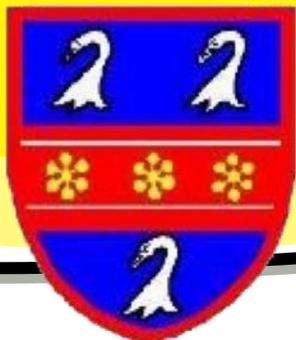


GALA WILTON FC

Saturday 6th April 2024



v Hardwicke 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

Fogg 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



THE HISTORY OF HARDWICKE AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

The name of the Football Club is Hardwicke Amateur Football Club, more commonly known as Hardwicke A.F.C. In recent years the nickname of the club has been affectionally known as "Wickey". The club was founded in 1933 (as records show) but rumoured to have been formed in 1918. In 1947 Hardwicke AFC played in a 'friendly' against a German prisoner of war team, based in Quedgeley.

The club played in the Northern Senior League between 1959-1971. However, were forced to pull out of the league as the club moved from their ground which was previously Naas Lane, Quedgeley.

During the 1970's and early 80's the club played on the current playing fields in Green Lane, Hardwicke and represented the club in the Stroud and District league. Unfortunately, the club could not progress further as the changing rooms were not up to the required standard.

The club assisted financially with the development of new changing rooms on the end of the village hall and subsequently was promoted to Northern Senior Division Two, having won the First Division of the Stroud and District league.

The current crest of the club was integrated during 1987 and the club chose to use the centre of the Hardwicke Estates Crest (from the Lloyds-Baker family who kindly gave us permission to use this). The three white objects on the crest are in fact Serpents, not swans. The crest seems to have been misunderstood from being Serpents to Swans for the past 20 years. This crest has also been adopted by Hardwicke Rangers Youth Football Club.

After four seasons in the Second Division of the Northern Senior League, the First team were promoted to the First Division in 1988 after finishing runners-up to Hilldene Athletic.

Further success in the club's history didn't occur until 1993-1994 when our reserve team secured the GFA Intermediate County Cup beating Down Ampney 2-0.

In 1994 the club leased The Close, Green Lane, Hardwicke and developed this from a farmers field. This was opened by Charles Lloyds-Baker to the local community and the club had a weekend of celebrations.

In 1997 the First Team reached the County Cup Final for the first time but lost to Endsleigh Reserves in a close fought game.

1998 saw Hardwicke firsts had been promoted to the Gloucestershire County League having become runners up in the Northern Senior Division One.

The club 'raised the bar' in upgrading its facilities by providing barriers around the pitch, providing a club programme and food/beverage offerings. The club would regularly welcome programme collectors from all over the County.

The Reserve Team gained promotion of Division One of the Stroud League after becoming Division Two Champions in 2001/2002.

The club won the County League and Les James League Cup in 2007/2008. In the same season the club narrowly missed out on the GFA Trophy against Bitton in the final.

With promotion to the Hellenic League, the team went onto win the Hellenic Division 1 title by a massive 15 points during the 2008-2009 season.

In 2009/10 season Hardwicke realised that they could not sustain being in the Hellenic League and made the decision to disband their First Team.

Since this period the First's had gone from Stroud Division Two up to Northern Senior Division One with several promotions.

In August 2014, the club played a Tottenham Spurs legends side to celebrate the life of Rob Dawe, who was a Chairman of Hardwicke Rangers. Tottenham won 11-2.

In the season of 2014/2015 Hardwicke reserve team finished runners up in Stroud Division 3 and were promoted to Stroud Division 2. In the same season the reserves made it to the final of the Charity Cup played at Stonehouse F.C where they were narrowly beaten on penalties by Longlevens 3rd team.

In the 2014/15 season Hardwicke first team finished runners up and were promoted to the County League once again following a huge amount of improvements being made including a new referees changing room being built, pitch perimeter fencing being installed and new dug out's being built in order for Hardwicke to be eligible to be promoted into this league.

In 2015/16 Hardwicke first team won the Les James League cup against Rockleaze Rangers played at Tytherington Rocks FC. Craig Harris scored the only goal of the game.

The club has three teams, with our reserves competing in Stroud Division 2 and 3rd team in Stroud Division 3.

Club Honours (Saturday Only)

- 1935/1936- George Saude Cup - Winners
- 1948/1949- SDL Division 3- Runners-Up
- 1949/1950- SDL Division 2- Winners
- 1951/1952- SDL Division 3- Runners-Up
- 1955/1956- SDL Division 1- Runners-Up
- 1964/1965- SDL Division 3- Winners
- 1965/1966- SDL Division 2- Winners
- 1969/1970- SDL Division 5- Runners-Up
- 1978/1979- SDL Division 2- Winners
- 1980/1981- SDL Division 5- Runners-Up
- 1982/1983- SDL Division 1- Winners
- 1983/1984- Stroud Charity Cup- Winners
- 1984/1985- SDL Division 5- Winners
- 1989/1990- NSL Division 2- Runners-Up
- 1993/1994- GFA County Cup -Winners
- 1994/1995- SDL Division 3- Runners-Up
- 1996/1997- GFA Senior Amateur Cup- Finalists
- 1997/1998- NSL Division 1- Runners-Up
- 1997/1998- GFA Senior Amateur Cup- Finalists
- 1998/1999- NSL Division 1- Runners-Up
- 2001/2002- SDL Division 2- Winners
- 2004/2005- Stroud Charity Cup- Winners
- 2006/2007- Stroud Charity Cup- Winners
- 2007/2008- Gloucestershire County League- Winners
- 2007/2008- Les James Trophy-Winners
- 2007/2008- GFA Challenge Cup- Finalists
- 2008/2009- Hellenic Division 1 (West)- Winners
- 2008/2009- SDL Division 2- Runners-Up
- 2008-2009- SDL Division 8- Runners-Up
- 2009/2010- SDL Division 7- Winners
- 2010/2011- SDL Division 1- Runners-Up
- 2010/2011- SDL Division 6- Runners-Up
- 2011/2012- NSL Division 2- Promoted
- 2012/2013- Stroud Charity Cup- Winners
- 2012/2013- SDL Division 5- Runners-Up
- 2012/2013- SDL Division 7- Runners-Up
- 2013/2014- GFA Intermediate Cup - Finalists
- 2013/2014- SDL Division 4- Runners-Up
- 2014/2015- SDL Division 3- Runners-Up
- 2014/2015- NSL Division 1 Runners-Up
- 2014/2015- Stroud Charity Cup- Finalists (Runners-Up)
- 2015/2016- Les James League Cup- Winners
- 2016/2017 - SDL Division 2- Runners-Up

No history of Hardwicke AFC would be complete without a special mention of the King family. Frank King who sadly passed away in 1998 was involved in the club for over 60 years. His son Tony held his position in the club but sadly passed away in 2008.

Currently long-standing club members are: Dareth Daley, Geoffrey 'Stan' Hine, Michael Addle, Phillip Barnes.

The club is currently members of the Gloucestershire County League and the Stroud and District League (SDL).

HARDWICKE PLAYER PROFILES



Ollie Hall - Outstanding goalkeeper when he brings his A game. Has had spells with Slimbridge at southern league level and previously longlevens in the Hellenic league. Likes wearing Paddington bear T-shirts.



Jordan Dowdeswell - Wand of a right foot and can play anywhere down the right. Jord has played the majority of his playing days at Hardwicke and probably should of played a higher level for longer after a spell with Tuffley Rovers. Set piece specialist.



Nathan Barnett - Centre half who loves a tackle and someone you'd want in the trenches. Lacks pace but makes up for it in desire.



Pat Vernall - Left sided defender, popped up with a few important goals at left back. Superb attitude, ask him to play anywhere and he'll get on with it. Another who enjoys a beer in the legion after.



Sean Clarke - Right back or can play in midfield, can't seem to keep Sean quiet in the changing room. Broke his collarbone in the season before last but hoping for an injury free season.



Tom Hobbs - Another centre back with a superb attitude. Gets on with it even when not playing regular and always at training. Sometimes likes flicking on the ball for the opposition striker.



Taro Weston – Exciting young left footed footballer who is attached to Gloucester City, can play anywhere on the pitch and will be beneficial to us this season.



Harry Furniss - Brother to Ollie. A man of very few words, talks with his feet. Future star for Hardwicke if guided correctly. Looking forward to seeing him blossom into something special.



Fred Humphries - Players player last season, midfield enforcer who works his socks off and is a huge asset for the club. Hopefully will score a few more goals in his third season for the club after a couple of great goals in the pre-season.



Jack Twyman - Last season's manager hoping to play a lot more this season – hopefully this is at Hardwicke but he likes to keep us guessing.



Will Higgins - Wiggy brings plenty of legs in midfield who can go by players and pop up with goals. Great attitude but did have about ten holidays with the Mrs during last season and opted out of the final games of the season due to study. Lets see if he can complete a whole season.



Will Matthews –Big aerial threat but very robotic with his feet. Another who loves a beer afterwards and we look forward to seeing Will bang a few more in this season (if his knees get sorted). If he gets back fit, will be like a new signing for the club as an experienced player to help the younger lads.



Ben King – Ben is a midfielder or striker and puts a shift in for the team each week. Needs to work on his goal scoring as if he scored as many as he does in training, we would be top of the league.



Marley Johnson – Youngest member of the squad who turned 16 at the end of July. Some might say that Marley gets picked because his dad is the manager but from what we have seen in pre-season, he will likely be playing a lot of games. An exciting young talent.



James Griffiths - Griff has dipped in and out of football over the last season or so as he has been at Uni but when he is back, he always volunteers for any of our teams. Probably the most laid back centre back and try's to avoid heading the ball when possible.

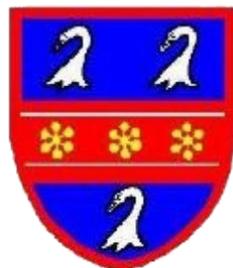


Luke Kyffin – Luke is a centre midfielder with bundles of energy – that probably has something to do with the can of red bull and a fag before the game and at half time. Always good for a yellow card!



George Ganley – Last seasons manager of the 3rd team see's George potentially playing a higher level for the club. Was out injured for a long spell but now getting back to full fitness and will be an asset to any team he plays in.

Scott Eales, A strong defender who can also move into a midfield role if needed to. Leaves everything out on the pitch with his never say die attitude.





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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

HARDWICKE

REFEREE: CALUM NEWMAN

Curtis Wilkins	1	Ollie Hall
Lewis Fogg	2	Jordan Dowdeswell
Shamar Thomas	3	Nathan Barnett
Jahvon Davis	4	Pat Vernall
Dylan Barrett	5	Sean Clarke
Jake Gurney	6	Tom Hobbs
Lee Brinkworth	7	Taro Weston
Archie Blacker	8	Harry Furniss
Mike Hodgins	9	Fred Humphries
Sam Webb	10	Jack Twyman
Jacob Eakers	11	Will Higgins
Antonio Pirelli	12	Will Matthews
Jay Dare	14	Ben King
Wakib	15	Marley Johnson
Michael Barron	16	James Griffiths
Freddie Harris	17	Luke Kyffin
Tim Hill	18	George Ganley
Jorell Sanniola	19	Scott Eales

SATURDAY 6 APRIL 2024

3PM KICK OFF