

# GALA WILTON FC

SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025



v **Sharpness 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

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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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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## Our History

Sharpness A.F.C was founded in the 1900-1901 season. Their home ground was The Port which they rented from British Waterways for a pepper-corn rate of one pound per year.

During 3 seasons of the mid 20's Sharpness won the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League. Although no football was played during both wars Sharpness players regularly wrote home to tell of their footballing achievements while they were away on duty.

After the 2nd World War Sharpness were very much to the fore and played at the highest standard in Gloucestershire football. The Sharks were very successful and in the 1962-63 season the 1st XI won the GNSL whilst the 2nd XI won the Stroud League Div 1 without losing a game, a remarkable achievement.

In 1974 a clubhouse was built and from that point Sharpness went from strength to strength. They won the Gloucestershire County League and joined the Hellenic Premier League where they were very successful for a number of years winning the title in 1986. In the 1985-86 season they got to the last 16 in the country playing in the F.A. Amateur Cup.

It was at this point that British Waterways decide they wanted to develop on the land where The Port was situated so the club had to leave in 1988 its home of 88 years. Following World War 1 a Grandstand had been built in memory of those who perished in the war, alas this was bulldozed when The Sharks had to leave The Port.

For three seasons they played on Forest Greens pitch at a price far too high for that time. It became impossible to cover the costs of playing at Forest Green so the club had to revert to playing at a lower level. Reduced to one team now playing in GNSL Div 2 they got promoted in their first season 1991-92.

Since leaving Forest Green Sharpness have played their games at Berkeley Vale School & now at Hamfields Leisure Centre where we have put a lot of effort into improving the facilities so we could once again ply our trade in the county league.

Sharpness 1st XI have retained their position in GNSL Div 1 since 1992, even winning the league in 2001-2002, 2009-2010 & 2015-2016 for a record 11<sup>th</sup> time but alas their facilities prevented them getting promoted.

We finally started the development of new changing rooms at Hamfields in May 2018 completing the project in March 2019 just in time for inspection. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI still had to do the business on the field to secure promotion and did just that by winning the league for a record 12<sup>th</sup> time in 2018-19 which secured promotion to the Gloucestershire County league.

During our first season in the County League, we gave a good account of ourselves lying in 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the league and making it to the Semi Final of the Les James Cup before the season was curtailed early.

In our 1<sup>st</sup> full season in the Glos County League we managed to finish in a creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> place having recovered from a slow start. We also managed to take two scalps from higher league opposition in the Glos FA Challenge Trophy.

Sharpness are entering their 6<sup>th</sup> season in the Glos County League and have secured a top half finish in each season. We've also made it to the Les James Cup Final in 2022-23 but were beaten on the day by Broadwell.

## Sharpness AFC Player Profiles 2024-25 Season

**Ben Gibbs** – Ben was the club captain when we were won promotion to the County league but has now stepped up into the role of joint manager due to numerous knee injuries.

**James Friday** – James has stepped up to the role of joint manager alongside Ben for the 2024-25 season as player manager. Quick, strong left footed defender who likes a physical battle.

**Truan Taylor (GK)** – Young goalkeeper who has been in and around the Sharpness setting for many years. Looking to build on an impressive season last time out. .

**Jamie Holder (GK)** – Good shot stopper who's very comfortable with the ball at his feet.

**James Litten** – a no nonsense defender who can play in a couple of positions. Extremely hard working player who will be looking to establish himself in the first team.

**Will Payne** – A quick athletic full back who loves to bomb forward and join up in forward play.

**Isaac Thurston** - a central defender going into his second season with the club. Isaac is a monster when it comes to defending 1v1 situations and loves to join in attacks.

**Sean Heal** - an experienced defender who joins us from Henbury. He will add key leadership qualities to the squad this year and is already proving to be a good fit with the lads.

**George Thomas** – a young left sided defender who will be pushing to establish himself in the first team this season.

**Brad Gibbs** – A young player with bags of energy, keeps it simple, not scared of a tackle & has an eye for goal.

**Brad Hewer** – Attack minded midfielder with composure on the ball. Likes a strike from distance when the opportunity arises.

**James Tainton** – Talented young winger, with great technique, an eye for goal and looks like he'll have a promising future ahead.

**Tom Palmer** - an old but new signing for the club this season. TP has been involved at Sharpness for several years on a part time basis but has now joined us full time. Excellent CM with great composure and does the basics really well.

**Callum Dummelow** – Callum is an established midfielder and is a good leader on and off the pitch.

**Tom Frankham** @ - Club Captain for the 2<sup>nd</sup> season who has shown excellent leadership qualities. Covers the entire pitch, has quick feet and is difficult to stop when in full flow.

**Korbin Walker** – A young direct winger with bags of energy who is making the step up after scoring 20+ goals for Wotton in Stroud League Division 1.

**Archie Mears** - another new signing joining us from Gala Wilton. Archie is an energetic young winger with great work rate and a great crosser.

**Alfie Jones** - another young local attacker who is stepping up from the reserves this year. He has played himself into the first team plans with some impressive performances.

**Tom Paterson** – our most senior player who is entering his 23<sup>rd</sup> season with the Sharks. Competitive and always up for a battle.

**Kieran Bennett** - a very exciting local young prospect who will be looking to establish himself in the men's game this year. Kieran possesses excellent technique with bags of energy. A big future ahead of him at SAFC.

**Will Tainton** - another very exciting young prospect. Another local lad. Has already had an impact in the first team. Has a great technique and an eye for goal. Another youngster with a big future ahead of him at SAFC.





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## KATIE

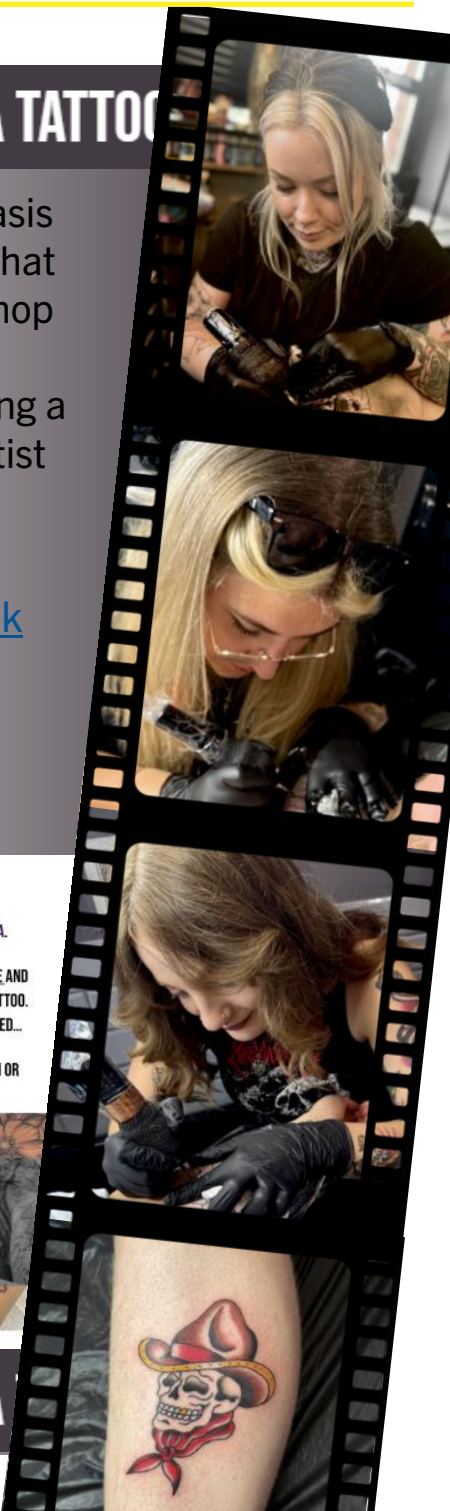
RESIDENT ARTIST AT VITA NOVA.

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

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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](http://SevernSport.co.uk)**



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# TODAY'S TEAMS



## GALA WILTON

## SHARPNESS

Adam Fenner	1	James Holder
Brad Loveridge	2	Brad Hewer
Ryley Mace	3	Callum Dummelow
Lewis Chance	4	Sean Heal
Tim Hill	5	Brad Gibbs
Keiron Mace	6	George Thomas
Rene Nistor	7	Devon Morgan
Marc Edwards	8	Tom Palmer
Jamie Creed	9	Tom Frankham
Benjamin Sluman	10	Will Tainton
Archie Blacker	11	Archie Mears
Jay Dare	12	Alfie Jones
Jonathan Clay	14	Alex Gayner
Junior Mbika	15	Kier Bennett
Harry O'Connor	16	Jamie Walker
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 Edelman	25	
Archie Blacker	26	

**REFEREE:** MARK TAYLOR