

# GALA WILTON FC



Cribbs Football Club

**v Cribbs Reserves**  
Saturday 13 August 2022  
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.

# **GALA FC PLAYERS**



### **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.

**R PROFILES** 2022-2023 SEASON





### **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 additions. 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.



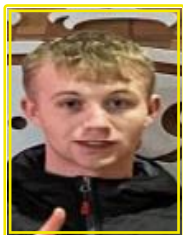
### **Brad Newman (22) - GK**

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**

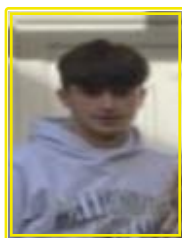
Lewis is the oldest player within the squad and well respected by all his teammates! Lew has previously played at a higher standard & even represented Great Britain in goal.. Arguably the best penalty saver in Gloucestershire. You will usually hear Lewis organising the team from the back in a relaxed 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.

# UPTHEGALA







Cribbs Football Club (Cribbs FC) are currently in their 65th season since they were founded back in London in 1958 as 'Sun Life Assurance'. The Bristol team was established in 1976 when Sun Life first relocated to Bristol. Initially they ran two teams in the Bristol and Avon League, playing at Dundridge Farm. However, when the Cribbs Causeway (now The Lawns) ground was opened in 1978, the 1st team were promoted straight to the Avon Premier Combination League where they stayed for 20 years until they eventually won promotion to the Gloucestershire County League by winning the re-named Bristol Premier Combination in the 1999/2000 season.

In the 1998/1999 season the 1st team finished runners up to Roman Glass St George in both the Combination & Premier Combination League Cup. In 1997/1998 the 1st team also finished runners up, after a replay, to Ridings High in the GFA Senior Amateur Cup.

The club adopted the name of AXA Sun Life FC at the end of the nineties following the merger of the AXA Equity & Law and Sun Life Assurance Society, and became AXA FC in 2002. At the end of the 2010-2011 season, following the acquisition and merger of AXA Sun Life & Friends Provident, we became the Cribbs Friends Life Football Club. At the end of June 2013, with the closure of the companies Cribbs Friends Life Sports & Social Club and with the creation of the new volunteer run, Cribbs Sports & Social Club at "The Lawns", we renamed ourselves as Cribbs Football Club.

Today the Club runs three Saturday sides, spread across the Hellenic League, Gloucestershire County League and Bristol Premier Combination.

On a Sunday we ran a successful side in the Regional League for many years (who won the Gilbert Pullin Sunday Cup in 2003/2004 & 2013/2014 season and were runners up in 2006/2007 season) and continue to run a Vets side in the Casuals League. In addition, we have an Under 18's team in the Bristol Premier Combination U18's league.

The club's 3rd team managed at the time by current Cribbs media man, Nick Veale, won the GFA Minor Cup in the 2004/2005 season when beating Winterbourne United's 3rd team in a tight and tense final where the "evergreen" goalkeeper John Hembrow was man of the match.

The 1st team reached the semi final stage of the Les James League Cup on three occasions since joining the county league in the 2000/2001 season. They unfortunately lost on all three occasions, against Ellwood on penalty kicks in March 2005, 2-1 against Highridge United in March 2006 and against Hardwicke, 1-0 in 2008.

At the start of 2007/2008 season the football club embarked on an ambitious change of direction that they hope would lead to their 1st team being a regular top 3 side in the Gloucestershire County League, and possibly higher.

At the end of the 2010/2011 season, under the tutelage of Gavin Tufton (in his second spell in charge) and assisted by Matt Shaughnessy, the 1<sup>st</sup> team finished runners up in the Gloucestershire County League. Unfortunately, promotion to the Toolstation Western league wasn't possible as the league champions, Brimscombe & Thrupp, had applied and been granted promotion to the Hellenic League.

With planning permission having been granted for floodlights to be installed and stands to be built, the 1st team went one better in the 2011/2012 season and completed the league championship & league cup double (the first time it had been happened).

This was obviously a fantastic achievement and meant the highly anticipated promotion to the next level of the pyramid system and entry into the Toolstation Western League for the start of the 2012/2013 season.

The floodlights & stand were installed in August 2012 and the lights were first used for the 1<sup>st</sup> team's home league game against Hengrove Athletic on 16th October 2012.

The 2011/2012 season was probably the most successful year in the club's history with not only the 1<sup>st</sup> team completing the double and gaining promotion as in addition the 2<sup>nd</sup> team gained promotion to the Premier Division of the Bristol Premier Combination.

The 2012/2013 season continued in the same vein with the 1<sup>st</sup> team finishing 8<sup>th</sup> in their first season in the Western League and the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> teams being promoted. In addition, the U18 side won their league and came runners up in the League Cup Final.

2013/2014 season was another good season for the club with the 1<sup>st</sup> team finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in Western League One and qualifying for the next season's FA Cup whilst being runners up in the Les Phillips Cup Final. The 3<sup>rd</sup> team won promotion again and the Sunday team won the Gilbert Pullin League Cup.

2014/2015 was yet another successful season for the club with the 1<sup>st</sup> team finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Division One after a very hard fought & close battle with Barnstaple Town & Welton Rovers for the major honours. This was enough to secure promotion to the next step of the pyramid, the Western League Premier Division.

The progress of the club continued on an upward trend during the 2015/2016 season with the First XI finishing a respectable 15<sup>th</sup> in their first Step Five season. The Reserve team were runners up to Mendip Broadwalk in a thrilling finale to the Premier Division of the Bristol Premier Combination. The 3<sup>rd</sup> team also finished runners up in Division One of the Bristol & District league which as a result meant promotion to the Senior Division for the 2016/2017 season. The Sunday team won the Regional League Cup. The Under 18's also won their league and were runners up in the league cup.

The outstanding progression of the club continued in the 2016/2017 season with the 1<sup>st</sup> team finishing 8<sup>th</sup> in only their 2<sup>nd</sup> season in the Premier Division of the Toolstation Western League and again finishing runners up in the Les Phillips Cup, whilst the Reserve team won both the Bristol Premier Combination League and the League Cup.

Our Sunday team finished runners up in both the Premier Division of the Bristol Regional League and the Gilbert Pullin Trophy. Finally, the U18's (*after a play off*) finished runners up in the Central Division of the Bristol Combination league and won the League Cup.

In the 2017/2018 season the 1<sup>st</sup> team finished 11<sup>th</sup>, 2nds were runners up, 3rds mid table and the 4<sup>th</sup> team finished 4th place. The under 18s finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Sunday team once again finished in runners up in the Bristol Regional League.

The last completed football season prior to the pandemic, saw the 1<sup>st</sup> XI finish eighth in the Toolstation and secured silverware by winning the GFA Challenge Trophy in 2018/2019. In the same season, our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI secured an unprecedented treble of the Bristol Premier Combination League, League Cup and GFA Senior Amateur Cup. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI continued to make progress and started the curtailed the 2020/2021 in the Bristol Premier Combination Division One.

In 2021/2022, our current manager, Richard Luffman, led the 1<sup>st</sup> XI to their highest ever Step 5 finish as we secured 4<sup>th</sup> position in the Hellenic League Premier Division following a lateral move from the Western League. He also delivered silverware as we defeated Hereford Pegasus in the League Cup.

With our excellent junior section (Shire Colts/Shire-Cribbs) also continuing to thrive, we are hope the progression of the football club continues for many years to come.

The club is well known for the tremendous facilities. Bristol Rovers used the ground as their training base for many years prior to their recent move up the A38 to their new facility in Hortham. The England Under 21 side then managed by Peter Taylor trained at the ground in 1997 and played a warm-up match against a Cribbs FC (then AXA) side prior to their game with Italy. There have also been two games televised on Sky Sports Soccer AM programme between Cribbs FC (then AXA) teams & celebrity sides.



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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

## CRIBBS RESERVES

|                 |    |                     |
|-----------------|----|---------------------|
| Brad Newman     | 1  | Harry Bridgeman GK  |
| Brad Loveridge  | 2  | James Pellowe       |
| Kieron Mace     | 3  | Gerlando Parinello  |
| Dan McNally ©   | 4  | Tom Burns           |
| John Antonio    | 5  | Fred Hopkins        |
| Jordan Molyneux | 6  | Harry Hambly        |
| Ben Sluman      | 7  | Dan Burgan          |
| Craig Howell    | 8  | James Crossley-John |
| Dan Gayner      | 9  | Ollie Dunleavy      |
| Martin Smith    | 10 | Aaron Coleman       |
| Alex Gayner     | 11 | Archie Lock         |
| Kyle Gibbs      | 12 | Keiran Clayton      |
| Connor Walters  | 14 | James Clayton       |
| Marcus Foxwell  | 15 | Liam Clayton        |
| Harry O'Connor  | 16 | Jack Guthrie        |
| Connor Harmer   | 17 | Tom Headford        |
| Jay Dare        | 18 | Dan Monk            |
| Mike Baron      | 19 | Dillan Kerr         |
| Jacob Eakers    | 20 | Lynford Bhebhe      |
| Sam Webb        | 21 | David Duru          |
| Callum Thomas   | 22 |                     |

SATURDAY 13 AUGUST 2022

3PM KICK OFF