**Latest Round-ups:**

**#29**

**Season 2023/24**

**Midweek Action:** Poor weather again threatened to derail the midweek schedule, but fortunately for supporters of ten clubs, their matches managed to get the go-ahead and provided plenty of exciting action. In the Les Phillips Cup, a pair of massive quarter-final clashes took place on Tuesday evening, with each of the sides currently residing in the top six of the Western League. A barnstorming encounter at Kellaway Park saw holders **Helston**edge **Buckland** 3-2, to book their place in the last four. The hosts made a dream start, with Rikki Sheppard making it 1-0 after 100 seconds, before Kai Cornish then added their second before the game was even ten minutes old. Buckland suffered a recent league defeat to the same opposition, but unlike on that occasion, they managed to break down the Helston defence with Jared Lewington slotting home a penalty late in the first half. Another set-piece then saw the visitors draw level shortly after the break, with Sammy Stayt’s expert free kick nestling in the back of the net for 2-2. In tough conditions, it was Jake Smith who scored what turned out to be the winning goal, with his low shot on the hour mark keeping their hopes of a cup defence alive. In the other last eight tie that night, **Barnstaple**produced an incredible second half performance to win 4-1 at**Bridgwater United**. With the game still goalless at the hour, Brodie Montague rose highest to head the away side in front, and that goal seemed to open the floodgates. Barnstaple’s Harvey Dorothy then doubled his sides’ advantage two minutes after the opener, but shortly after they were reduced to ten men with Matt Bye dismissed for dissent following the award of a penalty. Adam Wright stepped up to convert the spot kick, and suddenly Bridgwater had a man advantage and saw a route back into the tie. Unfortunately for the hosts, Town forward Dorothy had other ideas, and after restoring their two-goal advantage, the same man then struck again nine minutes from time to complete his hat-trick.

            There were also a couple of league fixtures, with **Falmouth**’s Oscar Massey scoring another crucial double during Town’s 6-2 defeat of Premier Division strugglers**Millbrook**. In front of an impressive crowd of 189 at Bickland Park, a surprise half-time score saw Millbrook matching their higher-ranked hosts thanks to goals from Jaiden Miller and Louis Wilson. It was Falmouth who eventually made their class tell, with Rubin Wilson also scoring twice, adding to further goals from Kian Thomas & Luke Barner as the hosts claimed Cornish bragging rights. Elsewhere on Tuesday, **Wincanton**stretched their winning run to six matches in the First Division following a 2-1 victory at home to**AEK Boco**. A fast start to the game, saw Boco’s Isaiah Crawford score on the quarter-hour to cancel out Jake Seviour’s early opener. Visiting keeper Nick Croucher then saved a penalty at the beginning of the second half, but he couldn’t stop the Wasps from securing victory, with Connor Williams firing home the winner ten minutes from time. Wednesday’s only game saw **Keynsham**win 4-2 at**Warminster** to claim their first away victory since early September. After Jemar Thomas had broken the deadlock in the early stages, Brandon Oputeri then produced a smart back-heeled finish to double the K’s lead after 35 minutes. A Theo Jeremy long-ranger looked to have put the game to bed when he made it 3-0 early in the second half, before Warminster surged back to score twice and set up a nervous finale. Keynsham’s Thomas settled the contest in the visitors favour, scoring his second of the evening three minutes from time to help them climb further away from the bottom-two spots.

**Saturday Action: Falmouth Town** produced another outstanding result to move through to the quarter-finals of the FA Vase, winning 3-0 away at Combined Counties outfit **Jersey Bulls**. With the F-Troop following in their droves, the Cornishmen had a tonne of support with them on their trip to St Hellier, and they got to enjoy a near-perfect performance which saw them topple the cup specialists. Having reached this stage of the competition last term, the Bulls would have been full of confidence, but that took a dent as early as the 18th minute when Jared Sims fired Falmouth ahead from the spot following a foul on Olly Walker. It was then Walker himself who was on hand to double Town’s advantage, with his far-post volley making it 2-0 just before the hour mark. Any chances of a late fightback from the spots were killed off in the closing stages, with Cam Hutchinson slotting home from close range to complete the scoring. This is now Falmouth’s best showing in the Vase since the 1989-90 season, and they will be hoping to go one step further when they compete in the last eight next month.

 In league matters, **Clevedon** moved back to within a point of Premier Division leaders Helston thanks to a 3-0 win away at **Ilfracombe**. Having only scored once in their previous three away games, Clevedon were under pressure coming into the contest, but they took control just before half time, with Brad Probert and Owen Punselie scoring in quick succession to put them two-up at the break. Joe Teall then wrapped up the victory for Clevedon 20 minutes from time with a fierce strike which proved too hot to handle for the home keeper. There was also an away victory for **Buckland,** with the Premier Division’s top sharpshooter Jared Lewington scoring both goals in their 2-1 win at **Street**. A bullet header after only eight minutes set the ball rolling for the Bucks, with Lewington then scoring his second midway through the first half thanks to a smart turn and finish inside the home area. Street set up a tense finish, halving the deficit on the hour mark, but they were unable to find a leveller to bring an end to their four-match unbeaten run. The other game finished all square, with **Wellington** coming back from two down to draw 2-2 with **Shepton Mallet**. The away side had won three on the spin coming into the game and looked to be extending that run of good form following goals in either half from Charlie Bateson. After smashing home in the 26th minute to break the deadlock, Bateson then struck again early in the second half, capitalising on an error among the home defenders. Welly have been showing signs of improvement over recent weeks, and they managed to forge a way back into the contest with 20 minutes remaining when Miles Quick poked the ball home from close range. Ten minutes later, the home side struck again in slightly fortunate circumstances, with Josh Lukins’ cross inadvertently ending up in the back of the Mallet net. Unfortunately the game ended in tough circumstances, with visiting keeper Tom Roberts suffering a leg injury after pulling off an impressive save during stoppage time.

 The First Division saw a pair of significant results, with **Keynsham’s** outstanding run peaking with a 7-0 triumph at home to bottom side **Bishop Sutton**. Having had a particularly tough start to the campaign, Town’s Boxing Day victory over Brislington has been followed by three more wins in recent weeks which has seen them move well clear of the bottom two spots. Saturday’s big win over Sutton was never really in doubt following a powerful start which saw Brandon Oputeri and Jamie Blazquez each score in the opening five minutes. Another goal from Jemar Thomas made it 3-0 at the interval, with substitute Jaheim Allen then adding a fourth at the beginning of the second period. Thomas has been pivotal to the K’s turnaround, and he shone once again at the AJN Stadium, with a pair of quickfire goals giving him a hat-trick against the league’s basement boys. The other game to avoid postponement was **Wincanton’s** home clash against **Longwell Green,** with the visitors coming away with an impressive 2-1 win. The fourth-placed Wasps had been among the standout teams since the turn of the year, but their six-match winning run was ended despite a late Lewis Townsend strike. For Longwell Green, Liam Oswin had put them one-up, before an outrageous goal from the half-way line by Lewis Coleman helped them secure the victory in Somerset.

**Latest Results**

**Tuesday 6th February 2024**

**Premier Division**

Falmouth Town 6-2 Millbrook 189

**First Division**

Wincanton Town 2-1 AEK Boco

**Les Phillips Cup Quarter-Final**

Bridgwater United 1-4 Barnstaple Town

Helston Athletic 3-2 Buckland Athletic 68

**Wednesday 7th February 2024**

**First Division**

Warminster Town 2-4 Keynsham Town 109

**Saturday 10th February 2024**

**FA Vase Fifth Round**

Jersey Bulls 0-3 **Falmouth Town**

**Premier Division**

Ilfracombe Town 0-3 Clevedon Town 76

Street 1-2 Buckland Athletic 98

Wellington 2-2 Shepton Mallet

**First Division**

Keynsham Town 7-0 Bishop Sutton 187

Wincanton Town 1-2 Longwell Green Sports 60



**On the latest podcast, we hear from Oldland Abbotonians boss, Craig Laird, who celebrates their much-needed recent victory at Saltash, before explaining why he’s excited about the future the O’s. Ian also catches up with Jamie Hillman, and the Hengrove manager discusses the challenges his team have faced this season, and why his focus is on maintaining The Grove’s place in the Western league.**

[**http://toolstationleague.com/season-2023-24-podcast-episode-27/**](http://toolstationleague.com/season-2023-24-podcast-episode-27/)

**Upcoming Fixtures**

**Tuesday 13th February 2024**

**Premier Division**

Welton Rovers vs Falmouth Town 19:45KO

**First Division**

Cheddar vs Portishead Town 19:30KO

Keynsham Town vs Bitton 19:45KO

**Saturday 17th February 2024 (3pm kick-off unless noted)**

**Premier Division**

Bridgwater United vs Helston Athletic

Falmouth Town vs Ilfracombe Town

Oldland Abbotonians vs Torpoint Athletic

Saltash United vs Barnstaple Town

St Blazey vs Brixham

Street vs Millbrook

Wellington vs Buckland Athletic

Welton Rovers vs Shepton Mallet

**First Division**

AEK Boco vs Radstock Town

Bishop Sutton vs Odd Down

Bristol Telephones vs Keynsham Town 14:00KO

Cadbury Heath vs Middlezoy Rovers

Cheddar vs Shirehampton

Cribbs Reserves vs Warminster Town

Gillingham Town vs Wincanton Town

Portishead Town vs Longwell Green Sports

Wells City vs Hengrove Athletic

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

**Premier Division**

**Jared Lewington (Buckland) – 26**

**Jack Thorne (Bridgwater) – 20**

**Phil Ormrod (Street) - 16**

**Ryan Richards (Torpoint) – 16**

**Rikki Sheppard (Helston) – 16**

**Sam Beresford (Clevedon) – 15**

**First Division**

**Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 39**

**Matt Garner (Wincanton) – 25**

**Liam Winter (Middlezoy) - 21**

**Liam Clayton (Cribbs Reserves) – 18**

**Louis Snailham (Shirehampton) – 17**

**Milo Murgatroyd (Odd Down) – 16**

**All Competitions**

**Ethan Feltham (Portishead) – 42**

**Jared Lewington (Buckland) – 30**

**Matt Garner (Wincanton) – 27**

**Jack Thorne (Bridgwater) – 26**

**Liam Clayton (Cribbs Reserves) - 21**

**Louis Snailham (Shirehampton) – 21**

**Liam Winter (Middlezoy) - 21**

**League Tables**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | PREMIER DIVISION | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | GD | Points |
| 1 | **Helston Athletic** | 23 | 18 | 2 | 3 | 62 | **56** |
| 2 | **Clevedon Town** | 25 | 17 | 4 | 4 | 37 | **55** |
| 3 | **Bridgwater United** | 22 | 15 | 1 | 6 | 35 | **46** |
| 4 | **Falmouth Town** | 21 | 14 | 3 | 4 | 32 | **45** |
| 5 | **Buckland Athletic** | 25 | 13 | 5 | 7 | 31 | **44** |
| 6 | **Barnstaple Town** | 20 | 11 | 7 | 2 | 26 | **40** |
| 7 | **Shepton Mallet** | 23 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 8 | **39** |
| 8 | **Brixham AFC** | 23 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 22 | **35** |
| 9 | **Street** | 24 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 3 | **34** |
| 10 | **Torpoint Athletic** | 24 | 10 | 4 | 10 | -2 | **34** |
| 11 | **St Blazey** | 25 | 9 | 5 | 11 | -5 | **32** |
| 12 | **Nailsea & Tickenham** | 23 | 9 | 1 | 13 | 0 | **28** |
| 13 | **Ilfracombe Town** | 22 | 6 | 7 | 9 | -5 | **25** |
| 14 | **Saltash United** | 23 | 4 | 3 | 16 | -22 | **15** |
| 15 | **Oldland Abbotonians** | 21 | 5 | 0 | 16 | -39 | **15** |
| 16 | **Welton Rovers** | 20 | 3 | 5 | 12 | -29 | **14** |
| 17 | **Wellington** | 23 | 2 | 8 | 13 | -40 | **14** |
| 18 | **Millbrook** | 21 | 1 | 0 | 20 | -114 | **3** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | FIRST DIVISION | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | GD | Points |
| 1 | **Portishead Town** | 28 | 21 | 4 | 3 | 57 | **67** |
| 2 | **Radstock Town** | 29 | 20 | 4 | 5 | 40 | **64** |
| 3 | **Cribbs Reserves** | 29 | 19 | 4 | 6 | 34 | **61** |
| 4 | **Wincanton Town** | 30 | 19 | 4 | 7 | 20 | **61** |
| 5 | **Brislington** | 27 | 18 | 3 | 6 | 61 | **57** |
| 6 | **Bitton** | 28 | 15 | 7 | 6 | 26 | **52** |
| 7 | **AEK Boco** | 28 | 15 | 5 | 8 | 22 | **50** |
| 8 | **Wells City** | 26 | 15 | 2 | 9 | 15 | **47** |
| 9 | **Middlezoy Rovers** | 31 | 15 | 2 | 14 | 4 | **47** |
| 10 | **Bradford Town** | 30 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 19 | **46** |
| 11 | **Longwell Green Sports** | 32 | 14 | 4 | 14 | -4 | **46** |
| 12 | **Bristol Telephones** | 29 | 14 | 4 | 11 | -10 | **46** |
| 13 | **Cadbury Heath** | 29 | 12 | 3 | 14 | 6 | **39** |
| 14 | **Hallen** | 28 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 0 | **37** |
| 15 | **Odd Down** | 30 | 10 | 4 | 16 | -32 | **34** |
| 16 | **Shirehampton** | 29 | 8 | 6 | 15 | -11 | **30** |
| 17 | **Keynsham Town** | 30 | 9 | 2 | 19 | -25 | **29** |
| 18 | **Warminster Town** | 27 | 7 | 6 | 14 | -14 | **27** |
| 19 | **Gillingham Town** | 28 | 8 | 2 | 18 | -25 | **26** |
| 20 | **Hengrove Athletic** | 27 | 6 | 5 | 16 | -28 | **23** |
| 21 | **Cheddar** | 27 | 4 | 1 | 22 | -34 | **13** |
| 22 | **Bishop Sutton**  | 30 | 0 | 2 | 28 | -121 | **2** |