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4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020



## TOOLSTATION WESTERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION



WELLINGTON

versus



WESTBURY UNITED

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## **WELLINGTON AFC**

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**Affiliated to the Somerset FA**

**Members of:**

**Toolstation Western League**

**Macron Devon & Exeter League**

**Invest Southwest Taunton Saturday League**

**Somerset County Women's League**

**Western Counties Floodlight Youth League**

**Taunton Youth League & Mini League**

**Somerset Girls Football League**

### **CLUB OFFICIALS**

**ALAN SHIRE - President**

**MIKE HALL – Chairman**

**GRAHAM ASPIN - Vice-Chairman**

**JEFF BROWN - Secretary**

**REG OXBY - Treasurer**

**JANE BROWN – Assistant Secretary/Membership Secretary**

**REG & JENNY OXBY – Clubhouse Managers**

**COLIN WALLER - Welfare Officer/Youth Team Co-ordinator**

**KEN BIRD – Website and Social Media Officer**

**TIM LEGG - First Team Manager**

**SEAN BUTTLE - Reserve Team Manager**

**LUKE O'HARA – A Team Manager**



## WELLINGTON AFC Club History

Formed in 1892 we are proud to be an FA Charter Standard Community Club. Initially the Club played in leagues based around Taunton and Tiverton. In the early 1960s it gained promotion to the Somerset Senior League and succeeded in achieving Western League status in 1978 which has been retained ever since, making the Club one of the League's longest continuously serving members.

The First Team entered the Western League in the First Division in 1978/79 season and has played at Premier Division level from 1981/82 to 1984/85 and 2008/09 to 2010/11. The team were promoted as First Division Champions at the end of the 2016/17 season. In their first season back in the Premier Division the team finished a creditable 15<sup>th</sup>, they also reached the semi-final of the Somerset Premier Cup losing 4-1 away to Southern League Paulton Rovers. Last season the team finished in 16<sup>th</sup> place but are hoping to improve on this in the forthcoming season. All other seasons were played at Division One level.

The Club's Reserve side play in the Devon and Exeter League Division One. Having finished eighth for two seasons, unfortunately, the team struggled during the 2017/18 season and last season improved to once again finish in eighth place and will play at the same level this year.

Having played in the Devon and Exeter League for a number of seasons the A Team transferred to Division Three of the Taunton Saturday League last season where they finished a very creditable third and could be promoted to Division Two for the forthcoming season.

The Club's Ladies side finished ninth in the Somerset County Women's League First Division last season but, with the introduction of new players are hoping to improve this season. The team play a full role in both the playing and non-playing aspects of the club.

This season the Club will be running 21 teams in its Youth and Mini Sections. These teams see both boys and girls playing from the age of eight right through to eighteen. The Club also has three Disability teams. Six of the Youth Teams won the Sportsmanship Awards for their Age Groups last season and the Disability Teams won the Somerset FA Award for Disability Club of the Year.

During the last year the Club launched its new website – [www.wellingtonafc.co.uk](http://www.wellingtonafc.co.uk) and is making full use of its Facebook and Twitter accounts which have all proved very successful.

We continue to work with the local Council's and Wellington Sports Federation on the Taunton Deane Pitch Strategy which will hopefully result in the Club moving to a larger ground and bring the majority of football pitches in the town to one site.

Outside of its core footballing activities the Club is home to several darts and skittles teams and it runs a full programme of social events for members and non-members alike. The Function Room and Lounge are available for hire. (Please contact the Clubhouse Manager – Jenny Oxby on 01823 665410 for details)

### **NEXT GAMES AT THE PLAYING FIELD**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January – KO – 2.00pm**  
**Somerset County Women's League**  
**WELLINGTON LADIES v BISHOPS LYDEARD LADIES RESERVES**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – KO 7.30pm**  
**Western Counties Floodlight Youth League**  
**WELLINGTON UNDER 18'S v WEYMOUTH UNDER 18'S**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January – KO – 2.15.pm**  
**Macron Devon & Exeter League – Div 1**  
**WELLINGTON RESERVES v EXWICK VILLA 2ND**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January – KO – 2.00pm**  
**Somerset County Women's League**  
**WELLINGTON LADIES v ASH RANGERS LADIES FIRST**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January – KO 7.45pm**  
**Toolstation Western League – Premier Division**  
**WELLINGTON v HALLEN**

## **MATCH REPORT**

### **TOOLSTATION WESTERN LEAGUE – PREMIER DIVISION**

**WELLINGTON 0      3      BRADFORD TOWN**

**(abandoned after 70 minutes)**

Wellington and premier leaders Bradford Town will have to meet again after their clash at a rain-soaked Playing Field the Saturday before Christmas was brought to a premature end. The pitch had passed two morning inspections but conditions worsened as the game wore on and referee Mr Lee Roberts abandoned proceedings with 20 minutes remaining – a decision which angered the visitors who were on their way to a comfortable victory.

Bradford took the lead in bizarre fashion after 16 minutes as a crossfield clearance by home defender Tom Stone cannoned off striker Gary Higdon outside the area and rolled agonisingly into the net. They should have increased their lead just after the half-hour when they were awarded a penalty for a foul by Josh Pearson but keeper Tom Welch dived to his right to keep out Higdon's spot kick.

Wellington did well to keep the score at 1-0 until the break but found themselves under the cosh in the second half as the visitors stepped up a gear playing down the slope. Bradford doubled their lead after 50 minutes with a header by Charlie Walton and then Higdon wriggled into space to score their third – and his second – 17 minutes later.

The rain continued to pour down, making life increasingly difficult for the players, and Mr Roberts blew the final whistle after 70 minutes, then incurring the wrath of the Bradford players and officials.

A date has still to be agreed for the game to be replayed but it will be an evening kick-off at the Playing Field.

### **BRIDPORT v WELLINGTON**

**26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

The first team were due to play away at Bridport on Boxing Day, however the game became a victim of the weather after an early morning pitch inspection confirmed that, taking in to account the ground conditions and weather forecast for the rest of the morning the pitch would not be playable. The game has been rescheduled at Bridport for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January with a 7.45pm kick-off.

## ACTION SHOTS FROM WELLINGTON v BRADFORD





Photographs courtesy of Gill Paltridge or Around Wellington



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## TODAY'S VISITORS WESTBURY UNITED

We extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Westbury United for today's Toolstation Western League Premier Division game.

The club started in 1920 when two local sides amalgamated. Westbury Old Comrades FC had just won promotion to the First Division of the Wiltshire County League and to strengthen the side they joined forces with a local junior side, Westbury Great Western Railway XI, and together they became Westbury United Football Club.

In its first season, the Club finished third from bottom of the County league and in the 1920's they struggled, but in the 1930's they won everything possible in Wiltshire football. In 1936 the Club reached the First Round Proper of the FA Cup. They were led by a magnificent player called Billy Pearce, who captained the County throughout the decade. Also included in the side at the time was a prolific goal scorer called Bill Butler, who scored more than eighty senior goals in one season (including thirty in a month!).

The Club purchased and moved to its present ground in Meadow Lane in 1934, the cost of the four-acre site being £475. The very first game played on what was then the Jubilee Playing Field was against Bristol City and a crowd of around 4000 attended.

The Club has produced many players who have gone on to make the grade at professional football, two of them being centre forwards for Bristol City. The first was Reg Smith who played for City in the 1930s and was then transferred to Wolverhampton Wanderers for what was described in the Press as a 'considerable fee'. The other was John Atyeo, who for his signature City played a presentation game against Westbury and made a donation of £100. It must have been the bargain of the century as John played over 600 games for City and scored 359 goals. He also played six times for England in which he netted five goals. He died suddenly in June 1993, aged 61, and now has a grandstand named after him at City's Ashton Gate ground as well as a street in his home village of Dilton Marsh (just a few miles from Meadow Lane). The Club has strong family traditions. Wilf Alford left Westbury before the last War to play for then First Division Portsmouth. His son, Phil, managed the Reserve Team for many years as well as stints helping at First Team level, while his grandsons have also played for the Club.

Westbury joined the Western League in 1984 and initially struggled. In 1988 floodlights were erected and Southampton were the visitors for the official switch on. Season 1988-89 saw the Club win its first honour in the League, winning the Sportsmanship Trophy. In 1991, under the management of Ian Harris, they won the First Division Title to gain promotion to the Premier Division. The highest League placing to date came in the 1994-95 season when they finished fifth.

The Club has had its share of dedicated officials who have given a lifetime of service. Former Club President, Ernie Barber, who passed away in December 2012, used to carry the team kit as a seven-year-old (1933) and after the war he started playing. When he finished playing he became Secretary and held the post until the end of the 1996-97 season when he decided to retire.

In recent years the Club has, with the help of the Football Stadia Improvement Fund, been able to replace the drainage system on the pitch as well as erect fencing around the ground and a wall around the pitch. Following several seasons in the 2000s where the aim of promotion to the Toolstation Premier League wasn't achieved, long standing manager Paul Brickley stood down and there was 6 seasons of struggle from 2010/11 till 2015/16 under various managers with the team finishing in the bottom 3 every time! There have been major changes behind the scenes with the aim of driving the Club forward. Although the team finished bottom of the league in 2014-2015 we were reprieved from relegation and made a minor improvement in 2015-2016. With the drive from those who joined the Club from the Westbury Youth set up there is a closer relationship between adult and youth football resulting in many teenagers stepping up to Western League football.

The 2015/16 season had a similar theme, Westbury were facing down the barrel of another relegation battle and another manager was relieved of his position. This change brought in the current father/son management team Neil and Joe Kirkpatrick, a strong finish to the season meant Westbury finished with a satisfactory 58 points and a 12<sup>th</sup> position finish.

A lot of hard work was put in off the pitch in preparation for the 2017/18 season. The wall surrounding the pitch was painted white, a new pay hut was erected, and the clubhouse and changing rooms were refurbished. Also the team structure of the club had major changes, a 'new' reserve team was entered into the Wiltshire Senior League and the team competing in the Trowbridge and District League was renamed Westbury United Development team, complimented by a new U18's team at Westbury Youth there is finally a clear pathway for players to develop.

The Kirkpatrick's had attracted a strong group of players and Westbury started the season amongst the favourites to be promoted. They started the season well, staying unbeaten for the first 13 league games, winning 8 and drawing 5. Chairman Matt Bright stepped down in early October to spend more time with his family, and Secretary Greg Coulson was elected to become Chairman at a Special General Meeting in early November. The club won the First Division and secured promotion to the Premier Division.[1] They managed to score more points (95, previous best 91), score more goals (97, previous best 95) and concede the least goals (29, previous best 39) in the clubs history.

2018/19 was Westbury's first season back in the Toolstation Western Premier League since relegation in 2002, they finished fifth with another record points haul for the club. They are hoping to be able to build on their impressive return to the Premier Division in the upcoming season.

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The advertisement features a blue background with a white snow-like texture at the bottom. It includes logos for Toolstation, Football Stadia Improvement Fund, and various tool brands. A smartphone is shown displaying the product range.

**TOOLSTATION WESTERN LEAGUE – PREMIER DIVISION**

**SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020**



**WELLINGTON**

**Tangerine & Black  
Team from:**

**Ian Bellinger  
Luke Boyle  
Josh Champion  
Charlie Dodd  
Harry Hamblin  
Ollie Holman  
Jake Horsey  
Carl Jones  
Josh Pearson  
Harry Scatchard  
George Sinnott  
Tom Stone  
Tom Welch (GK)  
Elliott Williams  
Glen Wright (Capt)  
Joe Wylie**

**Manager – Tim Legg  
Coach – Alex Pope  
Physio – Mike Hall**



**WESTBURY UNITED**

**Grey  
Team from:**

**Ed Baldy  
Jordan Pinder  
Ryan Bole  
Matt Jones  
Daniel Jordan  
Steve Hulbert  
Jamie Jordan  
Joe Stradling  
Ricky Hulbert  
Sam Jordan  
Callum Demkiv  
Will Stead  
Dan Kovacs  
Mark Robinson  
Joe Kirkpatrick  
Lewis Porter**

**Managers – Neil & Joe Kirkpatrick  
1<sup>st</sup> Team Coach – Luke Smith  
GK Coach – Lewis Porter  
Physio – Will Bundy**

**MATCH OFFICIALS**

**Referee – Robert Cockle (Bristol)**

**Assistants – Benjamin Slade (Bristol) & Nicholas Whittington (Romsey)**



## TOOLSTATION WESTERN LEAGUE RECENT RESULTS & FIXTURES

### BOXING DAY RESULTS

Bltton	2	2	Cadbury Heath
Bradford Town	2	1	Westbury Utd
Bridgwater Town	2	4	Street
Cribbs	2	4	Hallen
Exmouth Town	4	2	Buckland Athletic
Plymouth Parkway	2	3	Tavistock
Roman Glass St George	2	0	Clevedon Town
Shepton Mallet	4	0	Odd Down

### SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Buckland Athletic	4	2	Cribbs
Chipping Sodbury Town	2	1	Roman Class St George
Clevedon Town	2	1	Bridgwater Town
Keynsham Town	3	1	Bradford Town
Odd Down	1	5	Bitton
Street	3	4	Exmouth Town
Tavistock	1	0	Brislington
Westbury Utd	1	2	Plymouth Parkway

### FIXTURES – SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

Bradford Town	v	Odd Down
Bridgwater Town	v	Bridport
Clevedon Town	v	Buckland Athletic
Exmouth Town	v	Bitton
Hallen	v	Cadbury Heath
Plymouth Parkway	v	Brislington
Shepton Mallet	v	Chipping Sodbury Town
Street	v	Roman Glass St George
Tavistock	v	Keynsham Town
Wellington	v	Westbury Utd

### LES PHILLIPS CUP – QUARTER FINAL DRAW

Hallen vs Cheddar or Cribbs

Tavistock or Clevedon Town vs Warminster Town

Bridgwater Town vs Shepton Mallet or Exmouth Town

Roman Glass St George vs Bradford Town or Bitton

(to be played 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February)



## TOOLSTATION WESTERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION – LEAGUE TABLE AS AT 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

		<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>GD</u>	<u>PTS</u>
1	Bradford Town	17	14	1	2	50	18	32	43
2	Plymouth Parkway	16	13	1	2	61	18	43	40
3	Clevedon Town	21	12	3	6	46	38	8	39
4	Exmouth Town	15	12	1	2	40	13	27	37
5	Hallen	19	11	3	5	39	33	6	36
6	Shepton Mallet	18	10	3	5	40	26	14	33
7	Tavistock	15	10	2	3	43	22	21	32
8	Bitton	17	10	1	6	47	27	20	31
9	Bridgwater Town	18	9	4	5	47	28	19	31
10	Street	22	8	3	11	47	51	-4	27
11	Brislington	21	8	3	10	31	51	-20	27
12	Buckland Athletic	17	8	1	8	31	33	-2	25
13	Westbury United	20	7	3	10	35	32	3	24
14	Keynsham Town	19	7	3	9	36	42	-6	24
15	Cribbs	20	7	2	11	31	48	-17	23
16	Cadbury Heath	21	5	7	9	29	43	-14	22
17	Roman Glass St George	17	6	2	9	36	24	12	20
18	Chipping Sodbury Town	20	4	1	15	25	63	-38	13
19	Bridport	20	4	1	15	25	67	-42	13
20	Wellington	19	3	2	14	20	51	-31	11
21	Odd Down	18	3	1	14	16	47	-31	10

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## 2019-2020 SEASON – FIXTURES, RESULTS & GOALSCORERS

DATE	H/A	COMP	OPPOSITION	F/A	GOALSCORERS
06/08	A	Prem	Keynsham Town	0-2	
10/08	H	FAC	Cribbs	1-1	Pengelly
13/08	A	FAC r/p	Cribbs	1-5	Bellinger
17/08	A	Prem	Buckland Athletic	0-2	
20/08	A	Prem	Street	2-4	Wylie, Wright
24/08	A	Prem	Odd Down	1-3	J Bryant
31/08	A	FAV	Shepton Mallet	0-4	
07/09	A	Prem	Roman Glass	0-8	
14/09	A	Prem	Brislington	3-0	C Bryant, Chamberlain (2)
18/09	H	LPC	Roman Glass	0-3	
21/09	H	Prem	Bridgwater Town	0-3	
28/09	A	Prem	Westbury Utd	0-5	
02/10	H	Prem	Tavistock	3-1	C Bryant (2), Wadham
06/10	H	Prem	Exmouth Town	0-2	
09/10	H	SPC	Wells City	1-5	Dawson
12/10	H	Prem	Odd Down	5-0	Chamberlain (2), Dawson, Hawkings, Holman
19/10	H	Prem	Cadbury Heath	1-1	Borges
02/11	A	Prem	Shepton Mallet	1-2	Boyle
12/11	A	Prem	Cribbs	0-3	
16/11	H	Prem	Clevedon Town	1-3	Stone
20/11	H	Prem	Plymouth Parkway	0-2	
23/11	A	Prem	Bitton	0-2	
07/12	H	Prem	Shepton Mallet	0-5	
11/12	H	Prem	Street	3-3	Williams, Scatchard, Wright
21/12	H	Prem	Bradford Town	Abandoned to be rearranged	
04/01	H	Prem	Westbury Utd		
07/01	A	Prem	Bridport Town	7.45pm	
11/01	A	Prem	Chipping Sodbury		
15/01	H	Prem	Hallen	7.45pm	
18/01	H	Prem	Bitton		
21/01	A	Prem	Bridgwater Town	7.45pm	
25/01	A	Prem	Cadbury Heath		
01/02	A	Prem	Plymouth P'way		
08/02	H	Prem	Buckland Athletic		
15/02	A	Prem	Tavistock		
22/02	A	Prem	Exmouth Town		
26/02	H	Prem	Keynsham Town	7.45pm	
29/02	H	Prem	Roman Glass		
07/03	H	Prem	Brislington		
14/03	A	Prem	Bradford Town		
21/03	H	Prem	Cribbs		
28/03	A	Prem	Clevedon Town		
04/04	H	Prem	Chipping Sodbury		
10/04	H	Prem	Bridport Town	KO TBC	Good Friday
18/04	A	Prem	Hallen		

Note – Kick of 3.00pm for all games unless shown otherwise

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## CHRISTMAS RACE NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Race Night on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December. Special thanks to Luke O'Hara who with the help of Will Hammond, Tom Davies and Sean Buttle organised a very successful evening which raised over £200. Everyone had an enjoyable evening and congratulations go to Daniel Aspin who won the impromptu skittles competition which took place after the racing. Rumours are that a similar event will take place towards the end of the season.



Thanks to our Website and Social Media Officer, Ken Bird for taking the pictures. It seems he was to the only one who got the message about it being 'wear your Christmas sweater day'.



## EXTRACT FROM TOOLSTATION BULLETIN 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019



**Weekend Action:** **Bradford Town** suffered a rare defeat in the Premier Division on Saturday afternoon, relinquishing a first-half lead at the hands of **Keynsham**. Lewis Powell slid the ball home for the league leaders during the opening 25 minutes, with Keynsham getting level before the break to set up an enticing second-half. The K's completed their comeback soon after the interval when Craig Wilson fired them ahead, but Bradford then had the opportunity to hit back when they were awarded a spot kick. However, Ash Clark thwarted Tyson Pollard from 12 yards to maintain the host's lead, which Wilson then added to in the closing stages to complete the 3-1 win. **Plymouth Parkway** capitalised on the Bobcats slip-up, beating **Westbury** 2-1 to end the year just three points off the top. A bundled opener from Mikey Williams put the Devon side ahead in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute, but United managed to restore parity when Joe Stradling beat a couple of defenders before rifling the ball home. The winner came midway through a tight second half, with Mike Landricombe notching a rare goal for Parkway when he reacted fastest to a loose ball in the opposition area. **Exmouth Town** came out on top in a seven-goal thriller away at **Street** to extend their winning run to three matches. After storming into a two-goal lead thanks to Jamie Durrant and Jordan Harris, Exmouth looked to have wrapped up victory when Ace High put them three goals to the good early in the second half. Street had other ideas however, and having claimed a big win over Bridgwater two days previously, they used that belief to level the scores during a dramatic second half, with Ollie Hebbard and Leighton Thomas each on the scoresheet. The game's biggest moment was still to come however, and with stoppage time underway, Harris found enough space in the box to complete his second double of the Christmas period to break Street hearts.

On a good day all round for the Devon teams, **Buckland Athletic** romped to a 4-2 win at home to **Cribbs**. Having fallen behind to Ethan Feltham's opener, goals from Richard Groves and Lloyd Gardner soon turned the game in Buckland's favour. Gardner then did well to tee up Groves who extended the hosts advantage, before Exeter loanee Lewis Wilson tucked home a fourth on his full debut. **Tavistock** made it a full-house of victories for the county, with Jack Crago's solitary goal on the cusp of half-time handing them a 1-0 win over **Brislington**. A strong fightback from **Clevedon Town** helped them defeat **Bridgwater** 2-1, handing them third position on the league table. The visitors were looking to hit back after suffering defeat on Boxing Day, and they started well, with Jake Llewellyn producing a powerful finish to put them ahead on the 20 minute mark. Clevedon closed out the first half on top, with Elliot Nicholson heading them level, and then midway through the second half, they secured all three points when Syd Camper beat the visiting keeper. Two goals from Jake Moore helped **Chipping Sodbury** beat **Roman Glass St George** 2-1, while **Bitton** added to **Odd Down**'s woes with a clinical 5-1 victory in Bath.

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## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPECTATORS



As a Charter Standard Club we expect all spectators to play your part and support the FA's Code of Respect:

- Never engage in or tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language
- Never engage in threatening or violent behaviour
- Never engage in racist abuse or behaviour of any kind
- Never abuse match or team officials from either side
- Stay behind the touchline and within the designated spectator's area

You must fully understand and readily accept that failure to comply with any of the above may result in you being:

- Issued with a verbal warning or asked to leave
- Required to meet with the club committee, league or Welfare Officer
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- Requested not to attend future games, be suspended or have your membership removed
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents and/or issued a fine

## **MACRON DEVON & EXETER LEAGUE**

### **DIVISION 1**

**WELLINGTON RESERVES      1      4      EXWICK VILLA**

After another prolonged period of postponements, the Reserves returned to league action at the playing fields last Saturday.

Full of optimism pre kick off following a decent run of results, the reserves felt they could continue their winning ways. This unfortunately proved to be wishful thinking. Exwick came out of the blocks with more zest, movement and commitment and were soon ahead. Their wrecking ball of a striker simply bullied and bulldozed his way through some timid and nervous defending. The ball was partly cleared and but eventually fired past a helpless Rob Hall.

As the half evolved Wellington were being bullied and individually were not reacting. They could have gone further behind except for the keeping of Hall and a string a missed chances.

Wellington did get back on level terms though. After a set-piece clearance the ball was played through to Josh Champion on the left of the box. He turned quickly and fired a low near post shot past the away keeper. But this was as good as it would get for the home side. Within 5 minutes, Exwick were ahead again.

As halftime arrived, the changing room was welcome sanctuary for a disappointing reserves performance.

The second half saw a marginal improvement in the team performance, but it was way below where it needed to be. But there were some better individual performances. Youngsters Wes Poulson and Robbie Broomhead who appeared from the bench soon after the break, added some zest. Champion always looked a threat and 16 year old Danny Nicholls continued his impressive form. But all in all Exwick were the better team. More creative, quicker to the ball and generally sharper and deserved to score 2 more second half goals and run out 4-1 winners.

This was a very disappointing performance and there will need to be a huge response when they travel to high flying Crediton for today's game

**INVEST SOUTHWEST TAUNTON SATURDAY LEAGUE**  
**DIVISION 2**  
**WELLINGTON A      2      3      WEMBDON RESERVES**

After a dramatic 5-4 victory in the reverse fixture, Wellington welcomed Wembdon to the Playing Field expecting another chaotic game.

The match started evenly but Wellington rued early missed opportunities and, following this, a defensive mishap gifted the visitors the lead. Wembdon then doubled their advantage using their lethal long throw to assist a flicked on header to the back post which was bundled in.

Despite the scoreline, Wellington refused to give up against opponents who became increasingly aggressive, and they were playing the better football when they could get the ball on the floor.

Wellington were far the better side in the second half and attacking pressure led to a penalty being awarded when Tom Scarlett was manhandled to the ground before dusting himself off to reduce the deficit from the spot. Momentum was then with the home side and the deserved equaliser came through substitute Joey Conway who bravely headed in at the back post.

A draw would have been the fairest result but, in a cruel twist of fate from the reverse fixture, it would be Wembdon who would score at the death to win the game.

Again, using their physicality, a ball from a corner wasn't cleared and turned in sparking celebrations from the away support, as had been seen at their pitch. Worst of all, the winning goal came moments after Wellington could have won it themselves had captain Oli Ghazala's chipped shot been inches lower and not cannoned back off the crossbar.

There was much disappointment at the final whistle but the management made it clear that Wellington should take much pride from the heart and perseverance showed in a game they did not deserve to lose.

Wellington go again against White Eagles at the Rec this afternoon (4th January).

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