

GALA WILTON FC

Saturday 13th January 2024



v Stoke Gifford United

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

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.

Roll of Honours

First Team

1987/88 – Runners up – Suburban league Prem 1
1988/89 – Champions – Suburban League Prem 1
1994 – GFA Senior Amateur Cup Finalists
2000 – Runners up -Bristol Suburban League Prem 1
2005/6 Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 2
2006 – GFA Senior Amateur Cup Finalists
2011/12 Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 2
2012 Champions – Alf Bosley Cup
2014/15 – Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 1
2016 Champions – Alf Bosley Cup

2018/19 - Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 2
2021/22 – Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 1

Reserve Team

1993/94 –Champions Suburban League Div 3
1994/95 – Runners Up – Suburban League Div 2
2015/16 – Runners Up – Suburban League Div 1
2019/20 – Champions - Junior GFA Cup
2021/22 – Champions - Les Philips Cup
2021/22 – Champions – Bristol Suburban Div 1

Stoke Gifford United Player Profiles

- **Dan Dunt – Player/Joint-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 needed fitness this season!
- **Dean K Horseman – Joint Manager.** Dean has teamed up with his former player Dunt to bring his experience of managing in the County and Toolstation leagues. Dean will demand high standards from the boys and the club are thrilled to have someone of his calibre at the club. Previous clubs include Patchway Town, Hallen AFC and Bishop Sutton.
- **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.
- **Tom Hodge – Club veteran** now, was vice-captain last campaign. Had a new lease of life playing in the middle of the park for us. Strong, powerful player who will be a big player for us again this season
- **Tauren Williams – Solid,** experienced full back who has experience playing with Almondsbury, Hallen etc in the leagues above. His know how and game managements is a big asset to us.
- **Daniel Twomey –** Been with the club for a few years now, has Somerset County experience. Breaks play up well and has a great engine, his experiene will be needed this season. Second most annoying bloke on tour.
- **Ben Shepherd-** 2nd year at the club for Sheppo. Last season Ben showed glimpses of becoming a real key player for us and having impressed in pre season we are expecting big things this campaign.
- **Paul Cronin-** Speedy, Irish forward who can play wide or central. Is a tenacious player who doesn't give the opposition a seconds time. Caused havoc for all defences he came up against last season, will be looking to build on last years foundation and add more goals to his play.
- **Rudy Hill-** Another player in his second season with the club. Rudy has shown a fantastic attitude since joining us, playing a key role in the reserves being promoted last season as well as performing to a high standard when he broke back into the first team late last season.
- **Michael Barry-** In his third season at the club, we are buzzing to have Mikey involved against this campaign. Mikey is an extremely fast winger who will cause all sorts of

problems for the opposition this season, he also has an insanely good leap that catches opponents off guard. Not bad on the tunes as well.

- **Joe Bridge** – A new signing for the club this season. A young, uncompromising defender. Heads and kicks everything and will be a big player for us this season.
- **Kray Foster**- This guy was great for us last season when fit and available. Strong, powerful forward with a fierce left foot. Here's hoping we can keep Kray out the park this season.
- **Devanti McInerney** – Dev has an incredible impact on our season last time around. He burst onto the season, his goals and constant threat down our left handside was a huge weapon for us and we can't wait to see him back in blue this season.
- **Spike Weaver** – Another lad who came into the side last season and hit the ground running. A confident kid with bags of ability, hoping he smashed his goal targets this season.
- **Ash Eyles** – Ash is an experienced keeper that will bring great leadership to the group. Had a great season with Dean at Bishop Sutton last season having previously slumped it at Filton Athletic.
- **Jake Abraham**- Joined the club in the summer, pacy forward with a eye for a goal. Excited to have Jake on board.
- **Brendan Beard**- 1st season with the club, a real presence between the sticks who has performed well in preason.
- **Lawrence Mitchell**- Another new acquisition, young centreback with a great attitude who has impressed so far, big season expected from 'Legs'
- **Dejuan Tulloch**-1st season with the club, has bags of pace and is very comfortable on the ball which will help us when building up play from the back.
- **Arian Askari**- A centre forward who doesn't mind putting himself about, has given us something a little different in the final third.
- **Freddie Searle** – Joined this summer and has made a good impression with his work rate and attitude so far. Has bags of pace and will cause full backs problems this season.
- **Shaq McDonald** – Shaqs is another newcomer who joins us hoping to make a bit mark on the team this season. Can operate in a few positions and will certainly increase the competition in the engine room.





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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

STOKE GIFFORD UTD

REFEREE: GRAHAM MCNULTY

Curtis Wilkins	1	Ash Eyles
Lewis Fogg	2	Dan Dunt
Shamar Thomas	3	Dean K Horseman
Jahvon Davis	4	Dave Talbot
Dylan Barrett	5	Marcus Thatcher
Jake Gurney	6	Tom Hodge
Lee Brinkworth	7	Tauren Williams
Archie Blacker	8	Daniel Twomey
Mike Hodgins	9	Ben Shepherd
Sam Webb	10	Paul Cronin
Jacob Eakers	11	Rudy Hill
Antonio Pirelli	12	Michael Barry
Jay Dare	14	Joe Bridge
Wakib	15	Kray Foster
Michael Barron	16	Devanti McInerney
Freddie Harris	17	Spike Weaver
Tim Hill	18	Jake Abraham
Jorell Sanniola	19	Brendan Beard
	20	Lawrence Mitchell
	21	Dejuan Tulloch
	22	Arian Askari
	23	Freddie Searle
	24	Shaq McDonald

SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2024

2PM KICK OFF