

GALA WILTON FC

SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2024



v **Ruardean Hill Rangers**





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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.

RUARDEAN HILL RANGERS FC

CLUB HISTORY



Ruardean Hill Rangers play their football on the highest point in the Forest of Dean, 920 feet above sea level.

Formed in 1919, Ruardean Hill played in the old Forest of Dean league until its termination in the late 1950's. They then moved into the North Gloucestershire League and have remained there in some capacity ever since.

Ruardean Hill gained their first promotion to the Northern Senior League in 1994/95 and competed in this league for several seasons before being relegated in 2001. They immediately regained promotion the following year only to be relegated again in 2004. In the 2011/12 season, they earned a last day promotion back to the senior league as well as reaching the final of the 'Amateur Cup'. The 2012/13 season brought the club its first promotion to the Northern Senior League Division 1 from back-to-back promotions. 'The Hill' finished in the top eight for each of the next three seasons before finally winning the Division 1 title in 2016/2017 season. They scored an incredible 125 goals and conceded just 34 in 35 games.

Ruardean Hill's current first team has a good mixture of youth, from our youth teams, and experience from the same core group of players. The core group players have been in the team for about 10 years. They now field 3 senior teams; the club's promotions owe a lot to the depth of its other senior teams.

The club are now competing in their 5th season in the Marcliff County League having finished 9th and 5th in their first two seasons. They are now fully cemented in the County League and they are looking to push on and finish as high as possible.



RUARDEAN HILL RANGERS PEN PICS



Aaron Underwood (Goalkeeper) – 1 of the longest serving players in the squad. Great shot stopper who can also start defence to attack very quickly with his direct kicking. Big presence in the dressing room.



Steve Bowles (Goalkeeper) – Great competition with Aaron for the number 1 spot. Steve has had spells with Cinderford Town in the past. Steve is a keeper who is quick off his line and comfortable with the ball at his feet



Bobby Walding (Defender) – Bobby who has had a spell as a striker in the past, has certainly found his position at centre back. Great organiser of the defence. Likes a good battle with opposing strikers.



Jack Meek (Defender) – Quiet man of the team. Always in the right place at the right time. Reads the game very well and plays the game very chilled out.



Ricky Tingle (Defender) – Rick covers the ground well and looks to play football from the back. Loves an opportunity to get forward and score. Great in both boxes.



Blaine Smith (Defender) – Blaine will bring great county league experience to the club having previously played for Broadwell. Going to add physical presence to the squad. Will cause plenty of problems to opposing teams at set pieces



Dan Bowles (Defender) – 1st full season with the club who also plays for Cinderford Town U18's. Dan is a proper defender who likes to battle with the opposing strikers. Doesn't lose much in the air. Great Drummer.



Isaac Hatcher (Midfielder) – Another young player who is in his 1st full season with the club. Played the second half of last season with 2nd team winning Players Player of the Year. Great energy and pace to burn. Can play anywhere in midfield and up front.



Dan Matthews (Midfielder) – Dan is a player again with great energy and never stops running. Can play anywhere along the midfield and like to get a good tackle in. Reliable !!



Ryan Smith (Midfielder) – New signing for the Club. Going to be a great addition with the ability to play in numerous positions. Will hopefully add good competition to the squad this season.



Mitch Griffin (Midfielder) – Mitch likes to get the ball down and take people on. Can play on either wing. Great work rate and always puts a shift in for the team.



Stuart Cornwell-Boote (Midfielder) – Stu loves taking defenders on. He loves nothing better than a good nutmeg. Great team player. He is 1 of the older players in the squad. Loves a trip to the park.



Dan Mason (Midfielder) – Dan will be like a new signing this season. Spent most of last season injured or suspended. Great character around the dressing room. He can play anywhere in midfield and loves to put a tackle in.



Steve Coombs (Midfielder) – Vital cog to the team in the engine room. Long serving member of the club. 1 of the best passers of the ball in the squad, rarely giving the ball away. Has started to add goals to his game.



Charley Mason (Midfielder) – Great engine who has a great eye for a pass. Doesn't mind a tackle either. Set piece delivery excellent. Charley likes to get the ball down on the floor and play.



Luke Brown (Midfielder/Forward) – Club Captain. Always looking to play the game the right way. Has the ability to play anywhere. Work rate is 2nd to none. Likes to score goals from midfield.



Ben Ball (Midfielder) – 1st full season in men's football. Likes to get on the ball and has a great eye for a pass. Will learn loads this season.



Kane Fellows (Midfielder/Forward) – Very committed. Kane can play anywhere in midfield or up top. Not afraid to put the foot in if needed. His movement can cause teams a lot of problems.



Luke Johnson (Forward) – Luke loves to put the ball in the back of the net. His tireless running for the team is a massive addition to the team. Defenders nightmare with his running.



Shaun Tingle (Forward) – Shaun's work rate and hold up play is immense. Does not lose much in the air. Gets his fair share of goals too.



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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

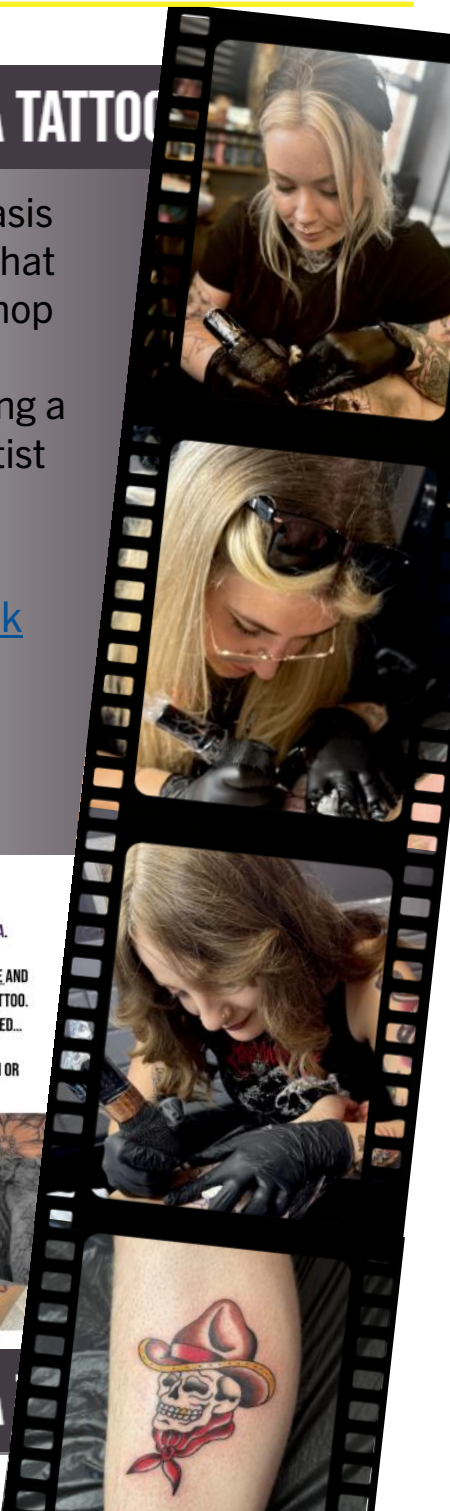
RESIDENT ARTIST AT VITA NOVA.

KATIE LOVES FLORALS, NATURE AND ANY SURREALISM IDEAS TO TATTOO. OH, AND ANYTHING DOG RELATED...

CONTACT KATIE BY INSTAGRAM OR EMAIL BELOW.



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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

RUARDEAN HILL RANGERS

Adam Fenner	1	Aaron Underwood
Brad Loveridge	2	Tommy Coleman
Ryley Mace	3	Charlie Taylor
Lewis Chance	4	Dave Matthews
Tim Hill	5	Tom Landon
Keiron Mace	6	Scott Albon
Rene Nistor	7	Josh Sladen
Marc Edwards	8	Max Telling
Jamie Creed	9	Charley Mason (Capt)
Benjamin Sluman	10	Alex Stephens
Archie Blacker	11	Kane Fellows
Jay Dare	12	Olly Mason
Jonathan Clay	14	Fin Jones
Junior Mbika	15	Steve Clark
Harry O'Connor	16	Luke Johnson
Shaun Smith	17	Troy Morgan
Harvey Sheridan	18	Taylor Blaby
Ira Thompson-Price	19	Tyler Adams
Ehren Wintle	20	
Daniel Tyreman	21	
Curtis Wilkins	22	
Kieran Woods	23	
Ishmael Kanneh	24	
Joshua Edelmann	25	
Archie Blacker	26	

REFEREE: ALAN BARROW