

# GALA WILTON FC

SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024



v **Totterdown United 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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# Totterdown United Club History

**Chairman**  
**Steve Thomas**

**Secretary**  
**Paul Fox**

**Treasurer**  
**Dave Bull**

**1st Team Manager**  
**Jack Thorley**

**1st Team Assistant  
Manager**  
**Liam Thorne**

**Committee**

Justin Barry, Michael Collins, Graham Underhill,  
Pat Fox, Dan Thoma, Darren Godfrey



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The club was formed in 1964 by a group of school friends and originally played at the old Whitchurch Aerodrome in the Church of England league.

Amongst the group was Jeff Bryant known to all as "Fred". He dedicated his life to the club, serving as Club Secretary and playing a pivotal role in its survival, especially during the challenging early years. His influence extended beyond the club as he also sat on the league management committee for many years.

In 1974, we embarked on a new chapter by moving to Victoria Park Bedminster and joining the Bristol and District league. This expansion led to the establishment of a reserve team in the Bristol and Avon league. Over time, the Reserves transitioned to the Bristol and District League, where they now compete in the Senior Division.

We relocated once more, this time to the Netham playing fields in Barton Hill and then onto the Bristol Imperial Ground now known as the South Bristol Sports Centre where we played for many years.

Another change of grounds saw us play our home games at Brislington Cricket Club for a couple of seasons before we moved to our current home at Bristol Barbarians Rugby Club.

Chairman of the club is Steve Thomas (Tom) who played Centre Forward for the Club from the age of 17 until reluctantly retiring at the age of 42 due to long term knee problems.

Current Manager Jack Thorley joined the club in 2021 and has overseen the most successful period in the clubs history winning the GFA Senior Amateur Cup in his first season and the Bristol Premier Combination League in the season just past.

*Up the Totts*





# Player Profiles

**Ashley Martin** - Maddog is a vocal and agile shot-stopper with excellent reflexes, he commands his area and makes big saves when it matters most

**Jack Millard** - Rightback with a habit of scoring goals, last year's Managers Player of the Season.

**Frazer Clarke** - A perpetual motion machine on the pitch, this fullback possesses an inexhaustible supply of energy.

**Jon Roche** - A composed and reliable center-back, calm and collected under pressure. His reading of the game is exceptional, and he rarely gets caught out of position

**Sean Torrington** - Club Captain and no nonsense defender, he marshals the defense with his leadership and strong aerial presence

**Jack Moon** - Attacking Midfielder with an eye for goal, their ability to arrive late in the box and finish clinically makes them a constant threat to opposition defenses

**Jamie Godfrey** - Diminutive box-to-box midfielder with a strong work ethic, first full season with the club.

**Chaz Hemmings** - The undisputed main man, combining goalscoring prowess with exceptional link-up play.

**George Saunders** - Winger/Striker, A lightning-quick winger with a deadly finish. his pace and direct running style make him a nightmare for defenders.

# Player Profiles

**Oli Lovell** - Dynamic young talent who burst onto the scene with seven goals in his debut campaign. A high-energy player, fearless in possession with an exciting and direct style of play.

**Isaac Sulyman** - Versatile midfielder who controls the tempo of the game. Possessing an exceptional range of passing and tactical intelligence.

**Aaron Thorne** - A dead-ball specialist with a wand of a left foot. Has the ability to unlock defenses with a killer pass.

**Callum Pritchard** - A technically gifted playmaker with a flair for the spectacular. His exceptional dribbling skills and vision allow them to unlock defenses with a moment of magic.

**Toby Carter** - Possessing exceptional versatility, can seamlessly transition between various positions.

**Dan Harrison** - A tenacious and experienced midfielder who relishes the physical side of the game.

**Josh Hemmings** - Player Coach, a mercurial attacker possessing a mesmerizing arsenal of feints, tricks, and shimmies.

**Stephen Milton** - Experienced player whose ability to read the game and make intelligent decisions allows them to thrive in various roles, making them an invaluable asset to the team

**Jack Thorley** - Player manager, capable of playing in multiple positions, Jack of all trades...



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## LOTTE

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## KATIE

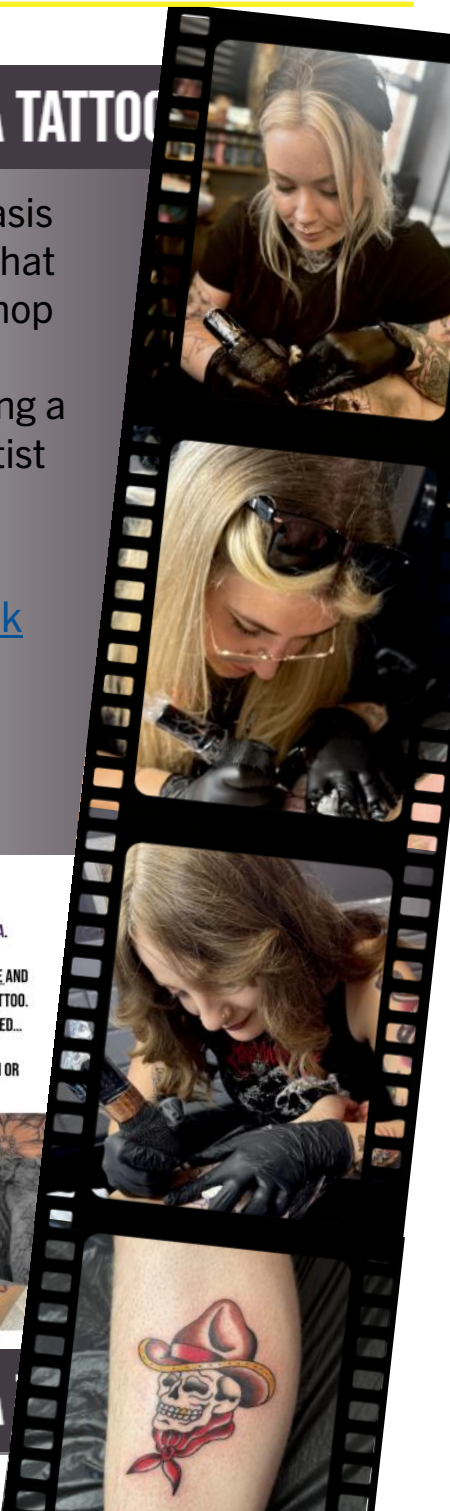
RESIDENT ARTIST AT VITA NOVA.

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

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# TODAY'S TEAMS



## GALA WILTON

## TOTTERDOWN UNITED FC

Adam Fenner	1	Ashley Martin
Brad Loveridge	2	Jack Millard
Ryley Mace	3	Frazer Clarke
Lewis Chance	4	Jon Roche
Tim Hill	5	Sean Torrington
Keiron Mace	6	Jack Moon
Rene Nistor	7	Jamie Godfrey
Marc Edwards	8	Chaz Hemmings
Jamie Creed	9	George Saunders
Benjamin Sluman	10	Oli Lovell
Archie Blacker	11	Isaac Sulyman
Jay Dare	12	Aaron Thorne
Jonathan Clay	14	Callum Pritchard
Junior Mbika	15	Toby Carter
Harry O'Connor	16	Dan Harrison
Shaun Smith	17	Josh Hemmings
Harvey Sheridan	18	Stephen Milton
Ira Thompson-Price	19	Jack Thorley
Ehren Wintle	20	
Daniel Tyreman	21	
Curtis Wilkins	22	
Kieran Woods	23	
Ishmael Kanneh	24	
Joshua Edelmann	25	
Archie Blacker	26	

**REFEREE:** JASON JAMES