

GALA WILTON FC

Saturday 20th April 2024



v Bromley Heath 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.

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

Bromley Heath United Football Club



BROMLEY HEATH UNITED

History

Established back in the World Cup winning year of 1966, Bromley Heath United Junior Football Club is the oldest youth football club in the Bristol area. Throughout their 50 year plus history they have provided football for thousands of children preparing them for the senior game. Some of the more famous ex Bromley Youth players include Louis Carey and Gary Mabbutt.

It wasn't until 2014 that the club decided to introduce a Senior Section to provide a progression for at least some of the youngsters when they finished playing under 16 or under 18 football. Initially there was one senior side playing in the Bristol and District League.

In 2015 Winford PH FC amalgamated with Bromley Heath United FC to triple the size of its senior section and provide the impetus for successive promotions through the divisions of the Bristol and Suburban League. The 2018/19 season saw the 1st team become Champions of Bristol & Suburban Premier Division 1 and gaining promotion to the Gloucestershire County League. A tremendous achievement in such a relatively short period of time. However, the first couple of seasons at this higher level were not all plain sailing with players and management having to adjust to a more physical and competitive type of football that required a much higher level of fitness. The disruption caused to football and life in general by the Covid pandemic over this period also made it difficult to maintain any form of progress or consistency. It was not until the 2021-22 season really that the Club started to look at home in the County Leagues, especially in the second half of the season. Team restructuring and creating a blend of young players and experienced players started to pay dividends. This all came to fruition during last season's County League campaign when we finished runners-up not far behind the winners Cribbs and 8 points clear of the third placed team.

Bromley Heath United Junior and Senior sections now operate as one football club with the same ambitions and hopes for the future. The Junior Section which was the first local club to open a Development Centre as an initial introduction to football for very young children is thriving. They now offer football for every Junior/Youth age group right up to under 18 level. The Senior Section offer a progression into adult football either into the 'A' team or the Reserves playing in the 4th and 1st divisions of the Bristol & Suburban League respectively. The aim is of course to produce players who will eventually become 1st team players.

Bromley Heath United Football Club is based at Pomphrey Hill Community Sports complex in Mangotsfield where all its teams play. The Pavilion offers fantastic modern facilities and includes a Club Sports Bar showing live football and function rooms.

Bromley Heath Utd FC Player Profiles 2023-24



Will Ferguson – Young keeper who has brilliant hands and is improving all the time. He has firmly established himself as our number 1. Player's player 22-23.

Mitch Greenaway – Can play anywhere down the left side of the pitch. Great technique and left foot.

Cam Gardiner – Uncompromising defender who is quick and strong. Loves a physical battle.

Charlie Snell – An out and out defender who is developing with every game. Great character.

Toby Clayton – Reliable and vocal defender who can play across the back four.

Fenn Willoughby – A defender who loves defending. Quick and strong with a long throw. 22-23 committee & supporter's player.

Nathan Rose – Technically gifted player and a leader on the pitch. Set piece delivery is a massive weapon for us. 22-23 manager's player.

Fletcher Cripps – New signing on dual reg from Bitton. Solid and consistent defender with a great left foot.

Joel Mitchelmore – Versatile player who performs wherever he plays. Extremely quick and fit. Former BHU junior.

Austin Hopkins – Young player who has shown great promise in pre-season.

Dan Adamson – Returning player after a year abroad. Consistent and reliable with a great attitude. Former BHU junior.

Sam Taylor – Player who showed great promise at the back end of last season. Versatile and fit lad.

Jack Withey – Club captain. Leads by example with everything he does. Aerially dominant in both penalty boxes and the engine of the team.

Luke Bessell – Vice Captain. One of our most consistent players who so often does the unrecognised work for the team. Great technical ability and reading of the game.

Bromley Heath Utd FC Player Profiles 2023-24



Trai Elliston-Sackett – All action midfielder who is exceptional in defence and attack. Always likely to pop up with a goal.

Liam O'Donoghue – Returning player who is technically superb and has an eye for goal. Been a real asset since coming back and cemented himself as a vital part of the squad.

Cam Ford – Excellent player on the half turn who has added steel and aggression to his game. Still learning but has become a very good player.

Neyo Mirachi - New player this season who has looked neat and tidy in midfield throughout pre-season.

Olly Hanham – Frightens defender with his direct dribbling style and pace. Should be able to contribute high numbers of goals and assists this season. Former BHU junior.

Cam Hopkins – Tricky winger who has a knack for scoring goals. Looking to be a consistent part of the squad this season. Former BHU junior.

Ben Ackerman – Versatile attacking player who should get his fair share of goals and assists. Looking to make a position his own this season.

James Venton – Winger with great feet who is a real threat when he is at full tilt.

Aiden Noble – A player who leads the line brilliantly and works hard for the team. Accomplished finisher who is developing into a great number 9.

Sam Edwards – Physical and vocal centre forward who leaves everything on the pitch. 22-23 golden boot.

Craig Britton - Manager

Ross Britton – Asst Manager

Rich Iles – Asst Manager



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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

BROMLEY HEATH

REFEREE: STUART EVANS

| | | |
|-----------------|----|-----------------------|
| Curtis Wilkins | 1 | Will Ferguson |
| Lewis Fogg | 2 | Mitch Greenaway |
| Shamar Thomas | 3 | Cam Gardiner |
| Jahvon Davis | 4 | Charlie Snell |
| Dylan Barrett | 5 | Toby Clayton |
| Jake Gurney | 6 | Fenn Willoughby |
| Lee Brinkworth | 7 | Nathan Rose |
| Archie Blacker | 8 | Fletcher Cripps |
| Mike Hodgins | 9 | Joel Mitchelmore |
| Sam Webb | 10 | Austin Hopkins |
| Jacob Eakers | 11 | Dan Adamson |
| Antonio Pirelli | 12 | Sam Taylor |
| Jay Dare | 14 | Jack Withey |
| Wakib | 15 | Luke Bessell |
| Michael Barron | 16 | Trai Elliston-Sackett |
| Freddie Harris | 17 | Liam O'Donoghue |
| Tim Hill | 18 | Cam Ford |
| Jorell Sanniola | 19 | Neyo Mirachi |
| | 20 | Olly Hanham |
| | 21 | Cam Hopkins |
| | 22 | Ben Ackerman |
| | 23 | James Venton |
| | 24 | Aiden Noble |
| | 25 | Sam Edwards |

SATURDAY 20 APRIL 2024

3PM KICK OFF