with **Brislington** losing 1-0 at home to **Shaftsbury**, and **Ilfracombe** falling to a 4-1 defeat away at reigning Western League champions **Mousehole**. There were also tight losses for **Wellington** and **Wells City** at home to **Bideford** and **AFC Portchester**, respectively, while **Welton** suffered a heavy 7-1 thumping at the hands of **Fareham Town**. The highest scorers of the day, however, were **Street**, with their forwards enjoying a strong day in front of goal at the Tannery Ground on their way to toppling fellow Western League outfit **Millbrook** 9-1. Both Jake Mawford and Sullivan McKenna plundered hat-tricks during the one-sided affair, with the Cobblers putting their visitors to the sword during their first win of the season. One side who aren't struggling for victories at this stage of the campaign are **Bridgwater**, and they made it three from three after beating **Liskeard Athletic** 4-2 at Fairfax Park. Having fallen behind in the 16th minute, Bridgy managed to turn the game around prior to half-time with the in-form Jack Thorne and George King both finding the back of the net. An equaliser midway through the second half gave Liskeard hope, but the home side finished strongly, and after Jack Taylor put United back ahead in the 85th minute, Thorne struck again in the closing stages to round out the victory.

The other Western League sides to progress both did so at the hands of Premier Division rivals, with **Barnstaple** overturning an early deficit to see off **Saltash** 3-1. Jack Wood's



Players from Barnstaple and Saltash battle for possession during their FA Cup clash on Saturday, courtesy of Nathan Bennett

fifth minute opener saw the Ashes start on the front foot, but they were pegged back in the 29th minute when Callum Laird levelled for the hosts. Moments later, Saltash were reduced to ten men, and that cost them dearly, with Harry Foster and Tom Rogers each striking during the second half. The other all-Western League saw the home side stroll to a

comfortable victory, with **Buckland** knocking out **Torpoint**. Only one goal separated the sides at the interval, but Buckland were no match for their visitors during the second half, with Sam Morcom, Ryan Bush, Jared Lewington and Sam Stayt all finding the back of the net. For the remainder of the sides in action, they will have to go again after drawing at the end of 90 minutes. **Brixham** were unable to hold on away at **Okehampton** despite a pair of first half strikes from Ewan Howarth, while goals from Will and Joe Banks weren't quite enough for **Shepton Mallet** who conceded seven minutes from time to draw two apiece with **Sherborne**. 2-2 was also the final score at **Oldland**, where the Abbots led by two goals to nil over **Blackfield & Langley** courtesy of Harry Pruet and Harrison Kyte, only to see a 97th minute bundle mean they will require a replay to move onto the next round.

Latest Results

Tuesday 1st August 2023

Premier Division

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Barnstaple Town | 2-2 | Street | 207 |
| Bridgwater United | 3-2 | Brixham | 375 |
| Buckland Athletic | 2-4 | Torpoint Athletic | 230 |
| Falmouth Town | 1-0 | St Blazey | 337 |
| Nailsea & Tickenham | 3-0 | Oldland Abbotonians | 93 |
| Saltash United | 0-4 | Helston Athletic | 247 |
| Shepton Mallet | 2-0 | Wellington | 193 |
| Welton Rovers | 1-1 | Clevedon Town | 132 |

First Division

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| Bradford Town | 3-1 | Longwell Green Sports | 108 |
| Brislington | 2-0 | AEK Boco | 239 |
| Cheddar | 4-1 | Gillingham Town | 86 |
| Hengrove Athletic | 6-1 | Warminster Town | 82 |
| Middlezoy Rovers | 1-0 | Bishop Sutton | |
| Odd Down | 2-2 | Hallen | 75 |
| Radstock Town | 2-1 | Portishead Town | 79 |
| Wincanton Town | 6-1 | Keynsham Town | 136 |

Wednesday 2nd August 2023

First Division

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|----|
| Cadbury Heath | 3-2 | Wells City | 72 |
| Cribbs Reserves | 4-3 | Bristol Telephones | 55 |
| Shirehampton | 0-2 | Bitton | 74 |

Saturday 5th August 2023

First Division

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Bishop Sutton | 1-4 | Wincanton Town | 48 |
| Bitton | 1-0 | Cribbs Reserves | 56 |
| Bristol Telephones | 0-2 | Radstock Town | 53 |
| Cheddar | 0-5 | AEK Boco | 51 |
| Gillingham Town | 0-3 | Cadbury Heath | 32 |
| Hallen | 3-0 | Warminster Town | 52 |
| Keynsham Town | 0-5 | Hengrove Athletic | 90 |
| Longwell Green Sports | 3-1 | Shirehampton | 125 |
| Middlezoy Rovers | 1-3 | Bradford Town | |
| Portishead Town | 6-0 | Odd Down | 107 |

FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|--|
| Barnstaple Town | 3-1 | Saltash United | |
| Bridgwater United | 4-2 | Liskeard Athletic | |
| Brislington | 0-1 | Shaftsbury Town | |
| Buckland Athletic | 5-1 | Torpoint Athletic | |
| Clevedon Town | 2-1 | Wantage | |
| Falmouth Town | 2-1 | Exmouth Town | |
| Helston Athletic | 3-1 | Willand Rovers | |
| Mousehole | 4-1 | Ilfracombe Town | |
| Okehampton Argyle | 2-2 | Brixham | |
| Oldland Abbotonians | 2-2 | Blackfield & Langley | |
| Shepton Mallet | 2-2 | Sherborne Town | |
| Street | 9-1 | Millbrook | |
| Tring | 0-2 | Nailsea & Tickenham | |
| Wellington | 0-2 | Bideford | |
| Wells City | 1-2 | AFC Portchester | |
| Welton Rovers | 1-7 | Fareham Town | |
| Wendron United | 1-3 | St Blazey | |

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 8th August 2023

FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round - Replay

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|----------------------------|---------|
| Brixham AFC | vs | Okehampton Argyle | 19:30KO |
| Blackfield & Langley | vs | Oldland Abbotonians | 19:45KO |

First Division

| | | | |
|-------------------|----|-----------------------|---------|
| Bradford Town | vs | Keynsham Town | 19:30KO |
| Brislington | vs | Radstock Town | 19:30KO |
| Hallen | vs | Bitton | 19:30KO |
| Hengrove Athletic | vs | AEK Boco | 19:30KO |
| Odd Down | vs | Gillingham Town | 19:30KO |
| Portishead Town | vs | Middlezoy Rovers | 19:30KO |
| Wells City | vs | Longwell Green Sports | 19:30KO |

Wednesday 9th August 2023

FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round - Replay

| | | | |
|----------------|----|-----------------------|---------|
| Sherborne Town | vs | Shepton Mallet | 19:45KO |
|----------------|----|-----------------------|---------|

First Division

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|---------|
| Cadbury Heath | vs | Bristol Telephones | 19:30KO |
| Cribbs Reserves | vs | Bishop Sutton | 19:30KO |
| Shirehampton | vs | Cheddar | 19:30KO |
| Warminster Town | vs | Wincanton Town | 19:45KO |

Saturday 12th August 2023 (3pm kick-off unless noted)

Premier Division

| | | |
|---------------------|----|---------------------|
| Barnstaple Town | vs | St Blazey |
| Brixham AFC | vs | Nailsea & Tickenham |
| Clevedon Town | vs | Saltash United |
| Helston Athletic | vs | Bridgwater United |
| Ilfracombe Town | vs | Falmouth Town |
| Millbrook | vs | Street |
| Oldland Abbotonians | vs | Buckland Athletic |
| Shepton Mallet | vs | Welton Rovers |
| Torpoint Athletic | vs | Wellington |

First Division

| | | |
|-------------------|----|-----------------------|
| AEK Boco | vs | Wincanton Town |
| Bishop Sutton | vs | Shirehampton |
| Bradford Town | vs | Hallen |
| Cheddar | vs | Keynsham Town |
| Cribbs Reserves | vs | Longwell Green Sports |
| Gillingham Town | vs | Bristol Telephones |
| Hengrove Athletic | vs | Wells City |
| Middlezoy Rovers | vs | Cadbury Heath |
| Odd Down | vs | Brislington |
| Radstock Town | vs | Bitton |
| Warminster Town | vs | Portishead Town |