

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

**THANET**

# WANDERERS

**v Crowborough RFC** Saturday 9th December 2023. Kick off 2.00pm

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# THANET WANDERERS 1st XV



**THANET WANDERERS** RUFC

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## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

As you read this article I hope that you are filled with Christmas cheer and have taken the opportunity to enjoy the Christmas lunch in the clubhouse today, on this our last 1st team fixture at St Peter's this year! .

We extend a warm East Kent welcome to visitors and players from Crowborough RFC and hope that they enjoy our hospitality and then experience some attractive rugby this afternoon.

This will be the first time we have met our friends from Crowborough this season, who you may recall we played at the StoneEx Stadium (Saracens) in the Papa John's Community Cup Final back in May. We are not due to play them again until the 23rd March 2024 at their ominously called "Steel Cross" ground.

Today's Counties 1 Kent League game sees Crowborough placed in 3rd position in the league with seven wins out of ten games and one defeat and two draws. One of the draws, in what must have been a local derby, was against Heathfield & Waldron that concluded 3-3. The concept of a rugby club in Crowborough began with a letter appearing in the Kent & Sussex Courier early in 1936 and Peter Hawkins remembers reading this article when delivering the local paper on his paper round.

Today's match official is Simon Bingham, whose visits we have enjoyed in the past, and we extend to him a warm welcome to St Peter's and hope he officiates a clean, fast paced game, evenly competed and without injury. Mr Bingham was last at St Peter's in September when we narrowly lost to league leaders Canterbury seconds 25-28

Back then we reported that officials were having a difficult job applying new laws and dealing with the habits of players who had played for years and now had to adjust, sometimes against their subconscious, to change and adapt to a new playing style. All we can ask for from officials is consistency and this has been evident throughout the season. As we complete the first four months of the season, trends nationally and in Kent suggest that the new tackle law variations have been introduced sensitively with few red cards for high tackles.

Last season at Crowborough, Kieran Wright suffered a neck injury after just five minutes of play, causing a delay of thirty minutes to the game before he could be safely moved off the playing surface. Great care today is taken in the assessment of neck injuries before players are removed from the field of play, usually on a board, and Crowborough, on that occasion, provided wonderful help in the care of our player which illustrates the strength of the ties in the rugby family. Thank you particularly, to Crowborough's President, David Clarke, who provided support and encouragement

that was way above the call of duty to Kieran during his many hours waiting for an ambulance. I am pleased to report Kieran has made a full recovery.

Today, our 2nd XV are away playing at East Peckham and the 3rds journey to Edenbridge. Both destinations are some distance to travel.

The number of individuals, particularly senior men, playing rugby in Kent today is on the decline and to try and help the situation the County has adopted "Game On." "Game On" is an initiative and playing philosophy to try and ensure that fixtures are completed. It builds on some of the work and initiatives already happening to get games played. A match can take place if at the start of the game, there is a minimum of 10 players on each team and subject to the laws of the game, it is encouraged that both sides have an equal number of players. It is testament to the dedication of all Thanet Wanderers players that the club tries hard to fulfill all its fixtures, both home and away, even when short of numbers, when sometimes we feel that other teams do not wish to travel to our hallowed shores. Is this why we have "Wanderers" in our Club name?

Two weeks ago the Ladies 1st XV gained a National Junior Cup victory over Beckenham which puts them in the last 16 of the competition and in sight of a possible final at Twickenham. They then returned to NC2 League action with another long trip to Essex to take on league leaders Westcliff Ladies. On a winning run of 4 games, Westcliff (Essex) were flying high and the ensuing battle was clearly going to be tough from the opening exchanges. Both teams fielded a physical set of forwards and pacy backs and the early battle took place all in the middle of the park. The game concluded with a win for Thanet 12-5

Tomorrow the Colts have a league game at home against Old Colfeians, and the U16's another League game V Canterbury, please come and support these teams.

READY, SET, MOW.

The month of November witnessed a number of Wanderers growing a moustache, some successfully others not so! A tidy sum was raised for charity and well done to all those who took part and thank you to those who gave generously.

Please respect today's referees; I hope for a competitive and injury-free match.

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# FROM THE HEAD COACH

This week we welcome Crowborough to our home for what should be a competitive exchange. The last time we met was on Sunday the 7th May at the Stonex Stadium, the home of Saracens, in the Papa John's Community Cup Finals, when Crowborough came out on top and what a day that was!!

This week, we have had a number of key players return from injury and other commitments and they are now available to play. This is great news as it's been a real bumpy ride since September. We are in a transition period and the players are working hard to develop a strong culture.

As this is the last home game before Christmas, the coaches, players and management team would all like to wish all supporters a Merry Christmas and to thank you for all your support. Having such well attended games is literally like having at 16th man on the field.

**Elliot Blackmore**  
Head Coach - TWRUFC Men's section



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# MATCH REPORT

## Thanet Wanderers RFC 22 –22 Dover Sharks RFC

Honours are even at the end of an exciting East Kent Derby.

Mike Whitehead and Andy Letts returned to the Wanderers' pack after missing last week's game at Deal. Tom Walton was back at scrum-half after being absent from the last three games with injury. He partnered Marius Thompson at ten who returned after international duty with Norway. Louic Vroninks, a Belgian student at Saint Lawrence College, made his first team Wanderers' debut on the wing and Henry Mirams was back in the centre. Danny Clement and Adam Harrison were on Thanet's bench after injury with Chris Hood who last featured for the Wanderers' first XV in pre-Covid days.

Dover, who were promoted as champions from Counties Kent 2 last season, kicked off down the slope and pushed hard for an early score. Wanderers withstood the challenge and Nick Herbert's good clearance took play to near halfway. From the resulting line-out, the visitors worked their way down the Thanet half to score under the posts and take a 7-0 lead after ten minutes. Wanderers responded well with Thompson breaking strongly. The penalties to Wanderers were steadily accumulating as Dover scrambled to keep their line secure. Full back, Harrison Quittenden, showed some footballing skills to bring play to Dover's right-hand corner as Wanderers' pressure built and good field position was set near the visitors' line. The drive brought a first try of the season for Number 8 Brett Scott who touched down under the posts for Walton to convert and bring the scores level. A good chase from Will Mahoney, supported by Mirams, now led to a line-out 5 metres from Dover's line. Whitehead's throw-in was good and he was in the subsequent drive to claim his second try of the season. Walton made an excellent conversion from near the touchline and the hosts were 14-7 ahead. Dover hit back quickly with a forwards' drive and touchdown in the clubhouse corner for an unconverted try. Thanet's

Tighthead Prop, Gully Goodall, was a powerhouse taking play to his opponents and the three-quarters threatened before a penalty opportunity, with the last kick of the first half, saw Tom Walton stretch the lead to 17-12.

Clement replaced Whitehead at the start of the second half as Wanderers now played with the slope but into a stiffening wind. An early attack promised points but ended in a penalty to Dover for not releasing. More penalties followed against Thanet and Dover levelled the scores after thirteen minutes with a try wide left that was not converted and made the score 17 all. A good spell for the visitors ended ten minutes later when quick handling brought them an unconverted try, just in from the right touch-line, and the lead at 22-17. A series of penalties kept Wanderers on the attack and finally, it was joint Captain Sam Taylor who scored his sixth try of the season to bring the scores level. The momentum was with Wanderers and Herbert's cross kick almost gave Vroninks a dream ending to a good debut but he slipped as he turned for the nearby line and was wrapped up by the defenders. Shortly afterwards, today's referee, Katie Gent, indicated that a penalty, in a kickable position, would be the final action of the match. However, Tom Walton's, kick was marginally wide and a memorable match ended in a 22-22 draw.

This was a much-improved performance from the Wanderers that pleased the good crowd of spectators who were bolstered by those who attended the Sponsors and Vice Presidents lunch beforehand. The whole squad performed with a determination and commitment that will please Coaches Elliot Blackmore and Kieran Hopper as they prepare for the run-up to Christmas which includes fixtures against two of the top three teams in the league.

**Colin Whiteley**



Photos by Colin Whiteley

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# MATCH REPORT

## Thanet Wanderers Ladies 1st XV v Beckenham Ladies

Thanet Ladies went on the long trip up to Beckenham RFC on Sunday 26th November in the last 32 of the cup and came back with a narrow victory to take them through to the last 16.

After last week's league defeat at Thurrock, Thanet had to start well and so they did after a bulldozing run Ella Thurman-Newell's quick hands put prop Louise Rubens through a hole and she used her hand off skills to get over for a 5-0 lead.

But after That gave away a number of penalties in their own 22 it was not long until Beckenham had equalised. Both conversions were missed and the 5-5 score took us into half time.

Substitute winger Jess Anderson had entered the fray after recovering from a chest infection and once again good hands from a backline marshalled by fly half, Alex White sent Anderson away for her first try. She managed to get under the posts and White converted for a 12-5 lead.

That lead didn't last long either as the powerful Beckenham pack made holes in the Thanet defence for one of their centres to crash over. Crucially that conversion was missed and Thanet took a 12-10 lead into the final quarter.

With the outcome of the tie on the line and the play all taking place in the middle of the park it was to be one break or missed tackle that would decide the game. Left winger Anderson stepped up again, outpaced her winger and sneaked in at the corner for a Thanet 17-10 victory.

At the time of writing the draw for the last 16 is not complete but Thanet Ladies are hoping for a home tie so the people of Thanet can come and see the progress of the team.

**Ian Lodge**

Head Coach, Ladies Section



Photos by: Amy Coster



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# MATCH REPORT

## Thanet Wanderers RUFC 2s 27- 7 Snowdown C.W. RFC

Three second-half tries earn Wanderers a hard-fought victory.

This fixture was rearranged from the warmth of September to a cold windy November day although at least the sun shone. It was good to see referee, Ben Preece, back, out of retirement, at St Peters keeping order with his usual authority and unflappable manner. Ben was a welcome regular visitor some years ago before he earned the move to the RFU panel of referees for the higher leagues.

Thanet, who started the game in sixth place, kicked off down the slope against ninth-placed Snowdown and had the better of early exchanges. On five minutes Wanderers took a 3-0 lead when Lewis Downer confidently converted a penalty opportunity from around thirty metres. Snowdown sent a penalty close to set a good position. A chip ahead was not dealt with in Thanet's defence and the visitors were quick to run in a try five metres from the right touchline. The quality conversion meant Snowdown were 7-3 ahead with 13 minutes played. Some kick tennis looked to be going nowhere before a well-judged kick bounced favourably for Wanderers and Callum Doody raced in to touch down midway between the posts and the touchline. Downer's conversion was good and Wanderers went ahead 10-7. Moments after the restart, Doody's crosskick looked to have been gathered by winger Tom Stevens but play was returned to midfield for a penalty for a Snowdown high tackle. There was no further score before half time and with just three points between the sides it was a game that could go either way in the second half.

Coaches, Bill Wallace and Peter Macaulay, brought on some of their replacements for the second half although Macaulay was not among them, despite being listed. An injured knee prevented his participation.

An early score was needed and Tighthead Mike Morris made a couple of bustling carries which gained

good metres. However, in the face of some determined defence from the visitors, it took around fifteen minutes before Wanderers managed a second try. Fran Gillespie was one of the half-time replacements as he works his way back to full fitness after injury. Now, his speed was evident as he ran in from deep to score and Downer's conversion gave Wanderers a 17 - 7 lead. The kicker soon found himself on the try list when, following a quick penalty, Downer backed himself and shook off tacklers before touching down. He could not convert the try but Thanet were ahead 22-7. The visitors were visibly tiring as the final whistle neared. Harrison Elks capped an excellent performance when he grabbed a loose ball that popped out of a ruck and cruised to the try line for Wanderers' fourth try. There was no conversion and the game closed with Wanderers the winners by 27-7. Credit goes to Snowdown for making it an interesting and competitive match, despite struggling with numbers and injuries. Wanderers will be happy to have caught up with some of their rivals in terms of matches played and should move into the top four with the win today. There was a good mix of experience and youth in the team which showed great pace in attack. Chris Gregory and Matt Jacobs were a good pairing in the second row and Harrison Quittenden was frequently the speedy spark that initiated Wanderers attacks. Scrum-half Owen Jordan enjoyed another fine game: he was quick to see an opening and defended well. He was the coaches choice as Wanderers' man of the match.

**SQUAD:** Tom Welsh, Regan Doody, Mike Morris, Chris Gregory, Matt Jacobs, Dennis Davies, Harrison Elks, Flynn Shingles, Owen Jordan, Callum Doody, Tom Stevens (c), Lewis Downer, Abe Kilic, Will Mahoney, Harrison Quittenden. **SUBS:** Bill Wallace, Joe Near, Owen Read, Fran Gillespie, Josh Dury, Peter Macaulay.

**Colin Whiteley**



Photos by Colin Whiteley

## FIRST XV FIXTURES

# 2023 – 2024

### 2023

Sep 16	ASHFORD	AWAY
23	CANTERBURY 2nds	HOME
30	BECCEHAMIAN	AWAY
Oct 7	BROMLEY	AWAY
14	CRANBROOK	HOME
21	HEATHFIELD & WALDRON	AWAY
Nov 4	DARTFORDIANS	HOME
11	DEAL & BETTES	AWAY
18	DOVER	HOME
Dec 2	CHARLTON PARK	AWAY
9	CROWBOROUGH	HOME
Fri 15	CANTERBURY 2nds	AWAY

(7.45pm k.o.)

### 2024

Jan 6	BECCEHAMIAN	HOME
13	CRANBROOK	AWAY
20	BROMLEY	HOME
27	HEATHFIELD & WALDRON	HOME
Feb 3	DARTFORDIANS	AWAY
17	DEAL & BETTES	HOME
Mar 2	DOVER	AWAY
16	CHARLTON PARK	HOME
23	CROWBOROUGH	AWAY
Apr 6	ASHFORD	HOME

Fixtures in BLOCK Type are Counties 1 Kent League dates

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# WOMEN'S NC2 SOUTH EAST (EAST) LEAGUE

# 2023-24

Team	P	W	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS
Thanet Wanderers Women	6	5	0	1	250	105	145	0	0	26
Westcliff Ladies	6	4	0	2	228	79	149	0	0	23
Ashford Ladies	6	4	0	2	66	131	-65	0	0	23
Thurrock Ladies 2nd XV	4	4	0	2	217	52	165	0	0	19
Lordswood Valkyries Ladies	6	2	0	4	121	173	-52	0	0	17
Southend Saints Ladies	5	2	0	3	118	119	-1	0	0	15
Gravesend Ladies	5	0	0	5	22	215	-193	0	0	10
Cranbrook Ladies	4	0	0	4	36	184	-148	0	0	-1

## WOMEN'S NC2 SOUTH EAST (EAST) LEAGUE RESULTS

Sunday 12th November 2023

Westcliff Ladies 56-15 Lordswood Valkyries Ladies

Sunday 19th November

Cranbrook Ladies AWO Ashford Ladies

Gravesend Ladies 12-41 Westcliff Ladies

Southend Saints Ladies 27-5 Lordswood Valkyries Ladies

Thurrock Ladies 2nd XV 65-10 Thanet Wanderers Women

Sunday 3rd December

Ashford Ladies 19-5 Southend Saints Ladies

Westcliff Ladies 5-12 Thanet Wanderers Women




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# Thanet Wanderers

Home team colours: blue, black and gold hoops

**1 Gabriel Hayden**

*Postition sponsored by: Peter Hawkins*

**2 Michael Whitehead**

*Postition sponsored by: Bill Hurley*

**3 Gulliver Goodall**

*Postition sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore*

**4 Andrew Letts**

*Postition sponsored by: Mark O' Riordan*

**5 Dennis Davies**

*Postition sponsored by: The Four Candles*

**6 Warren Riddell-Broomfield**

*Postition sponsored by: Michelle McClean*

**7 Sam Taylor (Capt)**

*Postition sponsored by: Chris Marson*

**8 Brett Scott**

*Postition sponsored by: Dave Brown*

Head Coach

**Elliot Blackmore**

*Postition sponsored by: Colin Whiteley*

Assistant Coach

**Kieran Hopper**

*Postition sponsored by: Andy Buli*

Team Manager

**Michelle McClean**

*Postition sponsored by: Carmen Glover*

**9 Tom Walton**

*Postition sponsored by: Jeremy Ward*

**10 Marius Thompson**

*Postition sponsored by: Ray Roby/Peter Tierney*

**11 Louis Marshall**

*Postition sponsored by: Pegasus Storage Solutions*

**12 Nick Herbert (Capt)**

*Postition sponsored by: John Keohane*

**13 Henry Mirams**

*Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover*

**14 Andrew Dolan**

*Postition sponsored by: Terry Tutte*

**15 Harrison Quittenden**

*Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond*

*Replacements:*

**16 Daniel Clement**

*Postition sponsored by:*

**17 Chris Hood**

*Postition sponsored by:*

**18 Leon Doody**

*Postition sponsored by:*

Referee

**Simon Bingham**

Touch Judge

*Postition sponsored by:*

# Crowborough RFC

Away team colours:

**1 Richard Tasker**

**2 Sam Edwards**

**3 Callum Main**

**4 George Jones**

**5 Russell Reading**

**6 Dave Bennett (Capt)**

**7 Joe Chapman**

**8 Andy Kidd**

D.O.R.

**Paul Gray**

Head Coach

**Jody Levett**

Assistant Coach

**Stuart Thresher**

**Stuart Dawson**

Physio

**Not Supplied**

**9 Sam Skinner**

**10 Jonte Fraser**

**11 Will Pitman**

**12 Rob Lester**

**13 Ollie Clinch**

**14 Sam Eyres**

**15 Harry Marchesi**

*Replacements:*

**16 Mark Rosier**

**17 Shaun Streeter**

**18 Will Creasy**



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## SPONSORS AND VP's LUNCH

Thanet Wanderers Rugby Club – Sponsors' and Vice Presidents' Lunch -18th of November 2023

The Wanderers' 2023 Sponsors and Vice Presidents lunch was held in the clubhouse. The club was honoured to welcome the Mayor of Broadstairs, Cllr. Kristian Bright and his consort (and wife) Cllr. Joanne Bright. Among the many sponsors who attended were, Marc Harris, director Group Services at Watkins Plumbing and Simon Thompson Lettings Group Director at Miles and Barr Estate Agents. Thank you to them and all of our sponsors who were able to take time out of their busy schedules to attend. They were joined by many of the club's Vice-Presidents who also attended as the club's guest

Club Chairman, Chris Panteli, welcomed them all before the club's sponsorship supremo Peter Ruranski also spoke of the importance of the sponsors and Vice Presidents to the ongoing success of the Wanderers. Kristian Bright, on behalf of the guests thanked the club for their entertainment and gave an amusing account of his years as a rugby player and fan. An excellent lunch, courtesy of Caterer Maxine Rogers was enjoyed before the first XVs of Wanderers and Dover served up an exciting game which ended in a draw.

Colin Whiteley



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# MATCH REPORT

## Charlton Park RFC 42 – 17 Thanet Wanderers RUFC

Wanderers are well beaten in a bottom-of-the-table battle.

There was just one change to Wanderers' pack with Regan Doody back as hooker. Charlie Panteli returned at outside half after injury with Marius Thompson moving to fullback for Harrison Quittenden who was not available. The three Doody brothers were today in the first XV squad for the first time together with Callum and Leon on the bench.

Both teams have struggled to select a settled side this season as injuries and non-availabilities have given their selectors weekly headaches. At kick-off, Park were in bottom place in Counties One Kent League with Thanet just one place above. Playing conditions were good, despite the prevailing weather conditions.

A good start was important and it was Wanderers who began the brighter with a series of attacks keeping Park penned in their own half. Ominously, good field position was not turned into points and a penalty attempt in a kickable position bounced back off a post. When Wanderers were penalised for offside, the opening siege was lifted and after sixteen minutes of play, the hosts touched down from their first real attack. There was no conversion but confidence visibly coursed through the host side's veins. Panteli was forced off with a leg injury and was replaced by Callum Doody. Wanderers responded in the best possible way when a great turnover at a ruck from Andy Letts sent Marius Thompson away. His chip ahead caused a mistake in Park's defence and Lewis Downer was at hand to pounce for the touchdown. Tom Walton's conversion gave Wanderers the lead by 7-5 after twenty minutes. Park were quick to regain the momentum that had been

growing before Wanderers' try and, with two quick tries and a conversion, went ahead 17-7. A sharp interception from Henry Mirams led to Callum Doody touching down in the right-hand corner for Thanet's second try. There was no conversion but the lead was cut to five points with thirty minutes played. Wanderers survived a Park onslaught for ten minutes in the approach to half time but in time added on, the hosts crossed for the bonus point try that could not be converted, leaving the score at 22-12.

The second half opened with a lengthy exchange of kicks before Thompson put the ball out on the halfway line. Wanderers were then penalised for not rolling, leading to a line out 15 metres out and a try under the posts for Park. The conversion was missed. Mike Whitehead and Luic Vronink now took a break with Chris Hood and Leon Doody replacing them at loose-head and on the wing. An error in defence led to another try for Park and opened up a 32-12 lead after ten second-half minutes. From the restart, Gully Goodall, Wanderers' excellent tighthead, looked to be clear and haring towards the line, only to be recalled for a penalty to the Park. A final try for the hosts after 17 minutes of the half was converted for Park to lead 39-12. Wanderers kept their line intact for the remaining quarter of the match and scored a third try in the closing minutes of the game when Leon Doody was the scorer of an unconverted try after good work from Joint Captain, Nick Herbert. Park landed a penalty with the final kick of the game which ended with the score 42-17 in their favour.

**Colin Whiteley**



Photos by Colin Whiteley

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# CONTACTS

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# MATCH REPORT

## Westcliff Ladies 5 Thanet Wanderers Ladies 12

After last week's Junior Cup victory at Beckenham it was time to get back to NC2 league action with another long trip to Essex to take on high flying Westcliff Ladies.

On a winning run of 4 games, Westcliff were top of the league and from the opening exchanges the ensuing battle was clearly going to be tough for the visitors. Both teams fielded a physical set of forwards and pacy backs and the early battle took place all in the middle of the park. In games like this missed tackles were going to be the difference and it was Thanet whose defence leaked first, Westcliff's full back going over in the corner for an early 5-0 lead.

Thanet's forwards were making in-roads with Keira Leigh-Gallup leading the attack on the Westcliff defence in tight areas and Georgia Elks running in wider channels outside the 10 / 12 pairing of Alex White and Rachael Austerberry. Elks was making yards with her runs and her leg drive nearly carried her over for a try from 30 yards out.

The half ended with a 5 point deficit for Wanderers, but there was confidence in the Thanet team and the players and coaches knew what small tweaks would see them over the line.

In the second half, some straightened lines from the backs and higher pressure defence saw forced turnovers

from Westcliff and it wasn't long before Thanet made the most of one of these with skipper, Gee Cordell going over from 40 yards after turnover ball. White converted and Thanet let 7-5 with half an hour still to go on the clock.

The line speed defence in both the tight and wide areas was impressive all day and centre Megan Bish was leading by example with her defence and flexibility; stepping into the back row after an injury to Neave Evans.

The final act was to be for centre Austerberry with Westcliff struggling to deal with her devastating second half running lines and after breaking through the defensive line, she went over to move Thanet into a 12-5 lead which they kept until the final whistle.

It was the first time that the teams had met and the encounter was thoroughly enjoyed by both teams who are looking forward to the return leg at St Peter's in March.

The Thanet team take a well earned week off now before heading back to Essex to take on Southend on Sunday week for their last league game of 2023 when they hope for a repeat of the convincing home league win back in September.

### Ian Lodge

Head Coach, Ladies Section



Photos by: Rebecca Hewitt

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# MATCH REPORT

## Thanet Wanderers 17 vs Dartfordians 37

It was a typical wet November day as supporters gathered at the St Peters Rec to watch the Thanet Colts in their first cup game. The first order of the day on Remembrance Sunday was to observe an impeccable minute silence for those fallen in the line of duty. Sobering thought for many of the parents that many of our Colts were now around the age of the young men that fought in World War One.

As per the last few games, Thanet started strongly receiving the kickoff and a great run from powerhouse Alfie powered the ball back into the Dartfordian half. Thanet again were moving the ball well and probing the Dartfordian defenses with strong runs.

Thanet were having all the possession and taking the ball well into the Darts half.

A momentary loss of the ball saw a great jackal by Ellis to regain possession. The penalty gained subsequently kicked into the corner. The following lineout was again won by Thanet and a great drive saw them come tantalizing close, until a quick pick from the base from Ellis saw the first score (5-0) duly converted by Dan Jury back at flyhalf (7-0).

Dartford had a big pack and were performing well at scrum time so it wasn't a big surprise they would come back, and a powerful drive saw the scores levelled (7-7)

In what seemed to be becoming a nip and tuck game, two penalties apiece saw the score tied at 10-10. Thanet then edged ahead as everyone seemingly stopped on the halfway line without the referee blowing his whistle. Zach however had the presence of mind to carry on playing and got stopped only just short of the posts by a wonderful

tackle from the Dartfordian fullback. However, the ball was quickly recycled, and Alfie burst over the line (17-10). Thanet were on top again and seemingly in control.

However, this seemed to reinvigorate Dartfordians as they started to play some solid rugby and Thanet were beginning to tire and struggle to contain the forwards' powerful runs. A quick penalty and two fast tries saw them move ahead (17-25). The game was finely poised as we moved into the last quarter with the possibility of the game going either way as Thanet again attacked the Dartfordian line.

With injuries mounting unfortunately disaster struck for Thanet as, with limited backs from the outset, they suddenly lost two more players with an accidental clash of heads making a tackle on the same Dartfordian player. Both left the field as a precautionary measure in line with player safety protocols. With no further back subs this really meant the game as a contest was effectively over. The remaining Thanet players did well to limit further tries to just two as Dartfordians were ruthless in finishing the game off. The final score was 37-17 to Dartfordians with Thanet ruing missed opportunities and the high injury count.

Lots of learnings again to take forward into next week.

**Colts Squad** 1 Dom S 2 Fred O 3 Fin T 4 Dillon S 5 Ellis P 6 Charlie P 7 Fin H 8 Alfie R 9 Raz W 10 Dan J 11 Jem H 12 Freddy D 13 Zach R 14 Noah O 15 Harry H 16 Ollie P 17 Mustafa B 18 Zac OH 19 Josh M 20 Joseph K

**Simon Harris**



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# COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE 2023-24

Team	P	W	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS	ADJ
Canterbury 2nds	10	10	0	0	407	134	273	10	0	49	0
Dartfordians	10	8	0	2	329	195	134	8	1	41	0
Crowborough	10	7	2	1	255	188	67	5	0	37	0
Beccehamian	10	7	1	2	311	177	134	6	1	37	0
Bromley	10	7	0	3	251	164	87	5	2	36	0
Deal & Betteshanger	10	5	0	5	230	274	-44	5	2	27	0
Dover	10	3	1	6	214	265	-51	3	2	19	0
Ashford	9	3	0	6	157	217	-60	3	0	15	0
Heathfield & Waldron	10	1	2	7	171	250	-79	2	4	14	0
Cranbrook	10	1	1	8	166	363	-197	1	3	10	0
<b>Thanet Wanderers</b>	10	1	1	8	174	344	-170	1	1	8	0
Charlton Park	9	2	0	7	164	258	-94	2	1	6	-5

## COUNTIES 1 KENT FIXTURES

Saturday 9th December 2023

Beccehamian v Ashford

Dartfordians v Deal & Betteshanger

Canterbury 2nds v Bromley

Heathfield & Waldron v Dover

Cranbrook v Charlton Park

**Thanet Wanderers** v Crowborough

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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			19-32	0-19	AB				14-26		21-17	28-10
Beccehamian					32-14				58-3		36-31	57-7
Bromley		10-20				33-28		22-26			45-5	47-18
Canterbury 2nds		30-23				76-0	43-10	52-7		43-14		
Charlton Park				16-50			16-31		29-25		25-11	41-17
Cranbrook	20-27	5-26							17-10		15-15	
Crowborough	28-8	20-20	14-10			41-19		21-19		34-15		
Dartfordians	37-26	33-13			96-10	74-14						
Deal & Bettes			16-19	21-32			35-53			27-20	32-25	25-7
Dover	28-14	24-26	18-33		34-17	22-17		17-32				
Heathfield & Waldron				18-34			3-3	15-20				31-19
TWRUFC				25-28		39-31		10-33		22-22		

## RESULTS FROM COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

### Saturday 18th November 2023

Ashford 19-32 Bromley

Beccehamian 32-14 Charlton Park

Canterbury 2nds 43-10 Crowborough

Cranbrook 17-10 Deal & Betteshanger

Heathfield & Waldron 15-20 Dartfordians

**Thanet Wanderers** 22-22 Dover

### Saturday 2nd December 2023

Ashford 0-19 Canterbury 2nds

Bromley 22-26 Dartfordians

Charlton Park 41-17 **Thanet Wanderers**

Crowborough 20-20 Beccehamian

Deal & Betteshanger 32-25 Heathfield & Waldron

Dover 22-17 Cranbrook

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# MATCH REPORT

Thurrock RFC 65 **Thanet Wanderers Ladies 1st XV** 10

Faversham RUFC 20 **Thanet Wanderers Ladies 2nd XV** 35

Thanet Wanderers ladies returned to action after a week off with two games. The 1st XV travelled to the high flying Thurrock RFC over the bridge into Essex whilst the 2nd XV had the relatively short trip up the road to Faversham RFC.

The 1st XV were expecting a tough encounter but nowhere near as the one they faced. A well drilled, experienced and pacy Thurrock XV came away with a convincing 65-10 win, but there were scores for the visitors with an early try from Thanet player of the match, Milly Thurman-Newell followed up by another good team try from skipper, Gee Cordell. Alex White at fly half was the back of the match and controlled her team admirably in the face of adversity.

But the experience, continuity and running lines of the Thurrock side won the spoils easily showing that whilst the last 18 months have been amazing for Thanet, it has only been 18 months. The team will learn from defeat and come back stronger next week when they travel to Beckenham RFC in the 3rd round of the Junior Cup.

Meanwhile at Faversham the Thanet 2nd XV played a controlled game and exploited the gaps in the home team's defence. Centres Megan Bish and Australian Kat Stuart scored 4 and 3 tries respectively whilst fellow Australian and debutant Emily Williams grabbed the player of the match award in a 35-20 victory.

You will have to wait a while to see the ladies teams in action as all fixtures throughout the rest of 2023 are away from home. But starting in January 2024, most of our games will be at St. Peter's Recreation Ground in Broadstairs.

If you are interested in trying out women's rugby, one of the fastest growing sports in the UK, check out the website at [www.thanetwanderers.co.uk/ladies](http://www.thanetwanderers.co.uk/ladies) which has details of all training sessions and matches as well as who to get in touch with.

**Ian Lodge**

Head Coach, Ladies Section



Photos by: Rebecca Hewitt



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