

GALA WILTON FC



v Cheltenham Civil Service

Saturday 18 February 2023

2022-2023 SEASON

Gloucestershire County League

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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.

Since that time the club has had tremendous success within its youth set up, with the Under 18s doing the League and Cup double in two consecutive seasons.

2017/18 season was another challenging season, although a definite improvement on recent seasons. Finishing in 13th place, there was a definite feeling of turning a corner and getting stronger from here on.

Recruitment within the Club, from our successful U16s squad, should be a real boost this season.

We are looking forward to further improvement and are very excited to develop our youth players.

The 2021/22 season has seen the introduction of a 4th Team made up of long serving players and players from last season's Under 16s.



Harry O'Connor (24) - CB

Harry has joined Gala for the start of the 2022/3 season having taken some time out of football. Before that 'H' flirted with Tuffley Rovers and Newent Town. Harry enjoys his Saturday 'cheat day' but normal duties are strict - 'Fish and a ricecake'.. It's a shame we haven't seen the body benefits yet :-)



Connor Harmer (28) 'Tin-man' - CDM

Connor has re-joined this season from local Cheltenham side Lakeside. He brings calmness & composure to the midfield to add another dynamic. 'Tin-man' is a reserved, chilled character who is booking to cement a place in the squad.



Callum Thomas (27) 'Lefty' - LB / LW

Callum broke into the first team last season after impressing for the reserves. Callum has a sweet left foot and an excellent set piece delivery. Definitely not one to stand next too in the shower.



Jordan Molyneux (24) - CM

Jordan is tipped to chip in with some goals this season! He had an impressive season last year, picking up the Player's Player award. Jordan is an engine in the midfield who covers every blade of grass on a matchday. Rumoured to be on Love Island next season too. 'What a man'.



Kieron Mace (29) - CB / LB

Kieron is a tough tackling, no nonsense defender with an abundance of footballing technique. 'Macer' usually pitches in with a worldie goal from time to time. One of the most senior players within the team. A true gent to have around the dressing room.





Alex Gayner (28) 'Maggie' - LWF / CAM

Magnet can usually be found after games trawling the Glos Vegas nightlife, shirt off, bits out, impressing the ladies. Alex is a class act on his day! A great dribbler of the ball who is arguably quicker with the ball than without. Alex is an animal lover, paying special attention to Sharks. 'Maggie' is set to be a threat this season... lock up your daughters!



Jon Antonio (22) - CB / CDM

Jon is a man mountain at the back offering great composure and distribution in passing range. He often enjoys a run out of defence and has an eye for goal from set piece situations. Jon is hoping to build on his 2nd season since re-joining Gala as a 17 year old.



Brad Loveridge (22) 'National league' - RB

Brad is Mr consistent! Cool & calm on the ball who loves a trick or three. The opposition should be weary as a nutmeg is Brad's speciality, 'National leagues' skills are a joke! Brad has been with the club a few seasons now and is looking to build on assists and goals this coming season.



Craig Howell (29) - CM (Vice Captain)

Mr Gala Wilton himself. Craig is the longest serving 1st team player. Craig wears his heart on his sleeve! Bags of energy, amongst other things! The schemer of the team. Craig loves a feisty game and is known by most ref's on a first name basis. A true 'Midder'.



Mike Baron (20) - CF

Probably the nicest man in football. He definitely has a Duracell battery as Mikey B does not stop running! Mike has an eye for goal. His workrate & tenacity are a defenders nightmare. Just a shame he is at uni some weeks and got rid of his mullet.



Martin Smith (28) 'Smithy' - CM

Smithy has had a great pre-season getting double figures. His third man running and timing is exceptional and he rarely misses a header - in attack or defence. Smithy was hindered by injury and holiday / stag do addictions. Gala are expecting a big season ahead for this young man.



Connor Walters (18) - RW / CM

Connor has raw pace! He is direct and doesn't mind putting his body on the line. Connor's twinkle toes are mainly down to his choice of boots / flippers. Connor is hoping to stamp down (excuse the pun) a place in the side now his school dance competitions have finished.



Dan McNally (33) 'Dmac' - CB & Club Captain

Dmac is a perfect role model to young players and embraces taking most 'under his wing'. His leadership skills are 2nd to none & Dmac loves to buy the sweets for the game and a round after. Solid organisational skills, great in the air, a proper centre half who would take a black eye for the team.... literally!



Ben Sluman (21) 'Sluey' - RW

Sluman is looking to build on last season's successes.. Well until his love life ended the footballing campaign. Sluey is quick & dynamic, he enjoys dribbling at the opposition and delivery is usually on point. Big season ahead for the new look Sluman (can of monster, bottle of fake tan and fresh trim at the ready).



Dan Gayner (28) - CF

Dan was voted Managers player of the year last season bagging 19 goals in the league. His 'Clinical' finishing was top notch, inspired by HT team talks. Like a camel, Dan works tirelessly for the team and often needs refreshments to get him through. 20 goals plus this season is the target for the better looking 'Gayner brother'.





Sam Webb (26) 'Webby' - CDM / Full back

Webby is a long serving player of Gala, the utility man who can rat out a performance wherever he plays on the pitch. Technically gifted... at football! Sam is a great lad to have around the dressing room. Webby will give his all for the club.. as long as his Mrs lets him!



Jay Dare (20) - RW

Jay is an incredibly talented football player, when he wants to be. Unfortunately Jay will probably be late to his own funeral.. For real! Quick, strong & skilful Jay offers ability all over the pitch. Got booked pre-season for wearing a Johnny dang necklace.



Brad Newman (22) - GK

Brad joined Gala this season having previously played at Tuffley Rovers & Gloucester Athletic. Brad's distribution is a joy to watch and matched by great shot stopping ability. We hope Brad settles in well and has a few clean sheets on his journey with Gala.



Lewis Skyers (38) - GK

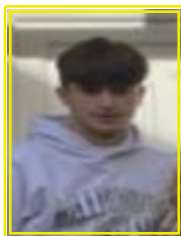
Lewis is the oldest player within the squad and well respected by all his teammates! Lew has previously played at a higher standard & even represented Great Britain in goal.. Arguably the best penalty saver in Gloucestershire. You will usually hear Lewis organising the team from the back in a relaxed and pragmatic style....not! Lewis has threatened to hang up the gloves...we have refused his request.



Kyle Gibbs (20) - CAM

Kyle has joined the club for the 20022/3 season after previously playing for Shortwood & Stonehouse Town. Massive Liverpool fan. Kyle is a true menace, his energy and passion is a real threat along with his technical ability. At 20 years old this lad has a big season ahead of him. Gala are excited to see this lad blossom!





Jacob Eakers (17) - LWB / RWB

Jacob is the youngest member of the squad but you couldn't tell with his workrate & tempo. Eakers is a naturally gifted footballer who will go a long way! He is currently playing u18's football for Gloucester City, so the progression into mens football is only going to make Jacob stronger and better. One to watch out for in the future. Learned everything he knows from his Dad.



Stu Griffith (35) 'Griffo' - 1st team Manager

Stu joined Gala for the 2021/22 season and guided them to a 5th place finish. 'Gaffer Griffo' spent his playing days mostly at Tuffley Rovers, reminding most about his goals in the FA Cup. His claim to fame was scoring against Joe Hart at the age of 11 for Glos primary schools. Stu is hoping to build on the foundations of last season and push this great bunch of lads to a successful season.



Jon Clay (35) 'Coch Clay' - 1st team coach

Jon is a long serving Gala player (CB) who joined the management team last season as 1st team coach. Jon has a steady head and a wagging finger (usually on nights out) Jon still thinks he has got it so we may see him lace those boots for a cameo appearance at some point this season. Coach Clay enjoys being social and gives the young lads a run for their money!



Andrew Moody (35) - Goalkeeping coach

Andrew 'Moodz' has a wealth of experience having played academy football at Aston Villa unfortunately retiring due to chronic knee injuries. Rumours speculate however it was because of the weight of his third leg. Moody supports man united (poor kid) and enjoys the odd guinness. 'Medic Moodz' has joined Stu & Jon on the management team this season.

UP THE 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.



CHELTENHAM CIVIL SERVICE PLAYER PROFILES

Steve Holend - Manager

Took over back in November 2015 after previously playing for the club Overseen since then 2 League Title wins, 3 promotions, 1 County Cup & 1 League Cup. Looking forward to entering a new phase for the club back in the County League & turning a few heads along the way.

Chris Pates - Asst Manager

Chris aka "Patesy" has vast experience as a ball playing centre back which includes playing at semi pro level. After two spells with the civi he has recently transitioned into a coaching role where he is hoping to use his experience and knowledge to continue to progress towards his coaching badges.

Cam Cheal

Goalkeeper who joined the club in the summer after previous spells at Chelt Saracens & Bishops Cleeve, very good distribution is a key asset of his along with shot stopping. A die hard Arsenal fan who is daring to dream this season.

Brett Pittaway

Experienced GK who now enters his 6th season with the club Good shot stopper & a real presence between the sticks, loves a social night.

Harry Gilbert

Adaptable defender that can play anywhere across the back line. Entering his 11th season at the club and still eagerly awaiting the nod to play up top!

Joel Letori

Classy full back that has fitted in nicely to the team. 97 vision, 12 pace. 100 speaker. Loves a chop. Box to box defender who is solid and can be a good outlet going forward.

Josh Ellin

Diminutive full back who is a bundle of energy & enthusiasm Always good for a laugh or stupid moment & recent fatherhood doesn't appear to have changed that. Looking forward to a season of getting out of the house.

Mike Oliver

Strong & Quick Defender who was a big part of the GNSL title winning side. Keen to add more goals to his record although enjoys a clean sheet just as much.

Teejay Hosking

Previous County League winning captain returned to the club in 2021. Real leader on the pitch with peach of a left peg. Loves a tackle, penalty and a pint.

Joe Mahon

Competitive player who offers flexibility across the pitch, real character off the pitch who after persistent knee issues is looking to get a full season under his belt. Will beat any man downing a pint or a kebab.

Jack Dicker

Fullback by trade but have played further up the pitch. Spent most of his adult career with SC Inkberrow in the Midland League and most recently the Herefordshire League.

Joe Finch.

Recently joined Cheltenham Civil Service from Smiths Barometrics. Centre midfielder who never stops chatting, looking to help the squad get stronger for a good second half of the season

Kerry Hale

Powerful midfielder who was a big part of the GNSL winning side, recently returned to the club & a great addition to the squad

Paul Smith

Smudge is a 27 year old energetic centre midfielder who possesses a calmness on the ball. He's entering his sixth season with Cheltenham Civil Service and second with the first team. He had a successful season last year and looks forward to stepping up into the County League this campaign.

Jamie Lewis

Footballing midfielder that's new to the club this season and wanting to contribute to the team as much as possible, once that first goal comes more will follow.

Gareth Jones

Welsh born attacker who returns to civil for a third season with the club having previously played with Cheltenham Saracens, Tuffley Rovers, Malvern Town and numerous clubs in the Welsh leagues. Gareth is an experienced player who is adaptable at the top end of the pitch and is always a goal threat. Looking forward to another successful campaign.

Shay Dualeh

23 year old winger who plays off both flanks. A south London native. First season at CCSAFC and looking forward to a positive season individually and as a team.

Chisom Obi

Quick & Skilful young forward embarking on his maiden season with the club. Looking to be a real threat & has his eye on scoring plenty of goals through the season

Brett Blake

Attacking player who can play a number of positions across the front line. Very quick, eye for goal & works his socks off. New position of Fines Master this season.

Lewis Driscoll

Real baller, can play anywhere across the forward positions & his work rate is an example. Perfect opportunity to showcase his ability this season & expecting his best goals/assists return so far.

Adam Loveridge

Real No9 who has had spells in the Hellenic scoring goals wherever he goes, hoping to keep him fit as can be the real sharp end with the ability for assists around him.

Carl Griffiths

Once a staple attacking player from higher leagues with all the ability. Keeping fit and bringing others into the game around him will be essential for his success this season. One to watch and double figures goal contribution is the target

Declan Chick

January signing from local team Baros having previously played for Bishops Cleeve, attacking player who likes to work hard & can be very direct at times. Made the switch to help the team move forward.

Kieran Taylor

Originally from California, Kieran's football and studying desire brought him to Hartpury. He is now looking to bring his own skills to the County League.

Peter Guite

Joined just before Christmas after a brief spell at Charlton Rovers, moved to the area recently after leaving Uni. A towering defender who also offers good pace, looking forward to settling in & getting the team moving in the right direction.





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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 TEAM



GALA WILTON

CHELTENHAM CIVIL SERVICE

Brad Newman	1	Cam Cheal
Brad Loveridge	2	Brett Pittaway
Kieron Mace	3	Harry Gilbert
Dan McNally ©	4	Joel Letori
John Antonio	5	Josh Ellin
Jordan Molyneux	6	Mike Oliver
Ben Sluman	7	Teejay Hosking
Craig Howell	8	Joe Mahon
Dan Gayner	9	Jack Dicker
Martin Smith	10	Joe Finch
Alex Gayner	11	Kerry Hale
Kyle Gibbs	12	Paul Smith
Connor Walters	14	Jamie Lewis
Marcus Foxwell	15	Gareth Jones
Harry O'Connor	16	Shay Dualeh
Connor Harmer	17	Chisom Obi
Jay Dare	18	Brett Blake
Mike Baron	19	Lewis Driscoll
Jacob Eakers	20	Adam Loveridge
Sam Webb	21	Carl Griffiths
Callum Thomas	22	Declan Chick
	23	Kieran Taylor
	24	Peter Guite

REFEREE: SHAUN ENEVER

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2023

2PM KICK OFF