

Official match day programme of **Thanet Wanderers Rugby Union Football Club**

**THANET**

# WANDERERS

**v Aylesford Bulls RFC** Saturday 26th November 2022. Kick off 2.30pm



www.thanetwanderers.co.uk

# THANET WANDERERS

Image by: UMPIRE CAM



**THANET WANDERERS** RUFC

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## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

There's a big welcome today for our visitors from Aylesford RFC who have made the relatively short trip to St Peters for today's match, even allowing for those darned roadworks at the Stockbury roundabout! We are pleased to entertain you and hope that today's match will be a good one without injury or unnecessary incident.

Aylesford's rugby journey is also a relatively short one that began in 1975 and was initiated, like many another good scheme, over a few drinks shared by two friends, one of whom was Jack Williams the then Landlord of the Bull Inn at Linton. Their decision to form a Sunday side came at a time when some enthusiasts would have a game on both days of the weekend and join with friends from the pub who were often veterans of the game. As the world became more regulated so did rugby and the Bull team became Linton RFC after the village where the inn was situated. In 1985 Jan and Jack Williams retired from the Bull Inn and the Club was without a permanent base. The ambitious decision to find land for their own pitches and a clubhouse was successful when land was located in the shadow of the M20 and Aylesford Bulls was formed. The links with their Linton roots are maintained with the Bulls name and the ground is named, the Jack Williams Ground, after their earlier founder and patron.

We last played the Bulls in the 2018/19 season after battling with them for the top spot in London League 3 SE the previous season when we lost both home and away as the Bulls became Champions. The report for the home fixtures tells of our selectors' worries over injuries and non-availabilities, so nothing has changed on that front, and the game was lost. This was also the case with the away game which closed the season. A serious injury to an Aylesford player meant the game had to be moved to the second team pitch which was waterlogged. A young Tom Walton made his debut from the bench in the closing stages that day and made a good impression but there was to be no happy outcome for Wanderers and the Bulls could celebrate their league title eight points clear of the Wanderers. Mike Pond took over as

first team coach the following season when Wanderers recorded the double over the Bulls winning 22-10 at Aylesford and 53-0 at home, a result that consigned the visitors to relegation, Tom Walton, Charlie Knight and Marius Thompson had big parts in those wins so Wanderers will be hoping they can find their scoring touch again this afternoon. Neither side has really got going yet this season with Aylesford, without a win, propping up the table and Wanderers just three above them in ninth place with just two wins to their name. On paper, not the sort of fixture that would have a neutral hurrying to St Peters but the Bulls have traditionally been well supported so let's hope that they and a good turnout of Wanderers supporters will enjoy an entertaining game today and have more cause for optimism at its close.

Today's appointed referee is Mr Oliver Tyson, please show him the respect his role is due and welcome him to Broadstairs. It's not an easy job but if it's one you think you would enjoy doing, have a word with Oliver after the match or there is plenty of information on the RFU site on <https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/refereeing/get-involved#match%20info>

Elizabeth Durrant, on behalf of the Macaulay family has advised that her father Roddy's funeral service will take place on Thursday 1st December at 12.30 pm It will be at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs Road, Broadstairs, CT10 2RH and will be followed by a private family burial.

In place of floral tributes, any donations are requested to be made to CAFOD - <https://cafod.org.uk/>

The Reception will follow from 2.30 pm at Thanet Wanderers Clubhouse, where all who knew Roddy are most welcome to attend. In order to get a rough idea of numbers, please advise Liz if you plan to attend on [wizdurrant@gmail.com](mailto:wizdurrant@gmail.com) If you have one, please wear your club blazer or tie. I understand Roddy will be buried in his.

Enjoy the afternoon and as ever C'mon Wanderers.

**Colin Whiteley**

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## FROM THE HEAD COACH

Needless to say the start of this season has not gone how we had hoped. The trips to Alleynians, always a tough place to play and to Beccahamians, who we hadn't previously lost to in my time as head coach, proved even tougher. We have now used 38 players in our opening 8 matches and only 2 players have played in all 8 matches. One of them, Tom Walton, has played at 9,12,13 and 15. Jack Startin, the other ever present, has cemented himself as our first choice second row, so far sharing the boiler room with no less than 5 other second rows. Our injury list this season has been unprecedented and trying to get any consistency from such an ever changing team is tough on the coaching team and on the squad. This has however given chances to players to experience first team rugby and stake claims for regular places, so every cloud does have a silver lining. Tom Stevens has been a shining example of this. A second team regular for the last few seasons he got his chance to show how far he has come with two solid performances against Charlton Park and Folkestone and a cameo off the bench at Crowborough. Tom really has trained hard this season and has showed that as the second teams top try scorer, he was worthy of his first team selection. Andy (Arthur) Dolan, improves every week and is showing off his natural ability in adapting well to the step up from junior to senior rugby. Noah Dann has cemented his place in the team at 7 in Sam Taylor's absence in his first year at senior level. His ability to effect turnover ball at the breakdown has to be admired. Unfortunately some referees don't share his enthusiasm and he is learning which referees like a turnover and which like to penalise any competition when a ruck is forming. A few wins under our belt over the next few weeks will get a bit more confidence running through the team and will do wonders for the second half of the season when I predict a few reversals of results against those teams we have lost to during this unsettled period.

The squad stay very united as a group, mainly down to the tremendous post match camaraderie we have and the various "socials" that have seen some excellent nights out. The next big one is the Christmas Nativity being planned for after the final game of 2022 against Deal & Bettes on the 17th December. Mike Whitehead and Noah have picked up the "Social Secretary" baton and not just run with it but are absolutely smashing it. The Elf night last Christmas was a fantastic night out and not one I thought could be topped but this year's looks to be shaping up to be another spectacular success. Anyone wishing to join the cast list of The Thanet Wanderers Nativity, should contact either Mike or Noah. Unfortunately most of the leading roles have been cast but there are plenty of "extras" roles that can be accommodated!!!

So to today's match and with both teams desperate to get wins under their belts before the Christmas break, it should be a keenly contested match. With Crowborough visiting Folkestone today, whoever wins that one could leapfrog us should we fail to get the win. If Deal and Ashford fail to win their difficult away trips we can start to close the gap that's opened up between the bottom four and the rest of the league, mainly due to the two games we have in hand as well. Very shrewd when we are always stronger in the second half of the season to postpone two of our early season matches till after Christmas!!

**Mike Pond**



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## FIRST XV FIXTURES

# 2022 – 2023

### 2022

<b>Sep</b>	3	ASHFORD	AWAY
	24	DEAL & BETTESHANGER	<b>HOME</b>
<b>Oct</b>	1	OLD ALLEYNIANS	AWAY
	15	BROMLEY	<b>HOME</b>
	22	BECCEHAMIAN	AWAY
	29	CHARLTON PARK	<b>HOME</b>
<b>Nov</b>	5	FOLKESTONE	AWAY
	6	England v Argentina	
	12	CROWBOROUGH	AWAY
		England v Japan	
	19	England v New Zealand	
	26	AYLESFORD BULLS	<b>HOME</b>
		England v South Africa	
<b>Dec</b>	3	CRANBROOK	AWAY
	10	HEATHFIELD & WALDRON	<b>HOME</b>
	17	DEAL & BETTESHANGER	AWAY

### 2023

<b>Jan</b>	7	OLD ALLEYNIANS	<b>HOME</b>
	14	BROMLEY	AWAY
	21	BECCEHAMIAN	<b>HOME</b>
	28	CHARLTON PARK	AWAY
<b>Feb</b>	4	CRANBROOK	<b>HOME</b>
		England v Scotland	4.45pm k.o.
	11	FOLKESTONE	<b>HOME</b>
		England v Italy	
	18	CROWBOROUGH	<b>HOME</b>
	25	HEATHFIELD & WALDRON	AWAY
		Wales v England	4.45pm k.o.
<b>Mar</b>	4	AYLESFORD BULLS	AWAY
	11	ASHFORD	<b>HOME</b>
		England v France	4.45pm k.o.
	18	Ireland v England	5.00pm k.o.
<b>Apr</b>	7	Easter Good Friday	

Fixtures in BLOCK Type are Counties 1 Kent League dates

# MATCH REPORT

## Thanet Wanderers 7 – 23 Charlton Park

Wanderers faded in the final quarter of a well contested match.

For Wanderers, Neil Wakefield returned as hooker to captain the side in the absence of Nick Herbert. Connor Brown was back with a bang at eight, after injury and there was a well earned debut for Tom Stevens on the right wing. Peter Macaulay also stepped up from the 2s to fill the firsts' 10 shirt during his thirtieth season. It was a poignant afternoon for Peter as the match was preceded by a minute's silence for his father, Roddy, who sadly died recently. There was no fairy-tale result, but the long time Wanderer would have approved of the improved spirit shown by the team.

The visitors kicked off, up the slope, with a light breeze behind them. After twelve minutes Park took the lead from a penalty conceded in front and on the 22. Exchanges were even with Tom Walton, who was in the centre today, tackling hard but his penalty attempt slid past from a kickable position. Thanet's pack was having the better of the set-pieces and a series of powerful drives took them into the visitors' red zone but Park defended well and Wanderers failed to cross the line. A good kick from distance put Park 6-0 ahead at the interval.

An early penalty for Park made good ground but any threat was cleared. Andrew Dolan playing at full-back, caught well and his clearance took a nice bounce to reinstate Wanderers in Park's half. The advantage was moving from one side to the other and a dangerous looking break was halted in its tracks by Steven's big tackle. Thanet engineered good field position and, with the pack now dominant, were battering away at Park's line. Penalty followed penalty as scrum after scrum was taken, with the line five metres away, until finally, yellow was shown by today's referee, Simon Bingham. He shortly afterwards reached for it again after awarding a penalty try that reduced the visitors to thirteen men and gave Wanderers a 7-6 lead eight minutes into the second half. Louis Marshall was shown yellow, and Warren Riddell-Broomfield and Danny Clement were now forced off with knocks to be replaced by Lenny Brown and Mike Whitehead. Minutes later Park regained the lead with a good penalty from near halfway and seven minutes later

touched down under the posts to lead 16-7. Marshall returned, but on the other wing, Stevens, hobbled off after an excellent debut to be replaced by Fran Gillespie. Park scored their second try, which was well converted from near the touchline. The visitors pushed hard for a further try but it was Wanderers who nearly claimed a bonus point when, after a fine individual break, Walton couldn't gather his chip ahead cleanly the final whistle sounded. Park had made the most of their chances and deserved to leave with the points after another good contest between these old rivals.

After the match Head Coach, Mike Pond commented, "Despite the result, the coaches were pleased with the effort put in by the whole team. The forwards put in their best performance of the season so far and the back-line performed well with the evergreen Pete Macaulay pulling the strings. As ever, when lady luck has temporarily turned her back on you, the crucial decisions and the bounce of the ball seem to go against you. Hopefully, over the next few weeks, the luck will improve and confidence will continue to build to bring some much needed wins to boost the team further"

This was back row forward, James Hamilton's, final game for the club before he returns to his native New Zealand. He has been a first choice since turning up at pre-season last year and enquiring if there was any chance of a game. There most certainly was and Wanderers have been delighted to have the benefit of his services over the past year when he was voted the club's player of the season. After another fine game in the blue, black and gold, James was the unanimous choice as Thanet's man of the match against Charlton Park and was presented with some memorabilia of his time with the Thanet club.

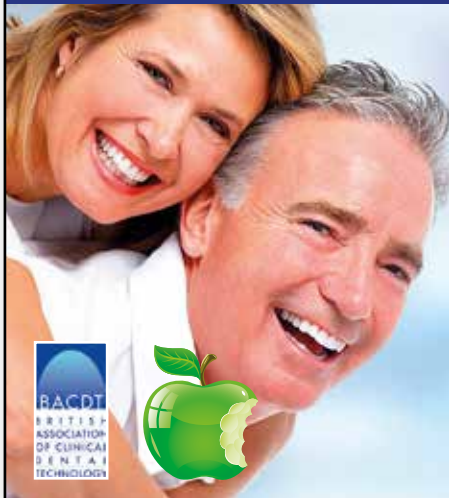
**SQUAD:** Danny Clement, Neil Wakefield ©, Gully Goodall, Andy Letts., Jack Startin., Warren Riddell-Bloomfield, James Hamilton, Connor Brown, Harrison Leach, Peter Macaulay, Louis Marshall, Tom Walton. Lewis Downer, Tom Stevens, Andrew Dolan. Subs: Mike Whitehead, Lenny Brown, Fran Gillespie.

**Colin Whiteley**



Photos by: UMPIRE CAM

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# MATCH REPORT

## Folkestone Rfc 5 – 19 Thanet Wanderers RUFC

Second win of the season for Wanderers in difficult conditions at Folkestone.

Mike Morris returned as Wanderers tight-head with Danny Clement at loose-head, Lenny Brown was at six in place of the injured Warren Broomfield and Noah Dann played at open-side. Nick Herbert was back at outside-centre and resumed as stand in captain.

Folkestone kicked off as steady rain fell and were quickly on the attack down Thanet's right. Tom Steven's big tackle delayed the attack before Tom Walton's clearance took play to Wanderers' ten metre line. After six minutes, Peter Macaulay's well judged little chip through was chased down by Andrew Dolan who won the race to touch down before Walton's conversion gave Thanet a 7-0 lead. Connor Brown was flourishing in the mud and five minutes later his footballing skills took Thanet close. A penalty led to a line-out drive and it was no surprise when hooker Neil Wakefield emerged from that as the scorer. There was no conversion but a 12-0 lead after ten minutes calmed a few Thanet nerves.

An early yellow card for the hosts was now matched by one for Thanet's Lenny Brown from today's referee, Paul Shepherd, who kept a firm hand on an increasingly niggly match. Walton was kicking well from hand for Wanderers and his welcome willingness to put his boot through the ball in defence made useful gains. With half time near, Thanet mounted a series of drives following a line out and it was Jack Startin who was driven over for the try. Walton made a well judged conversion and Thanet went into the break 19-0 up.

Tempers flared again seven minutes into the second half and it was Wanderers other Brown, Connor, who now saw yellow as did a Folkestone player. Macaulay came off 15 minutes into the half, with Herbert moving to ten and Henry Mirams on from the bench. Conditions deteriorated and much of the play was concentrated

around the middle of the pitch with good defence shown by both teams. A penalty from Folkestone set them 30 metres out but Wanderers stole the line-out and then knocked on in the gathering gloom. The conditions were telling! Mike Whitehead and Reagan Doody joined from the bench and Scrum-Half Harrison Leach was injured and had to leave the field causing another reorganisation. The hosts redoubled efforts to get a score and in the last of five minutes of added time were rewarded with an unconverted try after a forwards' drive.

The weather conditions removed any hope that this would be an entertaining fixture which was already unlikely with both sides struggling for points in the nether regions of Counties One Kent League.

Wanderers defence responded well to the challenge posed by Folkestone backs in the second half with good shifts from Louis Marshall and Tom Stevens on the wings. The lock forward pairing of Andy Letts and Jack Startin is working well and it was Jack who was the coaches' choice as man of the match. He was involved throughout, in attack and defence, and scored a well earned try.

Next week the team is on the road again travelling to Crowborough, who, like Wanderers, have not started the season well. Kick Off is at 2.30, please support Wanderers as they battle to move up the table.

**SQUAD:** Danny Clement, Neil Wakefield, Mike Morris, Jack Startin, Andy Letts, Lenny Brown, Noah Dann, Connor Brown, Harrison Leach, Peter Macaulay, Louis Marshall, Tom Walton, Nick Herbert ( C ), Tom Stevens, Andrew Dolan, SUBS Mike Whitehead, Reagan Doody, Henry Mirams.

### Colin Whiteley

Below from left to right are Thanet's try scorers, Andrew Dolan, Neil Wakefield and Jack Startin.



# MATCH REPORT

## Sun 30th Oct 2022: **Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ladies 5** Aylesford RFC Ladies 48

The second round of the RFU Junior Cup saw Aylesford RFC from NC2, two divisions above Wanderers visit St Peter's ready for a full-on battle

Aylesford had not yet played in the cup having had a bye in the first round and started strongly; a break from Thanet's captain Gee Cordell was soon stopped in its tracks with a huge hit from the Aylesford inside centre, a hit which set the tone for the game.

It was not long before that same centre broke through and fed a supporting winger to go in under the posts. But a strong forward pack lead by Ella Thurman-Newell and Keira-Leigh Gallup made sure that Aylesford did not have it all their own way. The rest of the half was pretty much one way traffic with more experienced support play being the real difference with Aylesford taking

their chances whilst Thanet were struggling to turn possession and breaks into points on the board.

Half time saw a 34-0 deficit, but Thanet heads were up and the mood was positive during the half time team chat and the spirit in this squad is strong. The second half saw Thanet get on the scoreboard first with a well worked set of phases to the left corner ending up with fly half Alex White diving over in the corner.

In the final minutes, Aylesford added two further converted tries to flatter the score to a final 48-5. But the real flattering came from the Aylesford skipper who in her after match speech praised the spirit, skills and effort of the Thanet Ladies and said that they would have no problem competing in their NC2 league which is the aim for the next two seasons.

## Sun 20th Nov 2022: **Tunbridge Wells RFC Ladies 14** **Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ladies 29**

After a three week break, Thanet Ladies returned to league action at Tunbridge Wells RFC, back where they won the Kent Development Sevens trophy in April.

Wells started the stronger and it was clear that there was a bit of rustiness in the Wanderers handling and discipline producing a large number of knock-ons and penalties in the early stages of the game. That early possession saw Wells scamper over for a converted try and a 7-0 lead after 15 minutes.

Georgia Elks and Milly Thurman-Newell were sent on for Thanet to bolster the pack and soon after the latter crashed over in the corner to make the score 7-5 at the end of the half.

The half time chat was centred around the officiating of the match with many of the players expressing frustrations. But with a clear instruction from the coaching team that mouths had to be kept closed and passions had to be channelled, the second half was to be a different affair.

Ella Thurman-Newell and Brioni Reah were leading the pack and getting the Tunbridge Wells defence turning. A new centre partnership of Izzy Lodge and Sophia Richardson had taken half a game to gel but was now running the show. Richardson went over for a try following a pass from Lodge, who was on her senior debut having just turned 17.

Sophie West, also 17 then came for her debut and slotted in perfectly with smooth hands sending full back Thahseen Ali and then Justine Mackintosh over for their first tries for the club. The game ended with a consolation converted try for Tunbridge Wells and a 29-14 Wanderers victory.

Tomorrow (Sunday 27th November 2022) sees the Ladies host Dartfordians Ladies at St Peter's with a 2pm KO. Dartfordians come from NC3, one division higher than Thanet as the team continues to test themselves against higher opposition.

**Ian Lodge (Head Coach, Thanet Wanderers ladies)**



Photos by: LEAH MARSHALL

# MATCH REPORT

## Aylesford Bulls Colts 32-13 Thanet Wanderers Colts

After the previous weeks' disappointment of the game against Sidcup being called off very late, on Sunday the 13th November Thanet Wanderers Colts travelled to Aylesford to play in the third round of the Kent League games. Thanet had won their first two games in this competition and were looking to carry on their fine form, but they knew from their encounters with Aylesford the previous season that they were tough opponents who always played well.

This week the weather for once was not raining and coaches and spectators were not soaked through watching from the sidelines and although initially the day started off very misty it turned out sunny and quite a nice day.

The game kicked off and within the first minute Thanet gave away a penalty and Aylesford's very good number 10 kicked their first three points. Both teams then settled into a short period where neither side really got to grips with the slippery ball, but then in the 8th minute from a great little nudge through one of the home team wingers ran in to score the first try of the game and put Aylesford 8-0 up.

Thanet settled into a period where they had some possession of the ball without really making it count. There followed several successive infringements by the home side, one of which Thanet elected to kick for goal and this was expertly dispatched by Charlie Panteli reducing the lead to 8-3. Aylesford gained more confidence and after they produced a decent scrum, they passed the ball out wide and crashed over to score a second try which was converted to make the score 15-3.

Wanderers did have some success in the scrum and started to move the ball more quickly, but they just couldn't get that second and third phase rugby going that was necessary to give them an advantage. Just before the end of the first half, when the game had evened out a little, Aylesford broke free and used their back line well to score an unconverted try in the corner.

At half time the score was Aylesford 20 Thanet 3. Wanderers had not really got their normal game going but they still felt they were in the game and could get back into it. For the second period Thanet put all their replacements on the field.

The second half kicked off and Thanet got off to a much better start. In the 47th minute after great

pressure in the opposition 22, Wanderers finally moved the ball with speed and got it out to Tom O'Callaghan who ran in to score. The conversion attempt was unsuccessful leaving Aylesford in the lead 20-8.

Both teams then enjoyed periods in the opposition's half and employed a kicking game. In the 55th minute Aylesford's fly half kicked the ball over Thanet's advancing defence and a foot chase ensued. The ball looked as if it would be gathered by a Wanderers player, when a cruel bounce popped it up into the arms of an Aylesford player who had not given up the chase and he ran in to score to put the home side 25-8 ahead.

Thanet did not give up and continued to try and claw themselves back into the game and in the 63rd minute after they had pushed all the way up the field, Gil Smith found the ball at his feet. He kicked the ball on into the try area and got there first to score to reduce the lead to 25-13.

Aylesford scored the last try of the game. After applying great pressure on the visitors in the Thanet 22, they crashed through to score a try which was converted. In the build up to this score a Thanet player was yellow carded for an infringement and so Wanderers played out the last 5 minutes of the match with 14 players, but they did manage to get to the final whistle preventing any further score.

The final result was Aylesford 32, Thanet Wanderers 13. This was neither the performance nor the result that Thanet were looking for, but having played so well over previous weeks this can possibly be put down to just a bad day at the office and no doubt Thanet Wanderers Colts will look to get back on track again in the next game.

Despite the loss, there were some good performances from team members. The 'Please Sir' man of the match for this game was awarded to Finley Hickmott who had put in some huge tackles and really gave everything throughout the game. Well done Finn.

**Thanet Wanderers Colts:** Max Anderson (C), Fred O'Halloran, Ben Couldridge, Vinnie Perkins, Hugo Evans, Finn Hickmott, Isaac Divine, Beau Teal, Sam Stevenson, Charlie Panteli, Alfie Pearce, Gil Smith, Harrison Quittenden, Henry Curruthers, Tom O'Callaghan, Joseph Near, Toby Hunt, Will Mahoney, Joe Sykes, Ollie Jordan Smith

**Matthew Hickmott**





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## INCLUSION @ THE WANDERERS



As a club Thanet Wanderers is committed to improving all aspects of equality, inclusion and diversity within the club. I'm sure most of you will have seen the re-emergence of our ladies team after an absence of nearly 20 years. The girls section is growing steadily with the help of a strong team of volunteers, coaches and sponsors. During lockdown we were one of a handful of clubs to receive large grants for a capital project to renovate our back changing rooms and showers primarily for female use. We have also been one of the first clubs in the South East to introduce a SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) group and this has been amazingly well received. Our Schools and Community Programme has been marching forward with coaches going into local schools to introduce children to rugby that might not normally get the chance to play the game and experience the TREDs ethos (Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship) that lies at the heart of rugby. We have a mental health first aider who is available to listen and support anyone if they feel they need help.

This is only the beginning of the club's journey and we hope that everyone at the club, whether as a player, coach, parent or spectator will get behind us and help make Thanet Wanderers a welcoming place for ALL.

With this in mind we are introducing some new codes of conduct that you will see highlighted around the club and the grounds. These will explain what is considered good practice and what will not be tolerated. They will also give details of who you can contact if you have any concerns, issues or need help or support.

We live in a constantly changing society and if we want to play a positive, relevant and meaningful part in our community, both local and our rugby community, we need to adapt and be more accepting of the diverse society that we are all a part of.

Please work with us to make Thanet Wanderers a club where everyone is welcomed and made to feel part of something special.

### Safeguarding Officer

*Thanet Wanderers RUFC*

# Thanet Wanderers

Home team colours: blue, black and gold hoops

**1 Mike Morris**

*Position sponsored by: Peter Hawkins*

**2 Neil Wakefield**

*Position sponsored by: Bill Hurley*

**3 Dan Clement**

*Position sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore*

**4 Jack Startin**

*Position sponsored by: Mark O' Riordan*

**5 Andrew Letts**

*Position sponsored by: Barry Winson*

**6 Warren Riddell-Broomfield**

*Position sponsored by: Michelle McClean*

**7 Noah Dann**

*Position sponsored by: Chris Marson*

**8 Lenny Brown**

*Position sponsored by: Malcolm Sinclair*

**Head Coach**

**Mike Pond**

*Position sponsored by: Colin Whiteley*

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*Position sponsored by: Carmen Glover*

**9 Tom Walton**

*Position sponsored by: Jeremy Ward*

**10 Marius Thompson**

*Position sponsored by: Neil Armstrong*

**11 Henry Mirams**

*Position sponsored by: Paul Glover*

**12 Nick Herbert (Capt)**

*Position sponsored by: Jason Deacon*

**13 Charlie Knight**

*Position sponsored by: John Keohane*

**14 Louis Marshall**

*Position sponsored by: Peter Tierney/Ray Roby*

**15 Andrew Dolan**

*Position sponsored by: Geoff Redmond*

*Replacements:*

**16 Mike Whitehead**

*Position sponsored by: Dave Brown*

**17 Regan Doody**

*Position sponsored by: Four Candles Alehouse*

**18 Harrison Leach**

*Position sponsored by: Terry Tuttle*

**Referee**

**Oliver Tyson**

**Touch Judge**

**Clive Lewis**

*Position sponsored by: Pegasus Storage Solutions*

# Aylesford Bulls RFC

Away team colours: red and navy blue hoops

**1 Ed McConnell**

**2 Euan Edwards**

**3 Darren Jalink**

**4 Matt Stringer**

**5 Jack Ireland**

**6 Bean Batstone**

**7 Kieron O' Leary**

**8 Phil Wilkins**

**D.O.R.**

**Not Supplied**

**Head Coach**

**Not Supplied**

**Assistant Coach**

**Not Supplied**

**Team Manager**

**Not Supplied**

**Physio**

**Not Supplied**

**9 Duffy**

**10 George Ayers**

**11 Jack Carton**

**12 Luke Stroud**

**13 Will Reynolds**

**14 Tom Hughes**

**15 Chester Clough**

*Replacements:*

**16 Jordan O' Leary**

**17 Barney Brown**

**18 George Forster**



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# COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE 2022-23

Team	P	W	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS	ADJ
Old Alleynians	10	8	0	2	302	133	169	5	1	38	0
Bromley	10	8	0	2	254	159	95	5	0	37	0
Cranbrook	9	7	0	2	271	145	126	5	0	33	0
Charlton Park	10	7	0	3	266	220	46	5	0	33	0
Beccehamian	10	6	0	4	280	185	95	5	2	31	0
Heathfield & Waldron	9	6	0	3	218	190	28	4	1	29	0
Ashford	10	6	0	4	194	157	37	2	2	28	0
Deal & Betteshanger	10	5	0	5	208	179	29	3	1	25	0
<b>Thanet Wanderers</b>	8	2	0	6	80	252	-172	1	0	9	0
Folkestone	10	1	0	9	142	328	-186	2	1	7	0
Crowborough	10	2	0	8	178	312	-134	3	0	6	-5
Aylesford Bulls	10	0	0	10	151	284	-133	1	2	3	0

## COUNTIES 1 KENT FIXTURES

Saturday 26th November 2022

Beccehamian v Cranbrook

Folkestone v Crowborough

Bromley v Heathfield & Waldron

Old Alleynians v Deal & Betteshanger

Charlton Park v Ashford

**Thanet Wanderers** v Aylesford Bulls

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# MATCH REPORT

## Crowborough RFC 35 – 10 Thanet Wanderers RUFC

A difficult day for Wanderers but a good day for the rugby family.

There was a new face in the front-row for Thanet where Ryan Robinson-Smith debuted and in the second row, Kieran Wright replaced Connor Brown who was unavailable. Nick Herbert, Charlie Knight, Callum Doody and Marius Thompson returned to their backs' line-up.

Wanderers kicked off and attacked down the hosts' left, and there was soon an early yellow for a Crowborough defender. On six minutes, a line-out, 25 metres out, saw Wanderers' pack drive for the line but play was quickly halted when Thanet's Kieran Wright went down with a neck injury. Great care was taken in assessment before he could be removed from the field of play on a board and play did not restart for over twenty minutes.

On the resumption, Crowborough were quick to seize the initiative and a penalty set them deep in Wanderers half. Crowborough's yellow carded player returned and their attacks stretched Wanderers before, Thanet's scrum-half, Harrison Leach, also received a yellow card. The hosts increased the pressure through their powerful pack and took the lead after 23 minutes of play with a try that was well converted. Leach returned from his yellow to find Crowborough still dominating possession and stealing a line-out 25 metres from Thanet's line that led to try number two that was converted to make their lead 14-0 at half time.

Three minutes into the second half, Wanderers lock forward Jack Startin was spotted offside and was also shown yellow by today's referee, Simon Musslewhite. Four minutes later the hosts scored a third try from a determined individual effort and with the conversion led 21-0. Wanderers now produced some fine flowing rugby that created an overlap and Leach was the scorer. Tom Walton's good conversion attempt shaved the wrong side of the post. Startin returned and Wanderers good spell continued with Walton's excellent penalty setting a good attacking position. After collecting a long Crowborough clearance Thompson ran back at pace and linked with Knight and Walton before Andrew

Dolan on the wing touched down. No conversion but Wanderers were potentially in the game at 21-10 with a quarter of an hour remaining. It was Crowborough who raised their game in the gathering gloom however and with Wanderers conceding penalties to keep their line intact the hosts claimed their bonus point try and in the closing minutes put the cherry on the cake of a good afternoon with another converted try to run out deserved 35-10 winners.

Wanderers will be disappointed with their failure to turn good scoring opportunities into points and with the amount of turnovers they conceded at breakdowns. Thanet's man of the match was young Noah Dann who was at open-side today. Noah has made big strides in his first season with the first fifteen where his ability at the breakdown and defensive skills are proving to be a great asset. There is plenty of talent in the Wanderers ranks to turn the season around and although there is no match for Wanderers first XV next Saturday, they resume with a home fixture against fellow strugglers, Aylesford, on the 29th November. Kick off is at 2.30 PM.

Thank you to Crowborough RFC for their wonderful help in the care for Wanderers injured player Kieran Wright which illustrates the strength of the ties in the rugby family. Neck injuries demand the most careful attention and the experience of Crowborough's Lead Sports Therapist Mike Chuchyard was invaluable to Wanderers Physio, Fran Rafiq assisted by Harry Clemo. Thank you too to Crowborough's President, David Clarke, who provided support and encouragement to Kieran during the many hours waiting for an ambulance and special thanks to ex A&E Matron, Abby Ayres who facilitated its earlier arrival. It is great to report that Kieran was released from hospital just before midnight when he thanked everyone for their support to him and his family as he spent seven hours on a spinal board. Fortunately his injuries were to the soft tissue in his neck with some whiplash symptoms and he is aiming to be back playing in a few weeks time (maybe sooner!)

**Colin Whiteley**



# THANET WANDERERS RUFC LTD

# CONTACTS

POSITION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
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## RESULTS GRID COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

Away Team ▶	Ashford	Aylesford Bulls	Beccehamian	Bromley	Charlton Park	Cranbrook	Crowborough	Deal & Betteshanger	Folkestone	Heathfield & Waldron	Old Alleynians	TWRUFC
Home Team ▼												
Ashford		22-8	12-5						45-15	13-15	17-10	13-3
Aylesford Bulls				10-31	14-36	13-17	30-40	20-33	19-28			
Beccehamian		33-15		48-10				5-34				69-3
Bromley	17-13				18-0		57-15				12-37	
Charlton Park			23-21				43-0			52-19		
Cranbrook	31-19			10-22	72-0		34-17	24-14	51-12		15-46	
Crowborough			26-34					18-32		17-29	10-37	35-10
Deal & Bettes	35-8			13-27	9-29		HWO	45-24		15-19		
Folkestone			14-29	3-26	14-45						12-17	5-19
Heathfield & Waldron		27-8	40-15			15-21			32-15		22-34	
Old Alleynians		17-8	8-21			33-11						63-5
TWRUFC				10-34	7-23			23-10				

## RESULTS FROM COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

### Saturday 29th October 2022

Ashford 17-10 Old Alleynians

Aylesford Bulls 10-31 Bromley

Cranbrook 24-14 Deal & Betteshanger

Crowborough 26-34 Beccehamian

Heathfield & Waldron 32-15 Folkestone

**Thanet Wanderers** 7-23 Charlton Park

### Saturday 5th November 2022

Beccehamian 33-15 Aylesford Bulls

Bromley 17-13 Ashford

Charlton Park 43-0 Crowborough

Deal & Betteshanger 15-19 Heathfield & Waldron

Folkestone 5-19 **Thanet Wanderers**

Old Alleynians 33-11 Cranbrook

Heathfield & Waldron 15-21 Cranbrook

Old Alleynians 17-8 Aylesford Bulls

### Saturday 12th November 2022

Ashford 12-5 Beccehamian

Aylesford Bulls 14-36 Charlton Park

Cranbrook 10-22 Bromley

Crowborough 35-10 **Thanet Wanderers**

Deal & Betteshanger 45-24 Folkestone

Heathfield & Waldron 22-34 Old Alleynians

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# MATCH REPORT

## Medway Vets 35 – 29 Thanet Wanderers Vets

A team of Wanderers Vets, depleted by attendance at Internationals and family commitments, travelled to Medway for their first match in this year's Kent Spitfire trophy competition. Team captains and managers consulted and ensured a game when Medway generously loaned the visitors a selection of their players throughout the game and ensured that an entertaining and competitive match could be played.

Wanderers opened the scoring with an early try through slick passing, with Rupert Syred directing the forwards well from scum half, followed two minutes later with one for the hosts that was converted. A good offload from Neil Roby brought Thanet a second try and they went further ahead when a penalty try was awarded. Medway used their big forwards well to score a try under the posts and the extras meant that Wanderers led by 17-14 at half time.

Medway attacked from the kick off to the second period and scored under the posts but Wanderers responded three minutes later with a try from their determined left

winger that could not be converted. Medway regained the lead and stretched further ahead minutes later with a converted try. The match ended appropriately with a try under the posts for Thanet from Dean Prescott on one of his many surging runs and made the result a win for Medway by 35-29.

Wanderers coach and captain, Peter Macaulay, was impressed by the Wanderers who showed commitment to play and not let Medway down as they were hosting a Movember Charity Day; he commented, "Our Pack stood up well to a chunky Medway Pack and even got the better of them in most scrums. Considering we were a complete mix of players there was some great interplay. Many players started the game as walking wounded and 'Finishers' in this game just referred to anyone who lasted the Game! Congratulations to Kurt on the left wing who was the Man of the Match on his debut."

**Colin Whiteley**



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## RESULTS FROM OTHER CLUB GAMES

**Sunday 29th October 2022**

Ash 10-7 **Thanet Wanderers** 2nd XV  
(Kent Rural A League)

**Saturday 30th October 2022**

**Thanet Wanderers** Colts 49-7 Dover Colts  
(Friendly)

**Thanet Wanderers** Ladies 5-48 Aylesford Bulls  
Ladies (Cup)

**Sunday 5th November 2022**

Medway 4th XV 28-26 **Thanet Wanderers** 2nd XV  
(Kent Rural A League)

**Thanet Wanderers** 3rd XV P Folkestone 3rd XV  
(Kent Rural C East League)

**Saturday 12th November 2022**

**Thanet Wanderers** 2nd XV P Gillingham  
Anchorians 2nd XV (Kent Rural A League)

**Thanet Wanderers** 3rd XV 38-10 Faversham  
Castaways (Kent Rural C East League)

**Sunday 13th November 2022**

Aylesford Bulls Colts 32-13 **Thanet Wanderers**  
Colts (Kent League)

**Thanet Wanderers** U13s 35-10 Sittingbourne  
U13s (Friendly)

**Saturday 19th November 2022**

Medway Vets 35-29 **Thanet Wanderers** Vets

**Sunday 20th November**

Tunbridge Wells ladies 14-29 **Thanet Wanderers**  
ladies (league)

Sittingbourne U15s 12-18 **Thanet Wanderers**  
U15s (friendly)

**Thanet Wanderers** U13s 25-25 Old Colfeians  
U13s (Friendly)

**P = postponed**

## SUPPORT THE CLUB

# THE 450 CLUB

For only £5.00 per month –that's a pint of beer a month-you get the chance to win at least £45 or even £450 EVERY MONTH with a big prize of £5000 drawn once a year EVERY FEBRUARY.

Half of the money received is paid out in prizes with the remaining half going to support major projects within the Club helping to maintain and improve facilities. What a great way to help the Club for a modest outlay each month and the chance to win £££s. The prize structure is based on the number of members. Should the membership exceed 450 then the prize structure will be increased accordingly. A schedule of prizes in operation at any one time is available from the promoter.

Membership is not restricted to members of Thanet Wanderers Rugby Union Football Club and supporters are welcome to participate. Members will be notified by email of the winning numbers each month and monies won will be paid directly into the winners bank accounts.

Please contact either Andy Bull (07710-456225) or Kelly Smith at the clubhouse if you need further details or fill in a direct debit form available either at the clubhouse or from Kelly.

If you are already a member of the 450 Club why not double up and have twice the chance of winning!!! Now there's a thought.

The prize draws carry on throughout the year so there's always the possibility of a rugby surprise even in the cricket season.

So go on give it a go, your support could be well rewarded!!!

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# NHS LUNCH

Our idea to say Thank You the NHS was born during the Covid lockdown, like so many others the club wanted to show our appreciation.

During our virtual fund raising at the time, Thanet Wanderers and the Paul the Keohane Sports Fund committed to having a lunch to thank the NHS. While the pandemic has somewhat passed and we begin to live with Covid, we were reminded that the work of the NHS will continue to serve us and treat our members. To engage the junior members of the club we held a competition to design a rugby shirt to mark the occasion. We had many entries, which reflected the high esteem the NHS has, even with our youngest members and players.

On the 29th of October the club was pleased to host 40 members of the NHS for a pre-match lunch at the club. Joining the lunch was the winner of the NHS shirt competition, Thomas Hamel, and his family, Doug Hursey, Kent RFU President, and members of the club. Our thanks go to the Paul Keohane Sports fund who sponsored the event. Proceedings were kicked off with drinks at the bar followed by an opening speech from Thanet President Colin Whitely. Colin was able to take us back to his experiences prior to the formation of the NHS and he highlighted the differences the NHS made to the lives of the people at the time.

Doug Hursey entertained our guests with a fine speech during lunch, with a mixture of Rugby and NHS stories. The discussions during lunch focused on the work the NHS does, particularly in mental health, which continues to be a key priority across sports clubs in the young and old. It was also good to be able to inform our guests of the club's history and the work we do in the community from our school hub and SEND rugby.

After the main course club Chairman Chris Panteli and Thomas Hamel presented Dee Neligan, Senior Projects officer from the East Kent Hospitals Charity, with a framed Thanet Wanderers NHS shirt to mark the occasion. The shirt will be displayed at the QEQM hospital to mark the club's appreciation of the NHS and the hard work they carry out to keep us in good health.

A raffle was held during lunch and the match against Charlton Park, raising £1000 that will be donated to the East Kent Hospitals Charity. Thanks goes to Kelly Smith and her team who provided an excellent lunch and organised the raffle. Apart from Thanet losing the match, this was a great day to remember and extends the clubs reach into the community.

Thanks to Peter Ruranski who organised the lunch and made it a special day for all involved.

**Chris Panteli**





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