

GALA WILTON FC

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2024



v **Stoke Gifford United**





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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.



Club History: Stoke Gifford United Football Club

Stoke Gifford Football Club was founded back in 1947 by Mr J. Scott. In our first few seasons, between 1947-51, we played on the Downs in Clifton. At the beginning of the 1951 season our club stalwart Jim Sparrow joined the club as a wanting to play for his local team. Also in 1951 we moved to our current home at North Road, Stoke Gifford after having the old orchard levelled off to create our pitch. The old barn where cider used to be made was converted into our changing rooms. This is also where the club adopted the Barn Owl as our club symbol. This has been our club home ever since, although from the 2018/19 season the first team relocated to Stoke Gifford Stadium at SGS College, leaving our reserve and 'A' team to fulfill alternate Saturdays in the 'Village'.

Following the move to Stoke Gifford, the club colours were red shirts and white sleeves until 1964 when the club adopted our now well know blue and white trim. The club has used navy from time to time but we predominantly wear royal blue each season.

In 1982/83 season, Jim Sparrow took up the position as chairman with the aim to bring some much needed success to the club. This is a position Jim held within the club until 2020-21 when it was time for Jim to pass the position on and take up the roll of club president. Jim is a true hero to the club and without his passion and drive over the many years in the role, the club would not be in the position we are in today.

In the 1988/89 we won the Bristol Suburban League Premier 1 title for the first time in our history. The team, managed by club legend John Black, were fired to the title by his younger brother and now club chairman, Martin Black, who finished top goal scorer allowing us to pip Totterdown United to the title.

Our home changing room and bar were located in the trust owned 'Poplar Rooms' until plans were drawn up in 2004 to build a new sports facility adjacent the pitch. The new clubhouse opened in the 2007/8 season and was constructed off the back of a number of former players most notably Rob Thorne and Ian Sweeten.

We won the title again in the 2014/15 season. This time managed by Martin Black and assisted by current gaffer Dan Dunt. The pair assembled a strong squad with the aim of winning the title. The season began well and Gifford were in a very strong position come March time. However, this is when disaster and heartbreak struck. Club talisman and top scorer, Ben Hiscox, suffered a fatal accident while playing after a collision with the club house wall. The club was broken at the time but the boys managed to rally together and finally got over the line in a tense final day away to AFC Mangotsfield. Needing a point to secure the title, the village went ahead when Geraint Williams converted from the spot, but an equaliser in the second half

resulted in the most nervous of finishes. Emotional scenes followed the final whistle with Ben's dad, Clive the focal point of celebrations.

In 2018 the club began a dialogue with local college SGS, to build a relationship to give young players from the area a clear pathway into adults' football. This has been hugely successful to date, with the first team gaining back to back promotions after being crowned champions in both Bristol Suburban Premier 1&2 divisions. We have also helped develop some hugely exciting talent that have moved on to play a higher level of football.

The club currently have three team representing 'The Village', with the Reserves and A team competing in the Bristol Suburban League – Senior and Division 4 respectively.

Roll of Honours

First Team

1987/88 – Runners up – Suburban league Prem 1
1988/89 – Champions – Suburban League Prem 1
1994 – GFA Senior Amateur Cup Finalists
2000 – Runners up -Bristol Suburban League Prem 1
2005/6 Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 2
2006 – GFA Senior Amateur Cup Finalists
2011/12 Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 2
2012 Champions – Alf Bosley Cup
2014/15 – Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 1
2016 Champions – Alf Bosley Cup
2018/19 - Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 2
2021/22 – Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 1

Reserve Team

1993/94 –Champions Suburban League Div 3
1994/95 – Runners Up – Suburban League Div 2
2015/16 – Runners Up – Suburban League Div 1
2019/20 – Champions - Junior GFA Cup
2021/22 – Champions - Les Philips Cup
2021/22 – Champions – Bristol Suburban Div 1



Stoke Gifford United Player Profiles



- **Dan Dunt –First Team Manager-** Has been around the club since his debut at age 14. Has played higher up the pyramid at the likes of BMF, Hallen and Almondsbury.
- **Marcus Thatcher - First Team Coach** – Thatch has played a key role in player recruitment and coaching over the past few years while playing through numerous injuries.
- **Daryll Barnes – First Team Assistant** – Daryll is a massive part of the management team and takes care of all the unseen work that needs to be done. A great bloke who will whatever is necessary to support the club. Looks like Wayne Lineker.
- **Olly Gargett (GK)** – After some uncertainty between the sticks at the start of last season, Olly arrived and performed from the off. A great shot stopper and important character around the place.
- **Tauren Williams (Defender)** – Solid, experienced full back who has experience playing with Almondsbury, Hallen etc in the leagues above. Has been transformed into a centre back recently and has become a real leader for the group. His know how and game management is a big asset to us.
- **Dejuan Tulloch (Defender)** – Dej's 2nd season with the club he is the coolest customer in the squad and rarely breaks sweat. Excellent 1v1 defender and very composed on the ball.
- **Will Osborne (Defender)** – Will signs after winning the title at Avonmouth last season. Plenty of experience and has a very good range of passing from the back.
- **Joe Bridge (Defender)** – A commanding central defender whenever he is fit and available. Has a glass back and keeps Daryll busy with the medical bag.
- **Chris Swaby (Defender)** – Another new addition with Western League experience. Swaby is a no nonsense defender who will bring steel to the backline.
- **Harrison Murchdoch-McCormack (Defender)** – Harrison is young defender who has been playing for Patchway Town last season. He is a tenacious defender who also has great eye for a pass.
- **Olly Boyce (Defender)** – Olly is a useful addition to the squad this season. He has a big heart and a great attitude. He will be an important player this campaign. His mum is our number one supporter.
- **Lawrence Mitchell (Defender)** – 'Legs' is in his second season at the club, a really good lad who always has a smile on his face. Has decided to be nastier this campaign and get at least on header on target.
- **Rudy Hill (Full back/Winger/Utility)** - In his third season with the club. Rudy has shown a fantastic attitude since joining us, playing a key role in the reserves being

promoted a few seasons ago. Voted last seasons 'Fans' Player of the Season'. Has recently taken on fines master duties which will be interesting.

- **Harvey Moran (Full back/Winger)** – 'Chopper' is an exciting player who is always positive when on the ball, also works incredibly hard and, after performing very well for our reserves last season, is ready to step up and play a big role this campaign.
- **Posi Fagbure (Centre Mid)** – Posi has been a great signing this season, joining us from Patchway Town. Physically Posi is unbelievable but he also gets us playing in the middle of the park. Loves sleeping.
- **Sam Garrod (Centre Mid)** – Sams second season at the club he is a very talented, young midfield player. Has a lovely passing range but also enjoys the nasty side of the game. Ladies Man.
- **Joe Taylor (Centre Mid)** – Joe has bags of ability and is a very confident lad. Gets on far too well with Thatch! Expecting big things this year after breaking into the first team last season.
- **Cosmo Browne (Centre Mid)** -Cosmo is a new addition to the club this season. He has got one hell of an engine on him and isnt shy of a tackle. His tenacity in midfield will be vital for us.
- **Dave Talbot (Centre Mid)** –. Dave has been around the club since his teens and is a massive part of our success in the last few seasons. A combative midfield whose experience has been vital. Hates paying a fine.
- **Arron Sweete (Centre Mid)** - First season at the club, Arron can run all day but doesn't mind popping up with a goal or two.
- **Evan Maidment (Centre Mid)** – Very talented midfield player, has a lovely passing game but doesn't mind mixing it when needed.
- **Amari McLeary (Winger)** - Amari first season with the club buzzing to have him this season. He is a fast winger who causes all sorts of problems for the opposition, he also has an insanely good leap that catches opponents off guard.
- **Jake Abraham (Striker)** – Jake is a real grafter up top who is always closing defenders down, also has great technique and has become more and more important as the season has gone on. Copied Thatch's haircut for some unknown reason.
- **Kray Foster (Striker)** - Strong, powerful forward with a fierce left foot. Has had his share on injury problems but is a great option for us. Leader in the group also is Coach Kray.
- **Max Cooper (Striker)** - Max is a Pacey forward who has joined us this season from having a few years out of the game due to being under the thumb. Likes to celebrate with his Mrs in the crowd after scoring.
- **Arian Askari (Striker)** – Arian has had a strong pre season after picking up 'Reserve Team Player of the Year' last season. Will be looking to prove himself as permanent fixture this year.
- **Stu Alexander (Striker)** – A late addition to the squad. Stu signs after a long spell at Almondsbury, has a great first touch and hold the ball up well. His experience will be useful for our young squad.



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KATIE

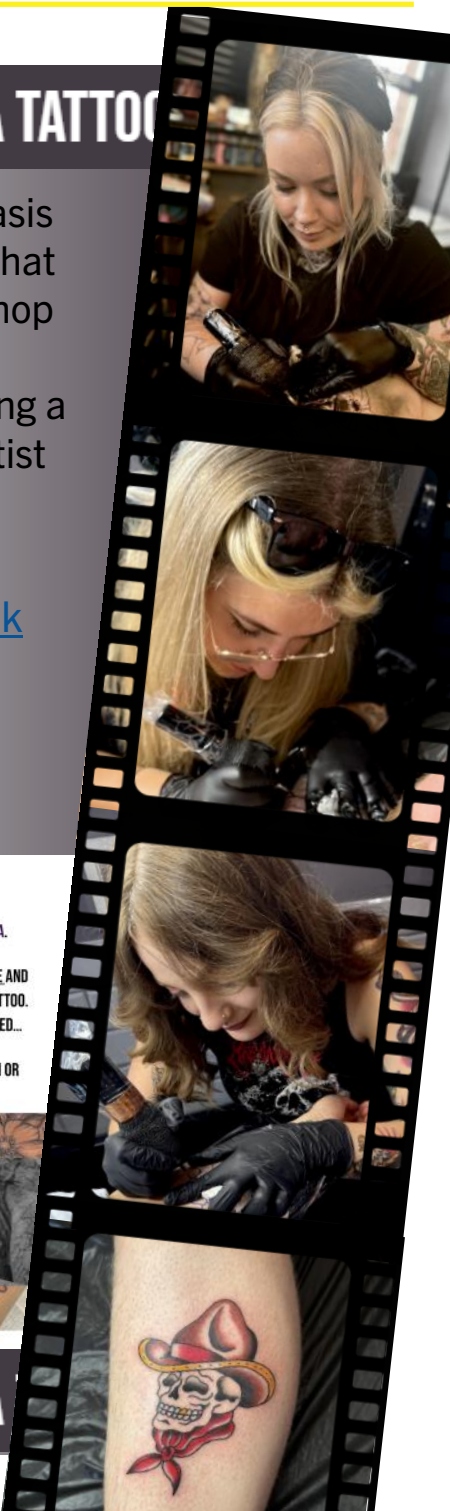
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Marc is a Gala Legend and is still an active player, having given many years' service to the First Team and now providing his experience to the Seconds. Gala Wilton FC are very thankful for his support.



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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

STOKE GIFFORD UTD

Adam Fenner	1	Olly Gargett
Brad Loveridge	2	Tauren Williams
Ryley Mace	3	Dejuan Tulloch
Lewis Chance	4	Will Osbourne
Tim Hill	5	Joe Bridge
Keiron Mace	6	Chris Swaby
Rene Nistor	7	Harrison Murchdoch-McCormack
Marc Edwards	8	Olly Boyce
Jamie Creed	9	Lawrence Mitchell
Benjamin Sluman	10	Rudy Hill
Archie Blacker	11	Harvey Moran
Jay Dare	12	Posi Fagbure
Jonathan Clay	14	Sam Garrod
Junior Mbika	15	Joe Taylor
Harry O'Connor	16	Cosmo Browne
Shaun Smith	17	Dave Talbot
Harvey Sheridan	18	Arron Sweete
Ira Thompson-Price	19	Evan Maidment
Ehren Wintle	20	Amari McLeary
Daniel Tyreman	21	Jake Abraham
Curtis Wilkins	22	Kray Foster
Kieran Woods	23	Max Cooper
Ishmael Kanneh	24	Arian Askari
Joshua Edelmann	25	Stu Alexander
Archie Blacker	26	

REFEREE: CONOR MCQUILLIAN