

# GALA WILTON FC



**v Wick FC**

Saturday 1 April 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.

**R PROFILES** 2022-2023 SEASON



### **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.



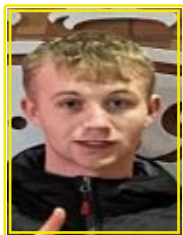
### **Brad Newman (22) - GK**

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**

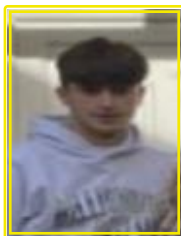
Lewis is the oldest player within the squad and well respected by all his teammates! Lew has previously played at a higher standard & even represented Great Britain in goal.. Arguably the best penalty saver in Gloucestershire. You will usually hear Lewis organising the team from the back in a relaxed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





# WICK FOOTBALL CLUB HISTORY



As old photographs will show Wick had a village football team long before a group of young local lads formed Wick CA in 1971. Unable to play at Oldbury Lane at that time, they played their first couple of seasons on a patch of land off Naishcombe Hill, as Oldbury Lane was home to Wick Athletic (whose history we can trace back to the 1930's), and Partridge & Love. The young Wick side quickly saw success, winning their Regional division without losing a game. A feat almost repeated the following season when they finished as runners up. Then came a switch to the Bristol & District league, where success continued taking the division 4 title in 1974, and winning the GFA Minor cup the season after. When Partridge & Love disbanded, it gave Wick CA the opportunity to relocate to Oldbury Lane, where they later amalgamated with Wick Athletic to form a single club in the mid 70's. This sparked a lengthy period of progress for the club with the introduction of a Reserve side. The 1st team's triumph in the 1978 Junior Cup was followed by double celebrations in 1982 when both club sides were promoted - the 1st team winning the B&D Senior Div and the Reserves as runners up in B&D Div 4. Success continued and two seasons later Wick had another double celebration with the 1st team taking the Bristol Prem Combination div 1 title and the Reserves the B&D div 3 crown. The following years were a lean period for the club which included relegation. Then with a name change to RMC Wick (through its sponsorship from the local quarry) fortunes turned in 1998 with a second success in the GFA Junior Cup. This was the catalyst to another successful period at the club, and in the 1999/2000 season the First team returned to the Bristol Prem Comb after taking the B&D Senior Div title. Another promotion the following season saw the First team in the Premier Div of the Bristol Prem where they won the Bristol Prem Cup in both 2003 & 2005.

With an influx of new players, Wick were able to introduce a third side with this A team starting in B&D div 6. 2004 saw the First team finish fourth in the Bristol Prem, and promotion for both the Reserves and A teams, although the Reserves tasted relegation to B&D div 2 the following season. Wick's dreams of promotion to the County League were dashed in the 2004/5 season when a poor end to the season saw them lose their leading position at the half-way stage. In the 2007/8 season the reserves were promoted to the B&D Senior div, but there was little further success for the clubs three Saturday sides until the 2016/17 season, which saw the first team narrowly pipped for the Bristol Prem Comb title but gain promotion to the Marcliffe County League under the reins of Mike Strawford. With an aging A team, the club reluctantly folded their third Saturday side at the end of the 2017/18 season, whilst it looked to form a relationship with an established youth set up. The loss of our A team was offset by the formation of a second Veterans side, and both our two Veterans sides are enjoying both league and cup success. The 2019/20 season will be remembered for all the right and wrong reasons. The season started on a positive note with the reintroduction of our A team. With both the reserves under Dave Paterson, Gary Reilly and Nick Marsh, and the first team under Mike Strawford eager to push for honours, all was well until the season was abruptly brought to an end by the pandemic. With the A team comfortable sitting mid table, the reserves clear in second spot and the first team also 2nd in the league four points behind the leaders with two games in hand, and with a home cup semi-final still to play, we can only dream of what might have been. Without doubt this would have been the clubs most successful season, however league tables will never show this, but our reserves deservedly gained promotion to the Bristol Prem Comb. The 2021/2022 season began with renewed expectations with Joe Pople in the first team hot seat. With two superb cup runs and after an epic battle with Shirehampton, Wick took the County League crown on the last game on the season. Application was made for step 6 promotion, however delays in gaining required planning permission prevented the club gaining its much deserved promotion. As a result its squad of talented players left to play at the higher levels they were capable of. With planning permission now in place, we begin a new phase at the club, rebuilding a title winning squad under the stewardship of Kev Pollard, Jamie Johnson and Alistair Foale, and with a talented group of youngsters in the reserves managed by Kev Ashwood assisted by Lee Rendell and Ian Bright.

# WICK PLAYER PROFILES

## Key Pollard - Manager



Played for Chippenham as a 17yr-old before playing in the county league scene until at 20, when a really bad ACL injury stopped his playing career. Returned to playing, but after injuring his other knee, made the decision to move into management at 27. Managed Nich Wands in separate spells, winning various leagues & cups along the way. Had a spell at Oldland Abbots last season and have now started a new chapter at Wick. Qualified FA coach

## Jamie Johnson - Manager



Started football career at Potterswood then went on to AEK Boco. Moved on to Roman Glass & after 2/3 seasons decided to join local team, Hillfields OB's to avoid travelling. Won numerous honours as a player, then decided to get involved with management of the side. After Hillfields folding, resumed playing career with 3 Lions & then ended up returning as manager of AEK Boco A. Won the league and got to last season GFA cup final. Looking forward to the Wick challenge.

## Alastair Foale - Assistant Manager



Played for various teams around Bristol while coaching as a secondary, until injury stopped playing career. Decided coaching was next step so went to America to coach full time, worked with clubs around New York including the Red Bulls. Came back and worked with SGS for 2 seasons, worked with Mangotsfield for the last 2 seasons as first team coach, & then started at Wick this season. At university studying sports coaching, and currently holds a UEFA B, UEFA A in pipeline

## Billy Fletcher - Defender



Fletch - Central defender, full of experience with quality to back it up. Western league experience having played for Cadbury Heath, Bitton, Frome, & Bradford Town. Our First team captain

## Jack Britton - Defender



No Nonsense Central defender with real ability to play the ball from the back, started his football journey late on but is an old head on young shoulders. He can also play on the left hand side of the defence. Jack is our vice-captain. Previous clubs include Hanham and Nicholas wanderers

## Ashton Trott - Goalkeeper



On loan from Mangotsfield, who he's been with since the age of 8. Has played at South Glos regional level and for SGS College. Great hands and is growing in confidence with every game

## Billy Richards - Defender



18yr old Billy is quickly developing into a really good player, bags of potential to progress and play higher. Can play at left back or left side of midfield, loves attacking and crossing the ball into opponents penalty area. Previous clubs include Oldland U18s, AEK Boco and Nicholas Wanderers.

## Lee Bebbington - Defender



"Bebbzy" has great fitness levels, really good footballer with a great range of passing. Can play across the back four, but prefers right back. He will always look to get forward when the balls at his feet. P/clubs - Roman Glass, Hillfields, AEK Boco

## Liam Troake - Defender



Plays right back or on the right hand side of midfield. Energetic young player with lots of potential, will give us options down the right-hand side. Previous clubs include Oldland Abbots, AEK Boco and Nicholas Wanderers

## Will Ashton - Defender

Our 3rd player on loan from Mangotsfield, who has been involved at the club since a youngster. Has made one appearance for the 1st team this season and is a great addition to the owls. Will gain valuable experience at county level. Promising defender, great technician and sweet left foot.

## Lewis Williams - Defender



Lewis is a raw 17yr old player, playing in only his second season in adult football. Runs through brick walls, learning with every minute he plays. Also, plays for Wick Sunday where he will gain valuable experience Previous clubs include AEK Boco

## Liam Jenkins - Midfield



The good looking one in the group!! Great technical player who will pitch in this season with the goals from midfield. Has previously won the County league with AEK Boco. Dives a posh car & loves the socials after the game. Previous clubs include AEK Boco, Radstock Town, Oldland Abbots & Rockleaze Rangers

## Brad Abrahams - Midfield



The journey man, been around southern league and western league, Robust central midfielder who loves a tough game, will be a match winner on his day. Previous clubs include Bristol Manor Farm, Yate, Cadbury Heath, Mangotsfield, Paulton Rovers & AEK Boco.

## Jay Vile - Midfield



Technically gifted Central Midfielder, who can get us playing football on the front foot, although he's not played much football over the last few years. He comes with great pedigree & composure on the ball. Is always an option & has great vision. Previous clubs include SGS college & West Brom Academy

## Owen Ridler - Midfield



On loan from Mangotsfield and has made a massive impression in the opening games for Wick. At 19, he plays with loads of confidence and is box to box. Has a keen eye for goal, opening his Wick account at Little Stoke

## Sam Roberts - Midfield



Mr Sensible, always gives 100%. A good example to the younger lads in the squad. Sits quietly in front of the defence and mops up. P/clubs - Welton, Bishop Sutton and Roman Glass

## Cole Pierre - Defender/Midfielder



Mr sportsman, cricket, golf, MMA fighter, turn his hands and feet to any sport. Tricky winger with bags of pace. P/clubs - Chipping Sodbury, Roman Glass and DRG Stapleton

## James Fox - Midfielder



"Foxy" tough tackling CM, comfortable on the ball, if he ain't on holiday he's injured 😊 will be a great asset to the squad. P/clubs - Nicholas Wanderers, Oldland

## Callum Ball - Midfield

A talented youngster, who loves the ball at his feet. Has good vision and engine to match. Is able to play with both feet and will ghost into the opposition's penalty box unnoticed. P/clubs – Chipping Sodbury

## Zac Tucker - Forward



Not the brightest spark, but you got to love this lad, plays with his heart on his sleeve, CB will know they've been in a game with Zac. P/clubs - Oldland

## Mickey Golding - Forward



Pace, power and bags of energy, Mikey is a hardworking striker with an eye for goal. Great with the ball at his feet and will close down defenders with predatory instinct. P/clubs Cadbury Heath, Hillfields, AEK Boco

## Todd Carter - Forward



Todd, an old fashioned centre forward, big and physical started the season at oldland and joined us in October. Scored in his first start against Bitton. Part time footballer full time football hooligan. Loves his cars. Previous clubs include Mangotsfield, Oldland, Bromley Heath

## Vacant - Physlo





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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**

**WICK**

SATURDAY 1 APRIL 2023

REFEREE: OLI SPENDER

Brad Newman	1	Ashton Trott
Brad Loveridge	2	Billy Fletcher
Kieron Mace	3	Jack Britton
Dan McNally ©	4	Billy Richards
John Antonio	5	Lee Bebbington
Jordan Molyneux	6	Liam Troake
Ben Sluman	7	Will Ashton
Craig Howell	8	Lewis Williams
Dan Gayner	9	Liam Jenkins
Martin Smith	10	Brad Abrahams
Alex Gayner	11	Jay Vile
Kyle Gibbs	12	Owen Ridler
Connor Walters	14	Sam Roberts
Marcus Foxwell	15	Cole Pierre
Harry O'Connor	16	James Fox
Connor Harmer	17	Callum Ball
Jay Dare	18	Zac Tucker
Mike Baron	19	Mickey Golding
Jacob Eakers	20	Todd Carter
Sam Webb	21	
Callum Thomas	22	

3PM KICK OFF