



Latest Round-ups:

Midweek Action: There were mixed results on Tuesday evening, with a quick turnaround seeing a pair of FA Cup Preliminary Round fixtures taking place. It was success for **Nailsea & Tickenham**, who snuck past **Reading City** by the skin of their teeth at Fryth Way (*pictured, in action, right*). After an entertaining draw three days earlier, it looked as though the sides would level once again with the game heading into stoppage time locked at nil-nil. The Swags had one final chance from a set-piece, and after the loose ball fell to Miles Hardidge inside the area, he unleashed a fearsome strike into the top corner to claim the dramatic victory, booking their spot in the first qualifying round for the first time in their history. Unfortunately, **Wellington** fell at the same hurdle, losing 2-0 to **Bideford** following goals from Finn Roberts and Jordan Ewing. 24 hours later, **Brixham** pulled off an impressive victory away at Southern League outfit, **Exmouth Town**. After the original tie had been abandoned on Saturday afternoon, Brixham travelled back up the coast on Wednesday, and booked their spot in the next round thanks to a pair of first-half efforts from Reece Somers and James Moxon.



On the latest episode of the podcast, we hear from Barnstaple Town boss Ben Potter, who looks back on their impressive start to the campaign. Ben credits the passionate support they receive, while also touching on the rebuilding job underway at the club. Ian is also joined by Hallen's Karl Baggaley, who explains why he believes the quality of the First Division is as good as its ever been.

<https://www.westernleague.co.uk/news/podcast-episode-5>

FA Vase: It was a busy few days of Vase action, starting on Friday night, when **Ivybridge** won 2-0 away at **Newton Abbot Spurs**. First half goals from Rory Busby and Chris Wright proved to be enough for Town, who put their tough league form behind them to progress. Elsewhere that evening, **Nailsea & Tickenham** couldn't follow up their impressive FA Cup win earlier in the week, and fell to a heavy 4-1 defeat in North Somerset against **Sandhurst**.

A bumper Saturday afternoon of single-match knockout clashes included several top results for Western League sides, with **Buckland** claiming a 3-1 win at **Crediton United**. Goals late in the first half from Jared Lewington and Sam Morcom gave the away side a strong foothold, with Ryan Bush then wrapping things up in the closing stages. **Cadbury Heath** also progressed from the first round of qualifying thanks to a 3-1 win at **Newent**. A strong first half proved to be the difference between the sides, with Dan Winstone and Ash Kendall firing them into a two-goal advantage. Josh Williams then added the Heath's third late in the opening period, taking advantage of their hosts being reduced to eight men at the time. **Sturminster Newton** were another side who were successful on their travels, with Nick Hewlett's brace leading them to a 3-2 win at **Folland Sports**. The other big winner was Bitton, who held off a charge from hosts Wantage to win by four goals to two. A pair of first half goals from Adey Harvey sandwiched an Ash McGrane effort, helping the away side build a three-goal advantage. Wantage then attempted a comeback, scoring their second goal 20 minutes from time, but Bitton did enough to progress, with Sacha Tong's injury time header putting an end to the contest. Tougher afternoons were endured by both **Keynsham** and **Cheddar** who fell to 5-1 defeats, while **Warminster** were beaten 3-1 at **Hamworthy United** despite levelling early on through Jack Newman. **Street** are another side who will be disappointed to have fallen at the first hurdle, with their winning run in the league not mirrored in the Vase where they were defeated 3-2 by **Elburton Villa**. Goals from both Connor and Dan Linham kept the Cobblers in contention throughout, but they then conceded in the final 15 minutes as Villa booked their spot in the next round.

Joining Elburton in the second round of Qualifying late in September will be **St Blazey** who toppled **Saltash** in one of the all-Western League clashes. It was the Ashes who started fastest, and they went ahead after only 15 minutes through Jack Wood. Jacob Rowe then levelled affairs late in the first half, with Ryan Downing netting shortly after to put the hosts 2-1 up at the interval. That was how it remained for the majority of the second half, with St Blazey finally wrapping things up in the 93rd minute when Jayden Gilbert adding their third of the afternoon. Premier Division leaders **Brislington** won 2-0 at **Odd Down**, with Oaklan Buck and Joe McLennan each scoring after the interval on a windy afternoon in Bath (*pictured, right*).



The other two matches were tight tussles, both decided on penalties, with Portishead and Hengrove squeaking through. For **Portishead**, they had keeper Ryan Thacker to thank in their win at **Hallen**, with a penalty save during normal time, then followed by two more during the shootout. Two goals inside the opening 12 minutes from Callum Eastwood and Kyle Egan made it look like Town might be afforded a comfortable afternoon. That wasn't the case however, and Lewis Saunders kept up his strong start to the campaign by pulling a goal back ten minutes before half-time. Thacker then thwarted Cory Thomas-Barker from the spot just three minutes later, but Hallen didn't have to wait too long before getting on level terms, with Saunders chipping the ball home just before the game reached the hour mark. It remained two-apiece throughout, and with the game going straight to penalties, Ethan Feltham stepped up to fire home the winner from 12 yards thanks to a starring role from his goalkeeper. **Hengrove** were the others to enjoy a shootout victory, knocking out **Shirehampton** after the game had finished one-all after 90 minutes. Pete Sheppard's first half strike looked like it would be enough for the Grove, but they were denied a victory in normal time due to Anele Nkubee's stoppage time equaliser. That setback didn't deter the home side however, and they rebounded strongly to win 4-3 on penalties. Unfortunately for **Shepton Mallet**, they were knocked out on penalties, drawing 1-1 at **Callington**, before losing 5-4 in the shootout. Ending of a positive note from Saturday's games, **Oldland Abbotonians** claimed a 1-0 win at home to **Cirencester** following some late drama. With the game seemingly headed for a stalemate, Abbots forward Owen McCallum was sent on with eight minutes remaining, and made an immediate impact, knocking the ball home to help his side claim a one-goal victory. Then, on Sunday, a young **Calne** side were heavily beaten by **Berks County**. The hosts only led 1-0 at the interval, but finished strongly at the Racecourse Ground in Ascot, eventually winning by six goals to one. Nat Bell had threatened to kick-start a second half fightback for the Lilywhites, but it wasn't to be, and their Vase participation ended at the first hurdle.

League Action: Among the form sides in the Premier Division are **Barnstaple Town**, with the Devonians securing their fifth win in the space of 18 days thanks to a 3-2 defeat of **Torpoint**. After falling behind to Mason Elliot's early opener, Barnstaple turned things around thanks to a long-ranger from Ricky Marinaro and a scrappy Josh Parry tap-in. Opponents Torpoint have had their early season struggles, but it looked like they had done enough to claim a late point, with Luke Cloke heading home to make it 2-2 late in the piece. Barnstaple weren't ready to be denied however, and thanks to another wicked Gabby Rogers corner, the ball found its way to Marinaro who tucked the ball home to put his side back in front during added time.





Another high-scoring fixture took place at the Winterfield Stadium, who Kye Simpson's crucial double helped **Paulton** beat **Wellington** 4-2 (pictured, left). A strong end to the first half saw Paulton pull ahead, with Jack Farion's header followed shortly after by Simpson's first goal of the afternoon. In-form Wellington forward Miles Quick reduced the arrears shortly after the break, with Dan McBeam then striking 20 minutes from time to put Rovers two in front. It was another goal from Quick which set up the nervy finale, but the hosts had enough in the tank, scoring again through Simpson to restore the advantage and hold on for maximum points. **Ilfracombe** finally claimed their first league win of the campaign, storming to a 4-0 victory at home to **Welton** thanks to a devastating second-half performance. It took over 65 minutes for Chris Roberts to break the deadlock, but once he did, Town

were irresistible, thanks to further goals in the final quarter from Harry Taffs, Lewis Cornish and finally, skipper, Jack Jenkins. Goals were harder to come by at Fairfax Park where **Bridgwater** and **Brixham** battled out a goalless draw, but were very much in demand down in Cornwall where **Clevedon** put five past hosts, **AFC St Austell**. In similar fashion to Paulton, the Seaside's struck twice in the dying embers of the first half to go 2-0 up, with Freddie King scoring a quickfire double. Kyle Marks then struck at the beginning of the second half to get St Austell on the board, yet they were soon back two behind following a strong Harrison Coker finish. Further goals from Andrew Collings and Sam Beresford soon put Clevedon out of sight, with Liam Eddy heading home a late consolation in a tough 5-2 defeat for the hosts.

There were also a couple of one-sided outings in the First Division on Saturday afternoon, including **Wells City's** 6-0 trouncing of **Gillingham Town**. An Adam Wright hat-trick was the main factor in Wells' big win, with Craig Herrod also notching a brace for the home side. **Devizes** finally suffered defeat, seeing Fin Burnell and Zac Feltham both find the back of the net during **Longwell Green's** 2-0 victory at Shellards Road. Two-nil was also the winning margin for **Bradford Town** in their triumph over **Radstock**, with a sixth-straight league victory helping to take them up into top spot. A dream start to the encounter saw Bradford go ahead after just 30 seconds, with Sam Jordan heading into the Radstock net as the hosts made their first forward foray. It was then a 65th minute effort from Callum Demkiv which wrapped things up for the home side who have scored at least twice in all six of their victories this term. The second hat-trick hero residing in the First Division was Luke Bryan, with the **Boco** forward helping his side overturn an early deficit in their 4-1 win over **Mendip Broadwalk**. In a breakneck start to the game, Bryan levelled affairs after only ten minutes, with home keeper Nick Croucher then saving a Mendip penalty shortly after to keep the game locked at one apiece. Bryan then scored his second to put Boco ahead, finally completing his treble in the closing stages after another goal from Mickey Parsons. There was also a fixture on Friday evening, with the improving **Cribbs Reserves** winning 2-0 at **Avonmouth**. Having lost their opening five games, Cribbs have won seven points in the space of ten days, with goals from Tom Headford and Liam Clayton either side of the interval helping them move into the top half.

Recent Results

Tuesday 20th August 2024

FA Cup Preliminary Round

Nailsea & Tickenham	1-0	Reading City
Wellington	0-2	Bideford

Wednesday 21st August 2024

FA Cup Preliminary Round

Exmouth Town	0-2	Brixham
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Friday 23rd August 2024

FA Vase First Round Qualifying

Newton Abbot Spurs	0-2	Ivybridge Town
Sandhurst	4-1	Nailsea & Tickenham

First Division

Avonmouth	0-2	Cribbs Reserves	208
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Saturday 24th August 2024

FA Vase First Round Qualifying

Callington	1-1 (5-4 pens)	Shepton Mallet
Crediton United	1-3	Buckland Athletic
Folland Sports	2-3	Sturminster Newton United
Hallen	2-2 (1-3 pens)	Portishead Town
Hamworthy United	3-1	Warminster Town
Hengrove Athletic	1-1 (4-3 pens)	Shirehampton
Newent	1-3	Cadbury Heath
Odd Down	0-2	Brislington
Oldland Abbotonians	1-0	Cirencester
St Blazey	3-1	Saltash United
Street	2-3	Elburton Villa
Tytherington Rocks	5-1	Keynsham Town
Wadebridge Town	5-1	Cheddar
Wantage	2-4	Bitton

Premier Division

AFC St Austell	2-5	Clevedon Town
Barnstaple Town	3-2	Torpoint Athletic
Bridgwater United	0-0	Brixham
Ilfracombe Town	4-0	Welton Rovers
Paulton Rovers	4-2	Wellington

First Division

AEK Boco	4-1	Mendip Broadwalk
Bradford Town	2-0	Radstock Town
Longwell Green Sports	2-0	Devizes Town
Wells City	6-0	Gillingham Town

Sunday 25th August 2024

FA Vase First Round Qualifying

Berks County	6-1	Calne Town
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Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 27th August 2024

Premier Division

Bridgwater United	vs	Portishead Town	19:45KO
Brixham AFC	vs	St Blazey	19:30KO
Brislington	vs	Nailsea & Tickenham	19:45KO
Buckland Athletic	vs	AFC St Austell	19:30KO
Paulton Rovers	vs	Shepton Mallet	19:30KO
Saltash United	vs	Ilfracombe Town	19:45KO
Street	vs	Barnstaple Town	19:45KO
Torpoint Athletic	vs	Ivybridge Town	19:30KO

First Division

Gillingham Town	vs	Cheddar	19:45KO
Hallen	vs	Avonmouth	19:30KO
Hengrove Athletic	vs	Bitton	19:30KO
Odd Down	vs	AEK Boco	19:45KO
Radstock Town	vs	Keynsham Town	19:45KO
Wells City	vs	Sturminster Newton United	19:30KO

Wednesday 28th August 2024

Premier Division

Clevedon Town	vs	Wellington	19:30KO
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First Division

Shirehampton	vs	Cribbs Reserves	19:45KO
Warminster Town	vs	Mendip Broadwalk	19:45KO

Saturday 31st August 2024 (3pm Kick-off unless noted otherwise)

FA Cup First Round Qualifying

Barnstaple Town	vs	Larkhall Athletic
Gloucester City	vs	Paulton Rovers
Hartpury University	vs	Nailsea & Tickenham
Willand Rovers	vs	Brixham AFC

Premier Division

AFC St Austell	vs	Portishead Town
Bridgwater United	vs	Wellington
Brislington	vs	Ivybridge Town
Buckland Athletic	vs	Saltash United
Clevedon Town	vs	Ilfracombe Town
Shepton Mallet	vs	Oldland Abbotonians
St Blazey	vs	Welton Rovers
Street	vs	Torpoint Athletic

First Division

Avonmouth	vs	Bitton
Calne Town	vs	Wells City
Cribbs Reserves	vs	Cadbury Heath
Devizes Town	vs	Bristol Telephones
Hallen	vs	Bradford Town
Keynsham Town	vs	AEK Boco
Longwell Green Sports	vs	Odd Down
Mendip Broadwalk	vs	Cheddar
Shirehampton	vs	Gillingham Town
Sturminster Newton United	vs	Hengrove Athletic
Warminster Town	vs	Radstock Town



JEWSON