

GALA WILTON FC

SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2025



v **Henbury & Rockleaze 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

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.

HENBURY & ROCKLEAZE FOOTBALL CLUB



HISTORY

Henbury and Rockleaze Football Club were formed on the 1st of June 2024 following the merger of Henbury FC and Rockleaze Rangers FC adult sections. The club will play its matches and be based at Arnall Drive in Henbury. Both clubs have a rich history which we will strive to bring together in addition to creating our own.

Henbury FC

Henbury Old Boys was formed in 1962 playing in Division 4 of The Bristol Downs Association Football League. Founder members included Chairman Bill Williams, Secretary Ron Excell, Treasurer Ron Crocombe and committee members Cliff Griffin, Jack Fisk, Fred Jones and Arnold Rogers, all of whom served the club for a great number of years.

While the first team remained playing on the Downs, the second and third teams, along with their youth teams played on pitches at Arnall Drive Playing Fields. Players changed in the scout's hut in Satchfield Crescent and walked the two hundred meters to the pitch.

The committee decided to leave The Downs League after four seasons and joined The Bristol & District League. The dressing rooms were positioned in the Blaise Castle estate across the road to Arnall Drive Playing Fields. The single-story changing rooms was an old R.A.F. concrete hut. All the work to erect this building and associated works was carried out by players and volunteers connected to the club.

The first team finished in fourth position and the following season in 1968-69 played in Division 2 of the Premier Combination until the end of season 1985-86. After several failed attempts to progress through the Football League Pyramid System to join the Gloucestershire County League, the club realised this was only possible with a new clubhouse and changing rooms alongside their pitch.

This overcame the problem of crossing the road and the new changing rooms meeting the approval of the management committee. The club was voted into the County League in 1987 and only one club Patchway Town has since played more seasons in the County League. That being one more season than ourselves.

Of the many seasons in the Gloucestershire County League, the most noticeable came in the season of 1994-1995 in which we claimed our one and only Gloucestershire County League title under the captaincy of Bob Pritchard who later became club chairman.

Henbury then endured a long 15-year drought in which there was minimal success, until the season of 2010-2011 becoming the winners of the Les James league Cup. Since the title winning season in 1994-1995 Henbury claimed the runners up spot on four occasions, these coming in the season of 1997/98, 2002/03, 2011-2012 and 2015-2016 (also in 1988/89).

This ambition took a backward step after a thirty-five-year spell playing in the Gloucester County League, when the club was unable to avoid relegation at the end of the 2022-23 season.

Rockleaze Rangers FC

Rockleaze Rangers Football Club was established in 1976 as a Sunday team under the name of Nat West Court FC. After a couple of seasons, the club expanded into Saturday football and joined the Bristol and Suburban League in 1979. Thereafter followed a number of years during which the club progressed through the divisions, with the highlight being GFA Minor Cup winners in 1986. The club were now known as Avonside Court, and this progression culminated in being crowned Premier 2 Division Champions in 1989.

After finishing the following season in 4th place in Prem 1, the early 90's marked a transitional period for the club, establishing closer ties with Bristol and West and, as by then the club had moved grounds to play at the Bristol and West Sports Club then on the Portway. Under the management of Geoff Bryant and latterly Paul Smith, the club attracted a core of young players. During this period the club enjoyed its most consistent performances, finishing in the top 6 in 4 consecutive seasons and narrowly missing out on the Prem 1 Championship in 1999 season, having to settle for the Runners-up spot.

Another difficult period for the Club followed, with the club now known as B&W Avonside having to find a new home at the University Ground at Coombe Dingle, following the closure of the Bristol and West Sports Ground, and losing a number of key players to Gloucestershire and Somerset County League Clubs. This resulted in relegation back to Suburban Prem 2 in 2004, however, this was a turning point in the club's fortunes, with the appointment of Andrew Myland as 1st Team Manager, many of the clubs past players returned coupled with the recruitment of a number of new faces and the team bounced back to Prem 1 in 2005 as Prem 2 runners up.

The appointment of Carmelo Micciche as Manager saw season 2007-08 start with much optimism. This optimism was not unfounded, and the 1st team ended as GFA Senior Amateur Cup Champions, runners up in the Suburban League Premier 1 and promotion to the Gloucestershire County League.

During the summer of 2009 B&W Avonside amalgamated with a junior football club known as Rockleaze Rangers who were also based at the University Ground in Coombe Dingle to form a new Club known as Rockleaze Avonside FC. At the end of the 2009-10 season the decision was made to augment the merger fully by playing under a single banner, that being Rockleaze Rangers F.C. Since 2009 the senior section of the club expanded from 2 Saturday sides to 5 Saturday sides, 2 Sunday sides and two Under 18's.

At the end of 2012/13 Carmelo Micciche stepped down after 6 successful seasons in charge of the 1st team, Dave Johnson was appointed' however, things didn't work out for Johnson who was replaced by player Neil Simons in March with the team sitting second from bottom, however, the team ultimately finished ninth and reached the Les James League Cup where they lost to an exceptional Longlevens side.

The 2015/16 season saw ex Almondsbury UWE duo Rich Thomas and Lee Roberts given the responsibility of making the club a regular top 6 Gloucestershire County league side. The team achieved the clubs' initial goals by finishing 5th in the league and were once again runners up in the Les James League Cup and for the 4th time in 5 seasons won the Respect Fair Play League Award. A 6th place in 16/17 saw the club become a regular top 6 side. The Reserve team were also promoted to Prem 1 as Runners up in both the league and GFA Senior Amateur Cup. After 3 seasons in charge Rich and Lee stood down at the end of the 2017/18 season.

The 2018-19 season saw the club finally move into our new ground at the University of the West of England (UWE) to play at their Hillside Gardens facility. At the start of the 2018-19 season our successful Reserve team management duo of Peter Bradbury and Lee Douglas were appointed and despite two interrupted seasons due to the global pandemic, the duo orchestrated three top 4 finishes in their time in charge.





HENBURY & ROCKLEAZE FOOTBALL CLUB – PLAYER PROFILES

JORDAN DUNNING – GOALKEEPER

No.1 'keeper, Jordan had a sensational 2023-24 season with 8 clean sheets and a number of top performances which contributed to making the team so hard to beat. Jordan dominates his area and makes collecting balls into the box look effortless. His massive kicks have also been known to catch a few teams out...

HARRY TRETT – GOALKEEPER

Former Newport County stopper, Trett brings a commanding presence to the side, blending pin-point distribution with excellent shot-stopping.

TASMAN ROOK – FULL BACK

Tas joined the club in the second half of the 2022/23 season from Chippenham Town, but a series of injuries has limited his appearances to date. A very gifted player, Tas reads the game situation very well and has proven to be adaptable in a number of shapes. If he can stay fit, one to watch for the future.

PETER IRELAND – FULL BACK

Nicest lad in the club, Pete nonetheless puts it all in on the pitch and is a true competitor. Not the most prolific in front of goal, Pete has nonetheless scored his annual goal (a sublime chip) early this season, which will take the pressure off.

BLERAN THAQI – FULL BACK / CENTRE BACK

After a breakthrough season, former Henbury U18s player Bleran has starred throughout pre-season with a number of mature performances. Strong both defensively and in possession, Bleran has excellent potential and will be one to watch for the future.

JORDAN BUCKETT (CAPTAIN) – CENTRE BACK

A natural leader on and off the pitch, Jordan has matured well into the captaincy, leading by example through consistently putting in strong performances.

GEORGE JAMES – CENTRE BACK

George alternates between centre back and centre forward, both positions he has become adept at. Despite a questionable decision to don white boots this season, George has good feet, excellent vision and passing range, making him a real asset to the side.

OLIVER WOOLLAND – CENTRE BACK

Ollie currently holds the record of 'most spells with the Club' jointly with Jay Moore. A versatile player, former Southampton academy player, Ollie can play anywhere along the back or in midfield.

ADAM PARKES – CENTRE BACK

Adam is another strong centre back who has proven during pre-season to be equally strong in the air and with the ball at his feet. Adam likes to drive with the ball and maraud forwards. He can also bring a Delap style throw as his party trick.

CAMERON TARR – CENTRE BACK

Back after a lengthy spell on the sidelines with injury, Cam is a great addition to the side, bringing a wealth of experience. A strong, physical presence at back, Cam is excellent in the air and a handful for opposition forwards.

MARCUS WILLIAMS (VICE CAPTAIN) – MIDFIELD

Club stalwart, after starting at Under 6's with Rockleaze Marcus is equally adept at fullback or midfield. A tenacious player, Marcus is a nightmare to play against, winning a lot of ball, and whose low centre of gravity makes him very hard to dispossess.

DREW SAWDON – MIDFIELD

Hard hitting midfielder hailing from the North, 2023-24 Player's Player of the Season, Drew enjoyed an outstanding first season in the 1sts, ending up as joint top goal scorer (16) as well as being a dominating presence in the midfield.

SAMUEL BAILEY – MIDFIELD

Silent assassin, bandit-Bailey is a classy midfielder who both links up play and scores goals through his late runs into the box.

BRANDON BOONTAM – MIDFIELD

When you're that good, you can afford to be a little bit lazy... Bran is an outstanding player, who from time-to-time gets his freekicks on target. Excellent close control and strength had made Brandon one of the first names on the teamsheet.

MATTHEW HARRISON – MIDFIELD

Matt is a classy player (like a fine wine) who brings both calmness and an engine to the midfield. Great positional awareness means that Matt rarely needs to sprint, which is just as well...

JONATHAN WEBB – MIDFIELD

Jon is your typical box to box midfielder – strong in the tackle, good feet, and likes to drive with the ball. Standing tall at 6'3" Jon is an aerial threat too. Jon has a fierce shot on him too.

KACPER KALKOWSKI – WINGER

Kacper is incredibly talented – a tricky winger who has great feet and an eye for goal. He has excellent set piece delivery, bagging a number of assists last season.

NICHOLAS JONES – WINGER

Former Cribbs winger, Nick brings pace, experience and a winning mentality to the side. Nick loves to get forwards with his mazy runs, but is equally adept defensively, making him a real asset on the left.

FRASER BUTT – WINGER

Former Gloucester City academy player, Fraser is a mercurial talent with an eye for goal, as well as being a set piece specialist. Able to play practically any position, Fraser is incredibly versatile. Not the keenest trainer, Fraser nonetheless does it where it counts on the pitch.

TATE SHAW – WINGER

He might be built like p!@#, but Tate brings extreme pace to the side, and is an excellent finisher, as demonstrated by his well taken goals in preseason games against Cribbs and Bitton.

DANIEL WEBB – FORWARD

Tour and social secretary, Webby is also a Gloucestershire County League veteran, having terrorised opposition with his skill, movement and goals for a number of years. Joint top goal scorer (16) last season, whilst chipping in with a number of assists, Webby will be looking to add to his tally this year.

JAMES GOULDEN – FORWARD

Sporting a suspect tache and frosted tips, when not taking long coach trips across Portugal, James is a tall and tricky forward. Backed with a great touch and good off the ball movement, James is an exciting talent and one to watch for the future.

JENSON BEARD – FORWARD

Jenson is swiftly becoming the complete striker. Bringing pace, physicality, work-rate, as well as guile, Jenson finished the 2023-24 season as joint top goal scorer (16). An exciting prospect, we hope to see Jenson continue on this trajectory.

JORDAN DENT – FORWARD

Despite a string of injuries over the last few seasons, "Barry" Dent is nonetheless a quality forward with an eye for goal. Narrowly missing out on the Club golden boot last season, despite only returning to fitness for the second half of the season, Jordan will look to continue this form into the 2024-25 season. Jordan is a liability on a night out though.

PETER BRADBURY – MANAGER

Long serving manager, into his 14th season having managed the Club's Reserves, A team and B team previously. Now into a 7th season with the 1st team, Bradders is looking to attain promotion for the Club after last season's 3rd placed finish.

LEE DOUGLAS – ASSISTANT MANAGER

Long suffering assistant manager to Bradders, Lee has been signed up for another season. Lee is a generous man who is well loved and respected by everyone in the Club. Known to be quite loud, from time to time, avoid standing directly in his path.

JASON TARR – ASSISTANT MANAGER

New addition to the management team for the 2024-25 season, Jason is an excellent coach, but also a calm head with a wealth of experience on matchday.

MATT DYER – ASSISTANT MANAGER

Matt rejoins the Club after a spell as video analyst for Cribbs and hopes to bring his expertise to Henbury & Rockleaze.





GALA 2024/25

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KATIE

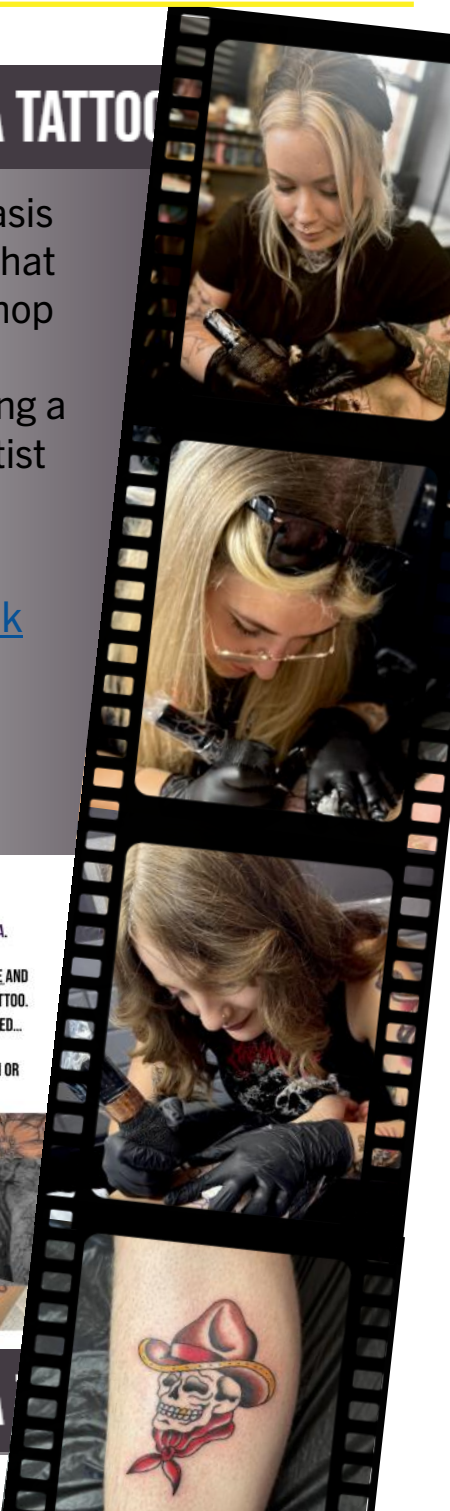
RESIDENT ARTIST AT VITA NOVA.

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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.

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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



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TODAY'S TEAMS



GALA WILTON

HENBURY & ROCKLEAZE

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

Harry Trett
Marcus Williams
Nick Jones
Cam Tarr
Jordan Buckettt (capt.)
Tasman Rook
Fraser Butt
Sam Bailey
Matt Harrison
Drew Sawdon
George James
Harvey Moran
Dan Webb
Callum Winter
Tate Shaw
Bleran Thaqi

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