

GALA WILTON FC

Saturday 30th March 2024



v Ruardean Hill Rangers

Gloucestershire County League 2023-2024 season



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Rangers 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 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

RUARDEAN HILL RANGERS CLUB HISTORY



Ruardean Hill Rangers play their football on the highest point in the Forest of Dean, 920 feet above sea level.

Formed in 1919, Ruardean Hill played in the old Forest of Dean league until its termination in the late 1950's. They then moved into the North Gloucestershire League and have remained there in some capacity ever since.

Ruardean Hill gained their first promotion to the Northern Senior League in 1994/95 and competed in this league for several seasons before being relegated in 2001. They immediately regained promotion the following year only to be relegated again in 2004. In the 2011/12 season, they earned a last day promotion back to the senior league as well as reaching the final of the 'Amateur Cup'. The 2012/13 season brought the club its first promotion to the Northern Senior League Division 1 from back-to-back promotions. 'The Hill' finished in the top eight for each of the next three seasons before finally winning the Division 1 title in 2016/2017 season. They scored an incredible 125 goals and conceded just 34 in 35 games.

Ruardean Hill's current first team has a good mixture of youth, from our youth teams, and experience from the same core group of players. The core group players have been in the team for about 10 years. They now field 3 senior teams; the club's promotions owe a lot to the depth of its other senior teams.

The club are now competing in their 5th season in the Marcliff County League having finished 9th and 5th in their first two seasons. They are now fully cemented in the County League and they are looking to push on and finish as high as possible.

RUARDEAN HILL RANGERS PEN PICS



Aaron Underwood (Goalkeeper) – 1 of the longest serving players in the squad. Great shot stopper who can also start defence to attack very quickly with his direct kicking. Big presence in the dressing room.



Steve Bowles (Goalkeeper) – Great competition with Aaron for the number 1 spot. Steve has had spells with Cinderford Town in the past. Steve is a keeper who is quick off his line and comfortable with the ball at his feet



Bobby Walding (Defender) – Bobby who has had a spell as a striker in the past, has certainly found his position at centre back. Great organiser of the defence. Likes a good battle with opposing strikers.



Jack Meek (Defender) – Quiet man of the team. Always in the right place at the right time. Reads the game very well and plays the game very chilled out.



Ricky Tingle (Defender) – Rick covers the ground well and looks to play football from the back. Loves an opportunity to get forward and score. Great in both boxes.



Blaine Smith (Defender) – Blaine will bring great county league experience to the club having previously played for Broadwell. Going to add physical presence to the squad. Will cause plenty of problems to opposing teams at set pieces



Dan Bowles (Defender) – 1st full season with the club who also plays for Cinderford Town U18's. Dan is a proper defender who likes to battle with the opposing strikers. Doesn't lose much in the air. Great Drummer.



Isaac Hatcher (Midfielder) – Another young player who is in his 1st full season with the club. Played the second half of last season with 2nd team winning Players Player of the Year. Great energy and pace to burn. Can play anywhere in midfield and up front.



Dan Matthews (Midfielder) – Dan is a player again with great energy and never stops running. Can play anywhere along the midfield and like to get a good tackle in. Reliable !!



Ryan Smith (Midfielder) – New signing for the Club. Going to be a great addition with the ability to play in numerous positions. Will hopefully add good competition to the squad this season.



Mitch Griffin (Midfielder) – Mitch likes to get the ball down and take people on. Can play on either wing. Great work rate and always puts a shift in for the team.



Stuart Cornwell-Boote (Midfielder) – Stu loves taking defenders on. He loves nothing better than a good nutmeg. Great team player. He is 1 of the older players in the squad. Loves a trip to the park.



Dan Mason (Midfielder) – Dan will be like a new signing this season. Spent most of last season injured or suspended. Great character around the dressing room. He can play anywhere in midfield and loves to put a tackle in.



Steve Coombs (Midfielder) – Vital cog to the team in the engine room. Long serving member of the club. 1 of the best passers of the ball in the squad, rarely giving the ball away. Has started to add goals to his game.



Charley Mason (Midfielder) – Great engine who has a great eye for a pass. Doesn't mind a tackle either. Set piece delivery excellent. Charley likes to get the ball down on the floor and play.



Luke Brown (Midfielder/Forward) – Club Captain. Always looking to play the game the right way. Has the ability to play anywhere. Work rate is 2nd to none. Likes to score goals from midfield.



Ben Ball (Midfielder) – 1st full season in men's football. Likes to get on the ball and has a great eye for a pass. Will learn loads this season.



Kane Fellows (Midfielder/Forward) – Very committed. Kane can play anywhere in midfield or up top. Not afraid to put the foot in if needed. His movement can cause teams a lot of problems.



Luke Johnson (Forward) – Luke loves to put the ball in the back of the net. His tireless running for the team is a massive addition to the team. Defenders nightmare with his running.



Shaun Tingle (Forward) – Shaun's work rate and hold up play is immense. Does not lose much in the air. Gets his fair share of goals too.



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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

RUARDEAN HILL RANGERS

REFEREE: CALUM NEWMAN

Curtis Wilkins	1	Aaron Underwood
Lewis Fogg	2	Steve Bowles
Shamar Thomas	3	Bobby Walding
Jahvon Davis	4	Jack Meek
Dylan Barrett	5	Ricky Tingle
Jake Gurney	6	Blaine Smith
Lee Brinkworth	7	Dan Bowles
Archie Blacker	8	Isaac Hatcher
Mike Hodgins	9	Dan Matthews
Sam Webb	10	Ryan Smith
Jacob Eakers	11	Mitch Griffin
Antonio Pirelli	12	Stuart Cornwell-Boote
Jay Dare	14	Dan Mason
Wakib	15	Steve Coombs
Michael Barron	16	Charley Mason
Freddie Harris	17	Luke Brown
Tim Hill	18	Ben Ball
Jorell Sanniola	19	Kane Fellows
	20	Luke Johnson
	21	Shaun Tingle

SATURDAY 30 MARCH 2024

3PM KICK OFF