

GALA WILTON FC

SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST 2024



v **Cheltenham Civil Service AFC**





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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 Gala 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.

Overall, 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, up into 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.

Last season 2023/24 however was difficult throughout the club, but both our first and second teams managed to retain their league places; and with Josh Taylor and Tom Read taking the management helm of our 1st and 2nd team squads, we look forward to an new era at the club in 2024-2025. The Club now has 3 youth teams at Under 13's, 14s and 15s so making a clean pathway for the players in to adult football.

With planning permission also recently approved to improve the ground to host floodlit football, and an exciting partnership announced with Gloucester City to promote their U18 youth footballers, the future once again looks bright at Gala.

Cheltenham Civil Service AFC History



In the immediate post-war years GCHQ, then part of the Foreign Office, was located at Eastcote in Middlesex. In 1948 GCHQ decided to form a football team, playing under the name of FOSA – Foreign Office Sports Association. Home matches were played at the Foreign Office Sports Club 'Swakeleys' in Ickenham and the team competed in the Harrow, Wembley & District League. A second XI was formed in 1950.

The team fared moderately and after three seasons in Divisions 2 & 3 they switched to play in the Civil Service League, which covered all of London. Beginning in Division 4, the club won the title at its first attempt in 1951/2 and were promoted straight to Division 2. The Second XI was entered into Division 5.

In 1953 GCHQ moved to Cheltenham, bringing the entire committee and more than half the players. Now known as GCHQ, the club entered a team in the Cheltenham League and played its home matches at Swindon Village. The current Tewkesbury Road ground became available in 1954/5 and GCHQ won Division 3 of the Cheltenham League in 1955/6. Together with other sports activities, the change of name to Cheltenham Civil Service was made in 1957/8 to reflect the inclusion of other government departments in the area. The club has been represented in the Cheltenham League at Tewkesbury Road ever since, although successes have been rare until recently.

The facilities at Tewkesbury Road have been developed significantly to include a modern clubhouse and floodlit all-weather 7-a-side pitch. A 3rd XI was added in the 1970s and a 4th XI in the 1990s, as well as a Women's team and a handful of youth teams.

A big breakthrough for the club occurred in 1995/6 when the 1st XI won the Cheltenham League for the first time in its history and was promoted to the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League Division 2. The team immediately won promotion to Division 1, before being relegated in 1999/0.

The club again won promotion the following season and enjoyed several years in the top tier before relegation in 2009/0. However, the club made another quick return, winning the Division 2 title two years later and scoring the most goals in the GNSL in the process.

The 1st XI finished 2nd in 2012/3 in the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League and again in 2013/14 securing promotion to the Gloucestershire County League, the highest standard ever reached by the club. The season was also capped off by winning the Gloucestershire Senior Amateur County Cup for the first time in the history of the club. The season also saw a huge step forward for the Women's team who progressed from the Gloucestershire County League, by winning the league unbeaten, to the Southwest Women's Football League.

In 2014/15, the Club's inaugural season in the County League, the 1st XI overcame all expectations by finishing as runaway winners, leading from start to finish, as well as finishing as runners-up in the League Cup.

The next few years saw the club go through a difficult period when they lost not only the manager but most of the team that won the County League because our facilities were not up to standard for the next level. This accumulated in the 1st team folding in 2016/17 leaving the club with three sides in the Cheltenham League.

Season 2017/18 saw the clubs resurgence and had one of the most successful seasons in their history. The first team won the treble of Cheltenham Division 1, and therefore promotion back to the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League, Cheltenham Senior Charities Cup and Gloucestershire Junior County Cup. The Reserves took the Cheltenham Division 2 title, reached the semi-final of the Gloucestershire Intermediate County Cup and were runners up in the Cheltenham Minor Charity Cup and the third team were runners up in the Gloucestershire Minor County Cup and won the Cheltenham Primary Charity Trophy and finally the Ladies side reached the semi-final of the Gloucestershire Womens Trophy.

Season 2018/19 continued in successful ways with the first team winning the Gloucestershire County Champions Shield Junior Cup at the start of the season. They then finished runners up in Gloucestershire Northern Senior League Division 2 and returned to Division 1. During the same season, the Veterans side won the Gloucestershire Veterans League Division 2 for first time and higher-level football for them also in the following season.

The first team reached the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League Reg Davis Cup final for the first time in the clubs history during season 2021-22 losing the final by 4 - 3 after a great run in the revised format. The season was finished with the first team winning the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League Division 1 also for the first time in the clubs history. Which meant they moved back up to the County League. The reserves side also have a successful season by winning the Cheltenham League Division 1 North title and runners up in the Gloucestershire Junior County Cup, Cheltenham League Senior and Junior Charities Cup Finals and the Championship Play-off final. This accumulated in the team being promoted to the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League for the first time ever. The U16 team rounded off the brilliant season with the Cheltenham Youth League Division 1 Runners up and Cheltenham Youth League Cup winners.

During season 2022-23 all the mens teams consolidated their positions in the leagues they were promoted to the previous season. A great season was achieved by the Ladies team with them winning the Gloucestershire County Womens League Division 2 and also the Womens Challenge County Cup. The Vets finished in the top four of Division 1 of the Gloucestershire Veterans League. And Finally the U15 Youth team finished as Division 1 League Champions.

The Ladies team continued their excellent run of form during 2023-24 and secured the Runners Up spot in the Gloucestershire County Womens League Division 1.





Player Profiles

Jon Dix	Goalkeeper	A big character, Jon joins us as club captain having been at Cheltenham Saracens last season.
Cameron Blacker	Midfield	Former Gloucester City and Cheltenham Saracens players joined this season as part of the re-build
Jack Gyde	Midfield	The right sided defender has joined the club and adds to our solid defence, previously clubs include Cheltenham Saracens and Gala Wilton.
George Harker	Defender	A solid centre back who adds to our defensive team. Previous clubs include Bishops Cleeve and Falcons.
Silviu Ilie	Midfield	Hardworking, skilful, multi-functional player, formerly of Cheltenham Saracens and Longlevens
Paul Smith	Midfield	Smudge is an energetic player who possesses a calmness on the ball. Paul has been with the club a number of season and continues to be a great asset
Dylan Tucker	Defender	Joined the club this season from Cheltenham Saracens and looking to play his first season as full back.
Harvey White	Midfield	A youth team product who has progressed through the ranks at Tewkesbury Road. A

		combative midfielder who loves a tackle but is equally at home spraying passes around the field
Goran Ahmed	Midfield	A strong, solid midfielder who joins us from Lawani Ashti FC
Alin Neamtu	Midfield	A skilful attacking midfielder who has joined us from Cheltenham Saracens
Ethan Walters	Midfield	A young talent who has joined us from Tuffley u18.
Will Whitmarsh	Defender	An exciting left back who joined us from Tuffley Rovers U18.
Sam Powell	Midfield	A technical midfielder who likes to get on the ball and play forward. Signed this season from Falcons AFC
Riley Bourne	Forward	A young attacking talent who has joined us on a dual registration with Tuffley Rovers
Lewis Phelps	Forward	Talented attacker, formerly of Bishops Cleeve and Hartpury
Dave Young	Midfield	Strong, industrious midfielder, formerly of Cheltenham Town Youth and FC Lakeside
Tai Shehan	Defence	A powerful, technical centre back, dual registered with Tuffley Rovers
Tommy Duff	Defence	A talented young defender who joins us from Cheltenham Town Academy
Adonis Geordiou	Defence	Add strength to our defence, and probably the first Guinness Record holder to play for the club





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LOTTE

STARTED HER APPRENTICESHIP AT VITA NOVA IN APRIL 2024. WE WELCOMED LOTTE WITH HER LOVE FOR TRADITIONAL TATTOOS.

PLEASE GIVE LOTTE SOME LOVE ON HER PAGE AND FOLLOW HER PROGRESS AS AN ARTIST.



KATIE

RESIDENT ARTIST AT VITA NOVA.

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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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Severn Sport is a website dedicated to covering all things non-league and grassroots football in Gloucestershire.

Matt Yates and Ryan Butler branched out from being part of Gloucester City's Tigers Radio in 2010 and began to cover football from National League down to the Stroud, Cheltenham and North Gloucestershire Leagues, the Cheltenham Youth U18s Floodlit League and more recently, the South West Regional and Gloucestershire County Women's Football Leagues.

Through match reports, interviews, live radio commentaries and podcasts, Butler now looks to continue to enhance the reputation of football within the local area.

For all the latest news and information on non-league and grassroots football within the county, head to:

SevernSport.co.uk

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TODAY'S TEAMS



GALA WILTONCHELTENHAM CIVIL SERVICE

Adam Fenner	1	Jon Dix
Brad Loveridge	2	Cam Blacker
Ryley Mace	3	Jack Gyde
Lewis Chance	4	George Harker
Tim Hill	5	Silviu Ilie
Keiron Mace	6	Paul Smith
Rene Nistor	7	Dylan Tucker
Marc Edwards	8	Goran Ahmed
Jamie Creed	9	Alin Neamtu
Benjamin Sluman	10	Ethan Walter
Archie Blacker	11	Will Whitmarsh
Jay Dare	12	Sam Powell
Jonathan Clay	14	Riley Bourne
Junior Mbika	15	Lewis Phelps
Harry O'Connor	16	Dave Young
Shaun Smith	17	Tai Shehan
Harvey Sheridan	18	Tommy Duff
Ira Thompson-Price	19	Adonis Geordiou
Ehren Wintle	20	
Daniel Tyreman	21	
Curtis Wilkins	22	
Kieran Woods	23	
Ishmael Kanneh	24	
Joshua Edelmann	25	
Archie Blacker	26	

REFEREE: STEVE OAKY