

GALA WILTON FC



v Hardwicke

Saturday 5 November 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.





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 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.



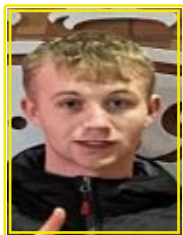
Brad Newman (22) - GK

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

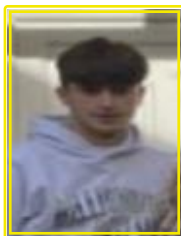
Lewis is the oldest player within the squad and well respected by all his teammates! Lew has previously played at a higher standard & even represented Great Britain in goal.. Arguably the best penalty saver in Gloucestershire. You will usually hear Lewis organising the team from the back in a relaxed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





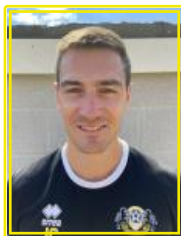
Jacob Eakers (17) - LWB / RWB

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





THE HISTORY OF HARDWICKE AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB.

The name of the Football Club is Hardwicke Amateur Football Club, more commonly known as Hardwicke A.F.C. In recent years the nickname of the club has been affectionally known as "Wickey". The club was founded in 1933 (as records show) but rumoured to have been formed in 1918. In 1947 Hardwicke AFC played in a 'friendly' against a German prisoner of war team, based in Quedgeley.

The club played in the Northern Senior League between 1959-1971. However, were forced to pull out of the league as the club moved from their ground which was previously Naas Lane, Quedgeley.

During the 1970's and early 80's the club played on the current playing fields in Green Lane, Hardwicke and represented the club in the Stroud and District league. Unfortunately, the club could not progress further as the changing rooms were not up to the required standard.

The club assisted financially with the development of new changing rooms on the end of the village hall and subsequently was promoted to Northern Senior Division Two, having won the First Division of the Stroud and District league.

The current crest of the club was integrated during 1987 and the club chose to use the centre of the Hardwicke Estates Crest (from the Lloyds-Baker family who kindly gave us permission to use this). The three white objects on the crest are in fact Serpents, not swans. The crest seems to have been misunderstood from being Serpents to Swans for the past 20 years. This crest has also been adopted by Hardwicke Rangers Youth Football Club.

After four seasons in the Second Division of the Northern Senior League, the First team were promoted to the First Division in 1988 after finishing runners-up to Hilldene Athletic.

Further success in the club's history didn't occur until 1993-1994 when our reserve team secured the GFA Intermediate County Cup beating Down Ampney 2-0.

In 1994 the club leased The Close, Green Lane, Hardwicke and developed this from a farmers field. This was opened by Charles Lloyds-Baker to the local community and the club had a weekend of celebrations.

In 1997 the First Team reached the County Cup Final for the first time but lost to Endsleigh Reserves in a close fought game.

1998 saw Hardwicke firsts had been promoted to the Gloucestershire County League having become runners up in the Northern Senior Division One.

The club 'raised the bar' in upgrading its facilities by providing barriers around the pitch, providing a club programme and food/beverage offerings. The club would regularly welcome programme collectors from all over the County.

The Reserve Team gained promotion of Division One of the Stroud League after becoming Division Two Champions in 2001/2002.

The club won the County League and Les James League Cup in 2007/2008. In the same season the club narrowly missed out on the GFA Trophy against Bitton in the final.

With promotion to the Hellenic League, the team went onto win the Hellenic Division 1 title by a massive 15 points during the 2008-2009 season.

In 2009/10 season Hardwicke realised that they could not sustain being in the Hellenic League and made the decision to disband their First Team.

Since this period the First's had gone from Stroud Division Two up to Northern Senior Division One with several promotions.

In August 2014, the club played a Tottenham Spurs legends side to celebrate the life of Rob Dawe, who was a Chairman of Hardwicke Rangers. Tottenham won 11-2.

In the season of 2014/2015 Hardwicke reserve team finished runners up in Stroud Division 3 and were promoted to Stroud Division 2. In the same season the reserves made it to the final of the Charity Cup played at Stonehouse F.C where they were narrowly beaten on penalties by Longlevens 3rd team.

In the 2014/15 season Hardwicke first team finished runners up and were promoted to the County League once again following a huge amount of improvements being made including a new referees changing room being built, pitch perimeter fencing being installed and new dug out's being built in order for Hardwicke to be eligible to be promoted into this league.

In 2015/16 Hardwicke first team won the Les James League cup against Rockleaze Rangers played at Tytherington Rocks FC. Craig Harris scored the only goal of the game.

The club has three teams, with these competing in Stroud Division 1 and 4 with our 3rd team being promoted to Stroud Division 4 in the 15/16 season and reserves being promoted to Stroud 1 in the 16/17 season.

No history of Hardwicke AFC would be complete without a special mention of the King family. Frank King who sadly passed away in 1998 was involved in the club for over 60 years. His son Tony held his position in the club but sadly passed away in 2008.

Currently long standing club members are: Dareth Daley (34 years), Geoffrey 'Stan' Hine (25 years), John Leccacorvi (23 years), Michael Addle (15 years), Phillip Barnes (15 years).

The club is currently members of the Gloucestershire County League and the Stroud and District League (SDL).

HARDWICKE FC PLAYER PROFILES



Rob Hine, Stalwart of the club winning the county league and Hellenic one west playing midfield for us, previous spells with Tuffley and Slimbridge. Recently handed over the captain's armband but still demands excellence from all around him. A presence in both boxes with an eye for goal.



Craig Harris, The joker of the pack, a direct player who also chips in with a few important goals which included the winner in the Les James Trophy in 2016. Unable to commit as much this year due to owning his own business and always last to the bar.



Tobie Webb, A managers dream as he will happily play anywhere on the pitch. A rare and dying breed of a competitive midfielder who can break the lines with his attacking running. Great in the air and another with an eye for goal.



Pat Vernall, Given the captains armband for his consistency since joining the club. A plastic posh lad who loves a last-ditch tackle. Was last season's top appearance holder. A pacey left sided defender who is equal at both left back or center half.



Glenn Gittings, Rightly selected for the County League side last year. A holding midfielder who's early career as a defender means he is both strong in the air and in the tackle. A good organiser and loves a high 5.



Tom Kaye, Another new signing this year. Looking to get back into football after a year off. A brilliant shot stopper who can confidently distribute with both his hand and feet. A vocal lad who has high standards which he expects from his back line.



Russ Smith, Came through the youth set up and has progressed well. A very reliable left back who is very neat and tidy. Started last season strongly picking up several man of the match performances before an unfortunate injury cut his season short. Looking to get back fit and back involved



James Ratcliffe, Spent his youth days with our closest rivals before coming to his senses. A forward-thinking player with bags of pace and the odd bit of skill every now and then. Bar far the worst dressed at the club and probably the league in general.



Kieran Tracey, Signed for the club last season before picking up an injury. Has come back this year and looking to push on and find his previous form. A handful of appearances in the Conference South gives him the experience and confidence to play anywhere across the midfield or as a forward.



Craig Beaton, A massive signing for the club with his experience from playing for longlevens for 6 years where he was often appointed captain. A no nonsense left sided defender who was quickly appointed Vice Captain. A vocal player both on the pitch and in the changing room.



Paul Carter, Dual signed with Tuffley Rovers and been affiliated with Hardwicke from a very young age. Has previously been with Slimbridge and was also part of the side who won the county league and Hellenic one west with us here at Hardwicke. Can use both feet and excellent with his set pieces as our creative midfielder.



Will Matthews, Signed from low league local football and finished top scorer for the club in 2 of the last 3 seasons. Strong in the air and has the ability to score with both feet. Comfortable with his back to goal along with running channels.



Rich Mansell, Manse has taken on the player manager role this season (he'd do anything to get out of the house on a Tuesday night). A former Luton Town scholar and Gloucester City full back, very experienced and vocal player who despite managing must be one of the first names on the team sheet.



Tony Chivers, assistant manager, wealth of experience was crucial in the promotion season, only assistant for 90 mins then straight in bar.



Will Higgins, Played last year as a right back but feels more comfortable in midfield. Likes to run with the ball. Loves a pout for a picture as much as he likes kicking the ball out of play. Been known for his eye for eye but that has yet to be seen.



Kieran Brice Ingles, Brought into the 1st team after finishing last season as the reserves top goal scorer. A wide player with pace and the ability to turn defenses.



Scott Eales, A strong defender who can also move into a midfield role if needed to. Leaves everything out on the pitch with his never say die attitude.



Shaun Smith, A forward player who had a frustrating season last year and looking to put that and his chocolate hamstring behind him. A pace winger who can also be used as a lone front man.

Ryan Barrett, New signing to the club this year. Goes to Cardiff university where he has also played for the last 3 years. A left sided player who enjoys defending as much as attacking.





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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

HARDWICKE

REFEREE: GARRY COLLIER

Brad Newman	1	Rob Hine
Brad Loveridge	2	Craig Harris
Kieron Mace	3	Tobie Webb
Dan McNally ©	4	Pat Vernall
John Antonio	5	Glenn Gittings
Jordan Molyneux	6	Tom Kaye
Ben Sluman	7	Russ Smith
Craig Howell	8	James Ratcliffe
Dan Gayner	9	Kieran Tracey
Martin Smith	10	Craig Beaton
Alex Gayner	11	Paul Carter
Kyle Gibbs	12	Will Matthews
Connor Walters	14	Rich Mansell
Marcus Foxwell	15	Tony Chivers
Harry O'Connor	16	Will Higgins
Connor Harmer	17	Kieran Brice Ingles
Jay Dare	18	Scott Eales
Mike Baron	19	Shaun Smith
Jacob Eakers	20	Ryan Barrett
Sam Webb	21	
Callum Thomas	22	

SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2022

2PM KICK OFF