

GALA WILTON FC

Saturday 23rd March 2024



v Hanham Athletic

Les James League Cup Semi Final

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.

2023/24 SEASON 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



HANHAM ATHLETIC FC HISTORY

Hanham Athletic FC are one of the oldest clubs in the Bristol area. The Gloucestershire Football Association recognises the club as being founded in 1896, but the club's establishment is believed to have been much earlier. During the 19th-century Hanham was a small mining village bordering the south east of Bristol, and in the club's early days the players lived locally, many of them coming to play straight from a shift in the pits. A tradition and history which is still recognised today with the club's nickname 'The Miners'.

We are a committee led Community Amateur Sports Club that manages Men's football teams across a number of leagues, leases and maintains the sports pavilion and grounds of Hanham Athletic FC – titled The Hallet Construction Pavilion.

Over the years we have offered the opportunity for regular football to thousands of boys and men, with c.100 people signing on to our books each year. We were founder members of the Gloucester County League in the late 1960s and have previously very successfully played county league football for many years with a proud history of honours and promotions. We run our First, Reserve and Vets teams and operate a talented Sunday team. We have, in the past, won awards for our grounds work and programmes.

We, many years ago - played in the FA cup, almost getting to Wembley, as well as the FA Vase during the 1970s. In 1980 the club started our own Charity Shield Competition running tournaments with 16 teams participating and we continue to run tournament and charity events almost every year. We are a family friendly club, with a strong social following, a determination to support people, and a huge passion for football.

Tom Morgan and Jason Side (aka Skinney & Sider) were appointed the management team of our 1st Team for the 2021/2022 season and despite great efforts we were relegated to the Bristol Premier Combination League for the 2022/2023 season.

The 2022/2023 season for the HAF 1st team was a resounding success as we won the Bristol Premier Combination League AND the League Cup – great work by all involved with the first team.

More history can be found in the Clubhouse – when Bristol Rovers "A" v. Hanham Athletic – 14 March 1960.



HANHAM ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB PLAYER PROFILES 2023/2024

Callum Matthews - Experienced goalkeeper who has played at Toolstation and County league level, very comfortable on the ball and has good positional awareness

Josh Gibbs - vice captain, always voted best trainer but can't finish. Loves a tackle, a strong tenacious player who plays with heart on his sleeve. 100% every game and becoming a great all round player

Luke Wiltshire - Joined us last season, a welcomed addition to the squad, another tenacious player, gives 100%. Great attitude

Joel Athay- Young lad who plays full back, comfortable on the ball, decent left footed player.

Mitch Wise – Good ball playing centre back who loves a last ditch tackle, outstanding at reading the game and pops up with the odd goal

Jason Adams – Captain and leader, wealth of Toolstation experience with Keynsham. Great addition to the squad season

Jason Side - Assistant Manager – Box to Box player, keeps running and running. Sets the standards of the midfield, can also fill in at full back.

Sam Brown – Browner can and will play in any position of which is asked to. Outstanding in so many positions. Great attitude.

Ty Fudgell – Box to Box player, a player with vast amount of experience playing a higher standard. strong and robust player.

Nathan Flower- Experienced player who has played at a higher level another who loves a tackle, keeps us ticking in the centre of midfield

Richard Wathan - Known as “Sir Richard”, don't let his Mr Nice guy look fool you, out and out centre back, no nonsense. Good addition to the squad last season

Brandon Barnes - His experience to the team is priceless, great on the ball, his passing range is different level and has a wand of left foot. Great addition to the squad in 22/23 season.

HANHAM ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB PLAYER PROFILES 2023/2024

Karim Rendall - Wealth of Southern league and western league experience, knows where the goal is. Also has the quickest hat trick ever!! Great addition to the squad in 22/23

Paul Coles - Great all round player, who works his socks off for the team, never gives teams time to settle on the ball. Great person to have in the dressing room.

Jack Knight – Striker with an eye for goal, great lad to have around the club and a great addition to have to the squad in the 22/23 season

Craig Sperring - The oldest player with a wealth of experience, cracking attitude and a great voice to have in the dressing room. Great to have on the management team

George Latham - Another lad with a great attitude and decent lad to have in the changing room. Can play full back or centre back. Decent left peg on him

Ben Francis - Another player who has a great attitude and has Hanham blood running through them. Can play in a number of positions. Great on the ball and has good passing range

Jamal Simms- Strong box to box centre midfielder, powerful and has great attitude. Another good addition to the squad in the 22/23 season

Jamie Fry - 'Little man' quickest player at the club, great attitude and works hard for the team.

Jack Fry – 'Jocker' has been at Hanham for many years, has a great attitude and keeps the midfield ticking by keeping every neat and tidy

Jacob Saunders – New addition to the squad this season, he can play as wide player or through the middle, good attitude with a lot of pace and aggression

Dan Spill – Another new addition to the squad this year 'Spilly' brings a wealth of Toolstation experience most recently with Bishop Sutton, good footballer who adds some flare to the midfield, also has an eye for goal.





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

HANHAM ATHLETIC

MATCH OFFICIALS: STEVE OAKLEY, GRAHAM MCNULTY, STU EVANS

Curtis Wilkins	1	Callum Matthews
Lewis Fogg	2	Josh Gibbs
Shamar Thomas	3	Luke Wiltshire
Jahvon Davis	4	Joel Athay
Dylan Barrett	5	Mitch Wise
Jake Gurney	6	Jason Adams
Lee Brinkworth	7	Jason Side
Archie Blacker	8	Sam Brown
Mike Hodgins	9	Ty Fudgell
Sam Webb	10	Nathan Flower
Jacob Eakers	11	Richard Wathan
Antonio Pirelli	12	Brandon Barnes
Jay Dare	14	Karim Rendall
Wakib	15	Paul Coles
Michael Barron	16	Jack Knight
Freddie Harris	17	Craig Sperring
Tim Hill	18	George Latham
Jorell Sanniola	19	Ben Francis
	20	Jamal Simms
	21	Jamie Fry
	22	Jack Fry
	23	Jacob Saunders
	24	Dan Spill

SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024

3PM KICK OFF