

# GALA WILTON FC

SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025



v **Almondsbury 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

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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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

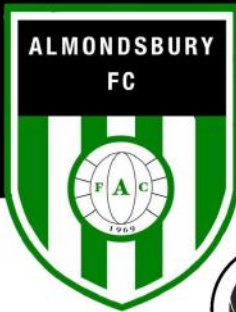
Overall, the club as a whole has had quite a successful recent period to date; with the Reserve team winning the "Fred Gardiner Memorial Shield" in 2021/22, and consecutive promotions, up into Division 2 of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League – the highest ever league placing for our Reserve side.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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# HISTORY & HONOURS



1969

Established as Patchway North End, playing at Patchway Common in the Bristol Regional League



1971

Name change to Patchway Old Boys, remaining at Patchway Common and playing in the Bristol Regional League



1974

Reserve Team formed, remaining at Patchway Common and playing in the Bristol Regional League



2009

Partnership formed with University of West of England, renamed Almondsbury UWE FC



2004

Gloucestershire County League Champions, gaining promotion to the Western League



2001

Bristol & Suburban League Champions, gaining promotion to the Gloucestershire County League



1995

A' Team formed and joined First Team and Reserves within the Bristol & Suburban League



1989

Relocated to Almondsbury, and adopted the name of Almondsbury FC, playing in Bristol Combination League



2017

Under 18s County Floodlit team formed,



2017

Partnership with UWE ended. League restructure led to move to Hellenic League Division One



2019

Under 18s Floodlit Champions for the first time in our history



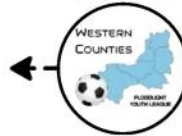
2019

Further league reshuffle following appeal, leading to reinstatement back into the Western League Division One



2021

Partnership with Bradley Stoke United Youth formed, renamed as Almondsbury United the following season



2023

Under 18s Floodlit Team reformed, entering into the Western Counties Floodlit League



2023

Relegated to Gloucestershire County League following 19 years at Step 6





## Almondsbury FC

### Player Profiles

#### 2024 / 25 Season

**Sam Burgess** – GOALKEEPER

Last seasons Managers Player of the Year. Second season at the club, one of the best GKs in the South West. Colossus.

**Jack Burgess** - DEFENDER

First year with the club, a centre half capable of controlling the back line. Solid.

**Tom Clements** - DEFENDER

Converted to left back last season, adapted very well and a great left foot. Spirited.

**Vinnie Coote** - DEFENDER

First year with the club, experienced centre half who's had a good introduction in pre-season. Composed.

**Alex Fox** - DEFENDER

Another strong versatile defender capable of playing in a few positions. Dynamic.

**Ryan Rogers** - DEFENDER

Almonds Players Player last season, committed centre half who brings composure to the side. Controlled.

**Joe Rossiter** - DEFENDER

Almonds through and through, will run through a wall for the club and does his share around the ground too. Committed.

**Jamie Smith** - DEFENDER

Versatile defender, built like a tank and provides us with good options at the back. Resolute.

**Chris Williams** - DEFENDER

First year with club, experienced centre half and will add a different dimension to the back line. Veteran.

**Tom Webb** - DEFENDER

Energetic full back who can get & back no problem. Covers plenty of ground. Workhorse.

**Lewis Hughes** - DEFENDER / MIDFIELDER

Dynamic midfielder who has a rocket of a free kick. Composed on the ball and can add value at the back too. Tough.

**Liam Nicholls** - DEFENDER / MIDFIELDER

Young midfielder signed from hallen, can play in a number of positions. Versatile.

**Nath Brown** - MIDFIELDER

Unbelievably fit midfielder who doesn't stop running. Energetic.

**Theo Cox - MIDFIELDER**

Been with the club a number of years including through the floodlit. Wants what's best for the club. Playmaker.

**Matt Ellery - MIDFIELDER**

Skilful midfielder you can play through the middle or from a wide area. Creative.

**Alex Hill - MIDFIELDER**

Energetic midfielder who covers every blade of grass, often does the running of others. Animated.

**Jensen Mannings - MIDFIELDER**

Experienced midfielder who adds another dimension to the midfield. Adaptable.

**Danny Davis - MIDFIELDER / FORWARD**

Young, promising skilful attacking player, looking to make his mark. Promising.

**Oakley Dawes - MIDFIELDER / FORWARD**

Energetic winger, last season's top goal scorer. Does not stop running. Engine.

**Mike Hardiman - MIDFIELDER / FORWARD**

Another skilful attacking player, comfortable in midfield or upfront. Dynamic.

**Matt Harmer - MIDFIELDER / FORWARD**

Skilful winger who loves the banter. Will get you a beer... one day! Menace.

**Craig Lancaster - MIDFIELDER / FORWARD**

Skilful attacking midfielder/striker. Knows exactly where the net is. Clinical.

**Luke Meacham - MIDFIELDER / FORWARD**

Another versatile player who can play midfield or in the forward line. Claims he's getting old. Resilient.

**Omar Alrawi - FORWARD**

Unbelievably quick forward who scores goals. A real nightmare for defenders. Prospect.

**Alex Bisp - FORWARD**

Former almonds top goal scorer returning to club after number of years away. Gifted.

**Rob Sivers - FORWARD**

Experienced goal scorer at all levels, a continual presence. Streetwise.

**Zach Morgan – FORWARD**

Young quick busy forward who will get goals from all over the pitch. Threat.





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## LOTTE

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PLEASE GIVE LOTTE SOME LOVE ON HER PAGE AND FOLLOW HER PROGRESS AS AN ARTIST.



## KATIE

RESIDENT ARTIST AT VITA NOVA.

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# VITA NOVA TATTOO VITA NOVA





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MDE Electrical Limited was formed in 2017 by Marc Edwards. After 15 years working for local companies he took the plunge and went solo starting up his own company.

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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](http://SevernSport.co.uk)**



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# TODAY'S TEAMS



## GALA WILTON

Adam Fenner	1
Brad Loveridge	2
Ryley Mace	3
Lewis Chance	4
Tim Hill	5
Keiron Mace	6
Rene Nistor	7
Marc Edwards	8
Jamie Creed	9
Benjamin Sluman	10
Archie Blacker	11
Jay Dare	12
Jonathan Clay	14
Junior Mbika	15
Harry O'Connor	16
Shaun Smith	17
Harvey Sheridan	18
Ira Thompson-Price	19
Ehren Wintle	20
Daniel Tyreman	21
Curtis Wilkins	22
Kieran Woods	23
Ishmael Kanneh	24
Joshua Edelmann	25
Archie Blacker	26
	27
	28

## ALMONDSBURY

Sam Burgess
Jack Burgess
Tom Clements
Vinnie Coote
Alex Fox
Ryan Rogers
Joe Rossiter
Jamie Smith
Chris Williams
Tom Webb
Lewis Hughes
Liam Nicholls
Nath Brown
Theo Cox
Matt Ellery
Alex Hill
Jensen Mannings
Danny Davis
Oakley Dawes
Mike Hardiman
Matt Harmer
Craig Lancaster
Luke Meacham
Omar Alrawi
Alex Bisp
Rob Sivers
Zach Morgan

**REFEREE:** CHARLIE HINCE