

# GALA WILTON FC

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024



**v Frampton United 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

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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.

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# 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



## FRAMPTON UTD AFC HISTORY

Frampton Utd AFC was founded in **1891**, making it one of the founder members of the Stroud League. They have played at the Bell Field for over 80 years and originally their HQ was the Bell Hotel until **1968** when new changing quarters were built on the Bell Field.

The club has competed in a number of leagues within the county. The early years seeing them in the Stroud League, and the now obsolete Severn Vale League. The club joined the Glos. Northern Senior League in **1953/54** which they were to play for just one season, before returning in **1964**.

In **1976/77** the Reserve XI won the Stroud Division One League and were promoted to the Glos. Northern Senior League whilst the 1st XI then went on to play in the Glos. County League in which they competed for a further 10 years.

As with many clubs, around **2002** results of both teams were not going our way, and a couple of difficult seasons lay ahead.

Eventually the club began to see the good times return, with the 1<sup>st</sup> XI finishing 3rd in the Stroud and District League in **2007/08**, and Runners Up in **2008/09**. In **2008/09** the Club also became the winners of the North Glos. County Cup, their first silverware for some years and very much celebrated!

**2009/10** the 1st XI became Champions of the Stroud League Division 1 ensuring promotion to the Northern Senior League once again. They also won the Section 'B' Stroud Charity Cup.

**2010/11** promotion to GNSL Div 1 was gained by winning the GNSL Div 2 League.

**2011/12** promotion to Glos County League was gained by becoming Ru/Up in the GNSL Div 1 League.

**2012/13** we re-introduced a 3<sup>rd</sup> team, who now play in Stroud & District League Division 4.

**2017/18** 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were promoted to GNSL Div 2

This season Lee Driver-Dickerson returned as manager of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI with last season's 3<sup>rd</sup> XI manager Dave Clack stepping up to manage 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and Kris Bulley taking over the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI job.



## FRAMPTON UNITED PLAYER PROFILES 2023-24

**Tom Kaye** – Experienced goalkeeper, excellent shot stopper & great kicker of the ball.

**Dom Brown** – Captain. Solid CB with excellent commitment to the cause. Managers & Players Player of the year.

**Joe Davis**— Young defender who doesn't shy away from a tackle, reads the game well.

**Harvey Long**— Always looking to get on the ball, technically gifted hoping for a strong season, if he can stay fit!

**Freddie Porter**—Possesses a great left foot, comfortable with the ball at his feet, has shown good athleticism covers the pitch well.

**Steve Jackson** - Oldest player in the squad yet still one of the fittest, experienced player great passer of the ball with an eye for goal.

**George Blythe** — A hard working and battling central midfield player with a good attitude and a desire to keep improving.

**Fin Blythe**— Attacking player who chips in with his fair share of goals, best left foot around.

**Adam Cox**– A busy centre midfielder with good passing ability and not scared of a tackle.

**George Driver-Dickerson** – Agile defender who can attack as well as he can defend.

**Manolo Espada** – Technically excellent, growing in confidence and experience every year and also adding goals to his game.

**Romaine Campbell** – Dual registration with Slimbridge FC, young quick with loads of ability will give defenders nightmares.

**Tom Mangan** – Young player hoping to be regular in 1<sup>st</sup> team this season, good energy excellent finisher.

**Jono Willets**—Came through the youth system. Young speedy player with good stature & athleticism

**Billy Curtis** – Another young player looking to make the step up, great delivery.

**Freddie Fisher** – Young quick defender comfortable on the ball.

**Josh Browning** – Energetic midfielder always gives 100%

**Stuart Maule** – A real club man who will do anything he is asked to do for the team. Is a handful to play against for any defenders.

**Stan Shilton** – good energy and can play in a variety of positions.

**Craig Mills** – Experienced versatile player, a strong and technically good footballer.

**Harvey Cowley** – Young player with bags of energy, versatile can play in different positions technically good on the ball.

**Macloud Moyo** – A new signing to the club experienced skillfull player.

**Jon Lewis** – Great energy, good player when available.

**Alex Courtney** – Young player, making step up from 3<sup>rd</sup> team, great attitude, good energy.

**Manager**— Lee Driver-Dickerson

**Physio**— Abbie Klus





# GALA 2023/24 SPONSORS



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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**

**FRAMPTON UNITED**

**REFEREE: CALUM NEWMAN**

Curtis Wilkins	1	Tom Kaye
Lewis Fogg	2	Dom Brown
Shamar Thomas	3	Joe Davis
Jahvon Davis	4	Harvey Long
Dylan Barrett	5	Freddie Porter
Jake Gurney	6	Steve Jackson
Lee Brinkworth	7	George Blythe
Archie Blacker	8	Fin Blythe
Mike Hodgins	9	Adam Cox
Sam Webb	10	George Driver-Dickerson
Jacob Eakers	11	Manolo Espada
Antonio Pirelli	12	Romaine Campbell
Jay Dare	14	Tom Mangan
Wakib	15	Jono Willets
Michael Barron	16	Billy Curtis
Freddie Harris	17	Freddie Fisher
Tim Hill	18	Josh Browning
Jorell Sanniola	19	Stuart Maule
	20	Stan Shilton
	21	Craig Mills
	22	Harvey Cowley
	23	Macloud Moyo
	24	Jon Lewis
	25	Alex Courtney

**SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2024**

**2PM KICK OFF**