**Latest Round-ups:**

**#24**

**Season 2023/24**

**League Action:** Following the torrential rainfall towards the end of the week, many fixtures were postponed prior to Saturday, with ten matches beating the weather across the two divisions. Sitting top of the pile in the Western League are **Clevedon Town**, but they suffered a surprise defeat in their home clash with **St Blazey**. The Cornish outfit had not won a league fixture away from home all season, but that ended at the Hand Stadium following Reece Carroll’s second half effort. Carroll’s 70th minute volley ended up being the only goal scored during the entire game, handing Clevedon just their second loss of the campaign. That result allowed third-place **Bridgwater** to move within five points of the Premier Division lead after they also won by a solitary goal-to-nil away at **Falmouth**. In a tight and tense tussle, leading scorer Jack Thorne was the difference maker for United, scoring early in the second half to bring an abrupt end to Falmouth’s seven-match winning streak. Over in Devon, **Ilfracombe** battled resolutely, surviving over 45 minutes with ten men during their goalless draw at home to **Brixham**. There was plenty of big scoring elsewhere, with **Nailsea & Tickenham** overturning an early deficit before surging to a 5-1 win away at **Wellington** *(pictured, left).* Sam Towler’s 11th minute goal had given the home side an early advantage, but that had been wiped out by half time following a Lucas Vowles header and a scrambled finish from Oli Carter. Nailsea’s Luke Osgood then scored twice in the space of three minutes at the beginning of the second half to put the visitors in complete control, with Vowles adding their fifth on the hour mark. Another side to score five were **Buckland Athletic,** with the division’s leading marksman Jared Lewington grabbing a hat-trick in their one-sided win at home to **Welton**. Lewington has now scored at least two goals in four of Buckland’s previous five matches, and it took him less than two minutes to break the deadlock on Saturday afternoon. Teigan Rosenquest then made it 2-0 on the stroke of half-time, with Lewington’s next two strikes taking the game well beyond Welton prior to Ryan Bush completing the scoring in the 65th minute. **Shepton Mallet** leapfrogged opponents **Torpoint** up into eighth place following a dramatic 4-2 win over their Cornish visitors. A relatively quiet opening 45 minutes saw Mallet lead by a single goal, with Josh Jenkins’ penalty putting the hosts in front. The game then came to life in first half stoppage time, with Ryan Smith’s 45th minute leveller cancelled out almost instantly after Cam Allen skipped past four defenders before firing home. Callum Gould then curled home Shepton’s third as the added time drama continued, and there was still time for one more attack which ended with Dylan Gould hauling down the visiting forward. That foul led to a red card, and Ryan Richards then tucked home the resulting penalty to keep Torpoint in the contest as the half-time whistle was finally blown. Incredibly it was the ten-man Mallet who struck next with Allen scoring his second of the afternoon, and that proved to be the end of the scoring action as Torpoint fell to a third consecutive away loss.

Another side to produce a battling performance were **Saltash**, who twice came from behind to secure a 2-2 draw away at **Street**. Having already levelled affairs courtesy of a Jake Curtis strike, the Ashes bagged a late point when Tom Huyton headed home as the game headed into the final ten minutes.

 It was a heavily reduced fixture list in the First Division, with just three matches taking place, one of which was at **Radstock**, where a goal either side of the interval helped the second-placed Miners secure a 2-0 win at home to **Wells City**. There was also a 2-0 victory for **Longwell Green Sports** over **Middlezoy**, with Sonny Passco’s incredible 40-yard rocket helping them end a three-match losing run. The pick of the games saw **Bristol Telephones** come from two goals down to beat **Gillingham Town** 3-2 in the day’s early kick-off. In a game heavily influenced by two individuals, Josh Haskett helped put Gillingham in control, scoring at the end of the first half, and then the start of the second to make it 2-0. Those goals seemed to spark the Phones, and Isaac Flynn in particular, and after trimming the deficit, he then struck again 15 minutes from time to make it two apiece. With the game in the balance, Flynn capped his dominant second half performance, completing his hat-trick in the final few minutes to put a cap on the home side’s epic comeback.

**Latest Results**

**Saturday 6th January 2024**

**Premier Division**

Buckland Athletic 5-0 Welton Rovers 280

Clevedon Town 0-1 St Blazey 171

Falmouth Town 0-1 Bridgwater United 467

Ilfracombe Town 0-0 Brixham AFC 105

Shepton Mallet 4-2 Torpoint Athletic 189

Street 2-2 Saltash United

Wellington 1-5 Nailsea & Tickenham

**First Division**

Bristol Telephones 3-2 Gillingham Town 31

Longwell Green Sports 2-0 Middlezoy Rovers 304

Radstock Town 2-0 Wells City 113

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

**Premier Division**

**Jared Lewington (Buckland) – 23**

**Jack Thorne (Bridgwater) – 18**

**Rikki Sheppard (Helston) – 15**

**Ryan Richards (Torpoint) – 15**

**Sam Beresford (Clevedon) – 14**

**Curtis Damerell (Helston) – 13**

**Phil Ormrod (Street) – 12**

**Rubin Wilson (Falmouth) - 12**

**First Division**

**Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 35**

**Matt Garner (Wincanton) – 21**

**Louis Snailham (Shirehampton) – 17**

**Liam Clayton (Cribbs Reserves) – 17**

**Liam Winter (Middlezoy) - 17**

**Milo Murgatroyd (Odd Down) – 16**

**Joe Beardwell (Bitton) – 15**

**All Competitions**

**Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 38**

**Jared Lewington (Buckland) – 27**

**Jack Thorne (Bridgwater) – 24**

**Matt Garner (Wincanton) – 23**

**Louis Snailham (Shirehampton) – 20**

**Upcoming Fixtures**

**Tuesday 9th January 2024**

**Premier Division**

Welton Rovers vs Oldland Abbotonians 19:30KO

**First Division**

Keynsham Town vs Hallen 19:45KO

Radstock Town vs Warminster Town 19:45KO

**Les Phillips Cup**

Bitton vs Wells City 19:30KO

Bradford Town vs Shirehampton 19:30KO

**Saturday 13th January 2024 (3pm kick-off unless noted)**

**FA Vase Fourth Round**

**Falmouth Town** vs Hartpury College

Farnham Town vs **Bridgwater United**

North Greenford United vs **Brixham AFC**

**Premier Division**

Barnstaple Town vs Saltash United

Clevedon Town vs Helston Athletic

Ilfracombe Town vs Shepton Mallet

Millbrook vs Nailsea & Tickenham

St Blazey vs Oldland Abbotonians

Street vs Welton Rovers

**First Division**

Bishop Sutton vs Middlezoy Rovers

Bradford Town vs Wells City

Cribbs Reserves vs Cheddar

Hallen vs Gillingham Town

Hengrove Athletic vs Longwell Green Sports

Keynsham Town vs Bitton

Odd Down vs Cadbury Heath

Portishead Town vs AEK Boco

Shirehampton vs Warminster Town

Wincanton Town vs Brislington

On the latest episode of the Podcast, we hear from Falmouth Town boss, Andrew Westgarth, who reflects on an excellent 2023. Westgarth also discusses the monster Boxing Day crowd who were in attendance for their victory over Helston, hoping they will return for Town’s upcoming FA Vase tie. Ian then catches up with Middlezoy manager, Craig Berry, who looks back on the learning curve Rovers have faced this term, while also describing what it’s taken to elevate his side from the County League into the National League system.

<http://toolstationleague.com/season-2023-24-podcast-episode-22/>



**League Tables**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | PREMIER DIVISION | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | GD | Points |
| 1 | **Clevedon Town** | 20 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 28 | **48** |
| 2 | **Helston Athletic** | 19 | 14 | 2 | 3 | 55 | **44** |
| 3 | **Bridgwater United** | 20 | 14 | 1 | 5 | 30 | **43** |
| 4 | **Buckland Athletic** | 21 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 33 | **38** |
| 5 | **Falmouth Town** | 17 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 23 | **36** |
| 6 | **Brixham AFC** | 20 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 22 | **31** |
| 7 | **Barnstaple Town** | 16 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 22 | **31** |
| 8 | **Shepton Mallet** | 18 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 7 | **31** |
| 9 | **Torpoint Athletic** | 21 | 9 | 4 | 8 | -1 | **31** |
| 10 | **Street** | 20 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 0 | **27** |
| 11 | **St Blazey** | 20 | 6 | 5 | 9 | -9 | **23** |
| 12 | **Nailsea & Tickenham** | 19 | 7 | 1 | 11 | -7 | **22** |
| 13 | **Ilfracombe Town** | 18 | 5 | 6 | 7 | -2 | **21** |
| 14 | **Welton Rovers** | 16 | 3 | 4 | 9 | -18 | **13** |
| 15 | **Saltash United** | 19 | 3 | 3 | 13 | -17 | **12** |
| 16 | **Wellington** | 20 | 2 | 5 | 13 | -40 | **11** |
| 17 | **Oldland Abbotonians** | 17 | 3 | 0 | 14 | -35 | **9** |
| 18 | **Millbrook** | 17 | 1 | 0 | 16 | -91 | **3** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | FIRST DIVISION | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | GD | Points |
| 1 | **Portishead Town** | 24 | 19 | 3 | 2 | 52 | **60** |
| 2 | **Radstock Town** | 27 | 19 | 3 | 5 | 38 | **60** |
| 3 | **Cribbs Reserves** | 27 | 17 | 4 | 6 | 29 | **55** |
| 4 | **Brislington** | 23 | 16 | 2 | 5 | 53 | **50** |
| 5 | **Bitton** | 24 | 15 | 4 | 5 | 27 | **49** |
| 6 | **Wincanton Town** | 25 | 15 | 4 | 6 | 12 | **49** |
| 7 | **Bradford Town** | 27 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 22 | **43** |
| 8 | **Bristol Telephones** | 26 | 13 | 4 | 9 | -8 | **43** |
| 9 | **AEK Boco** | 22 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 20 | **38** |
| 10 | **Wells City** | 22 | 12 | 2 | 8 | 12 | **38** |
| 11 | **Middlezoy Rovers** | 27 | 12 | 2 | 13 | -1 | **38** |
| 12 | **Longwell Green Sports** | 27 | 11 | 3 | 13 | -10 | **36** |
| 13 | **Cadbury Heath** | 24 | 11 | 1 | 12 | 6 | **34** |
| 14 | **Odd Down** | 27 | 10 | 2 | 15 | -27 | **32** |
| 15 | **Hallen** | 25 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 0 | **31** |
| 16 | **Shirehampton** | 26 | 8 | 4 | 14 | -10 | **28** |
| 17 | **Warminster Town** | 22 | 7 | 3 | 12 | -11 | **24** |
| 18 | **Gillingham Town** | 24 | 7 | 1 | 16 | -23 | **22** |
| 19 | **Hengrove Athletic** | 24 | 5 | 5 | 14 | -22 | **20** |
| 20 | **Keynsham Town** | 24 | 6 | 1 | 17 | -32 | **19** |
| 21 | **Cheddar** | 24 | 4 | 1 | 19 | -29 | **13** |
| 22 | **Bishop Sutton**  | 25 | 0 | 2 | 23 | -98 | **2** |