

# GALA WILTON FC



v Stoke Gifford United FC

Saturday 4 March 2023  
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.



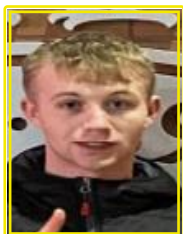
### **Brad Newman (22) - GK**

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**

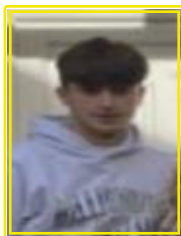
Lewis is the oldest player within the squad and well respected by all his teammates! Lew has previously played at a higher standard & even represented Great Britain in goal.. Arguably the best penalty saver in Gloucestershire. You will usually hear Lewis organising the team from the back in a relaxed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





# Club History: Stoke Gifford United Football Club

Stoke Gifford Football Club was founded back in 1947 by Mr J. Scott. In our first few seasons, between 1947-51, we played on the Downs in Clifton. At the beginning of the 1951 season our club stalwart Jim Sparrow joined the club as a wanting to play for his local team. Also in 1951 we moved to our current home at North Road, Stoke Gifford after having the old orchard levelled off to create our pitch. The old barn where cider used to be made was converted into our changing rooms. This is also where the club adopted the Barn Owl as our club symbol. This has been our club home ever since, although from the 2018/19 season the first team relocated to Stoke Gifford Stadium at SGS College, leaving our reserve and 'A' team to fulfill alternate Saturdays in the 'Village'.

Following the move to Stoke Gifford, the club colours were red shirts and white sleeves until 1964 when the club adopted our now well know blue and white trim. The club has used navy from time to time but we predominantly wear royal blue each season.

In 1982/83 season, Jim Sparrow took up the position as chairman with the aim to bring some much needed success to the club. This is a position Jim held within the club until 2020-21 when it was time for Jim to pass the position on and take up the roll of club president. Jim is a true hero to the club and without his passion and drive over the many years in the role, the club would not be in the position we are in today.

In the 1988/89 we won the Bristol Suburban League Premier 1 title for the first time in our history. The team, managed by club legend John Black, were fired to the title by his younger brother and now club chairman, Martin Black, who finished top goal scorer allowing us to pip Totterdown United to the title.

Our home changing room and bar were located in the trust owned 'Poplar Rooms' until plans were drawn up in 2004 to build a new sports facility adjacent the pitch. The new clubhouse opened in the 2007/8 season and was constructed off the back of a number of former players most notably Rob Thorne and Ian Sweeten.

We won the title again in the 2014/15 season. This time managed by Martin Black and assisted by current gaffer Dan Dunt. The pair assembled a strong squad with the aim of winning the title. The season began well and Gifford were in a very strong position come March time. However, this is when disaster and heartbreak struck. Club talisman and top scorer, Ben Hiscox, suffered a fatal accident while playing after a collision with the club house wall. The club was broken at the time but the boys managed to rally together and finally got over the line in a tense final day away to AFC Mangotsfield. Needing a point to secure the title, the village went ahead when Geraint Williams converted from the spot, but an equaliser in the second half resulted in the most nervous of finishes. Emotional scenes followed the final whistle with Ben's dad, Clive the focal point of celebrations.

In 2018 the club began a dialogue with local college SGS, to build a relationship to give young players from the area a clear pathway into adults' football. This has been hugely successful to date, with the first team gaining back to back promotions after being crowned champions in both Bristol Suburban Premier 1&2 divisions. We have also helped develop some hugely exciting talent that have moved on to play a higher level of football.

The club currently have three team representing 'The Village', with the Reserves and A team competing in the Bristol Suburban League – Senior and Division 4 respectively.



# Stoke Gifford United Player Profiles

**Matt Semple** – Been back at the village for 4 seasons now, has previous experience in the Western League, fantastic shotstopper and best looking bloke at the club.

**Freddie Butchers**-1<sup>st</sup> year with the club, young goalkeeper with bags of potential. Likes to get us playing at the back and has all it takes to go on to have a great career in the game.

**Kalil Traore**- 1<sup>st</sup> year with the club, young fullback who has great fitness and quality on the ball. Shows a great attitude and will be a great acquisition for the club.

**Callum May** – Club stalwart who has won nearly everything he can in his time at the club. Old school central defender who seems to get better every season.

**Jack Barton**- Joined this season, a versatile defender with great physical attributes for a player so young. Will play a key role this season.

**Ethan Crossley**- First year too for Ethan, a young defender with a lot of promise. Likes to play out from the back but also reads the game well and we are hoping for a big season for Ethan.

**Dan Dunt** – Player/Manager. Has been around the club since his debut at age 14. Has played higher up the pyramid at the likes of BMF, Hallen and Almondsbury. Doesn't play as much as he used to but hoping he can regain some much need fitness this season!

**Jeff Barimah** – Second season at the club, Jeff was instrumental in our promotion last season, as comfortable on the ball as he is at the back. A brilliant 1v1 defender.

**Risuna Mabasa**- 1<sup>st</sup> year with the club, tricky fullback that has a lovely delivery from wide areas. Will provide a real threat to opposition from wide areas this season.

**Dave Talbot** – Club Captain. Dave has been around the club since his teens and is a massive part of our success in the last few seasons. Dave has County League experience from his time at Patchway Town. A combative midfield whose experience will be vital this season.

**Marcus Thatcher** – Thatch has played a key role in player recruitment and coaching over the past few year while playing through injuries to help us get to the County League. Now back at full fitness we are hoping for bit things from him, we will need his experience of playing at a higher level and his leadership this season. Great passing range and a great heart.

- Bradley Probert** – Another exciting addition to the squad, an old school box to box midfielder with a good eye for a pass and a goal. Has a great engine and attitude and shows great promise for us this season.
- Mischa Collins**- A talented midfielder who keep things nice a simple in midfield, will be kep in keeping things ticking over for us in the middle of the park this season. First season for us but looks an excellent addition.
- Daniel Twomey** – Been with the club for a few years now, has Somerset County experience. Breaks play up wel and has a great engine, his experiene will be needed this season.
- Ben Shepherd**- 1<sup>st</sup> year at the club for Ben who has really impressed in pre season. Has shown versatility and a great attitude. Ben is at this best when driving from deeper areas to arrive in the box, has a goal in him.
- Geraint Williams** – A return to the game and to the club for G. He was vital to us when winning the Suburban Prem back in 2015. Has previous higher level experince at BMF, Hallen and Almondbury. Will be a great influence on the young lads and still has plenty to offer in a variety of positions.
- Paul Cronin**- Speedy, Irish forward who can play wide or central. Is a tenacious player who doesn't give the opposition a seconds time. Plenty of promise for Paul in his first season at the club.
- Luke Garbacz** – Experienced player at this level. Fantastic passing range and loves a battle in the middle of the park.
- Corey Clark** – Been at the club for around 5 seasons now. A great lad to have around the place, really good character. Very versatile and has scored some important goals for the club over the years.
- Rudy Hill**- Another new addition is Rudy who has plenty of tricks and vision. At his best when running at the full back in wide areas, big season expected for Rudy this season.
- Michael Barry**- In his 2<sup>nd</sup> season at the club, we expecting big things from Mikey this term. Played an important role in gaining us promotion, Mikey is an extremely fast winger who will cause all sorts of problems for the oppostion this season.
- Kacper Kalkowski**-1<sup>st</sup> season with the club, young local lad who plays up top or just in behind. Lovely first touch and links play well.
- Kray Foster**- 3<sup>rd</sup> season in total for Kray who we hope plays a major role this campaign. Strong, powerful forward with a fierce left foot. His goals will be integral for us this season.
- Liam Whelan** – Cheesey is an absolute menace for oppositon defenders, pace, power and unpredictability makes him a nightmare to defend against.
- Nathan Daniels** – Scores goals for fun, give him a chance and he'll put it away.





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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

## STOKE GIFFORD UNITED

REFEREE: GARRY COLLIER

Brad Newman	1	Matt Semple
Brad Loveridge	2	Freddie Butchers
Kieron Mace	3	Kalil Traore
Dan McNally ©	4	Callum May
John Antonio	5	Jack Barton
Jordan Molyneux	6	Ethan Crossley
Ben Sluman	7	Dan Dunt
Craig Howell	8	Jeff Barimah
Dan Gayner	9	Risuna Mabasa
Martin Smith	10	Dave Talbot
Alex Gayner	11	Marcus Thatcher
Kyle Gibbs	12	Bradley Probert
Connor Walters	14	Mischa Collins
Marcus Foxwell	15	Daniel Twomey
Harry O'Connor	16	Ben Shepherd
Connor Harmer	17	Geraint Williams
Jay Dare	18	Paul Cronin
Mike Baron	19	Luke Garbacz
Jacob Eakers	20	Corey Clark
Sam Webb	21	Rudy Hill
Callum Thomas	22	Michael Barry
	23	Kacper Kalkowski
	24	Kray Foster
	25	Liam Whelan
	26	Nathan Daniels

SATURDAY 4 MARCH 2023

3PM KICK OFF