

GALA WILTON FC

Saturday 14th October 2023



v Broadwell Amateurs FC

Gloucestershire County League

2023-2024 season



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CLUB HISTORY

Gala Wilton was formed in 1952 when a group of friends from the Wilton Road area of Gloucester City created a side known as 'Wilton Rover'. Initially they played their football in the North Gloucestershire League gaining limited success winning the FJ Pope Cup in 1956/57 and Division 1 in 1959/60. In 1970 the club moved to their present home at The Gala Club and then, in 1971 at the third time of asking, they were elected to the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League.

They made an immediate impact in the League, winning Division 2 and beating local rivals Longlevens Star to the title. The following season they finished a creditable 5th in Division 1 and made an application to the County League. Initially they failed to gain membership losing out by one vote to Division 1 Champions Bishops Cleeve. However, it was consequently discovered that the Cheltenham side had misled the County League with regards to the distance from their changing rooms to the pitch and, on a second vote, Wilton Rovers gained membership. Although voted into the County League, the club still retained its membership of the GNSL courtesy of their reserves and, in 1978/79, they won Division 2 by a point from Walls United.

During their 12 seasons in the County League they achieved their best position of 3rd in 1980/81 behind Almondsbury Greenway & Shortwood United, but in 1984/85 they finished 18th and were relegated back to the GNSL. The following season they made an immediate return to the County League having achieved runners-up position to ICI Fibres in Division 1 of Gloucestershire Northern Senior League.

That same season they also won the Diamond Jubilee Cup, a League Cup played for every four years at the time.

Having gained a return to the County League they remained in the League for just three seasons before they were relegated again. In 1989/90 they finished runners-up to St. Marks CA and, in the same season, they again won the Diamond Jubilee Cup

but had changed the club name to Gale Wilton. After this second successive Diamond Jubilee victory, the club went on a downward spiral and, for one season, only fielded a single side.

The club reached a new low when they were relegated to the second Division of the North Gloucestershire League. The club met with limited success back in the North Gloucester League with the Reserve team winning Divisions 2 & 3 while the 1st XI reached the JO Roberts final only to lose to Westbury United. In 2002 the club transferred allegiances to the Cheltenham League and its fortunes started to change for the better. Several GFA cups and promotions later, the club regained promotion to the GNSL and in 2007-8 they won Division 2 by a clear 10 points from Dursley Town to enable them to return to Division 1 of Gloucestershire Northern Senior League.

After securing their status in Division 1 of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League, the first team won the "Reg Davis Memorial" Cup and finished 3rd in the 2011/12 season. The following season they won the Northern Senior League by 13 points, gaining promotion to the Gloucestershire County League, and completed the double by winning the Reg Davis Cup again.

Since then the club has managed to consolidate their place in the County League with various solid finishing positions; finishing runners up in the 2013/14 season, and several top 10 placings. We finished 7th last season, after being top of the table at Christmas before falling away at the latter end of the season.

The club as a whole has had quite a successful recent period to date; with the Reserve team winning the "Fred Gardiner Memorial Shield" in 2021/22, and consecutive promotions, now finding themselves in Division 2 of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League – the highest ever league placing for our Reserve side.

The 3rd team won their Stroud League Cup in 2021/22, with the 4th team also enjoying Stroud League Cup success in 2022/23 winning the "Derek Freebury Shield", beating Tuffley Rovers in the final.

The new season of 23/24 sees Gareth Eakers take the management helm of the 1st team; looking to rebuild the squad and promote youth players, after successful spells at West Brom and Aston Villa Development Centres, along with Gloucester City U18s.

GALA FC PLAYER PROFILES



Curtis Wilkins - GK

Curtis is another young player who has been developing his game mainly in the seconds since playing for Gala. Great shot stopper and one of the nicest lads you'll meet. He has lots of potential and a willingness to listen and apply which should help him become a well established GK in years to come!!



Lewis Fogg - (Foggy) CB/CDM

Fogg has only recently signed for Gala this season and brings a huge amount of experience at a decent level. He has more recently been coaching youth football but also had a season coaching in the Hellinic Div 1 so can add much needed advice and assistance when required both on and off the pitch. Just a shame he's a gunner.....



Shamar Thomas - (Sham) CB/RB/RW

Another one of our youngest players heading into this season. Sham has been at Aston Villa Dev Centre last season whilst also playing for Hardwicke youth. One of the quickest players we possess with an engine to match. Certainly one to keep an eye out for and has the potential to really push on but remembering he has plenty of time. Quiet but lovely lad who is affectionately known as marmite to his mum who you'll often hear encouraging him from the sidelines.



Jahvon Davis - (Jav) RB/RW

Jav is another right sided player who last season spent some time playing in Hellinic Div 2. He has previously played for WBA Dev Centre as well as Gloucester City U28's winning numerous trophies. Quiet and unassuming but with pace to burn.





Dylan Barrett - (Dyl) CB/LB

Dylan has been playing at Cardiff University for the last 4 years, whilst also getting a few thoroughly enjoyable games in for the reserves last season. The main thing uni taught him was how to prioritise his time effectively, football, booze and degree in that order!!!! Just a shame I was pretty average at all 3.....that'll change.



Jake Gurney - CB

After spending the last two years in management, Jake is now ready to lace up his boots again and make a step up into the county league. With plenty of playing experience we're hoping he's gonna add some leadership and solidarity at the back...if he can last a whole game!!



Lee Brinkworth - LB/LCB

Established member of the second team at gala for a few years now. Played a big role in the cup win and league promotion in the season 21/22. He's mr reliable and consistent. Loves crunching numbers



Archie Blacker - CM/RM/LM

Currently studying at Hartpury Uni. Archie has played for Gala for a couple of years and is a real team player. Combative midfielder who likes to try and play the game properly and is hoping to really push on this season.



Mike Hodgins - (Magic Mike) CM/RM

Mike is another youngest we who again has been playing at Gloucester City U18's experiencing a trophy win in his first season. He will also be playing for Bishops Cleeve U18's alongside Gala. Midfield maestro who has the technical ability to match his work rate. Has a bright future ahead of him.



Jacob Eakers - (Eaks) CM/CB/RB



Eaks is one of the more experienced players in the squad, which seems strange at 18. He played for the Gloucestershire county squad in the 2019/2020 season, he also scored two goals in the reserves cup final two years ago at the age of 16 and played a vital part in their promotion. He also won the U18s county cup two years in a row for Gloucester City and scored in his final youth game, also getting sent off.....!!!

Eaks is technically gifted on both his left and right feet but not so good with his head.....

Antonio Pirelli - (Anto) LW/RW/ST



Anto has been playing football for 14 years during this time to include teams such as Evesham United, West Brom Development Centre, Forest Green Rovers Academy and Gloucester city u18s. During his career so far, he has won many trophies and tournaments, gathering great experiences throughout. His most effective positions are anywhere up front whether that's LW, RW or ST. Now he is part of Gala Wilton's 1st Team he is looking forward to getting started and helping the team achieve their ambitions whilst also focusing on his personal development.

Jay Dare - CM/LW/RW



Gifted player who is very athletic and very fit. He covers a lot of the pitch and is just returning from a broken leg. He's been at the club for a few years now so after his latest setback he's very keen to prove his ability and really push on this season.

Wakib - (Waka) CM/RM



Waka hasn't played a full season since he was 18 unfortunately.....due to injuries. He possesses lots of potential but loves a rehab and rub down so we'll see how this goes!!! He's hoping this season is his.





Michael Barron - (Mikey) Everywhere....

Mike is one of those players who will do a job anywhere on the pitch and, do it well. Relentless work rate and a keen eye for goal. Some would say it's the wrong shaped ball for him but either way he knows what he's doing with it. Strong, technically gifted and also another with blistering pace!!! Nicest lad you're ever likely to meet.



Freddie Harris - (Fred's) ST/FOR

At just 16 Fred's is the youngest player in the squad. A striker looking to make the transition into men's football and score some goals. With size on his side he needs to learn to use this to his advantage whilst focusing on improving the weaknesses in his game. Another one for the future so keep an eye out. Reports suggest he can already sink 10 pints in a sitting so he'll fit in well at the club!!!



Tim Hill - AM/ST

Tim Hill is another young player signing for Gala. Having previously played for Gloucester under 18s he is prolific in front of goal unless it is in the air as he doesn't like a header!! Technically very good with an ability to turn a game in an instance. Lots of potential...



Jorell Sanniola - RW/FOR

Jorell plays mainly on the right wing where he is able to exploit situations with his dazzling feet and ability to ghost in and around opposition players in tight spaces. He is progressing very well and really starting to build confidence which will only add to his array of talents. Needs to be a bit more physical at times but telling him his brother is better than him will sure fire him up for that challenge!!!

UP THE GALA

BROADWELL AMATEURS FC

Broadwell Football Club was formed in 1905 by the local working men and originally played at "The Purples" Coalway. In the 1930s Broadwell moved to play at "Wynols Hill" where they stayed until 1947, when they moved again to what is now known as "The Hawthorns". This was done with the help of the two late trustees, Mr Bert Ruck, and Mr Frank Haviland.

Over the years various facilities were used such as "the Rising Sun", church hall, and the local working men's club. However, in 1963 with the help of the chairperson, Mr Rube Kibble, Secretary William Smith and committee men Mr Cyril Hamblin, a new changing quarter was officially opened by referee Mr Tom Finney.

These new changing quarters were totally funded by the club's own money after refusal of a grant by both the G.F.A. and F.A.

In 1982, a bar facility was opened by the late president Mr. Hubert Smith and seven years later a new bar, skittles alley, kitchen, and referees changing room were added by a dedicated bunch of Broadwell supporters and sponsors.

The football social club has a skittles team which has won various trophies. And a strong golf society which plays twice a year open to all club members young or old regardless of ability.

The football club currently run three senior sides, which play on a Saturday. Broadwell won the G.F.A. Senior Amateur cup north in its inaugural year in 1925-26 and reached the final on two other occasions, losing to Charlton Kings in 1947-48 and Bishops Cleeve in 1964-65. Other honours over the years have been the northern senior league division one championship in 1925-26, 1946-47 and division two runners up in 1976-77. Runners up in the G.F.A. Challenge trophy season 1998-99. Winning the Northern Senior league again in 1993-94 enabled them to gain promotion to the county league, before being voted from the league three seasons later.

Broadwell's most famous player was the late Colin Hamblin who was also went on to play for the county; a trophy cabinet in his honour is proudly displayed in the club house.

2006-07 Season the first eleven finished as runners up to Tuffley Rovers in

Northern Senior league Division 1. After a run of eighteen games without defeat a bad run of five defeats in the last eight games stopped them winning the league. Broadwell lost to Tuffley Rovers at Harrow Hill in the GFA senior county cup final the same season.

Broadwell were crowned senior north county cup winners in season 2008-09 beating Shortwood Res 2-1 in the final at Slimbridge Afc.

Season 2009-10 the first team lost in the semi-finals of the GFA county cup and finished third in the league. The club continually finished in the top five for the next five seasons.

2014-15 Season saw the first team win the northern senior league title, win the Reg Davies memorial league cup, and come runners up to Brockworth Albion in the senior north county cup.

The clubs committee committed to changing room improvements and without any funding built new away changing rooms along with referee/assistants changing rooms, completed in April 2015. After a good first campaign finishing sixth under Gary Hurcombe the first team were managed by Lee Williams and Scott Albon finishing 12th in the league season 2016-17, reaching the final of the Les James cup losing to AEK BOCO 3-0.

Season 2017-18 saw Broadwell in the top five of the league for most of the season only to fall away at the later part due to the high volume of games played eventually finishing in seventh place. Broadwell did however jointly win the Respect league with Frampton United with a remarkable 100% record of no bookings for dissent. Season 2018-19 proved difficult for the club Manager Lee Williams and Scott Albon jointly retired from Management but continue their close links with the club. Season 2019-20 the club moved out of their comfort zone and appointed a manager from outside the club. Simon Beardsell ex Cheltenham Town Youth academy coach who stood down October 2019. The club were lucky to appoint immediately local coach Stuart Liddington ex Lydney Town, his task to improve on season 2019-20 league position. The extended period away from football due to Covid saw Stuart leave the club and return to Lydney Town 2020. First Team duties are now in the very capable hands of Chris Brain, who's task is to blend our successful under eighteen team into first team players .



BROADWELL PEN PICS

GOALKEEPER: JACK WATKINS

Jack progressed through our youth system and has now become our Number 1. At 20 he's still learning but getting better all the time. A great shot stopper who loves a penalty shootout.

DEFENDER: BEN SCHILLER

One of our Senior players he brings a wealth of experience to the field having played for Lydbrook as a young boy Ellwood and Lydney Town in his senior years. Best position just in front of our defence or in the bar with the lads.

DEFENDER: AIDAN CRIEUGHTON

Joined us a few seasons ago from Senior League side Lydbrook. Flying winger with bags of speed and an eye for goal. Good wide player who likes to take fullbacks on. Moved to a full back role by Chris and excelling in his new role.

DEFENDER/FORWARD: KRISTIAN BURNARD

Pacey committed and skilful youngster product of Gloucester City Youth team also had trials with W.B.A. Five seasons here at the 'Well.' Starting to make the leap from junior player to Senior team member terrific addition to the club. Pre-season saw him play at centre half. Part time male model during the week, enjoys photography, strange so does his girlfriend.

DEFENDER: HARRY NASH

From the B team to the A team to the reserve's this lad has progressed through the ranks to now be part of the first team squad. A big centre half still learning his trade who has a very quick turn of speed. One for the future here.

DEFENDER: DAN HUDSON

Started his career with local club Yorkley, a pacey centre back who can dish out a tasty tackle when required. Played at English Bicknor last season. Proven to be vocal in the changing rooms when required.

DEFENDER: JACK KNIGHT

Another one from our successful Under 18s team very versatile can play defence or Midfield. Possesses a long throw that can cause the opposition problems.

DEFENDER: CAM MILLS

Another one of our Successful Under 18s team. Cam is one for the future and can play anywhere across the back. Cam's goal this season is to push for a regular start in the team.

MIDFIELD: NATHAN DAVIES

All action midfielder who gets around the pitch well and doesn't mind a tackle. Played for Cinderford Town Under 18s before moving onto Harrow Hill in the Senior League made the step up to County league last season and settled in well.

MIDFIELD: BEN FISHWICK

Joined us from Soudley, strong and pacey player having played for Forest Green Rovers at Youth level. Ben has been with the club for over six seasons, now established himself in midfield but can fill in at fullback if required, good club man.

MIDFIELD: JORDAN LOCKE ... CAPTAIN

If you're looking for an allrounder in midfield "Locky's" the man, quick to break up play, just as quick to set up an attacking move. Dead ball specialist, this lad gives 110% during the game, pity

he wasn't as quick in the bar after.

MIDFIELD: DAN BRAIN

Another one off the youth production line. Brainer started with the club at the age of 6 before moving onto Cheltenham Town academy but unfortunately got released at the age of 15. After serious knee injury which saw him miss 18 months of football he's now back. At 20 he is a steady influence in midfield always available to receive the ball. Chips in with a goal now and then which is bonus to the team.

MIDFIELD: JAMIE BELFITT

A 17-year-old mini-me copy of his dad Steve but with a bigger engine. Hard working midfielder who throws in the odd, tasty tackle. Graduated from Cinderford Town Youth already proving to be an asset to Chris Brains squad.

MIDFIELD: JACK MORTON

Another one of our successful u18 players who has been knocking on the door for the first team this season. Jack is an old-fashioned winger who is big, strong, and quick who likes to carry the ball. Another for the future.

MIDFIELD: JAMIE POWELL

JP was at Bristol City till the age of 18. Then had spells at Cinderford Town, Lydney, Lydbrook and most other Forest sides. Technically gifted with both feet the gaffer will be expecting big things from him this season.

ASSISTANT MANAGER / MIDFIELD: GUY JONES

42-year-old Guy has been with the club since the age of 18 after being released by Bristol Rovers. Played over 730 games for the Broadwell which he likes to remind people of most Saturday's. Always up for a beer after the game unfortunately never buys one.

FORWARD: ETHAN WILKINS

Ethan has worked hard to become a first team regular, serving his time in Reserve football. Ethan has a quick turn of pace, happy to take defenders on in a one-on-one situation. He knows where the net is, will prove to be an asset again this season.

FORWARD: TAYLOR BLABY

One of our successful u18 players. Taylor is an established goal scorer who is maturing into a particularly good Senior player. A great attitude combined with an extremely high work rate makes him a highly rated talent for the future.

FORWARD: MATT FOXWELL

Fox has always scored goals wherever he's played and will be hoping to continue again this season. In his twilight years now but still someone you can rely on to help you out when needed.

DEFENDER/MIDFIELD/STRIKER: STEVE BELFITT

At the age of 43 probably should of retired by now but will never let you down when called upon. Definitely not the best Belfitt in the squad these days but still a great player to have about.



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Marc is a Gala Legend and is still an active player, having given many years' service to the First Team and now providing his experience to the Seconds. Gala Wilton FC are very thankful for his support.



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TODAY'S TEAMS



GALA WILTON

BROADWELL AMATEURS

REFEREE: NEIL HOLMES

Curtis Wilkins	1	Jack Watkins
Lewis Fogg	2	Ben Schiller
Shamar Thomas	3	Aidan Crieghton
Jahvon Davis	4	Kristian Burnard
Dylan Barrett	5	Harry Nash
Jake Gurney	6	Dan Hudson
Lee Brinkworth	7	Jack Knight
Archie Blacker	8	Cam Mills
Mike Hodgins	9	Nathan Davies
Sam Webb	10	Ben Fishwick
Jacob Eakers	11	Jordan Locke
Antonio Pirelli	12	Dan Brain
Jay Dare	14	Jamie Belfitt
Wakib	15	Jack Morton
Michael Barron	16	Jamie Powell
Freddie Harris	17	Guy Jones
Tim Hill	18	Ethan Wilkins
Jorell Sanniola	19	Taylor Blaby
	20	Matt Foxwell
	21	Steve Belfitt

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 2023

3PM KICK OFF