

# GALA WILTON FC

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023



v Quedgeley Wanderers FC

2023-2024 season

Gloucestershire County League

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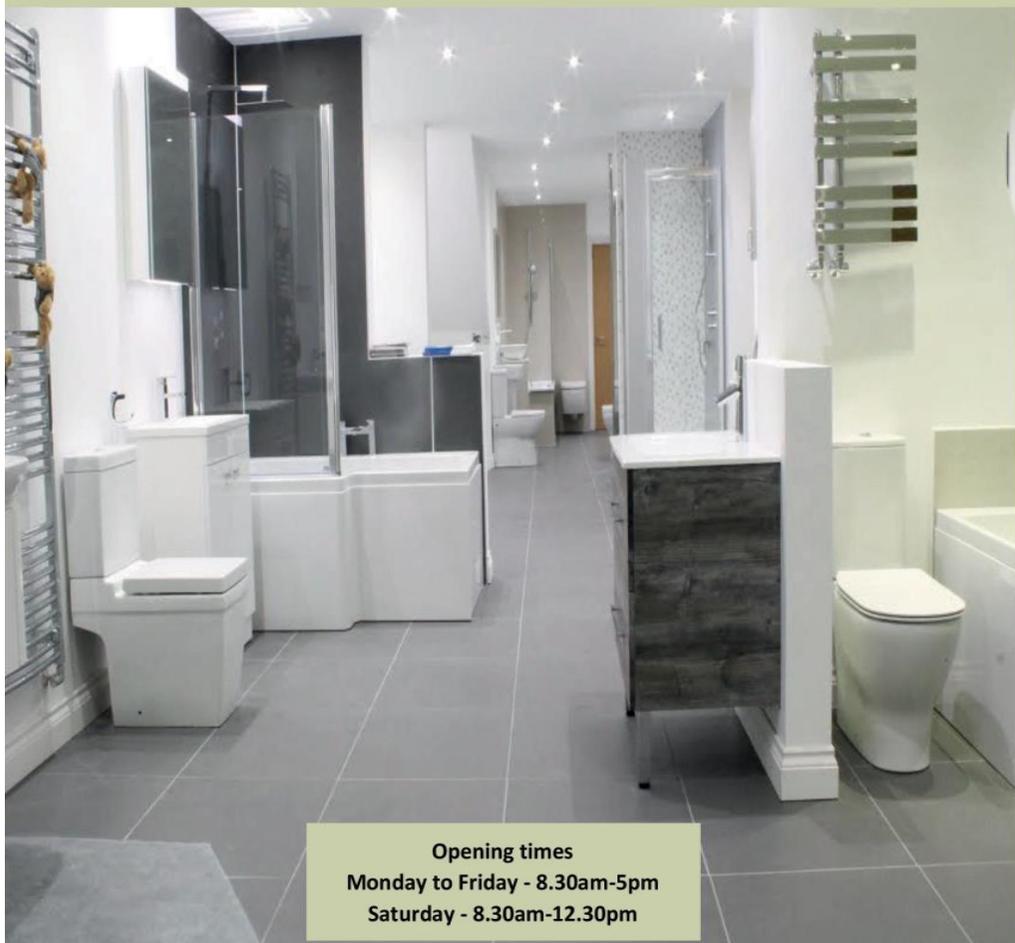
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## CLUB HISTORY

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

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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.

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# 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

# Quedgeley Wanderers History

QWFC was formed in 1994, with just one boys under 14's team. It was started by Dave Mulrain and Ron Capper, who took on the roles of Secretary and Treasurer, positions they went on to hold for a further ten years. Dave has since returned to the club as Chairman and is in his sixth season. They laid the foundations for the club to grow to the present day where we have over 400 members across 23 competitive teams of all ages, including girls sides, 2 adult teams, walking football and Veterans. Many hours have been dedicated to the club by a number of volunteers to get to the point we are at today. In July 2021, we installed floodlights due to gaining a grant from Crest Nicholson. They were installed by MUSCO lighting who have installed lights in many Premier league sides.

This season we have set up a Seniors Committee, with James Mulrain taking the vice chairman seat. Kelly Mulrain will continue in her role as Seniors Secretary. Dave Mulrain and James Mulrain will work alongside Andy Gutteridge in the Treasurer's role. Many of our dedicated players are stepping up to help the running of the club taking on roles. Social media and fundraising will be led by Luke Holder and Nathan Charnock.

Steve Sparrow will continue to take the reins of the First Team this season. He will continue his winning ways after he took over towards the end of last season and worked hard to lead the team to survival. Rob Page will be coaching the team to success. We have a dedicated core group of players again this season, so we have high hopes for a positive and successful season in the County League.

Our Reserve team are currently in Stroud League Division 2. The trio of Stuart Ballinger, Chris Riley and Steve Ballinger will be taking the reins. The three will be leading the Reserves to success with some new faces and a mixture of young and mature players, we have high hopes that they will triumph.

We have a brilliant bunch of players/management both on and off the field and wish both teams the best of luck this season.





## **QWFC Player Profiles**

**Nathan Charnock** – An excellent goalie who came through the youth section who has also spent time playing in the Maltese Premier League.

**Sean Lawson** – Sean brings valuable experience on and off the pitch, he will add a real attacking threat to the front line. Our captain.

**Ryan Hunt** – A great addition to the seniors, who has come up through the youth section. Ryan is a skilled, rapid player.

**Luke Holder** – Reggie has been at the club for several years. He is a skilled player who gives 100% effort.

**Harry Reynolds** – Harry is a very talented and skilled player who impresses everyone. Harry is an asset to the team.

**Christian Cooke** – Krippy is a player that impresses with his skills, workrate and speed. Always smiling!

**Ollie Curtis** – Ollie is proving to be a very talented young striker who has settled well into the section.

**Connor Webb** - A player who can read the game well, Connor channels his skills to perform to a high standard each game.

**Kory Taylor** – A talented player who has settled well into the club this season, Kory gives 100% effort.

**Jack Bright** – Jack brings skill and experience to the side. Solid defender who loves a tackle.

**Jack Evans** – A talented player who came through the youth section, Jack is a delight to have at the club, helpful on and off the field.

**James Lawes** – An experienced player, reliable and keeps his cool in front of the goal. A true clubman.

**Rory Hunt** – Starting his full season at the club, Rory is a young talented player with a lot of pace to offer.

**Ollie Barnett** - Ollie has made the transition into adult football with ease and is a valued vocal defender.

**James Stanbury** - James brings experience and skill to the team, a leader on the pitch.



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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

## QUEDGELEY WANDERERS

Curtis Wilkins	1	Nathan Charnock
Lewis Fogg	2	Sean Lawson
Shamar Thomas	3	Ryan Hunt
Jahvon Davis	4	Luke Holder
Dylan Barrett	5	Harry Reynolds
Jake Gurney	6	Christian Cooke
Lee Brinkworth	7	Ollie Curtis
Archie Blacker	8	Connor Webb
Mike Hodgins	9	Kory Taylor
Sam Webb	10	Jack Bright
Jacob Eakers	11	Jack Evans
Antonio Pirelli	12	James Lawes
Jay Dare	14	Rory Hunt
Wakib	15	Ollie Barnett
Michael Barron	16	James Stanbury
Freddie Harris	17	
Tim Hill	18	
Jorell Sanniola	19	

REFEREE: ALAN BERROW

SATURDAY 26 AUGUST 2023

3PM KICK OFF