

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

**THANET**

# WANDERERS

**v Bromley RFC** Saturday 15th October 2022. Kick off 3.00pm

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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 England v Japan	AWAY
	19	England v New Zealand	
	26	AYLESFORD BULLS England v South Africa	<b>HOME</b>
<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 England v Scotland	<b>HOME</b> 4.45pm k.o.
	11	FOLKESTONE England v Italy	<b>HOME</b>
	18	CROWBOROUGH	<b>HOME</b>
	25	HEATHFIELD & WALDRON Wales v England	AWAY 4.45pm k.o.
<b>Mar</b>	4	AYLESFORD BULLS	AWAY
	11	ASHFORD England v France	<b>HOME</b> 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

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# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Today we are pleased to welcome the players, coaches, club officers and supporters of Bromley RFC to St Peters for just the fourth match of our first XV's 2022/23 season.

The Bromley club started life as Catford Bridge RFC in the same season as Wanderers was formed, 1886. In their early days, such famous names as Harlequins, Saracens and Wasps were regular visitors to south London as was the Kent Cup for many seasons. There was a grievous loss of life in both world wars before a generous and far-sighted President bought the freehold of the ground and built a substantial clubhouse in 1956. The club still shares the ground with Hayes cricket club, a union which must cause headaches for the groundsman today. As the club was now established, well away from its Catford roots, the decision was made in the 1964/65 season to rename the club Bromley RFC. The decision was not universally popular with all supporters as anyone who has served on a club committee can well imagine! Bromley, like Wanderers, have tasted success at Twickenham, when in May 2015 they defeated West Leeds to win the RFU Senior Vase. On the same day their U17s won the RFU Shield mirroring the success of Wanderers U17s in the RFU Plate two years earlier. Wanderers Head Coach today, Mike Pond, was the U17s coach that day although sadly too few of that talented bunch of players are still to be found in a Thanet jersey.

Our first XV have not had an easy start to this season when, in addition to the problems and postponements that the drought brought, we had a match abandoned at Heathfield and Waldron due to injury to the referee and then faced an in form Old Alleynians side who brushed aside a Thanet team that was weakened in key areas. I was among the band of Thanet supporters who set out to watch the game but the traffic was such that it became clear that further travel was futile before we had reached Brenley corner and we returned to watch our 2s and 3s open their seasons. The sole first XV home match previous to today was the Derby against Deal and Betteshanger, who provided stern opposition, before we managed a bonus point win after the team showed glimpses of the form team that closed the

previous season in such good order. Incidentally, it has been interesting to be able to watch the 2s these past two Saturdays as they opened their season with two good wins. Snowdown did not provide the strongest of opposition but last Saturday against a strong Ashford side, they showed character as they battled back after being behind at the interval to win convincingly. The hard work with fitness coach, Gareth Redmond, at training, really paid dividends as Wanderers pulled away later in the second half against tiring opposition.

Bromley were Champions of London 3 (SE) last season and lost just one game en route to the title. They have played five matches so far this season, winning three and with 14 points sit comfortably in sixth place. Last week they were away at Deal and Betts, where it is notoriously difficult to get a result, and won 27-13 in a re-arranged match. Despite the need to 'catch up' our two missed fixtures, it could not be arranged. We will now play Cranbrook at home on the 4th of February and travel to Heathfield and Waldron on 25th February. It is hoped that those Wanderers, who picked up injuries at Alleynians, will be fit for selection today and that those players who have been working their way back to match fitness in the 2s will also come into contention. Let's hope for a good, injury free, game this afternoon. The appointed referee today is James Goksaran, we trust he presides over an injury free afternoon and please, give him the respect that he is due.

If you are free tomorrow, come along to St Peters and watch our Colts take on Beccehamian with an 11pm kick off whilst at 2 pm, Thanet Ladies will take on Faversham in their second league match of the season.

The first against Medway 2s resulted in an easy victory and last Sunday there was a notable win, in the RFU junior Cup, against Ashford, who play in a league two above the Wanderers Ladies, by 54-20. Congratulations Ladies, Please support the Colts and Ladies, when you can, throughout the season. Good luck to all who will don the blue, black and gold this weekend.

C'mon Wanderers.

**Colin Whiteley**

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## FROM THE HEAD COACH

It's nearly 9 years since we played today's opponents Bromley in a league match at St. Peters, when both teams were in LSE3, one league level below where we both play today. Bromley have had a solid start in this league having been promoted from LSE3 last season, winning 3 of their first five games. With hard pitch disruption and an injured referee, we have only managed 3 games so far and will be hoping for a repeat result of when we last met in 2013 with a home win.

Having just returned from my holidays in Cyprus, I missed our first win of the season with an always hard fought battle against local rivals Deal. An ill fated long away trip to Alleynians, a tough place to go to on the best of days, saw us get "dispatched" 63-5 amid a flurry of injuries and being reduced to 13 men for much of the second half. Certainly one to forget!! Our injury list has grown longer and with a whole first team pack not available today, including Greeno, Wakey, Clemo, Connor, Lettsey, Lenny, Sammy as well as front row reserves Jay and Gully, it says a lot about our strength in depth that we have managed to still field a quality pack that will hopefully compete well with the large Bromley pack. Our backs will be short of Charlie Knight today, another one on the injury list. This has given chances for players like Andy Dolan and Lewis Downer to come in and impress and secure places in the team. Andy is a gifted rugby player who had a scholarship at Brunel with Ealing Trailfinders, but decided to wait another year before heading off. Ealing's loss is certainly our gain and expect him to become a prolific try scorer this season. We welcome back Sam Rolfe to the firsts after a seasons break to do his Fire Brigade training. Sams

boot was in majestic form last week and hope he can re-create that form today as keeping that scoreboard ticking over is always a vital part of the game. Up front Tyler Cawood makes his debut in the first team. A former Thanet junior, he has returned to the club after serving his country in The Army and will bring more physicality to the pack when he comes off the bench today. At 6 foot 6, he is certainly has an intimidating presence. He has worked hard around his work shifts to get his fitness up to first team level and am sure he will enjoy the whole experience. It's nice to see Kieron Wright back where he belongs after working incredibly hard in pre-season to regain his place in the first team. Outstanding last week in the seconds, he will also make his presence felt in the contact areas.

The club continues to be buzzing with activity, training nights especially. Despite the darker evenings and cooler, wetter weather, we are still getting good senior numbers, as well as increasingly good numbers attending the ladies, girls and youth team training sessions, all making use of the floodlit areas while we can still afford to pay the electricity bill !! Hopefully our new PM will see fit to help not only individuals and businesses with their fuel bills but sports clubs as well.

I can't imagine anywhere else I'd rather spend my Saturday afternoons, unless my wife is reading this of course, then it's obviously at Blue Water with you my love !!! Please join both teams in the clubhouse afterwards, win or lose, to enjoy the fellowship that is rugby.

**Mike Pond**



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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*

# MATCH REPORT

## Thanet Wanderers RFC 23 – 10 Deal & Betteshanger Lions RFC

Hard earned, bonus point win for Wanderers in their first home match of the season.

For Thanet, Regan Doody continued at hooker in the absence of the injured Neil Wakefield and Connor Brown returned at number 8. Tom Walton was at scrum-half and there was a debut for Andrew Dolan on the right-wing. Elliot Blackmore took charge of the side with Head Coach Mike Pond away on holiday.

Deal kicked off, up the slope, against a chilly northerly wind and early penalties were swapped. Both defences were tested before on ten minutes, after a good long line-out, Nick Herbert broke strongly and quality handling allowed Walton to back himself and touch down for the opening try. Thompson's conversion attempt was just wide so Thanet led 5-0. After a good competitive first twenty minutes the visitors took the points from a penalty 20 metres out for 5-3. Full back Marius Thompson caught and ran back making good metres before being brought down, Dolan advanced confidently before being engulfed and the ball was lost as Connor Brown threatened the line. Wanderers' confidence was clearly growing. The Lions' 6 was shown yellow after persistent offside calls and Thompson's penalty, ten minutes before half time, from thirty odd metres, made it 8-3. Tight-Head, Harry Clemo's strong scrummaging helped to win a scrum penalty before a further two penalties set Thanet near the opposition line, only for the line-out to be lost at the close of the first half.

Five minutes into the second half, patient work from Thanet's pack set the platform for the ball to be spread quickly through the hands to Dolan to finish for a debut try. The conversion was missed leaving the score at 13-3. The visitors then foiled an attempt to run out from deep from Wanderers and after severe pressure over five minutes secured a well worked try under the posts for 13-10. Thanet rang the changes with Mike Morris on for Clemo, Lenny Brown replaced Andy Letts and Callum

Doody took over on the left wing from Louis Marshall. Wanderers responded well to the visitors' challenge and midway through the half, after a move that started in our 22, Walton sped away and made good metres before finding Thompson in support to score wide right; no conversion, but the hosts were ahead 18-10. Ten minutes later, the fourth try again had roots in Thanet's own half. Two penalties from Herbert set the hosts deep in Deal's 22 before Morris broke well from the end of a line-out and some inspired handling between Herbert and Callum Doody saw the substitute winger finish well for the try bonus point.

There were one or two anxious moments for Wanderers in the closing minutes of the half which was extended by eleven minutes due to the frequent injury breaks, but there was no further score and Wanderers had won 23-10.

This was a good, well supported local derby with Wanderers having to work hard for their five points. Coach Blackmore praised his side's performance and the hard work shown in training this week that showed during this match. A much improved defence was key to the victory with Charlie Knight and Herbert outstanding. There were many excellent performances from the team but the Coaches' choice as Man of the Match was number 8, Connor Brown, whose strength in the carry and fine all round game made him a constant threat to the opposition.

**SQUAD:** James Green, Regan Doody, Harry Clemo, Jack Startin, Andy Letts, Warren Riddell-Bloomfield, James Hamilton, Connor Brown, Tom Walton, Nick Herbert, Louis Marshall, Cameron Beck, Charlie Knight, Andrew Dolan, Marius Thompson. **SUBS.** Mike Morris, Lenny Brown, Callum Doody.

**Colin Whiteley**



Photos by Tom Kemp

# MATCH REPORT

## Old Alleynians 63 – 5 Thanet Wanderers

Wanderers players' trip to Dulwich was affected by the traffic chaos on Kent's motorways and roads on the 1st of October that caused a late arrival. With several regular players missing in key positions, Thanet welcomed a debutant in Lewis Downer at Outside Centre.

Old As opened up a ten point lead after seventeen minutes but Wanderers made it 10-5 six minutes later after a fine break between Marius Thompson and Callum Doody saw open-side James Hamilton up in support to take the scoring pass. Wanderers defended well until a glut of four tries to the hosts, in the closing minutes of the half, meant a half time score of 32-5.

Old As scored five second half tries, with three conversions, to complete a rout by 63-5 with Thanet finishing with thirteen on the pitch due to injuries. Although, without some notable try saving tackles from Tom Walton and Harrison Leach amongst others, it could have been much worse. Forwards Coach Elliot Blackmore commended Old As for their performance in the game. Wanderers couldn't match them on the day but there were some great efforts in defence, particularly in the back row of Warren Riddell-Broomfield, James Hamilton and Connor Brown, who Blackmore said he had never seen play better.

Colin Whiteley

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## Help support the future of our Club

# MATCH REPORT

## Thanet Wanderers ladies against Medway ladies.

Thanet Wanderers ladies played their first Inner Warrior league match on Sunday the 25th September against Medway ladies 2nd XV. The opposition only had eight players, but the game went ahead and Thanet were ahead 32-0 at the end of the first session when it was decided by the coaches of both teams that Thanet could take the win but play would continue and Thanet would lend Medway some players ensuring that everyone got a run out and an opportunity to play.

Congratulations to all players and thanks to the large crowd that came along to support both sides. The future for ladies rugby at Thanet Wanderers is looking very rosy with new players joining every week.

If you know anyone interested in giving rugby a try, the team trains every Tuesday evening from 6.30pm until 8.00pm.



Photos by Leah Marshall

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# Thanet Wanderers

Home team colours: blue, black and gold hoops

**1 Daniel Clement**

*Postition sponsored by: Peter Hawkins*

**2 Regan Doody**

*Postition sponsored by: Bill Hurley*

**3 Mike Morris**

*Postition sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore*

**4 Jack Startin**

*Postition sponsored by: Mark O' Riordan*

**5 Kieran Wright**

*Postition sponsored by: Barry Winson*

**6 Warren Riddell-Broomfield**

*Postition sponsored by: Michelle McClean*

**7 Noah Dann**

*Postition sponsored by: Chris Marson*

**8 James Hamilton**

*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**

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**Team Manager**

**Michelle McClean**

*Postition sponsored by: Carmen Glover*

**9 Tom Walton**

*Postition sponsored by: Jeremy Ward*

**10 Marius Thompson**

*Postition sponsored by: Neil Armstrong*

**11 Louis Marshall**

*Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover*

**12 Cameron Pond**

*Postition sponsored by: Jason Deacon*

**13 Nick Herbert (c)**

*Postition sponsored by: John Keohane*

**14 Andrew Dolan**

*Postition sponsored by: Peter Tierney/Ray Roby*

**15 Sam Rolfe**

*Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond*

*Replacements:*

**16 Mike Brighthead**

*Postition sponsored by: Dave Brown*

**17 Tyler Cawood**

*Postition sponsored by: Four Candles Alehouse*

**18 Louis Downer**

*Postition sponsored by: Terry Tutte*

**Referee**

**James Goksaran**

**Touch Judge**

**TBA**

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# Bromley RFC

Away team colours: green and white hoops

**1 Aaron Miles**

**2 Dave Banfield**

**3 Dan Carroll**

**4 Harrison Pullen**

**5 Robbie Brown**

**6 Tommy Scott**

**7 Oscar Gray**

**8 Nathan Wilson**

**D.O.R.**

**Not Supplied**

**Head Coach**

**Not Supplied**

**Assistant Coach**

**Not Supplied**

**Team Manager**

**Not Supplied**

**Physio**

**Not Supplied**

**9 George Scott (c)**

**10 George Rice**

**11 Alex Griffiths**

**12 Jonny Griffiths**

**13 James Powell**

**14 Steve Pillow**

**15 George Hawkins**

*Replacements:*

**16 Alex Walder**

**17 Jenson Monk**

**18 Sam Holland**



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# MATCH REPORT

## Thanet Wanderers 2s 71 – 7 Snowdown RFC

Wanderers Second XV opened their season with a comprehensive win against old rivals Snowdown RFC. The visitors arrived with just fourteen players and after half an hour's play, when victory seemed assured, Thanet loaned them players to help make the contest more even.

This was the opening game of the season for the 2s and was played on a sunny, mild afternoon with Thanet kicking off with a stiff breeze behind them. They quickly opened a five point lead when Matt Jacobs stole a line-out and Kurt Pearson nipped down the blindside for the season's opening try. Henry Mirams made it 10-0 on fifteen minutes after a quickly taken tap penalty and three minutes later Winger Tom Stevens finished some pleasing handling under the posts for a 17-0 lead. Three minutes later Jacobs shrugged off attempted tackles to touch down before Mirams ran from his own half to score under the posts. Sam Rolfe was on the end of more good handling before touching down under the posts and adding his fourth conversion of the afternoon. A good break from Number 8 Noah Dann sent Mirams away for his hat trick of tries before Tyler Chance ended the first half in style with a nicely finished try to make the score 50-0 at half time.

Stevens recorded his brace early in the second period before Dann capped a good afternoon's work with a try two minutes later, both converted by Rolfe. Snowdown had battled valiantly all afternoon and were rewarded with a well deserved, converted try. Team manager Michael Whitehead closed the scoring with a try and conversion generously gifted to him by Sam Rolfe, who had already made seven conversions. Referee Simon Warren, who had himself enjoyed a good afternoon, had seen enough and brought an early close to the game with the score at 71-7.

The third XV was also in action and recorded a good win against Whitstable by 50-14.

Next Saturday there is no game for the first XV whilst the 2s and 3s and are at home to their Ashford counterparts, Kick off 3pm.

**SQUAD:** Andy Bourton, Kurt Pearson, Luke Browning, Tyler Cawood, Matt Jacobs, Kieran Wright, Steve Jones, Noah Dann, Leon Doody, Peter Macaulay (C) Tom Stevens, Tyler Chance, Harry Carter, Henry Mirams, Sam Rolfe (SUBS) Mike Whitehead, Fran Gillespie.

**Colin Whiteley**



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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	5	4	0	1	171	65	106	3	0	19	0
Cranbrook	4	4	0	0	154	49	105	3	0	19	0
Ashford	5	4	0	1	131	75	56	2	0	18	0
Heathfield & Waldron	4	3	0	1	115	92	23	3	0	15	0
Beccehamian	5	3	0	2	118	106	12	2	0	14	0
Bromley	5	3	0	2	93	101	-8	2	0	14	0
Deal & Betteshanger	5	2	0	3	66	84	-18	1	0	10	0
Charlton Park	5	2	0	3	96	164	-68	2	0	10	0
Folkestone	5	1	0	4	72	136	-64	1	1	6	0
<b>Thanet Wanderers</b>	3	1	0	2	31	86	-55	1	0	5	0
Aylesford Bulls	5	0	0	5	84	134	-50	1	2	3	0
Crowborough	5	1	0	4	92	131	-39	1	0	0	-5

## COUNTIES 1 KENT FIXTURES

Saturday 15th October 2022

Ashford v Heathfield & Waldron

Cranbrook v Folkestone

Aylesford Bulls v Deal & Betteshanger

Crowborough v Old Alleynians

Charlton Park v Beccehamian

**Thanet Wanderers** v Bromley



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# MATCH REPORT

## Ashford RFC Ladies 20 Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ladies 54

Having opened their league campaign with a 31-0 victory over Medway 2 weeks ago, Thanet Wanderers Ladies XV travelled to Ashford RFC in the first round of the RFU Junior Cup, their first competitive cup game since 2004.

With Ashford competing in RFU League NC2, two leagues above Wanderers, the ladies knew that a tough task was ahead of them with more than half of the team playing their first full 15-a-side match.

Ashford started the stronger and used their big pack to make inroads into the Thanet defence and despite resilient defence notably from Vicky Flower, Brioni Reah, Nadine Hills and Jae East, we were only 5 minutes in before The Ashford number 8 crashed over to take a 5-0 lead.

Thanet knew that the Ashford pack was going to be strong and that playing a forwards game was likely to end in defeat so as soon as the Thanet had possession, their game plan was to move the ball into space and use their superior hands to exploit the open wide spaces.

After a break from debutant Keira-Leigh Gallup down the left flank, some neat offloading from captain Gee Cordell and Sophie Richardson, saw substitute Milly Thurman-Newell crash over to level the scores. The team had worked out that was the way to beat the Ashford side and more sweet passing from forwards and backs alike saw Cordell score and Richardson grab a couple to take the game into half time with a 22-5 lead to Thanet.

For the first 15 minutes after the break, it continued to be one way traffic. The Thanet forwards were competing

with their Ashford counterparts with dynamic runs from further members of the Thurman-Newell family, Ella and Holly as well as hooker Hollie Callaghan and the pack's efforts were creating clean ball for the backs.

Fly half Leonie Bish was marshalling her backs superbly and inside centre Fleur Moat was smashing holes in the Ashford midfield releasing full back Thahseen Ali, then winger Justine Mackintosh to almost get in for a debut try. But it wasn't long before Wanderers extended their lead to 39-5 with a try from flanker and player of the match Georgia Elks, followed by another for Milly Thurman-Newell before Richardson completed her hat-trick.

Ashford were still going strong and were not rolling over and reduced the deficit to 39-10 with another trademark forward burst. Winger Megan Bish showed a clean pair of heels and scampered in at the corner before the Thanet scoring was completed with further tries for Richardson and Cordell before Thurman-Newell completed her hat-trick.

Ashford finished the game stronger and two final tries from their forwards saw the match finish 54-20 to the visitors.

Thanet Ladies now face Aylesford Ladies on Sunday 30th October 2022 in the second round of the RFU Junior Cup at St Peter's Rec. But attention turns back to the Inner Warrior league now with the visit of Faversham Sirens next Sunday also at St Peter's Rec, KO 2pm.

### Ian Lodge

Head Coach Thanet Wanderers ladies team



Photo by Leah Marshall

# THANET WANDERERS RUFC LTD

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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							45-15			13-3
Aylesford Bulls						13-17	30-40		19-28			
Beccehamian				48-10				5-34				
Bromley					18-0						12-37	
Charlton Park										52-19		
Cranbrook	31-19				72-0		34-17				15-46	
Crowborough								18-32		17-29		
Deal & Bettes				13-27	9-29		HWO					
Folkestone			14-29	3-26							12-17	
Heathfield & Waldron		27-8	40-15									
Old Alleynians			8-21									63-5
TWRUFC								23-10				

## RESULTS FROM COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

### Saturday 24th September 2022

Ashford 45-15 Folkestone

Aylesford Bulls 13-17 Cranbrook

Beccehamian 48-10 Bromley

Charlton Park 15-46 Old Alleynians

Crowborough 17-29 Heathfield & Waldron

**Thanet Wanderers** 23-10 Deal & Betteshanger

### Saturday 1st October 2022

Bromley 18-0 Charlton Park

Cranbrook 31-19 Ashford

Deal & Betteshanger HWO Crowborough

Folkestone 14-29 Beccehamian

Heathfield & Waldron 27-8 Aylesford Bulls

Old Alleynians 63-5 **Thanet Wanderers**

### Saturday 8th October 2022

Aylesford Bulls 30-40 Crowborough

Cranbrook 72-0 Charlton Park

Deal & Betteshanger 13-27 Bromley

Heathfield & Waldron 40-15 Beccehamian

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# MATCH REPORT

## Dartfordians Colts 7-12 Thanet Wanderers Colts

Sunday 2nd October 2022. The first round of the Kent league saw Thanet Wanderers Colts travel to play away against Dartfordians Colts. Not having played against this side for quite some time they were an unknown quantity to the Thanet lads who were not quite sure what to expect from the opposition.

Due to injuries and other commitments Thanet had 25 players unavailable for selection, but still managed to choose a good squad of 19 players.

The trip to Bexley presented some problems with major road closures and diversions, not to mention the rail strike, but eventually the whole team made it to the War Memorial Clubhouse in Bexley. The weather was sunny and clear, and although there was some talk of rain prior to kick off this did not materialise.

Wanderers captain Max Anderson gave his team talk to the squad before kick off and all the boys looked keyed up and ready to go for their first competitive game of the season. Bringing together two squads from the U17s and this years' Colts to form one team had not always been easy, but the two groups of lads gelled well. The coaches had huge faith in them and asked the boys to give 100% effort and desire and the rest would take care of itself.

The game kicked off and Thanet immediately put pressure on to the opposition's line, with Finn Hickmott, Isaac Divine, Toby Hunt and Ben Couldridge all making early big hits. Play settled down with possession moving back and forth between the two sides. Ollie Jordan Smith had the opportunity to show his great kicking game and starting at full back Ewan Maclean had to field quite a few kicks from the opposition.

Thanet's front three in the pack, Anderson, Couldridge and hooker Fred O'Halloran set the tone for some big scrums, while Hugo Evans playing at number eight, did a great job of driving the scrum forward or picking and going when the opportunity arose. Wanderers' wingers, Will Mahoney and Alfie Pearce, did not really get the chance to show their speed and movement, but they did show a great disciplined defensive side to their game.

Wanderers centre pairing of Harrison Quittenden and Hunt both showed an excellent desire to push Wanderers up the field with probing runs and both really took the game to the opposition. Scrum half Owen Jordan had good success in putting pressure on his opposite number

and as asked by the coaches, dictated a lot of the play.

After 25 minutes Thanet exerted more and more pressure on Dartfordians back line with great runs from Vinnie Perkins and Zach Ralph and eventually, after great team pressure on the opposition line, Hunt force himself forward with great determination to score the opening try and put Thanet 5-0 up. The conversion attempt was unsuccessful.

Wanderers made some tactical changes as well as some substitutions due to injuries and these saw Joseph Near and Harvey Stocker take the field. Stocker immediately had to make a decision to change the way the back line was playing to get them going again.

Thanet now pushed hard for a score and in the 29th minute, Jordan-Smith took full advantage of a mix-up in the ranks of the opposition, to pick up a loose ball and run in for a try. Quittenden was successful with the conversion attempt.

As the half time whistle sounded the score was Wanderers 12 Dartfordians 0. Thanet had been tested by a tough strong Dartfordians forward pack, but had shown great fitness and strength to hold them at bay. The Wanderers backs had shown glimpses of their talents, but the coaches hoped for more from them in the second half.

At the start of the second half Thanet introduced Joe Sykes and Reece Davies onto the field of play after Joseph Near had been replaced due to an injury he sustained in the unmentionables! Credit to Joe he later went back on after recovering and put in some monster hits to push the opposition back.

As in the first half, Thanet's wingers were called upon to display their defensive skills and Sykes showed brilliant speed and tackle technique from this position. Davies had another good game, displaying his all action no fear ability putting in lots of tackles.

Thanet were limited with the offensive side of their game in the second half, and credit is due to Dartfordians with their response after falling behind in the game. In the 17th minute of the second half, after a period of huge defensive effort from the visitors, Dartfordians finally broke through Thanet's defence and scored a try which was duly converted.

The referee had penalised a number of Thanet players for offside and given a team warning that the

next offending player would spend ten minutes off the field. With ten minutes remaining in the match, that unfortunate player was Pearce who received a yellow card and Wanderers were down to 14 players to hold out for the win.

Dartfordians took advantage of the extra man and camped out deep into the Thanet half putting pressure on the visiting team. Time after time the Thanet lads literally put themselves on the line to keep the home side from scoring. Even after an attempted Thanet kick to clear their line was charged down, the visitors never let their guard down. After six added minutes, Dartfordians broke free and looked to have scored, but Wanderers kept going right to the wire and managed to hold the ball up and in what turned out to be the final play of the game received the final whistle as a gratefully received gift to get the win.

The final score was Dartfordians 7 Thanet Wanderers 12. This was a hard fought win for the Thanet boys. They had to show great character and determination to grind

out the win but they showed this in abundance and well deserved their first win in the Kent league this year. Both sides were a real credit to their clubs, playing hard but fair and respectful rugby.

All nineteen players played well today, every one of them putting their bodies on the line for the team to get the result they and their coaches had all wanted. Defence was key today and with this in mind the first 'Please Sir' Man of the Match award was a joint one going to Thanets' two flankers, Isaac Divine and Finley Hickmott. Both had huge games in the forwards, putting in tackle after tackle and winning many rucks. Well done boys.

**Thanet Wanderers Gold Under 16s:** Max Anderson (C), Fred O'Halloran, Ben Couldridge, Vinnie Perkins, Finn Hickmott, Isaac Divine, Hugo Evans, Zach Ralph, Ollie Jordan Smith, Toby Hunt, Alfie Pearce, Harrison Quittenden, Joe Sykes, Ewan McClean, Joseph Near, Will Mahoney, Owen Jordan, Reece Davies, Harvey Stocker.

**Matt Hickmott**





## RESULTS FROM OTHER CLUB GAMES

**Sunday 25th September 2022**

**Thanet Wanderers** Ladies XV 32-0 Medway Ladies 2nd XV (League)

**Saturday 1st October 2022**

**Thanet Wanderers** 2nd XV 71-7 Snowdon C W (Kent A Rural League)

**Thanet Wanderers** 3rd XV 50-14 Whitstable 2nd XV (Kent C Rural East League)

**Sunday 2nd October 2022**

Dartfordians Colts 7-12 **Thanet Wanderers** Colts (League)

**Saturday 8th October 2022**

**Thanet Wanderers** 2nd Xv 46-17 Ashford 2nd Xv (Kent A Rural League)

**Thanet Wanderers** 3rd XV 36-36 Ashford 3rd Xv (Kent C Rural East League)

**Sunday 9th October 2022**

Ashford ladies XV 20-54 **Thanet Wanderers** ladies XV (RFU Junior Cup)

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# MATCH REPORT

## Thanet Wanderers 2s 46 -17 Ashford 2s

Wanderers overturn a half-time deficit to record a handsome win against Ashford.

There was an encouraging debut for Wanderers for Ed Wheeler at inside-centre with Harry Carter as his partner in midfield and Matt Masundi stepped up to play an excellent game at Number eight after a run out in the 3s last week.

It was the visitors, playing up the slope, who set the early pace and after a couple of penalties gave good position, ran in an unconverted try. Thanet conceded penalties that cost them promising opportunities and lost left wing Tyler Chance after he had to retire with a knee injury: Henry Mirams replaced him. Ashford scored a second try on eighteen minutes when a Wanderers move broke down in the visitors' half and one of their speedsters raced away to increase the lead to 12-0. Wanderers kicker, full back, Sam Rolfe made two very difficult penalty opportunities look easy to make it 12-6. Number 7, Noah Dann, had to withdraw after an opponent's boot connected with his nose. He was replaced by Harrison Elks who was straight into the action with an important tackle. Right wing, Tom Stevens, now broke well before passing to Rolfe who finished the try but could not convert it to leave it at 12-11 to Ashford. On the stroke of half-time, a drive from Ashford's pack brought them a third try and made their lead 17-11 at the break.

Wanderers had the breeze at their backs for the second half and Peter Macaulay was quick to send his line away with crisp handling, ending with Stevens touching down. Rolfe converted to put Thanet into an 18-17 lead. Mirams' chip ahead was then not well dealt with by Ashford in their in-goal area and Thanet felt they had touched down. Referee, Gareth Waldron, who handled a very competitive game well, decided on a 5

metre scrum for Wanderers. Thanet's front row Luke Browning, Reagan Doody and Andy Bourton battled for the line and kept their collective cool well in the face of provocation but they could find no way through. Eventually the ball was spun to scrum-half, Harrison Leach, who showed the way to the line with a fine individual try which Rolfe converted to make it 25-17. Minutes later Stevens scored his second of the afternoon when more sharp handling amongst the backs ended with the right-winger scoring confidently for Rolfe to add the extras and make it 32-17. Leach again broke free five minutes later and managed to get a pass away to Macaulay as he was tackled allowing the fly-half to stroll over the line for yet another try in the blue, black and gold of Thanet. There was just time for Tom Stevens to claim his hat-trick, following on from last week's brace. Mirams' great chase put pressure on a defender and his weak clearance was gratefully seized by Stevens to run in for try number three. Rolfe's conversion made the final score 46-17, following a fine second half performance which was a tribute to the team's fitness.

This was a terrific comeback for the Thanet side with everyone playing their part. Replacement Billy Ingram showed well and in the pack, the second row pairing of Matt Jacobs and Tyler Cawood put in tremendous shifts. Kieran Wright, at six, was again outstanding as was Tom Stevens in contributing three tries to the cause. However the coaches' choice as man of the match was Sam Rolfe. The full-back barely put a foot wrong as he ignited the Wanderers' flame with a try and two first half penalties and missed only one kick from the tee to register a personal tally of 21 points.

**Colin Whiteley**





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