**Latest Round-ups:**

**Season 2019/20**

**#31**

**Premier Division:** In the only Tuesday evening game to beat the weather, **Hallen** held off a late charge from **Buckland Athletic** to secure a 4-3 win in Bristol. The home side are enjoying an excellent season, and grabbed their 17th league victory this term thanks in part to goals in either half from Jordan Ricketts. Hallen made a strong start to the game, and grabbed a deserved lead in the 19thminute through Sacha Tong, before Mani Skett responded for Buckland to level the scores. The hosts regained control ten minutes before the interval when Ricketts struck, with Aaron Anglin then extending the lead in the early stages of the second half. A lovely side-footed finish from recent signing Ricketts made it 4-1 just after the hour mark, before Buckland staged a late fightback. Goals from Ryan Bush and Jamie Passmore in the final quarter-hour set up a nervy couple of minutes, and despite losing Aron Robbins to a red card, Hallen held on to pull within two points of top spot. The following evening, **Tavistock** defeated **Roman Glass St George** for the second time in three weeks to move back up into fourth spot. After winning 4-0 at Oaklands Park during the first week of February, the Lambs repeated the trick on Wednesday down in Devon by four goals to two. Roman Glass held their own during the first half, cancelling out efforts from Tom Strike and Josh Grant to send the teams back to the dressing rooms with the scores level at 2-2. Liam Prynn scored the decisive fifth goal, putting Tavistock back in front, before second-half substitute Jack Crago wrapped up the victory in the second minute of stoppage time.

**First Division:** In the one league fixture to survive the washout, **Bristol Telephones** picked up just their third First Division win of the season, thumping **Lebeq**by five goals to one. Credit must go to the staff at Oaklands Park for giving the game the go ahead, and the Phones took advantage of being the only winner on Saturday, gaining ground on the teams directly above them in the league. Dawid Regula struck twice for the visitors, with Ali Boyer, Joe Hillard and Rory Langdon also getting on the scoresheet in their first league victory since Boxing Day.

**Be sure to check out the latest podcast, where Ian, Tom & guests recap all the latest news and results from around the Western League. To follow along all season, each broadcast will be available at the following link:** [**http://www.toolstationleague.com/podcasts.php**](http://www.toolstationleague.com/podcasts.php)

**FA Vase: Bitton** are now just 180 minutes away from Wembley after storming to a 4-0 victory in their FA Vase quarter-final away at **Wroxham**. Recent signing Liam Bishop has been a god-send for Dan Langdon’s side, scoring his second hat-trick since joining on loan from Hereford last Friday. In fact, Bishop (pictured right) scored all four of Bitton’s goals in their victory over the Yachtsmen, opening the scoring after just 15 minutes. With half-time on the horizon, the game turned heavily in Bitton’s favour, with Bishop making it 2-0 thanks to a delightful chipped finish after being played in by Aysa Corrick. Just moments later, Wroxham were then reduced to ten men, with a straight red card awarded to the home side following a dangerous challenge. Bishop beat a pair of defenders before notching his hat-trick goal midway through the second half, with the youngster adding a perfect ending to the game by slotting home his fourth in the closing stages as Bitton booked their spot in the last four. Unfortunately, **Plymouth Parkway** won’t be joining their Western League adversaries in the semi-finals after falling to a 2-0 defeat away at **Hebburn Town**. Following the long trip up north, Parkway suffered an unfortunate loss, with Cedwyn Scott scoring two first half goals for the Tyne and Wear side. Parkway keeper Kyle Moore earned plenty of plaudits for his performance between the sticks, but despite going close on a couple of occasions, the current Premier Division leaders were unable to grab a breakthrough.

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**Images from Bitton’s 4-0 victory over Wroxham are courtesy of Robert Walkley**

**Western League Statistical Leaders**

**PREMIER DIVISION LEADING GOAL SCORERS (League only):**

**Adam Carter (Plymouth Parkway) – 28**

**Jordan Harris (Exmouth Town) – 22**

**Jack Fillingham (Shepton Mallet) – 20**

**Leighton Thomas (Street) – 18**

**Mikey Williams (Plymouth Parkway) – 17**

**Jack Taylor (Bridgwater Town) – 16**

**PREMIER DIVISION TOP ATTENDANCES:**

Plymouth Parkway 2 Tavistock 3, Thursday 26th December 2019 - **564**

Bridport 0 Bridgwater Town 6, Sunday 6th October 2019 – **347**

Wellington 0 Exmouth Town 2, Sunday 6th October 2019 - **315**

**FIRST DIVISION LEADING GOAL SCORERS (League only):**

**Harry Foster (Wells City) – 24**

**James Rustell (Radstock Town) – 19**

**Stuart Windsor (Calne Town) – 19**

**Alex Murphy (Sherborne Town) – 14**

**Josh Bright (Corsham Town) – 13**

**Toby Cole (Wincanton Town) – 12**

**FIRST DIVISION TOP ATTENDANCES:**

Warminster Town 2 Bristol Telephones 3, Saturday 5th October 2019 - **369**

Longwell Green Sports 1 Oldland Abbotonians 2, Saturday 28th December 2019 - **289**

Portishead Town 3 Longwell Green Sports 5, Saturday 5th October 2019 – **262**

**LEADING SCORERS IN ALL COMPETITIONS:**

**Jack Crago (Tavistock) - 36**

**Harry Foster (Wells City) – 31**

**Adam Carter (Plymouth Parkway) – 28**

**Jack Fillingham (Shepton Mallet) – 25**

**Jordan Harris (Exmouth Town) - 25**

**James Rustell (Radstock Town) – 24**

**Jack Taylor (Bridgwater Town) – 23**

*\*All goalscoring stats via Full-Time FA website*

**Latest Results**

**Tuesday 25th February 2020**

**Premier Division**

Hallen 4-3 Buckland Athletic 52

**Wednesday 26th February 2020**

**Premier Division**

Tavistock 4-2 Roman Glass St George

**Saturday 29th February 2020**

**FA Vase – Quarter Finals**

Hebburn Town 2-0 **Plymouth Parkway** 1705

Wroxham 0-4 **Bitton** 987

**First Division**

Lebeq United 1-5 Bristol Telephones 40

**Midweek Fixtures**

**Tuesday 3rd March 2020**

**Premier Division**

Bitton vs Hallen 19:30KO

Brislington vs Clevedon Town 19:30KO

Odd Down vs Cribbs 19:45KO

Shepton Mallet vs Exmouth Town 19:30KO

**First Division**

Almondsbury vs Wincanton Town 19:30KO

Bishop Sutton vs Ashton & Backwell United 19:30KO

Bristol Telephones vs Cheddar 19:30KO

Hengrove Athletic vs Corsham Town 19:30KO

Longwell Green Sports vs Wells City 19:30KO

Radstock Town vs Portishead Town 19:30KO

**Somerset FA Premier Cup – Quarter Final**

**Welton Rovers** vs Yeovil Town 19:30KO

**Wiltshire FA Senior Cup – Semi Final**

**Corsham Town** vs Bemerton Heath Harlequins 19:45KO

**Wednesday 4th March 2020**

**Premier Division**

Bradford Town vs Plymouth Parkway 19:30KO

Cadbury Heath vs Buckland Athletic 19:30KO

Roman Glass St George vs Keynsham Town 19:30KO

Tavistock vs Bridgwater Town 19:30KO

**First Division**

Bishops Lydeard vs Lebeq United 19:30KO

Warminster Town vs Oldland Abbotonians 19:45KO

**Friday 6th March 2020**

**First Division**

Corsham Town vs Devizes Town 19:30KO

**Weekend Fixtures**

**Saturday 7th March 2020 (KICK OFF AT 3.00PM UNLESS NOTED)**

**Premier Division**

Bradford Town vs Cribbs

Buckland Athletic vs Bridport

Clevedon Town vs Bitton

Exmouth Town vs Chipping Sodbury Town

Odd Down vs Tavistock

Plymouth Parkway vs Hallen

Roman Glass St George vs Cadbury Heath

Shepton Mallet vs Westbury United

Wellington vs Brislington

**First Division**

Ashton & Backwell United vs Lebeq United

Bishop Sutton vs Calne Town

Bishops Lydeard vs Almondsbury

Cheddar vs Oldland Abbotonians

Hengrove Athletic vs Wells City

Longwell Green Sports vs Radstock Town

Warminster Town vs Sherborne Town

Welton Rovers vs Bristol Telephones

Wincanton Town vs Portishead Town

**The Toolstation Western League #Lovesthewhistle**

Over the next four weeks, the Toolstation Western League will be running a campaign to promote the contribution that match officials make to football at every level of the game, not just the Western League.

Using the Western League Podcast, website and social media channels, this campaign will look at the motivation for officials to get involved with the game, what they get out of their participation, as well as what they find most frustrating.

Headlining with a serialised interview with Martin Cassidy the CEO of Ref Support UK, a registered charity created by referees and Trustees who have all officiated on the Western League. Ref Support provide referees with independent support, separate from the Football Association. The charity doesn’t receive any funding from any of footballs governing bodies, enabling them to challenge organisations like the FA when needed, as well as supporting match officials with training both on and off the pitch.

In the interview for the Western League Podcast, Martin applauded the League for being the first in the country to approach Ref Support “for some independent help and support, because we won’t just take the referees side.” Martin explained the charity provides consultancy for Clubs on a variety of aspects of the game including match reports from referees, dismissals and yellow cards.

Martin was keen to stress that “we are never going to say that every referee is perfect for the level they operate at. Some referees react too quickly, some referees haven’t had the soft skills training on how to deal with confrontation and those skills aren’t taught by the FA at grassroots level. We believe that concentrating on those first and getting soft skills to a level that can improve your communication with players and club officials really, really helps.”

The campaign will also include contributions from Western League match officials like Andrew Hobbs, who got into refereeing after he gave up playing, on the advice of his friend, the late Mark Box. Andrew enjoys the opportunity to contribute to the game he loves but is sad to see officials being abused every week.

Ultimately, Ref Support and the Toolstation Western League want to see more people take up officiating. Martin Cassidy explains the benefits he’s got from refereeing, “I can go into the pubs in Bristol and bump in to a player or manager and have a pint and you can make some wonderful long-term friendships. I would advise anybody to get off of their Playstation, get off the couch and get out and take a referees course. It’s a great way to increase social engagement improve your soft skills and just to meet people who are footballs lovers, just like you.”

If you are interested in becoming a match official then contact your County FA to find out more. The Toolstation Western League Podcast is available weekly, on itunes, as well as <http://toolstationleague.com/>. The Leagues social media accounts can be found @TSWesternLeague. As part of the campaign to support match officials, fans are being asked to use [#Lovethewhistle](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Lovethewhistle?src=hashtag_click) in any football related social media posts.

**League Tables**

**Premier Division**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
| 1 | **Plymouth Parkway** | 22 | 19 | 1 | 2 | 78 | 19 | 59 | 58 |
| 2 | **Bradford Town** | 22 | 19 | 1 | 2 | 69 | 20 | 49 | 58 |
| 3 | **Hallen** | 27 | 17 | 5 | 5 | 62 | 43 | 19 | 56 |
| 4 | **Tavistock** | 23 | 17 | 2 | 4 | 65 | 29 | 36 | 53 |
| 5 | **Exmouth Town** | 23 | 17 | 2 | 4 | 57 | 21 | 36 | 53 |
| 6 | **Shepton Mallet** | 25 | 15 | 4 | 6 | 60 | 30 | 30 | 49 |
| 7 | **Bridgwater Town** | 26 | 13 | 7 | 6 | 65 | 39 | 26 | 46 |
| 8 | **Bitton** | 23 | 14 | 2 | 7 | 63 | 33 | 30 | 44 |
| 9 | **Street** | 29 | 12 | 4 | 13 | 60 | 63 | -3 | 40 |
| 10 | **Clevedon Town** | 27 | 12 | 4 | 11 | 53 | 56 | -3 | 40 |
| 11 | **Westbury United** | 27 | 12 | 3 | 12 | 52 | 40 | 12 | 39 |
| 12 | **Buckland Athletic** | 23 | 11 | 2 | 10 | 43 | 47 | -4 | 35 |
| 13 | **Keynsham Town** | 27 | 10 | 4 | 13 | 47 | 54 | -7 | 34 |
| 14 | **Roman Glass St George** | 26 | 9 | 4 | 13 | 57 | 45 | 12 | 31 |
| 15 | **Brislington** | 25 | 9 | 4 | 12 | 37 | 58 | -21 | 31 |
| 16 | **Cadbury Heath** | 29 | 6 | 7 | 16 | 33 | 76 | -43 | 25 |
| 17 | **Cribbs** | 26 | 7 | 3 | 16 | 33 | 63 | -30 | 24 |
| 18 | **Bridport** | 26 | 5 | 2 | 19 | 35 | 85 | -50 | 17 |
| 19 | **Chipping Sodbury Town** | 26 | 5 | 1 | 20 | 29 | 84 | -55 | 16 |
| 20 | **Wellington** | 28 | 3 | 3 | 22 | 24 | 69 | -45 | 12 |
| 21 | **Odd Down** | 26 | 3 | 1 | 22 | 23 | 71 | -48 | 10 |

**First Division**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
| 1 | **Calne Town** | 25 | 17 | 2 | 6 | 44 | 19 | 25 | 53 |
| 2 | **Wells City** | 25 | 15 | 6 | 4 | 65 | 27 | 38 | 51 |
| 3 | **Longwell Green Sports** | 26 | 16 | 3 | 7 | 63 | 37 | 26 | 51 |
| 4 | **Ashton & Backwell United** | 25 | 15 | 6 | 4 | 42 | 37 | 5 | 51 |
| 5 | **Sherborne Town** | 24 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 40 | 37 | 3 | 48 |
| 6 | **Radstock Town** | 20 | 14 | 1 | 5 | 49 | 26 | 23 | 43 |
| 7 | **Corsham Town** | 25 | 12 | 3 | 10 | 43 | 50 | -7 | 39 |
| 8 | **Wincanton Town** | 21 | 11 | 2 | 8 | 42 | 44 | -2 | 35 |
| 9 | **Oldland Abbotonians** | 21 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 29 | 32 | -3 | 35 |
| 10 | **Cheddar** | 23 | 10 | 4 | 9 | 38 | 36 | 2 | 34 |
| 11 | **Bishops Lydeard** | 22 | 10 | 3 | 9 | 48 | 35 | 13 | 33 |
| 12 | **Lebeq United** | 25 | 10 | 0 | 15 | 48 | 60 | -12 | 30 |
| 13 | **Portishead Town** | 24 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 41 | 43 | -2 | 28 |
| 14 | **Hengrove Athletic** | 24 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 21 | 46 | -25 | 28 |
| 15 | **Warminster Town** | 23 | 8 | 2 | 13 | 41 | 38 | 3 | 26 |
| 16 | **Almondsbury** | 22 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 31 | 37 | -6 | 25 |
| 17 | **Welton Rovers** | 24 | 6 | 4 | 14 | 27 | 44 | -17 | 22 |
| 18 | **Devizes Town** | 24 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 33 | 55 | -22 | 15 |
| 19 | **Bishop Sutton** | 24 | 3 | 3 | 18 | 25 | 56 | -31 | 12 |
| 20 | **Bristol Telephones** | 23 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 33 | 64 | -31 | 11 |

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