

GALA WILTON FC



v Sharpness

Saturday 3 September 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.



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.



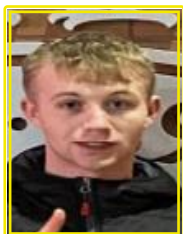
Brad Newman (22) - GK

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

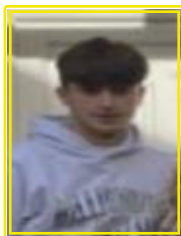
Lewis is the oldest player within the squad and well respected by all his teammates! Lew has previously played at a higher standard & even represented Great Britain in goal.. Arguably the best penalty saver in Gloucestershire. You will usually hear Lewis organising the team from the back in a relaxed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



SHARPNESS AFC: Our History



Sharpness A.F.C was founded in the 1900-1901 season. Their home ground was The Port which they rented from British Waterways for a pepper-corn rate of one pound per year.

During 3 seasons of the mid 20's Sharpness won the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League. Although no football was played during both wars Sharpness players regularly wrote home to tell of their footballing achievements while they were away on duty.

After the 2nd World War Sharpness were very much to the fore and played at the highest standard in Gloucestershire football. The Sharks were very successful and in the 1962-63 season the 1st XI won the GNSL whilst the 2nd XI won the Stroud League Div 1 without losing a game, a remarkable achievement.

In 1974 a clubhouse was built and from that point Sharpness went from strength to strength. They won the Gloucestershire County League and joined the Hellenic Premier League where they were very successful for a number of years winning the title in 1986. In the 1985-86 season they got to the last 16 in the country playing in the F.A. Amateur Cup.

It was at this point that British Waterways decide they wanted to develop on the land where The Port was situated so the club had to leave in 1988 its home of 88 years. Following World War 1 a Grandstand had been built in memory of those who perished in the war, alas this was bulldozed when The Sharks had to leave The Port.

For three seasons they played on Forest Greens pitch at a price far too high for that time. It became impossible to cover the costs of playing at Forest Green so the club had to revert to playing at a lower level. Reduced to one team now playing in GNSL Div 2 they got promoted in their first season 1991-92.

Since leaving Forest Green Sharpness have played their games at Berkeley Vale School & now at Hamfields Leisure Centre where we have put a lot of effort into improving the facilities so we could once again ply our trade in the county league.

Sharpness 1st XI have retained their position in GNSL Div 1 since 1992, even winning the league in 2001-2002, 2009-2010 & 2015-2016 for a record 11th time but alas their facilities prevented them getting promoted.

We finally started the development of new changing rooms at Hamfields in May 2018 completing the project in March 2019 just in time for inspection. The 1st XI still had to do the business on the field to secure promotion and did just that by winning the league for a record 12th time in 2018-19 which secured promotion to the Gloucestershire County league.

During our first season in the County League, we gave a good account of ourselves lying in 3rd position in the league and making it to the Semi Final of the Les James Cup before the season was curtailed early.

In our 1st full season in the Glos County League we managed to finish in a creditable 3rd place having recovered from a slow start. We also managed to take two scalps from higher league opposition in the Glos FA Challenge Trophy.

Sharpness AFC Player Profiles 2022-23 Season

Dan Hobbs (GK) – Experienced goal keeper who has been out injured for a long time. Dan should be able to make his return during the 2022-2023 season.

Truan Taylor (GK) – Young goalkeeper who has been in and around the Sharpness setting for many years. Looking to build on an impressive season last time out. .

James Higgs – Old fashioned defender who will kick and head anything. One of the senior and more experienced players whose leadership qualities will be important.

Ben Gibbs © – Club skipper who is hoping to finally start playing regular football again after a long-term injury and two disrupted seasons.

James Litten – a no nonsense defender who can play in a couple of positions. Extremely hard working player who will be looking to establish himself in the first team.

Jordan Rouse – A new signing to the club this season. A ball playing centre back who's experience will be pivotal.

James Priday – Quick, strong left footed defender who likes a physical battle.

George Thomas – a young left sided defender who will be pushing to establish himself in the first team this season.

Alex Shaw – A young defender with excellent technical skills looking to establish himself as a regular in the side after joining from Slimbridge reserves.

Brad Gibbs – A young player with bags of energy, keeps it simple, not scared of a tackle & has an eye for goal.

Brad Hewer – Attack minded midfielder with composure on the ball. Likes a strike from distance when the opportunity arises.

Liam Walsh –tidy neat player who keeps the team ticking. Dangerous from set-pieces.

Callum Dummelow – Callum is an established midfielder and is a good leader on and off the pitch.

Tom Frankham – Recently appointed as vice-captain. Has shown excellent leadership qualities. Covers the entire pitch, has quick feet and is difficult to stop when in full flow.

Sam Strickland – Direct running striker who has a one thing on his mind, scoring goals.

Will Lacey – Pacey, tricky left footed forward who causes defenders problems with his direct running.

Dan Turner – Combative forward with an eye for goal, the defence is in for a tough afternoon when Dan is on the field.

Alex Higgs – A striker who is deadly in front of goal. Alex possesses great technique and excellent hold up play.

Jack Higgs – another attacking player who is excellent in the air and knows where the goal is.

Tom Paterson – our most senior player who is entering his 21st season with the Sharks. Competitive and always up for a battle.

Tom Freeman – an experienced player who can play in defence and midfield. Tom is making his return to the club after a break from football. A great addition on and off the pitch.

Henry Thomas – a young energetic attacking player who can play anywhere across the front line.

Jordan Hodges – an attacking player with excellent hold up play and possess a great technique.

Jake Evans – an enthusiastic and combative young attacker who will be looking to establish himself in the first team this year.

Josh Loveridge – Manager entering his first season at Sharpness. Previously clubs include Frampton Utd, Shortwood Utd & Brimscombe and Thrupp.

Warren Evans – Assistant Manager. Experienced football bloke who has previously played southern league and managed the likes of Cirencester, Tuffley Rovers and Hardwicke.

Chris Gooch – Head Coach who joined the club this summer. Previously the manager at Quedgeley Wanderers. Excellent coach and is very much a coup.

Matt Turl – GK coach. Former manager at Kingswood and has already proven he will be a fantastic asset for the club.



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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

SHARPNESS

REFEREE: MATT BAIRD

Brad Newman	1	Dan Hobbs
Brad Loveridge	2	Truan Taylor
Kieron Mace	3	James Higgs
Dan McNally ©	4	Ben Gibbs ©
John Antonio	5	James Litten
Jordan Molyneux	6	Jordan Rouse
Ben Sluman	7	James Friday
Craig Howell	8	George Thomas
Dan Gayner	9	Alex Shaw
Martin Smith	10	Brad Gibbs
Alex Gayner	11	Brad Hewer
Kyle Gibbs	12	Liam Walsh
Connor Walters	14	Callum Dummelow
Marcus Foxwell	15	Tom Frankham
Harry O'Connor	16	Sam Strickland
Connor Harmer	17	Will Lacey
Jay Dare	18	Dan Turner
Mike Baron	19	Alex Higgs
Jacob Eakers	20	Jack Higgs
Sam Webb	21	Tom Paterson
Callum Thomas	22	Tom Freeman
	23	Henry Thomas
	24	Jordan Hodges
	25	Jake Evans

SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2022

3PM KICK OFF