

GALA WILTON FC

Saturday 9th March 2024



v Almondsbury FC

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.

2023/24 SEASON 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...



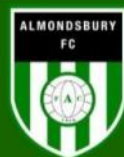
Jorell Sanniola - RW/FOR

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

HISTORY & HONOURS

ALMONDSBURY FC



1969	Formed as Patchway North End and played on Patchway Common in the Bristol Regional League
1974	Reserve Team was formed
1989	The Club moved to its present location and became Almondsburu Football Club
1995	'A' Team formed and joined the Bristol Suburban League
1996	Youth Section formed and expanded over the years to seven teams from 8 years to 16 years
2009	Partnership with UWE to become Almondsbury UWE
2017	Partnership with UWE came to an end to re-establish our identity as Almondsbury Football Club

Gloucester County League Champions 2004
Bristol Suburban League Champions 2001



Almondsbury FC Player Profiles 2023/2024

Stuart Alexander - Experienced forward who has played for the club for a number of years. A real voice in the changing rooms and last seasons reserve team top goalscorer.

Sam Burgess - a strong presence in goal and arguably one of the best shot stoppers across the South West. A real asset to any side.

Tom Clements - joined the club last season and makes the step up from our reserve squad. A composed midfielder with a wand of a left foot.

Oscar Cox - a winger with a very bright future ahead of him. A product of our under 18s side. Quick with an eye for goal, providing us with more goal scoring options .

Callum Dawes - another under 18s graduate. Powerful full back who's also strong in the air, very reliable.

Oakley Dawes - Mr versatile and has demonstrated that throughout last season. Can play in defensive and attacking roles, picking up a number of goals in pre-season.

Matty Davies - a wealth of experience at various levels including Western League. At 40+ years old he still leads the way with fitness levels.

Tye Dunnell-Luff - another player capable of playing a range of positions. Has the ability to turn a game on its head and scores his fair share.

David English - attacking player who spent time with the reserves last season. Exemplary attitude towards the club, he makes the step up with a point to prove.

Harry Greenbury - sets the standard in midfield. Can unlock a defence out of nothing. A real leader and brings a touch of class to the side.

Tom Hale - attack minded with an eye for goal. Tom finds space effortlessly and can be a real nightmare to defend against. A real asset to the side.

Matt Harmer - one of the most technical players at the club, once harnessed he'll be a player of match winning quality. Makes the step up from the reserves and can play a number of positions.

Lewis Jones - another young talent who joined the senior set up last season. Extraordinary weight of pass and helps himself to his fair share of goals too.

Ashley Knight - 'Pocket' - our skipper who brings a wealth of experience. Composed on the ball and a real threat in the final third.

Dec Mannion - impressive performances in last seasons reserve side see Dec included within the first team squad. Composed on the ball and adds another dimension to our defensive line.

Sam Maunder - one of the loudest at the club, constant communication with the back line. A GK with a real presence

Zach Morgan - makes the step into senior football. Potential match winner who brings a real energy to what he does. Will unlock many a defence this season.

Josh Purnell - a commanding defender who is experienced beyond his years. One with a very bright future ahead and will no doubt contribute to the side this season.

Ben Robbins - claims he is 'Mr Almondsbury.' A player who can play in a variety of positions and doesn't get the credit he deserves. Work rate outstanding and adds a different dimension to the squad.

Ryan Rogers - joins us from Patchway Town and brings a range of experience. A composed defender, comfortable on the ball and will be an asset to the club this season.

Joe Rossiter - last seasons Reserve Team Captain who scooped multiple end of season awards. Brings a new level of tenacity to the side which will push us forward

Matt Semple - a range of experience across Western League, adds real leadership between the sticks provided his body can sort itself out.

Ben Warwick - can play a range of positions and adds quality to the squad. Composed on the ball and always does what is best for the team.

Joe Weare - joins us from Patchway Town. Has played across various levels of football including Western and County League. A real eye for goal who knows where the net is.

Cam Wilton - another young player who joined the senior side last season. Work rate is second to none and will provide energy to the side from wide areas.

Josh Young - joined us this season for his first season of senior football. Exemplary attitude which has sent ripples across the club. One with a very promising football career ahead of him.

Management

Ryan Meacham - the one charged with leading the side and last seasons Clubman of the Year. Steps up to manage the First Team and has set a really high standard across the club.

Dave Rossiter - The real 'Mr Almondsbury.' Does an outrageous amount around the club and provides real clarity on match days.

Jeff Meacham - the former Bristol Rovers player brings a wealth of management and playing experience to the club. At 61 years old he still plays the odd game, yet to see him give the ball 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 TEAMS



GALA WILTON

ALMONDSBURY

REFEREE: JACK CLARK

Curtis Wilkins	1	Sam Burgess
Lewis Fogg	2	Stuart Alexander
Shamar Thomas	3	Tom Clements
Jahvon Davis	4	Oscar Cox
Dylan Barrett	5	Callum Dawes
Jake Gurney	6	Oakley Dawes
Lee Brinkworth	7	Matty Davies
Archie Blacker	8	Tye Dunnell-Luff
Mike Hodgins	9	David English
Sam Webb	10	Harry Greenbury
Jacob Eakers	11	Tom Hale
Antonio Pirelli	12	Matt Harmer
Jay Dare	14	Lewis Jones
Wakib	15	Ashley Knight
Michael Barron	16	Dec Mannion
Freddie Harris	17	Sam Maunder
Tim Hill	18	Zach Morgan
Jorell Sanniola	19	Josh Purnell
	20	Ben Robbins
	21	Ryan Rogers
	22	Joe Rossiter
	23	Matt Semple
	24	Ben Warwick
	25	Joe Weare
	26	Cam Wilton
	27	Josh Young

SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2024

3PM KICK OFF