

# GALA WILTON FC



**v Little Stoke FC**  
Saturday 3 December 2022  
2022-2023 SEASON

Gloucestershire County League  
- Les James Cup -



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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.





### **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**

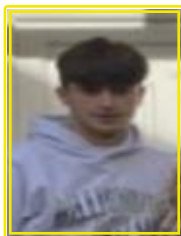
Lewis is the oldest player within the squad and well respected by all his teammates! Lew has previously played at a higher standard & even represented Great Britain in goal.. Arguably the best penalty saver in Gloucestershire. You will usually hear Lewis organising the team from the back in a relaxed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





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# LITTLE STOKE CLUB HISTORY



Little Stoke Athletic Football Club first formed in the 1950's by Percy Plummer and Cab Callaway playing at a ground in Bush Avenue, Little Stoke which is now the allotments. They then moved to Gypsy Patch Lane playing between the Magpie Pub and the railway line on one of the biggest pitches in Bristol. The club's 1<sup>st</sup> treasurer was a Geordie and thus the team kit became Black & White stripes which remains in place today. The club first played in the Bristol & District league and had cup success in the 1950's winning the minor cup. The club then moved up to what is now Little Stoke Park, and the players built their own changing rooms out of corrugated iron sheets with the help of a local builder Fred Dunscombe. The Athletic name was dropped, and Little Stoke FC formed in 1969 and the club moved to the Bristol Suburban league winning various honours over the years. Premier 1 – runners up 2015/16, Premier 1 – champions – 2013/14, Bosley cup winners 2013/14, GFA Senior Amateurs Cup Runners Up 2013, BOSLEY CUP – Runners up 2012/13, Division 3 League Champions 2000/01, Premier 2 League Champions 2010/11/ The club became well established in the higher divisions of the league over a 30 year period but were held back from promoting to the Gloucestershire County League by the ground facilities. In 2015 the club set about upgrading the changing rooms with the players giving their time freely to upgrade the referee's room and in 2016 the club were duly elected members of the Marcliff Glos County League after coming runners up in the Bristol Suburban Prem1 under new manager, Ash Coles. After 3 seasons in the County League, they finally won their first bit of silverware in the 2018/19 season in the Les James Cup Final beating AEK Boco 4 –1 on penalties after a 0 – 0 draw.

Season 2021/22 -Winners of the Les James Cup beating Ruardean Hill Rangers 2-0. Also winners of the new Ron Holpin Trophy beating Wick 4-1.

The club now has 3 sides with the Reserves and A's competing in Bristol Suburban League Div 1 & Div 4 respectively.

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# LITTLE STOKE PLAYER PROFILES

**ASH COLES (Colesy)** – Manager - Been with the club 13 years as a player, 8<sup>th</sup> year in charge of the team. Previously managed and played at Almondsbury FC after playing for Paulton Rovers, BMF & Patchway Town.

**MARK CURTIS(nobby)** - Assistant Manager – Joined Colesy half way 18/19 season from Mangotsfield FC, Great character to have around the dressing rooms but don't ever look at his belly button.

**JAZ BRIGHT** – Jazo now stepped into an assistants manager position, great bloke to have around, you will never find a more model pro and can still slot in on the pitch if needed.

**CONNOLLY JARRETT** – Great goalkeeper in his 3<sup>rd</sup> season with the club since moving back from Liverpool Uni. Previously played for BMF, Roman Glass & Henbury OB.

**ALEX FOX** – Big Versatile Defender who can play anywhere along the back line. 3<sup>rd</sup> Season with the club after previously playing Winterbourne fc & Wick.

**JACK BURGESS** – “Manc” 5<sup>th</sup> season with the club since signing from Mangotsfield FC, pacy centre half who loves to get forward and chips in with a number of goals.

**NEIL BAILEY** – 2<sup>nd</sup> season with the club after leaving the hotseat at Almondsbury FC, big centre half who brings a wealth of experience to the side.

**JAIDON HOLVER** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Season with the club since progressing up from the A's. Rapid forward who certainly knows where the net is.

**ETHAN MOORE** – 4<sup>th</sup> season with the club, another young prospect who came up through the ressiees. Great left peg and been ever present since coming into the 1<sup>st</sup> team.

**DANNY LANE** – Laners 2<sup>nd</sup> season with the club since signing from Almondsbury FC, a versatile and experienced player who can play a number of positions, another we need to stay injury free.

**WILL OSBOURNE** – Solid centre half who has recently joined us from Bristol Telephones, but another who brings plenty of experience from the higher leagues.

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**LUKE MEACHAM** – “Meach” now in his 5th season with the club since signing from Brislington FC, great competitive striker, who can also play midfield, hopefully can stay injury free this season.

**KIERAN WILLIAMS** – 7th year with LSFC signing from Winterbourne. Skilful midfielder and a great passer of the ball who can create in the final 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**JOHN PUGSLEY** – 3rd Season with the club since coming out of semi-retirement. Previously with BMF, Keynsham Town & Patchway Town. Seems to think The Shit are the greatest team on earth.

**ALEX HILL** – 5th Season with the club since coming down from Winterbourne FC, a player that gives a 110% every game & can play a number of positions.

**LEWIS HUGHES** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Season with the club since signing from Hallen Res, very skillful holding midfielder who can distribute with both feet.

**JUDE SCOTT** – 18yr old Midfielder in his 3<sup>rd</sup> season with the club, has come up through the ranks. Midfielder with a great box to box engine who chips in with goals.

**AARON WEST** – 2<sup>nd</sup> season with the club, experienced goal scoring forward who can play anywhere up top.

**LUCAS HART** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Season with the club, Signed from Seymour Utd, after previously playing for Oldland. Another experienced quick forward but suffered a bad injury last season and only played a number of games.

**JORDAN YEO** – Back for his 2<sup>nd</sup> spell with the club, experienced and well travelled winger who will be a great addition once again.

**PHILLIPPE KOUROUMA** - Big Phils 2<sup>nd</sup> season with the club, after signing from the Uni. Big powerful centre forward who always gives you 100%.

**HARRISON MOORE** – 2<sup>nd</sup> season with the club since signing, a versatile midfielder who has a great engine and covers a lot of grass during a game.





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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**

**LITTLE STOKE**

REFEREE: OLIVER SPENDER

Brad Newman	1	Ash Coles
Brad Loveridge	2	Mark Curtis
Kieron Mace	3	Jaz Bright
Dan McNally ©	4	Connolly Jarrett
John Antonio	5	Alex Fox
Jordan Molyneux	6	Jack Burgess
Ben Sluman	7	Neil Bailey
Craig Howell	8	Jaidon Holver
Dan Gayner	9	Ethan Moore
Martin Smith	10	Danny Lane
Alex Gayner	11	Will Osbourne
Kyle Gibbs	12	Luke Meacham
Connor Walters	14	Kieran Williams
Marcus Foxwell	15	John Pugsley
Harry O'Connor	16	Alex Hill
Connor Harmer	17	Lewis Hughes
Jay Dare	18	Jude Scott
Mike Baron	19	Aaron West
Jacob Eakers	20	Lucas Hart
Sam Webb	21	Jordan Yeo
Callum Thomas	22	Phillippe Kourouma
	23	Harrison Moore

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 2022

2PM KICK OFF