

GALA WILTON FC

Saturday 30th September 2023



v Cheltenham Civil Service

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

Foggy 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

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 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.





Cheltenham Civil Service AFC Player Profiles

Nath Buckland – Goalkeeper

Decided to step up this season after a few years with other Cheltenham based sides, great shot stopper with a physical presence – looking forward to seeing him in action.

Cam Cheal - Goalkeeper

Joined the club last summer after previous spells at Chelt Saracens & Bishops Cleeve, likes to distribute from the back & calm on the ball.

Harvey Need - Goalkeeper

Highly sought after young player with a bundle of talent, came up through Cheltenham Town Youth & Bishops Cleeve Youth ranks – Along with shot stopping his distribution is on point.

Brett Pittaway - Goalkeeper

Experienced GK who now enters his 7th season with the club. Good shot stopper & a real presence between the sticks just hoping to get past recent injury issues.

Harry Gilbert – Full Back

Experienced defender that can play anywhere across the back line. Entering his 12th season at the club and will give his all for the team on the pitch & on a night out

Joel Letori – Full Back

Very comfortable on the ball & likes to get forward when he can, entering his 2nd season with the side & will be looking to get going after missing most of pre season.

Josh Ellin – Full Back

Diminutive figure 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.

Sam Johnson – Full Back

Can play either side seamlessly, came into the side last season from the Reserves & hasn't looked back. 1 of the fittest members of the squad that loves running.

Jack Barber – Defender

Came into the squad at the back end of last season & looked accomplished. Physically strong defender that's good on the ball, just hoping hes got over his prolonged injury issues.

Jack Dicker – Full Back/Winger

Joined last year after time with Inkberrow only to face a set back, started pre season well & looking to the chance to get games under his belt.

Mike Oliver – Centre Back

Players Player of the Year & Club Captain - Strong & Quick Defender who was a big part of the GNSL title winning side. Good goal return n the 22/23 season but a real leader who drives the team standards.

Pete Guite – Centre Back

Joined last season & showed a real presence at the heart of the defence. Towering defender who is also very quick across the ground, will be looking for that 1st goal as areal threat from set pieces.

Ollie Whelan – Centre Back

Dual registered with Fairford in the Hellenic Prem, Ollie is a local lad who is very experienced for his age. Enjoys nothing more than just playing as much football as he can get & a real asset when available.

Ethan (Wes) Little – Centre Back

Recently moved to the area & a real find for the club, wholehearted defender whos willing to put his body on the line while also driving others around him. Will fancy contributing on set pieces too.

Fred Griffin – Centre Back

Young local lad who decided Rugby wasn't for him so switched back to Football & what a great decision, calm on the ball but quick in the recovery we expect this to be a real season of development for Fred.

Joe Mahon – Centre Back/Midfield

Competitive player who offers flexibility across the pitch, real character off the pitch who after persistent knee issues got decent game time last season with a real fitness push to get more this season.

Joe Finch. – Centre Midfield

Joined half way through last season from Smiths Barometrics. Centre midfielder who never stops chatting, found a real confidence in his ability during pre season so looking to take a further step forward this year.

Kerry Hale – Centre Midfield

Powerful midfielder who was a big part of the GNSL winning side, returned to the club 2nd half of last season & will be a huge influence on the younger members of the squad this season.

Paul Smith – Centre Midfield

Smudge is an energetic player who possesses a calmness on the ball. Mr Consistent he had a good season last year and looks forward to stepping up further in the new season.

Jamie Lewis – Centre Midfield

Manager's Player of the Year last season and a real driving force going forward with great feet, hopefully we will see Jamie in action through the season.

Liam Hope – Centre Midfield

Part of the GNSL winning side, after a season away he has returned to the club juggling playing with Uni life. Quality on the football being a real box to box midfielder who will enjoy this challenge.

Charlie Swift – Centre Midfield

Tall imposing young player who is making the step up from the Reserves, tenacity in the tackle & a real powerhouse when breaking forward. This could be a real breakthrough year for Charlie.

Gareth Jones - Striker

Experienced Forward who previously played with Cheltenham Saracens, Tuffley Rovers, Malvern Town and numerous clubs in the Welsh leagues. 'Gary Goals' is always a goal threat & will be adding some striker coaching to his CV this season.

Lewis Driscoll - Striker

Can play anywhere across the forward positions & his work rate is an example. Has the ability to cause even the best sides trouble, looking for him to really step forward this season & show that killer instinct when required.

Elliot Green – Striker

After years of chasing Civi finally get their man, ability in absolute bundles & not shy to put in the hard work needed. Can unlock any defence with his vision & will be a big asset for the forthcoming season

Declan Chick - Striker

Attacking player who joined the 2nd half of last season, strong & technical player who likes to get on the ball. Will thrive from the players around him this season & looking forward to making a big contribution

Matt Bye – Striker

Joined this season from Bredon, pace to burn & a young lad whos hungry to learn. Hoping to really see Matt kick on as the season goes & his confidence builds.

Management Team

Steve Holend - Manager

Overseen 2 League Title's, 3 promotions, 1 County Cup & 1 League Cup in his time as Manager. Having Played in Hellenic Prem, County & Northern Senior Leagues in his career looking to help this younger squad build on the foundation laid on their County League return last season

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.

Steve Benbow – GK Coach

Utilising his experience as a Cheltenham Town & Southern/Welsh League Goalkeeper, Steve brings a wealth of knowledge to share with the Goalkeeping quartet pushing them to reach their potential. Great new addition to the club this season

Mike Kember – GK Coach

Part of Civi for many years & just a real clubman

Steps into the GK Coaching role when needed & always offers a feel good factor around the players, still fancies himself as a player so will be signed on.





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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

CHELTENHAM CIVIL SERVICE

Curtis Wilkins	1	Nath Buckland
Lewis Fogg	2	Harvey Need
Shamar Thomas	3	Josh Ellin
Jahvon Davis	4	Harry Gilbert
Dylan Barrett	5	Sam Johnson
Jake Gurney	6	Mike Oliver
Lee Brinkworth	7	Ollie Whelan
Archie Blacker	8	Joe Finch
Mike Hodgins	9	Kerry Hale
Sam Webb	10	Joe Mahon
Jacob Eakers	11	Paul Smith
Antonio Pirelli	12	Charlie Swift
Jay Dare	14	Matt Byde
Wakib	15	Declan Chick
Michael Barron	16	Lewis Driscoll
Freddie Harris	17	Elliot Green
Tim Hill	18	Gareth Jones
Jorell Sanniola	19	

REFEREE: TBC

SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

3PM KICK OFF