

GALA WILTON FC

Saturday 20th January 2024



v Little Stoke 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

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.

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

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 1st 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.



LITTLE STOKE PLAYER PROFILES

- ASH COLES (Colesy) – Manager - Been with the club 13 years as a player, 8th 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 done 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 3rd season with the club since moving back from Liverpool Uni. Previousy played for BMF, Roman Glass & Henbury OB.
- ALEX FOX – Big Versatile Defender who can play anywhere along the back line. 3rd Season with the club after previously playing Winterbourne fc & Wick.
- JACK BURGESS – “Manc” 5th 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 – 2nd season with the club after leaving the hotseat at Almondsbury FC, bit centre half who brings a wealth of experience to the side.
- JAIDON HOLVER – 3rd Season with the club since preogressing up from the A’s. Rapid forward who certainly knows where the net is.
- ETHAN MOORE – 4th season wit the club, another young prospect who came up through the ressiees. Great left peg and been ever present since coming into the 1st team.
- LUKE ALLEN – 1st season with the club since moving to Bristol from Wales. Big strong left sided player who has settled in well in the dressing room.
- DANNY LANE – Laners 2nd season with the clun since signing from Almondsbury FC, a versatile and experienced player who can play a number of poistions, another we need to stay injury free.
- LUKE MEACHAM – “Meach” now in his 5th season with the club since signing from Brislington FC, great competeive 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 3rd.

- 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 & this season’s captain.
- MIKE HARDIMAN – Hards first season with the club since signing from last season league winners Wick FC. Brings vast experience and can play a number of positions chipping in with fair share of goals.
- LEWIS HUGHES – 3rd 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 3rd 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 – 2nd season with the club, experienced goal scoring forward who can play anywhere up top.
- LUCAS HART – 2nd 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 2nd spell with the club, experienced and well travelled winger who will be a great addition once again.
- PHILLIPPE KOUROUMA - Big Phils 2nd season with the club, after signing from the Uni. Big powerful centre forward who always gives you 100%.
- MATTY SIMONS – Big Matty first season back with us since returning from travelling. Big Strong powerful forward who always gives 110% and covers every blade of grass.
- HARVEY SEALEY - 1st season with the club since signing from Bitton FC and previously with Henbury OB. Quick forward who we are sure will chip in with his goals.





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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

LITTLE STOKE

REFEREE: SHAUN ENEVER

Curtis Wilkins	1	Connolly Jarrett
Lewis Fogg	2	Alex Fox
Shamar Thomas	3	Jack Burgess
Jahvon Davis	4	Neil Bailey
Dylan Barrett	5	Jaidon Holver
Jake Gurney	6	Ethan Moore
Lee Brinkworth	7	Luke Allen
Archie Blacker	8	Danny Lane
Mike Hodgins	9	Luke Meacham
Sam Webb	10	Kieran Williams
Jacob Eakers	11	John Pugsley
Antonio Pirelli	12	Alex Hill
Jay Dare	14	Mark Hardiman
Wakib	15	Lewis Hughes
Michael Barron	16	Jude Scott
Freddie Harris	17	Aaron West
Tim Hill	18	Lucas Hart
Jorell Sanniola	19	Jordan Yeo
	20	Phillippe Kourouma
	21	Matty Simons
	22	Harvey Sealey

SATURDAY 20 JANUARY 2024

2PM KICK OFF