Latest Round-ups:

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.

<u>Saturday Action:</u> Falmouth Town produced another outstanding result to move through to the quarter-finals of the <u>FA Vase</u>, 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 nearperfect 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 <u>First Division</u> 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 6 th February 20	<u>24</u>		
Premier Division			
Falmouth Town	6-2	Millbrook	189
First Division			
Wincanton Town	2-1	AEK Boco	
Les Phillips Cup Quarter-	<u>-Final</u>		
Bridgwater United	1-4	Barnstaple Town	
Helston Athletic	3-2	Buckland Athletic	68
Wednesday 7th February	<u> 2024</u>		
First Division			
Warminster Town	2-4	Keynsham Town	109
Saturday 10 th February 2	<u>2024</u>		
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/



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

T T CITITET 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