

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

THANET

WANDERERS

v Becehamians RFC Saturday 21st January 2023. Kick off 2.00pm



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FIRST XV FIXTURES

2022 – 2023

2022

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

2023

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

Fixtures in BLOCK Type are Counties 1 Kent League dates

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

It's my pleasant duty today to welcome the players, supporters and officers of Beccehamian RFC. The West Wickham based club is a real centre for rugby in suburban Kent with a strong home support and a large junior and mini contingent. An ambitious expansion programme for the present clubhouse is in place and fundraising is the order of the day. Wanderers Chairman, Chris Panteli and I, were fortunate to be invited to their President's Lunch when we visited the club to support our first XV in October. Three other guests were members of the Chelsea Pensioners who, by tradition, are always invited to the club by the President on his day. The lunch was excellent and the welcome warm in the clubhouse but that proved to be the high spot of our day in suburbia.

The hosts played some top quality rugby to run up 69 points and we troubled the scorer only for a penalty from Marius Thompson. This was our heaviest defeat in what has become a difficult season for the first XV with injuries to experienced players, followed recently by the retirement of Neil Wakefield after a wonderful playing career that spanned twenty five years. His consistency when throwing to the line-out was legendary and that linked to fine leadership qualities with a strong training ethic will make him a tough act to follow.

Recent form for today's visitors has been very good. Since the victory against us on the 22nd of October, Beccs have won 6 games with just one loss, away at Ashford. They currently sit in second place in the league with a win last Saturday against Charlton Park to bolster their promotion credentials. It seems our luck with the weather has been better over the same period as we have played nine games and won just three. Let's hope we can make it a competitive match as we did against Alleynians two weeks ago when we were very unfortunate to finish with no points. The pitch at Bromley last week was in amazingly good condition after the heavy rain that has hit the South East recently. We showed some top quality defending but were unable to register any points. For me the game was memorable for the appearance of Michael Whitehead at Tigh Head

Prop. Mike showed admirable courage and character to play out of position for seventy minutes against a really tough opponent before being substituted and then typically, was unhappy with his own performance. Thank you, without you filling that gap on the team-sheet, the fixture would have been in doubt.

If the frost of the earlier part of the week has persisted the weekend fixtures could be in doubt but I trust the Thanet Micro Climate will have once again come to the rescue of a heavy programme of matches. The seconds are also at home today for a local derby against top of the league Dover 2s who, like their first XV, are enjoying a good season. The away game was lost 25-24 with the home side notching a most unlikely drop-goal to win in injury time. Tomorrow there is a full schedule of games. In the morning, there are Kent League games for the U15s and the Colts who will entertain Park House. The U12s and Under 16s have friendlies with Deal and Ashford. At 2 pm Thanet Ladies, fresh from their win in the shadow of Canary Wharf against Millwall Ladies last Sunday, will take on Folkestone Ladies in a top of the table clash at St Peters. If you haven't watched the ladies you will be pleasantly surprised by the quality and intensity of the rugby. Please give them your support.

I'm sure many of you, like me, will have been saddened to hear of the passing of Andy Clement. With typical courage he had faced the inevitable outcome of the doctors' diagnosis and was able to enjoy the marriage of his son Danny to Monique just before Christmas. Danny has intimated that he may play this afternoon, I'm sure Andy would approve. Younger brother Antony, having played for Thanet Colts in their successful national campaigns, chose to test himself with Medway and I know Andy was delighted when they won promotion to Regional One last season. Andy and Sue were regular visitors to the touchline at St Peters, you will be missed at Thanet Wanderers Andy. RIP my friend.

I hope we will see an entertaining, injury free match this afternoon. Please respect the referee, Mr Oliver Smith and as ever, C'mon Wanderers.

Colin Whiteley

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FROM THE HEAD COACH

It was with great sadness to hear of Andy Clements passing this week. I met Andy when I took on the coaching job of the Thanet U8's in September 2003. I knew Andy's elder son Dan from senior rugby but his younger son Antony was a leading light in the team I had inherited. Andy and Sue were ever present on the touchline over the next ten years watching their son grow from an excitable, chubby 8 year old, into an accomplished National Colts Cup winning rugby player who has gone on to be a first team regular at Medway playing in Regional 1 South East.. Andy was a man of few words but you could see how proud he was of his boys when they playing rugby for Thanet Wanderers and latterly at Medway with Antony. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and the wider Thanet Wanderers community who knew him.

Harrison Quittenden made his starting debut last week at Bromley, following a cameo from the bench against Alleynians the week before. After an understandably nervous start Harrison grew into the game growing in confidence with everything he did. An exciting prospect as he is working locally doing an apprenticeship so won't be disappearing off to University in September like so many of our young prospects that come through our junior system end up doing, never to be seen again. Our colt's squad this season is very strong and a few of them have already gained some senior rugby experience playing in the twos and threes under Bill Wallace's careful guidance.

Today we face our third big test of January as we host 2nd place Beccahamians who are enjoying their most successful season. On our visit there earlier in the season they racked up an impressive 69-3 victory, our worst defeat since the 6th December 2008, when we lost to Dorking 78-0 in London 2 South. So a mountain for the team to climb today, if we are to get close to turning that result around today. But over the last two weeks against league leaders Alleynians and in the 2nd half at Bromley last week, the team spirit showed to hang on in both games preventing another big score was commendable. This has not been an easy time for the players on the pitch this season, with lots of changes to the team on a weekly basis and they have yet to find any sort of rhythm. With only 7 games left after today, it's going to be more about grabbing any points we can especially from the teams around us in the relegation area to try to hang onto Counties One rugby next season.

Today we should be putting out all three teams for the first time in a while, mainly down to our opposition not being able to field teams at this level. Gone are the days when we put out 6 teams and had opposition from other clubs to play. Where have all the rugby players gone??

Whilst writing this, I did wonder how many people do actually read it? As a test, I have left the last paragraph to say that if you have parted with £3 to buy a programme and managed to read this article all the way to the end, then come and find me in the clubhouse after the game, show me your programme and say the word "Wanderers" to me and I will buy you a pint of your choice. I'm hoping this will cost me a fortune as it will mean that all the hard work that goes into producing the programme, usually done by Peter Ruranski but this week by Andy Bull has been worth it. It will also keep Gerry happy during his most hated month of "dry" January to sell a few more pints!!

Mike Pond




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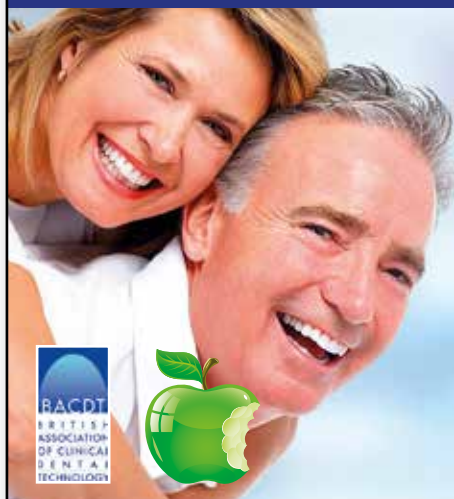
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INCLUSION @ THE WANDERERS



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.

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MATCH REPORT

Bromley RFC 27-0 Thanet Wanderers RUFC

Wanderers lose at third placed Bromley.

There were six changes to Thanet's starting fifteen including a totally changed front row. Noah Dann moved from Number eight to inside centre, there was a first start for Harrison Quittenden at full back and Kris Finneran was back on the bench.

Despite the heavy rain of the previous week, the pitch was in amazingly good condition. A strong diagonal wind made for tricky conditions and after just two minutes, a lost line-out led to Bromley's opening try which was well converted. As Wanderers settled, Marius Thompson who played at ten, and his half-back partner Tom Walton, both made good use of the wind to set attacking positions. Connor Brown was called back for a forward pass when heading for the line but his powerful carries were causing Bromley problems. Bromley scored a second try after twenty-two minutes which was not converted. Jack Startin broke and offloaded well and Thanet's defence survived a strong workout. However, in the third minute of added time, Bromley scored their third try which could not be converted from wide right, but they led 17-0 at the interval.

There was a lively start to the second-half and in the first six minutes the hosts stretched their lead with two tries, neither of which were converted. Dann had played well in his unaccustomed role in the centre but now was forced off after a knock; Lennie Brown joined the pack as Connor Brown moved from the back-row to the centre. Thanet used two penalties well to set attacking opportunities that were lost to subsequent infringements. Thompson had put in a strong defensive performance but now limped off to be replaced by Tom Stevens whose direct running stretched the home defence. Andy Letts had put in another top shift, he now took a break with around twenty minutes remaining. Finneran replaced him for his first appearance of the season. Quittenden's confidence had grown during the match and the young full back now caught and kicked well to lift pressure. Wanderers were building attacks more patiently but errors caused them to break down before the line was crossed. Both

sides were competing hard and after a scuffle a home player was shown yellow. Wanderers could not get on the scoreboard, despite the extra man, but maintained an unbending defence to the end that ensured there was no further score. This was against a Bromley side who, during this game, scored the best try that Andy Letts says has been scored against him in his long career with the Wanderers.

Team Captain Sam Taylor was supporting from the sideline and making hopeful noises about a return perhaps before this season ends. It was a difficult task for Head Coach, Mike Pond, and his fellow coaches to nominate Wanderers' man of the match. Connor Brown, who is easing himself back to full fitness, showed how much his powerful presence (If not his kicking!) has been missed and great determination in defence was shown by all of the Wanderers' squad. Mike Whitehead played out of position in the demanding tight-head prop position and displayed outstanding resilience and courage before being forced off with just ten minutes of the game remaining. His willingness to play in the position made it possible for Thanet to avoid forfeiting the fixture and being deducted five points. The player himself was however unhappy with his playing performance and it was scrum-half Tom Walton who was again at the heart of Wanderers better attacking moments and who was superb in defence who was adjudged to be Wanderers man of the match.

Next Saturday 21st January, Beccehamian are the visitors to St Peters (kick off 2 PM). The West Wickham based team is enjoying an excellent season and is in second place in the league. Wanderers lost the away fixture 69-3, their heaviest defeat of the season, so a tough game is likely. Your support would be very welcome.

SQUAD: Danny Clement, Regan Doody, Mike Whitehead, Andy Letts, Jack Startin, Warren Riddell-Bloomfield, Steve Jones, Connor Brown, Tom Walton, Marius Thompson, Callum Doody, Noah Dann, Nick Herbert (c), Drew Dolan, Harrison Quittenden. **SUBS-** Lennie Brown, Kris Finneran, Tom Stevens



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MATCH REPORT

Millwall Ladies RFC 0 Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ladies 20

15th January 2023: Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ladies XV recorded their second victory this season against a side 2 divisions above them with a well earned victory over Millwall Ladies.

The long trip up to London was borne out of the frustration created by a series of cancellations from Kent-based side meaning it was time for a road trip, baby!

Millwall are a well established club but have had a frustrating start to their season with few wins and so a match-up against a side two divisions lower seemed like a good match on paper.

The game, played in the shadow of Canary Wharf was played in three 20 minute periods and early in that first period saw Sophia Richardson, playing out of position as an openside flanker as opposed to her preferred 13 shirt, crash over. The try was made possible after bullish work from the Thurman-Newell powerhouse trio of Holly, Ella and Milly. 5-0 to Wanderers.

The second period saw more of the same with phase play being led by livewire scrum half and captain, Gee Cordell. Prop forward and TWRUFC bar staff team member, Neave Evans scored her first try for the Ladies XV after a barnstorming carry by centre Fleur Moat. In only her third runout, Neave Evans was forward of the match with her dominant carries, scrummaging and a

well deserved try.

The forwards were dominating the loose and the set piece and giving good quality possession to a lively set of backs. After Georgia Elks evaded a number of tackles and got her hands free, Megan Bish was on hand for the offload to score and make the score 15-0 to the visitors.

Millwall's tactic was to kick for territory throughout the game but the Thanet back three were up to it with full back and back of the match, Thahseen Ali catching everything that came her way, neutralising Millwall's kicking strategy.

The final period saw Millwall move the ball away from the Thanet pack and into wider channels only to come up against a strong midfield in the form of fly half Leonie Bish, Megan Bish and Fleur Moat.

In the last play of the game with a tiring defence, Milly Thurman-Newell made a 50 yard break only to be hauled down agonisingly a metre short. But Sophia Richardson was on hand as ever, took the offload and crashed over for her second try.

This weekend, Sunday 22nd January 2023, Thanet Ladies take on Folkestone, the only other unbeaten team in the Inner Warrior league. KO is at 2pm so come along, take a look and see how far this set of ladies have come since their first game less than 10 months ago.



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Thanet Wanderers

Home team colours: blue, black and gold hoops

1 Dan Clement

Postition sponsored by: Peter Hawkins

2 Kurt Pearson

Postition sponsored by: Bill Hurley

3 Mike Morris

Postition sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore

4 Jack Startin

Postition sponsored by: Mark O' Riordan

5 Andrew Letts

Postition sponsored by: Barry Winson

6 Warren Riddell-Broomfield

Postition sponsored by: Michelle McClean

7 Noah Dann

Postition sponsored by: Chris Marson

8 Lenny Brown

Postition sponsored by: Malcolm Sinclair

Head Coach

Mike Pond

Postition sponsored by: Colin Whiteley

Forwards Coach

Elliot Blackmore

Postition sponsored by: Andy Bull

Fitness Coach

Gareth Redmond

Postition sponsored by: Pegasus Storage Solutions Ltd

Team Manager

Michelle McClean

Postition sponsored by: Carmen Glover

9 Tom Walton

Postition sponsored by: Jeremy Ward

10 Nick Herbert (Capt).

Postition sponsored by: Neil Armstrong

11 Louis Marshall

Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover

12 Andrew Harrison

Postition sponsored by: Jason Deacon

13 Henry Mirams

Postition sponsored by: John Keohane

14 Andrew Dolan

Postition sponsored by: Peter Tierney/Ray Roby

15 Marius Thompson

Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond

Replacements:

16 Mike Whitehead

Postition sponsored by: Dave Brown

17 Steve Jones

Postition sponsored by: Four Candles Alehouse

18 Harrison Quittenden

Postition sponsored by: Terry Tuttle

Referee

Oliver Smith

Touch Judge

Clive Lewis

Postition sponsored by: Pegasus Storage Solutions

Beccehamians

Away team colours:

1 Tom Davey

2 Harry Copley

3 Davr Le Bas

4 Dave Speed

5 George Tossell

6 Ben Henning

7 Scott Macaulay

8 Isaac Keighley

9 Freddie Buckle(c)

10 Jed Sexton

11 Pete Brook

12 Ryan Souter

13 Tom Buckle

14 Cam Macaulay

15 Miles Entwistle

Replacements:

16 Max Aviss

17 Sam Edwards

18 Benji Dunmore

D.O.R.

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MATCH REPORT

Thanet Wanderers RUFC 24 – 35 Old Alwynians RFC

The league leaders had to dig deep to overcome a tenacious Wanderers team.

After a distinguished twenty five year career in rugby, Thanet's Hooker, Neil Wakefield, decided over Christmas, that it was time to hang up his boots. Second XV hooker, Kurt Pearson was tasked with filling the very large gap in Thanet's front row where Joe Carlier was also a late call up at loose-head for Danny Clement who was absent for family reasons. Callum Doody and Charlie Knight were not available in the back division; James Crompton and Marius Thompson replaced them. Thompson replaced Drew Dolan at full back who moved to the wing. Connor Brown and Lennie Brown returned on the bench where Kent U18 Colt, Harrison Quittenden was waiting to make his debut.

Wanderers kicked off down the slope into a very strong wind. After just three minutes Thanet were caught out of position and slick handling set up a try for Old As that was converted for a 7-0 lead. Wanderers came back strongly and the visitors conceded penalties as they defended before Tom Walton dodged around a scrum to touch down a try which he converted well for 7 all after eleven minutes. Old As were playing sensible rugby and a couple of minutes later took the three points from a close penalty in front of the posts to regain the lead 10-7. Warren Riddell-Bloomfield made a crucial tackle as Old As headed for the line and Walton made good distance with a penalty into the wind. Louis Marshall made many metres as he burst through from a tap penalty as did Thompson as he ran back after catching a long penalty rather than kick into the wind. Crompton made a big tackle but there was no stopping the visitors as they touched down a second try under the posts before three minutes later slotting a difficult penalty to lead 20-7. Steve Jones and Louis Marshall made important tackles. The visitors were dangerous with the ball in hand and another converted try extended their lead to 27-7. Joe Carlier now took a break after another good shift as Connor Brown returned after missing five matches. His presence had an immediate affect particularly with his strong carries over the gain line. After thirty-five minutes, Wanderers patiently built a strong attack and the pack put increasing pressure on O A's defence before Gully Goodall claimed the touchdown. Walton's excellent

conversion made the score 14-27 but four minutes later the visitors added three points from a penalty. The half closed with Thanet on the attack but there was no further score before half time when Thanet's coaches were not too daunted by the 14-30 deficit.

OAs restart to the second half failed to reach ten metres as the wind remained strong. Captain Nick Herbert made good use of it to mount attacks early in the second period when the visitors' outside-centre was shown yellow. Walton's penalty made the score 17-30 and Wanderers were playing with confidence as the contest hotted up. Steve Jones playing at seven for Wanderers had been in the thick of the battle with many big tackles but now took a break. His partner, on the blindside, Riddell- Bloomfield soon followed him after another big defensive effort with Lennie Brown on in his stead.

After thirteen second half minutes, Old As pack drove over wide left to lead 35-17. Back came Wanderers and Herbert's long pass went to Crompton who cut a great line to run in under the posts for Walton to convert and bring the deficit down to eleven points 24-35. Half an hour remained of an absorbing contest with Wanderers repeatedly testing Old As defence without getting over the line. Left winger Henry Mirams made the most of the limited ball available and as ever, was sound in defence There were yellow cards for Lennie Brown and twelve minutes later for Jack Startin, who spoilt his record of playing in every minute of Thanet's games during the season with his spell in the bin. Marshall suffered an injury to his wrist and lower arm and was replaced by Quittenden who made a confident debut. A third yellow card went to Goodall a minute before the final whistle when Old As kicked into touch with their mission accomplished.

This was a rousing start to the new year for Wanderers and their supporters. Noah Dann had another fine game as did Goodall who has become a very accomplished tight-head. Hats off to veteran Andy Letts who gave a brilliant performance in both the second and front row. Thanet's man of the match however was Tom Walton who kick started so much of what was good about the team's play. An early try and some fine kicking helped to make him the coaches' choice.

SQUAD: Carlier, Pearson, Goodall, Letts, Startin, Riddell,-Bloomfield, Jones, Dann, Walton, Herbert (c) Dolan, Marshall, Crompton, Mirams, Thompson.
SUBS: Brown L., Brown C., Quittenden.

Next Saturday 14th January the first XV travel to Bromley for a 2 PM kick off. The south London club is currently fourth in the league having won 9 of their 13 matches and won by 34-10 in our home match against them in October.

Colin Whiteley



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	14	12	0	2	481	177	30-Oct	9	1	58	0
Beccehamian	14	10	0	4	398	241	157	8	2	51	0
Bromley	14	10	0	4	332	199	133	7	0	47	0
Charlton Park	14	10	0	4	349	285	64	6	0	46	0
Cranbrook	13	9	0	4	345	236	109	6	0	42	0
Ashford	14	9	0	5	290	225	65	3	2	41	0
Heathfield & Waldron	13	8	0	5	272	258	14	5	2	39	0
Deal & Betteshanger	14	6	0	8	287	316	-29	4	3	32	0
Folkestone	15	3	0	12	246	457	-211	4	3	19	0
Thanet Wanderers	14	4	0	10	168	396	-228	2	0	18	0
Crowborough	14	2	0	12	222	437	-215	3	0	6	-5
Aylesford Bulls	13	0	0	13	200	363	-163	2	4	6	0

COUNTIES 1 KENT FIXTURES

Saturday 21st January 2023

Ashford v Deal & Betteshanger

Cranbrook v Heathfield & Waldron

Aylesford Bulls v Old Alleynians

Crowborough v Bromley

Charlton Park v Folkestone

Thanet Wanderers v Beccehamian

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MATCH REPORT

Thanet Wanderers Colts Blue team 34-15 Thanet Wanderers Colts Gold Team

Sunday 8th January 2023. The first weekend of 2023 saw Thanet Wanderers Colts squad with no scheduled game, but the boys were chomping at the bit to get out on the field and work off the excesses of the Christmas period. Despite unavailability due to injury and other commitments there was still a large number of lads who wanted a game and so the group was divided into two sides who would compete against each other.

The weather was actually pretty good for once, not too hot (hard ground) and not too cold (hard ground) and not wet (soggy ground)! With other junior games taking place at the same time, the teams were lucky to be allocated to play on the hallowed first team pitch and set about doing the opportunity justice.

Prior to kick off the teams were split into the Gold and Blue sides and both teams had impressive line-ups. The coaches gave last minute words of wisdom and set the lads off with a last shout of 'remember these are your team mates, don't take lumps out of each other!'

It was particularly encouraging to see that most of the lads who had played for the adult sides the previous day were in attendance. Sam Molyneux and Joe Sykes who had both played for Thanet's second team in their win against Snowdown C. W. were present as was Harrison Quittenden who had made his first team debut giving a good performance against one of the favourites to win the Counties 1 Kent League. The exception was Flynn Shingles who had played on Saturday, but was unavailable for the Sunday game.

It was decided to split the game into three thirds each of 20 minutes duration. The match started quite frenetically with both sides needing to settle down, but this could be excused as the majority of the boys had not played a game of rugby for around a month and they all wanted to get involved with tackling, rucking, running, catching, kicking and scoring, sometimes all at once!

In the 8th minute after some good play in the middle of the field by Isaac Divine, Henry Carruthers with good support enabled his team's number 10, Ollie Jordan-Smith, to run in the first score and put the Gold side 5-0 up. The game settled into a good even contest with both sides making breaks but excellent defence, especially from Farzam Yazir meant the score stayed the same until right at the end of the first third, when after good combined play by the Blue side involving Tom

O'Callaghan, Charlie Panteli and Ben Couldridge, Stanley Ball was released on the wing and he showed he had lost none of his speed running in a try to make the score 5-5, which it remained at the end of the first period. .

As was reflected in the score it had been very close between the two sides. A couple of personnel changes were made to the teams to give all the boys an opportunity of a game, but at the same time the coaches tried to maintain the structure of the sides.

The Second third kicked off and as the game was so finely balanced it was all to play for. Both front rows, Joseph Near, Shaheer Khan and Ben Couldridge for the Blues and Toby Hunt, Fred O'Halloran and Dominick Springer for the Golds were playing well. Although the scrums were fairly evenly matched the players of both sides focused on trying to get one over their opposite numbers.

After just one minute of the period after Alfie Reeves for the Blues had had a couple of great drives stopped, he weaved through (with two hands on the ball) and made a great pass out to Gil Smith for the latter to score and put the Blues in front.

Stan Ball, Lucas Norwood, Ewan Maclean, Isaac Bright, Harvey Stocker and Jake Croft, who were the wingers for both sides (and were interchanged throughout the game) saw plenty of the ball in attack and also showcased their defensive skills. The centres for the Gold and Blue teams, Gil Smith, Joe Sykes, Will Mahoney and Henry Carruthers made good ground for their respective sides, while the second rows of Josh Maculley, Mustafa Bugren, Archie Kujawinski and Alfie Reeves did well making their tackles and showed good rugby craft at the breakdown.

In the 17th minute Ollie Jordan-Smith for the Gold team picked up the ball and although he had plenty to do he weaved and sidestepped his way through the opposition to score and make it all square again.

The Blue team then pushed hard for the lead. Harrison Quittenden at full back comfortably took the ball when under pressure and always showed positive front foot rugby. In the last minute of the third period a super break by Joseph Near followed up by quick thinking from Finn Hickmott allowed him to run at the Gold defence, dummy a pass and ran in unopposed, to put the Blues 15-10 up.

This second period came to a close with the Blue team narrowly in the lead 15-10. By now all the players had

at least some game time, but the match was still being played in a competitive manner.

The final third started with both sides still giving everything. The number 8s from each team, Hugo Evans and Sam Molyneux were regularly picking up and going and making good yardage. Hugo was having a great battle with his older brother Frankie with neither brother backing down. A couple of minutes into this final period saw another strong run from Stan Ball who run in for his second try to increase the Blues lead to 20-10.

Despite some great tackling and quick hands by the Gold scrum half Zach Ralph and some probing runs from their Reece Davies, it was the Blue team that was pushing hard to increase their score. In the 8th minute after good line out work and a drive, Tom O'Callaghan crashed over and Gil Smith kicked the extra points to put the Blue team 27-10 up. A minute later, and Gil Smith and Harrison Quittenden exchanged quick passes to leave Smith a simple try. He then kicked the conversion to increase the Blues lead to 34-10.

As time was running out it was the Gold side that finished the stronger as they really came back into the game clearly wanting the last word. They pushed hard down the wing in front of the clubhouse and this move ended with Josh McCulley in possession of the ball near

the line and despite efforts to tackle him, he went over to get the final score.

The final result today was Thanet Wanderers Colts Blue 34 Thanet Wanderers Colts Gold 15. Both teams played some good rugby at times, showcasing their respective talents. The game also demonstrated the great strength in depth and quality within the squad.

Across both teams there were a lot of excellent performances, but the 'Please Sir' man of the match was awarded to Farzam Yazir. Farzam put in some huge tackles, carried very well and showed that after a few injuries at the tail end of 2022, he had recovered well for the start of 2023. Well done Farzam.

Thanet Wanderers Colts: Finn Hickmott, Gil Smith, Isaac Divine, Joe Sykes, Henry Carruthers, Ollie Jordan-Smith, Stan Ball, Harvey Stocker, Charlie Panteli, Shaheer Khan, Zach Ralph, Toby Hunt, Hugo Evans, Tom O'Callaghan, Fred O'Halloran, Josh McCulley, Reece Davies, Ben Couldridge, Lucas Norwood, Dominick Springer, Ewan Maclean, Joseph Near, Alfie Reeves, Jake Croft, Archie Kujawinski, Farzam Yazir, Sam Molyneux, Harrison Quittenden, Mustafa Bugren, Isaac Bright, Frankie Evans, Will Mahoney.

Matthew Hickmott



THANET WANDERERS RUFC LTD

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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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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			39-5	14-5		45-15	13-15	17-10	13-3
Aylesford Bulls				10-31	14-36	13-17	36-40	20-33	19-28	14-19		
Beccehamian		33-15		48-10	22-12	25-12		5-34	39-7			69-3
Bromley	17-13				18-0		57-15			33-0	12-37	27-0
Charlton Park	37-21		23-21	13-5			43-0			52-19	15-46	
Cranbrook	31-19			10-22	72-0		34-17	24-14	51-12			37-12
Crowborough	18-32		26-34					AWO		17-29	10-37	35-10
Deal & Bettes	35-8		25-32	13-27	9-29		38-8		45-24	15-19		16-21
Folkestone	21-22	29-24	14-29	3-26	14-45	15-20	32-24				12-17	5-19
Heathfield & Waldron		27-8	40-15		17-21	15-21			32-15		22-34	
Old Alleynians		17-8	8-21	27-13		33-11	41-7	76-0				63-5
TWRUFC		31-11		10-34	7-23					0-18	24-35	

RESULTS FROM COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

Saturday 7th January 2023

Ashford 39-5 Cranbrook

Aylesford Bulls 14-19 Heathfield & Waldron

Beccehamian 39-7 Folkestone

Charlton Park 13-5 Bromley

Deal & Betteshanger 38-8 Crowborough

Thanet Wanderers 24-35 Old Alleynians

14th January 2023

Beccehamian 22-12 Charlton Park

Bromley 27-0 **Thanet Wanderers**

Deal & Betteshanger **AB** Aylesford Bulls

Folkestone 15-20 Cranbrook

Heathfield & Waldron **P** Ashford

Old Alleynians 41-7 Crowborough

AB = Abandoned

P = Postponed

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