

GALA WILTON FC

SATURDAY 12TH APRIL 2025



v **Hanham Athletic**





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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.

HANHAM ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB HISTORY

Hanham Athletic FC is one of the oldest clubs in the Bristol area. The Gloucestershire Football Associations recognises the club as being founded in 1896, but the club's establishment is believed to have been much earlier. During the 19th century Hanham was a small mining village boarding the South East of Bristol, and in the club's early days the players lived locally, many of them coming to play straight from a shift in the pits. A tradition and history which is still recognised today with the club's nickname "The Miners".



We are a committee led Community Amateur Sports Club that manages men's football teams across a number of leagues, leases and maintains the sports pavilion and grounds of Hanham Athletic FC – titled The Hallett Construction Pavilion (see advert in programme for further details).

Over the years we have offered the opportunity for regular football to thousands of boys and men, with c.100 signing on to our books each year. We were founder members of the Gloucester County League in the late 1960s and have previously very successfully played county league football for many years with a proud history of honours and promotions. We run our First, Reserves, A Teams and Under 18's (new for the 2024/2025 season) and operate a talented Sunday Team. We have, in the past, won awards for our ground work and programmes.

We, many years ago played in the FA Cup, almost getting to Wembley, as well as the FA Vase during the 1970s. In 1980 the club started our own Charity Shield Competition running tournaments with teams participating and we continue to run tournament and charity events every year. We are a family friendly club, with a strong social following, a determination to support people, and a huge passion for football.

During the 2022/2023 season our 1st Team under the management team of Tom Morgan (Skinney) and Jason Side (Sider) won the Bristol & District Premier Division, the League Cup Final Winners (April 2023) and Les James Cup (2023). Winning the league saw HAFC being promoted back into the Marcliff County League. Under the same management team with Craig Sperring (ex-player) joining Skinney and Sider, we finished 7th in the league and completed in two cup finals unfortunately, we were runners up on both occasions.

For the 2024/2025 season we have a new management team of Paul Coles (Noddy) and Jamie Johnson (Rabbzy) taking charge of the First Team following the departure of Skinney and Sider to Avonmouth FC.

The 2024/2025 Committee is being led by Chris Strawford (Chairman) and Dan Sperring (Vice Chairman) and our President is Bob Sperring who following a number of years in the Chairman's position has taken a step back and you will see him at HAFC games throughout the season – ensuring the pitch is up to standard in his additional role of groundsman with his assistant Craig Smith.





HANHAM ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB



1ST TEAM PLAYER PROFILES



Brandon Barnes – Forward His experience to the team is priceless, great on the ball, his passing range is different level and has a wand of left foot. Joined HAFC for the 2022/2023 season and has played a great part in the team during the last couple of seasons.

Dan Lock (Lockie) – Centre Midfield/Forward – Wears his heart on his sleeve, always gives 100% and when he plays will be an asset for us once back from injury.

IMAGE
TO
FOLLOW

IMAGE
TO
FOLLOW

Dan Reed – Right Back/Centre Back – Dan joined us late in pre-season but has been class technically, what you want in defender. Dan has a bright future ahead of him and has played at Bristol Rovers, Little Stoke and Bishop Sutton.

Jamie Fry – Centre Midfield - 'Little man' quickest player at the club, great attitude and works hard for the team.



IMAGE
TO
FOLLOW

Jay Vile – CDM/Centre Midfield (Viley) – Technically gifted midfielder who gets us playing on the front foot. Jay loves an all-nighter and finally bought a new pair of boots after having the same ones since school. Previous clubs have included West Bromwich Academy and Wick

Joel Athey – Fullback (Athey) Young lad who plays full back, comfortable on the ball, decent left footed player



IMAGE
TO
FOLLOW

Jordan Mignott – Centre Back/CDM (Rickman) – Strong fast centre half with great distribution. Just needs a new watch as he is always seeming to be running late on a Saturday!

Josh Gibbs – Right Wingback – loves a tackle and a strong tenacious player who plays with heart on his sleeve. 100% every game and becoming a great all round player.



Kafi Ibrahim – Centre Midfield – Skilful midfielder who also brings calmness composure who has great vision and expecting big things from him this season. Yate Town was his previous club.

Karim Rendall - Wealth of Southern league and western league experience, knows where the goal is. Also has the quickest hat trick ever!! Joined HAFC for the 2022/2023 season and has played a big part in our recent success.



IMAGE
TO
FOLLOW

Kyle Porter (Ports) – Centre Midfield – Ports has great feet, loves getting on the ball – keeps us ticking over and has an eye for goal

Leroy Swaby – Left Wing – Experience winger who still has plenty of pace and loves a trick. Great to have around the changing room and has an eye for goal.



Liam Jenkins – CAM/LW (LJ) – Great technical player who can play numerous positions and brings valuable experience having won the County League previously. Played at Boco, Wick and Little Stoke previously.

Liam Planter – Centre Back (Baresi) – Western League experience centre half who shows great composure and distribution on the ball. Previously with FC Bristol.



Louis Short (Lou) – Right Wing/Centre Forward – Lou has bags of potential who is the youngest member of our squad. Both footed with an eye for goal with loads of energy – one to watch this season. Previous clubs Wick and Odd Down.

Mark Knapman – Left Back/Centre Midfield (Knapz) – Knapz has a cracking left foot, excellent delivery and loves a tackle. Brings plenty of experience and was played previously with FC Bristol.



Mikey Golding – Right Wing/Centre Forward – Pace, power and bags of energy. Micky is a hardworking striker with an eye for goal and will close down defenders with predatory instinct. Previous clubs Cadbury Heath and Wick.

Paul Coles (Player/Manager) – great all round player, who works his socks off for the team, never gives teams time to settle on the ball. Great person to have in the dressing room



Sam Archer – Right Wing. This guy is rapid!!! Never seen someone get fouled so much, pace is scary and knows where the net is. Expecting plenty of goals and assists this year. One to watch and previous clubs include Little Stoke and Yate Town.

Sam Brown – Goalkeeper (Browner) - Browner can and will play in any position of which is asked to. Outstanding in so many positions. Great attitude



Sheldon Sawyers – Centre Back (Gus) Gusssssy is a leader – strong and good in the air and loves a tackle. One to watch on set pieces.

Twaine Plummer - Centre Back/Forward – local legend in the Bristol football world and if isn't slapping net for us, you can catch him as a DJ at Kisstory or on Google Box





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LOTTE

STARTED HER APPRENTICESHIP AT VITA NOVA IN APRIL 2024. WE WELCOMED LOTTE WITH HER LOVE FOR TRADITIONAL TATTOOS.

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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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.

MDE Electrical Limited are NICEIC Approved and cover all aspects of electrical work from small house extensions to extensive hotels.

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

HANHAM ATHLETIC

Adam Fenner	1	Sam Brown
Brad Loveridge	2	Brandon Barnes
Ryley Mace	3	Dan Lock
Lewis Chance	4	Dan Reed
Tim Hill	5	Jamie Fry
Keiron Mace	6	Jay Vile
Rene Nistor	7	Joel Athey
Marc Edwards	8	Jordan Mignott
Jamie Creed	9	Josh Gibbs
Benjamin Sluman	10	Kafi Ibrahim
Archie Blacker	11	Karim Rendall
Jay Dare	12	Kyle Porter
Jonathan Clay	14	Leroy Swaby
Junior Mbika	15	Liam Jenkins
Harry O'Connor	16	Liam Planter
Shaun Smith	17	Louis Short
Harvey Sheridan	18	Mark Knapman
Ira Thompson-Price	19	Mikey Golding
Ehren Wintle	20	Paul Coles
Daniel Tyreman	21	Sam Archer
Curtis Wilkins	22	Sheldon Sawyers
Kieran Woods	23	Twaine Plummer
Ishmael Kanneh	24	
Joshua Edelmann	25	
Archie Blacker	26	

REFEREE: JACK JARMAN-DAVIS