

GALA WILTON FC

SATURDAY 22ND MARCH 2025



v **Wick FC**





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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 Gala 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.

Overall, 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, up into 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.

Last season 2023/24 however was difficult throughout the club, but both our first and second teams managed to retain their league places; and with Josh Taylor and Tom Read taking the management helm of our 1st and 2nd team squads, we look forward to an new era at the club in 2024-2025. The Club now has 3 youth teams at Under 13's, 14s and 15s so making a clean pathway for the players in to adult football.

With planning permission also recently approved to improve the ground to host floodlit football, and an exciting partnership announced with Gloucester City to promote their U18 youth footballers, the future once again looks bright at 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.

The 2017/18 season saw the A team fold through a lack of younger players, but the formation of a second veterans side playing on a Sunday, where both vet sides enjoyed league and Cup success. The 2019/20 season looked set to be a fantastic year for both the first team and reserves, but with league and Cup honours in sight, the season fell foul to the COVID-19 pandemic. On the upside the reserves were promoted to the Prem Comb Div 1. Progress on the field continued the following season with the first team taking the County League title after an epic battle with Shirehampton. Unfortunately our planning application for step 6 development took too long to get and so Shirehampton was given the promotion slot. Failing to gain promotion resulted in an exodus of players and management all eager to play at step 6, which meant a complete rebuild of the squad in the 2021/2022 season managed by Kev Pollard and Jamie Johnson assisted by Nathan Broe (Coach) and Tom Darby (goalkeeper coach). Last season was a mixed bag for Wick FC, which saw it's reserve team and management leave part way through the season to join a local step 6 side, which caused Wick to pull the reserves from the Prem Comb. The first team continued to rebuild, the A team won promotion, Vets won a league and cup double, while Wick Sunday enjoyed a successful season, winning the league cup. The new 2024/25 season will see a new young first team management team in place, with Callum Fudgell and Josh Brown bringing a fresh group of players to the club, to continue our ambition for step 6 football at Wick.

WICK FC PLAYER PROFILES

Callum Fudge - Manager



Callum Fudge: "Fudgey" Second season in management after winning the Bristol & District Division 1 title in his first season. Ready for the step up to County League, hopefully his old man stands on the opposite side of the pitch this season.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic, AEK Boco & Nicholas Wanderers.

Josh Brown - Manager



Josh Brown: "Brownie" Second season in management after winning the Bristol & District Division 1 title in his first season. Ready for the step up to County League, plenty of experience at this level and higher as a player already.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic, AEK Boco & Oldland

Ben Mackenzie - Assisted Manager / Head Coach



Currently full time at Bristol City as a Sports Lecturer, most recently manager of Abertay University 1st team in Scotland, coached academy and high school in America and pre-academy at Dundee United. Ben is a UEFA B qualified coach and is keen to start working with Wick's 1st team squad.

Kai Wilson - Goalkeeper



Kai is your modern day keeper who is brilliant with his feet and has a great ping on him. Very good shot stopper and has experience with toolstation sides so is not a stranger to this level.

Previous Clubs: Oldland, Bitton & AEK Boco

Jack Madge - Goalkeeper



Probably the hardest goalkeeper you'll ever meet. Unbelievable kicking ability and nothing gets past him. Loves a 1 on 1 & also enjoys a stint up front too so don't be surprised if you see him on the score sheet once or twice this season.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic & AEK Boco.

Kyle Russell - Defender



Great passing and shooting ability for someone who plays at the back and reads the game so well. Can play anywhere across the back line. Key player for us this season.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic & AEK Boco

Deke Langdon - Defender



Probably our most underrated player. Can play anywhere on the pitch and always gives 110%. Lovely feet for a defender and not afraid to get stuck in either for a little lad. Managers player of the season for us last season.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic

Tom Norley - Defender



Brilliant centre half who always puts his body on the line. Great understanding of the game always looking to play forward and leads by example. One of the p*** takers of the group mainly at Bays expense.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic, Redbridge & AEK Boco

Callum Ball - Defender



Experienced defender who brings a real calming presence at the back. Not shy of a challenge and a great reader of the game. Had a break from football the past year but delighted to have him with us now.

Previous Clubs: Bitton, Shepton Mallet & AEK Boco

Harry Madge - Defender



Explosive full back but can also play centre half and as a winger which is a rare find these days, once he's on a run you're not stopping him. Played Western League football last season so delighted to have him with us for the season ahead.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic, AEK Boco & Wick

Liam McCracken - Midfielder/Forward



Brilliant all round player can play anywhere across the front three or even in midfield. Won't see many players at this level with a better first touch than this lad. Proven goalscorer as well, 58 goals in 44 games last season for his Sat & Sun sides

Previous Clubs: AEK Boco & Made For Ever

Liam Robson - Defender



"Norm" A brilliant defender who loves to have the ball at his feet and play out from the back. He has great experience in the leagues above so another lad were delighted to have here with us.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic, AEK Boco & Keynsham Town

Tommy Longhurst - Defender



An exciting young player that can play in defence or midfield, left or right side. Another player retained from last seasons squad. Has played at a higher level and is always looking to get forward.

Previous Clubs: Hengrove, Longwell Green & Wick

Todd Carter - Defender



Retained from the Wick side of last season. Delighted to have him with us, played up front last season but will predominately be a defender for us. Great work rate and loves a tackle. Big and physical player which is something we needed to add to our squad.
Previous Clubs: Mangotsfield, Oldland & Bromley Heath

Freddie Mogg - Midfielder



Moggy can play in midfield or defence, loves a challenge and is a non stop runner for the team. Very composed on the ball and calm under pressure for a lad who's still learning his trade. Youngest player in the squad at 18

Previous Clubs: Longwell Green

Liam Troake - Midfielder



The utility man of the squad, stick him anywhere and he'll do a job. Predominantly a right back or holding midfielder though, bags of energy, good on the ball and puts himself about for a little lad. Another retained from the Wick side of last season.

Previous Clubs: Hengrove, Oldland & AEK Boco

Frank Taylor-Fox - Midfielder



Our skipper this season. Plays the 6 role as good as anyone, intercepts the play and plays the easy pass or can drive through the midfield with his engine and quality feet. Another key player for us this season.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic, AEK Boco & Oldland

Ben Sayers - Midfielder



Steady Eddie, makes the game look so easy, always plays the right pass and understands his position as good as anyone. Played with many of the lads years ago, great to have him back in the changing room.

Previous Clubs: Southmead & AEK Boco

Adam Campbell - Midfield



Another player with brilliant feet and skill. Great eye for a pass and scores all sorts of goals. Hates paying his fines. Probably one of the angriest footballers you'll see.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic & Bromley Heath

Fred Taylor-Fox - Midfield



Younger brother to Frank. Technically gifted footballer, an absolute nightmare to get the ball off will turn you inside and out with his slick dribbling and skill.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic & AEK Boco

Fin Cunningham - Midfielder



"Windo" Fin has a tremendous attitude and is always at training. Lovely set piece delivery and has a great long pass in his locker. Even better at Darts so don't try take him on in the clubhouse after the game.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic

Jaye Rudge - Midfielder/Forward



Loves a moan but still one of the most gifted players in the squad. Quality feet, makes things tick and a great finisher as well. Brilliant option to have in either midfield or up front.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic & AEK Boco

Bayley Rudge - Forward



One of the most two footed players you'll ever see I still don't know what foots his strongest now. Runs at defenders all day long and loves an assist. Hopefully chrip in with more goals this season though.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic & AEK Boco

Louis Short - Forward



Wicks top goalscorer last season with 13 goals in 23 appearances. Started this campaign at Hanham Athletic but delighted to have him back with the OWs. Bags of energy and pace a real nightmare for defenders. Like Liam he can play anywhere across the front line and a strong lad as well for his height, bit of a weight lifter in his spare time.

Previous Clubs: Odd Down & Hanham Athletic

Cory Langdon - Forward



Can play out wide or through the middle. Scores all sorts of goals and has got bags of pace always looking to run in behind the defence. Not a bad keeper either, compares himself to Onana when he's irbetween the sticks.

Previous Clubs: Hanham Athletic & AEK Boco

Fraser Ross - Forward



The Scotsman in our team. Recently moved to Bristol, played at a decent University level in Scotland. Frase is a top trainer and has a fantastic work rate. Can play right back or right wing.

Previous Clubs: Linwood Rangers, Quarriers United & University of Stirling





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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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SEVERN SPORT

Severn Sport is a website dedicated to covering all things non-league and grassroots football in Gloucestershire.

Matt Yates and Ryan Butler branched out from being part of Gloucester City's Tigers Radio in 2010 and began to cover football from National League down to the Stroud, Cheltenham and North Gloucestershire Leagues, the Cheltenham Youth U18s Floodlit League and more recently, the South West Regional and Gloucestershire County Women's Football Leagues.

Through match reports, interviews, live radio commentaries and podcasts, Butler now looks to continue to enhance the reputation of football within the local area.

For all the latest news and information on non-league and grassroots football within the county, head to:

SevernSport.co.uk



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TODAY'S TEAMS



GALA WILTON

WICK FC

Adam Fenner	1	Kai Wilson
Brad Loveridge	2	Jack Madge
Ryley Mace	3	Kyle Russell
Lewis Chance	4	Deke Langdon
Tim Hill	5	Tom Norley
Keiron Mace	6	Callum Ball
Rene Nistor	7	Harry Madge
Marc Edwards	8	Liam McCracken
Jamie Creed	9	Liam Robson
Benjamin Sluman	10	Tommy Longhurst
Archie Blacker	11	Todd Carter
Jay Dare	12	Freddie Mogg
Jonathan Clay	14	Liam Troake
Junior Mbika	15	Frank Taylor-Fox
Harry O'Connor	16	Ben Sayers
Shaun Smith	17	Adam Campbell
Harvey Sheridan	18	Fred Taylor-Fox
Ira Thompson-Price	19	Fin Cunningham
Ehren Wintle	20	Jaye Rudge
Daniel Tyreman	21	Bayley Rudge
Curtis Wilkins	22	Louis Short
Kieran Woods	23	Cory Langdon
Ishmael Kanneh	24	Fraser Ross
Joshua Edelman	25	Tommy Lacey
Archie Blacker	26	

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