

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

THANET

WANDERERS

v Heathfield & Waldron RFC

Saturday 10th December 2022. Kick off 2.00pm

THANET WANDERERS

Image by: UMPIRE CAM



THANET WANDERERS RUFC

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

On behalf of the players, coaches, members and club officers of Thanet Wanderers, it gives me great pleasure to welcome our counterparts from Heathfield and Waldron RFC for what should have been the first of our second round of matches in the RFU Counties League 1 Kent. We especially welcome the President of Heathfield and Waldron, Robin Gale, and two of his colleagues who are also our guests at lunch today. We trust you will enjoy yourselves and that the game will be a good one without injury to players or officials!

Our Chairman, Chris Panteli, and I had the pleasure of visiting the East Sussex ground in September and after a fairly torturous journey were very glad to join with the good company present and enjoy a pint and an excellent lunch. We also learnt of the secrets of their innovative drainage system that provided a quality playing surface, despite the drought, and that was on a council-owned recreation area! The match itself was memorable mainly due to its abandonment after ten minutes when the referee, Alex Lambe, collided with Heathfield's open side and came off second best. The hosts had started very well and were 10-0 up so the postponement was particularly galling for them as it was too to our head of finance, Kelly Smith, who must find the cost of another coach for one of our longer journeys. Mr Lambe's injury proved to be a soft tissue one which was not as serious as first feared. That also proved to be the case with the neck injury incurred by Wanderers forward, Kieran Wright, in the first five minutes of our recent game at Crowborough which caused a lengthy delay before the game could be restarted. Thankfully, Kieran is back in training and plans to be playing again before Christmas.

The first XV's results have not been as the team's coaches or their supporters would have wished and I am sure that Head Coach Mike Pond will deal with this in more detail in his notes for this programme. Injuries have led to a lack of continuity in the squad and the return last week at Cranbrook of Joe Carlier and the debut of Steve Jones brought the total to forty who have represented the team this season with only 10 games played. After ten games last season, as in this, only three games had been won but the two final games of 2021 against Alleynians and Deal were won handsomely and a good season was built in the new year.

The 2s have played six and won three but are thirsting for more games due principally to re-arranged fixtures and they are happy to play according to the RFU 'Game On' formula if necessary. The 3s have played just 5 games for similar reasons to the 2s and have won 3, drawn, 1 and lost 1. This is clearly not ideal for the players of the 2s or 3s with lost revenue in the clubhouse not the least of the club's concerns on Saturdays with no rugby.

Wanderers Ladies' team has won four of their five games and the spirit is great within the growing squad. Tomorrow, 11th December, they are at home to Folkestone in a top-of-the-table clash in their Inner Warrior league game. Kick-off is at 2 PM and, if you haven't yet, please give it a try and add your support to that of an already loyal band of followers.

Thanet Wanderers Juniors also train and play their games on Sundays and the efforts of our coaches, as they patiently introduce their charges to the wonderful world of rugby, is to be admired. Thank you to them and all of our club's coaches and volunteers who do so much for the Wanderers.

Thank you also to the many Wanderers who joined with the family and a large contingent from the other groups that he supported to bid farewell to that remarkable Wanderer, Dr Roddy Macaulay, who was laid to rest on December 1st. I hope that those who joined us afterwards at the club enjoyed the lovely buffet put on by Kelly and the team plus Gerry and the bar crew who kept the glasses filled. It was a suitable close to the afternoon which I am sure Roddy would have approved of.

Today's referee is Mr Gareth Edwards, please give him the respect his position deserves, enjoy the game and C'mon Wanderers.

It just remains for me to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a good 2023. See you at Deal next Saturday!

Colin Whiteley

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Sunday 4th Dec. Having just watched England beat Senegal in the World Cup Match, the first 30 mins of play was somewhat frustrating. The next fifteen minutes of play was one of elation as England stepped up to go in at half time ahead in the game. As we reach half time of our season, I have also gone through similar feelings with regards our performance as a club. I have been frustrated by some of the challenges we have faced on the pitch yet elated how we have responded and continue to grow our club to be a better place for our members and the community at large. There are so many good things to report and praise, I am not sure I will have enough space on this page!

Injuries has been the headline for the Men's 1st XV, which have stalled our ambitions for a successful season. However, in true Wanderers style our club has stepped up to the challenge and with adversity comes opportunity. Our senior coaches and management team have done a great job in being able to meet our commitments and play all our 1st team matches. We have seen new caps from last years colts and promotions of players from the lower teams, and despite some disappointing results the opportunity to extend the depth of the squad with younger players is vital for the seasons ahead. I look forward to the second half of the season with the return of those injured and, some must win games to secure our position in the league. For the 2's and 3's we must ensure that they get the game time they deserve and the opportunity to play quality rugby on a regular basis. How we do this I am not sure but will work with the committee and Kent RFU to see what options we have open to us.

Our Women's team continue their amazing progression with a strong squad and some great results in their first league season. They are a well drilled squad, again thanks to the commitment of their coaches and management. The team have a great togetherness and team dynamic which it is a pleasure to observe on and off the pitch. As with the Men I look forward to a successful second half of the season.

The newly formed Colts squad, who have transitioned well, winning all but one of their league games. The added pressure of school matches, Kent rugby and Various Academy commitments clearly illustrate the benefits of a large talented squad. Again, the team camaraderie shines through, a reflection of committed coaches and players, which I hope will cascade throughout the rest of the junior squads. All the junior

teams, boys, and girls are growing and remain the foundation of our club. In fact, a Sunday can be quite congested at times, but a great pleasure to watch.

I was walking around the pitches this morning (Sunday) and got talking to an elderly lady walking her dog. She said to me, "how fantastic it is to see so many children out in the fresh air and not playing games in front of the TV."

She was clearly delighted, I concurred, and we carried on our way. As I reflected during my walk, I thought this is a great thing that we are a part of and honoured to be associated with a great club and the people who volunteer either coaching or running the operations. Speaking of fantastic stories, I cannot complete this without mentioning our SEND program, which is the ultimate in our community outreach. The feedback has been outstanding and has given the opportunity for many children with special needs to play rugby. The team should be very proud of their achievements. As should the team that run the schools Hub and school's curriculum coaching in both primary and secondary schools.

I think that we go into half time ahead in the game but have a challenging second half to maintain our lead!

I have purposely not named any specific person as I feel I would have to name them all. They all deserve praise and my thanks for their commitment and effort which makes our club so special. My thanks also go to our many sponsors, partners, supporters, parents and volunteers. Finally, my thanks go to the Committee and Trustees who support me throughout and keep me honest in my ambitions.

At this time of year my wish is that you remain safe and healthy.

I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Chris



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FROM THE HEAD COACH

Winter is upon us and the early kick offs started last weekend. The longer than expected trip to Cranbrook last Saturday, on a chilly, damp day on a heavy pitch against a team brimming with confidence after a seven match winning start to their season, had all the hallmarks of a tough day at the office. Despite narrowly losing their last three matches to the top teams, the 76-0 demolition of Charlton Park just a few weeks ago, sat in the back of our minds. With a number of key players again unavailable, just something we take for granted now, the team that took to the field had a familiar unfamiliarity about it!! Joe Carlier made his season's debut at tight head and back rower Steve Jones stepped up from his regular second team position to make his debut at 7. Joe played the full 80 minutes, beating Steve by about 8 minutes as he hobbled off near the end with cramp, after putting in a tremendous defensive shift. Cam Pond who was selected on the bench for a second half 20 minute cameo, after missing the last 8 weeks from sustaining a concussion against Bromley, ended up playing the full 80 when we lost Lewis Downer in the warm up with a hip injury. Noah Dann moved to number 8 for the first time at senior level and scrum half Harrison Leach started on the wing after Henry Mirams was forced to withdraw due to work commitments. Louis Marshall moved into the inside centre position and Mike Whitehead started at hooker in Neil Wakefield's absence. It was no surprise then with all these changes that we produced the best first half performance of the season so far and turned round at half time 12-12. Well a surprise to me anyway!! Cranbrook came out for the second half much more fired up and a harsh

early yellow card to Tom Walton after 5 minutes of the second half gave the home side ten minutes against 14 men to get into a 10 point lead with a converted try and a penalty. As our boys ran out of steam, Cranbrook turned the screw and ran in another couple of tries and a penalty to finish comfortable winners 37-12. Disappointing after such a heroic first half performance to not get anything out the game but two other clear scoring chances that went begging in the first half, may not have won us the game but would have given us a valuable 4 try bonus point. When chances come they have to be taken and our "points scored" tally for the season so far, clearly shows we are not converting enough of them.

We will need all the commitment our lads have to offer this week as we welcome Heathfield & Waldron to St. Peters. Their last visit here saw us beat them 44-0, but after a solid start to this season this certainly won't be the game it was that day. In our early season encounter down at their place in blazing sunshine and on one of the few pitches that was playable in mid September the game was abandoned after just 15 minutes following an injury to the referee. Heathfield had much the better start to that game and we trailed them by 10 points to nil. I suspect both teams will be fielding much changed teams, certainly we are, with ongoing injury problems and unavailability's affecting most teams this season. We hope for a competitive match and good entertainment to warm the crowd on what is forecast to be a very cold afternoon

Mike Pond



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FIRST XV FIXTURES

2022 – 2023

2022

Sep	3	ASHFORD	AWAY
	24	DEAL & BETTESHANGER	HOME
Oct	1	OLD ALLEYNIANS	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 ALLEYNIANS	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

MATCH REPORT

Thanet Wanderers RUFC 31-11 Aylesford Bulls RFC

Try hat trick for Charlie Knight in a welcome win for Thanet Wanderers.

Wanderers had Danny Clement back in the front-row and Warren Riddell-Bloomfield was another welcome returner to the back-row after missing two games through injury. Tom Walton and Marius Thompson resumed their half-back partnership and after missing the last match due to work commitments, wingers Henry Mirams and Louis Marshall were back on first team duty.

Aylesford, like Wanderers, have had a poor start to their season and have yet to register a win in the league. Wanderers were aiming to record their third win of the campaign and move away from the relegation zone.

The visitors kicked off up the slope with the breeze behind them and the opening minutes were played at a high pace with errors aplenty. Skipper, Nick Herbert's, big tackle set the Bulls back and Knight broke well but couldn't get over the line before a penalty allowed Aylesford to clear. The visitors opened the scoring with an early penalty but Walton's attempt to even things up slid by the post. A promising Thanet movement broke down when a penalty was conceded and the visitors' were seemingly growing in confidence. With twenty-five minutes remaining a superb cross-kick from Thompson was gathered at speed by Knight who raced in to touch down before Walton's conversion gave Wanderers a 7-3 lead. Three minutes later Walton was all urgency as his tap penalty opened up to Thompson who sent Knight away from his own 22 to outpace the Bulls' defence for an unconverted try. The aptly named Referee, Mr Oliver Tyson, now intervened firmly to defuse the situation after a quick flurry of fisticuffs that saw Thanet's Clement and two from the visitors' front-row receive yellow cards. Moments after the game restarted Wanderers hooker, Neil Wakefield was also shown yellow and the Bulls added three points from their kicker. With four of the front rowers off the pitch, scrums were now uncontested and Walton, breaking down the blindside of the next scrum, sent Knight away to complete a fine hat trick with

half-time still eight minutes away. Walton's excellent conversion opened up a 19-6 lead before Knight, in full flight, was called back for a forward pass. Three of the four yellow carded returned on the stroke of half-time when there was no change to the score.

Two minutes into the second period, Knight broke down the Bulls' right and his kick ahead was fielded by a defender who badly miscued his clearance which was seized by Mirams who was delighted to nip in and touch down for the bonus point try which Walton converted for a 26-6 lead. The visitors increased their pressure but Wanderers defence was sound, despite living dangerously on occasion in their own 22. Regan Doody replaced Riddell-Bloomfield who had enjoyed a good return with around 20 minutes remaining and Harrison Leach went on for Walton minutes later. On what was now a rare excursion into Aylesford's 22 a well controlled drive from Thanet's pack ended with Noah Dann claiming the touchdown for an unconverted try. The Bulls returned to the attack and the Wanderers repelled attack after attack before, as the game moved into extra time, the visitors finally crossed the line for a well earned unconverted try. Just enough time remained for Lenny Brown to be shown yellow and for substitute prop Mike Whitehead to put in two good chop tackles before, as darkness descended, the final whistle sounded.

This was a much improved performance from the Wanderers. It was heartening to see Knight speeding in for his tries but this was very much a team performance with the defence holding firm for most of the game. Thanet's coaches were impressed particularly with the walking wounded of the front row, Clement, Wakefield and Morris who competed well in the tight and loose to help their team to the win. Tight-head Michael Morris has worked hard at his game since breaking into the first XV and put in fine shift today to be named the Wanderers man of the match.

Colin Whiteley



Photos by: Umpire Cam

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INCLUSION @ THE WANDERERS



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

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

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

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

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

Safeguarding Officer

Thanet Wanderers RUFC

THANET WANDERERS RUFC LADIES XV: UPDATE

Photo credits: Leah Marshall and Holly Thurman-Newell

Tomorrow sees the final fixtures of 2022 as we welcome our close neighbours, Folkestone Ladies to St Peter's (KO 2pm) in what is a top of the table clash with both teams sitting joint top and unbeaten in the Inner Warrior League. It promises to be a hard battle as we look to overturn our 60-20 defeat from the spring.

And as we approach that final fixture of the year, I thought it would be a good idea just to give you all an update on where we are with the all new Ladies XV at Thanet Wanderers RUFC.

Since the start of the season we have played 5 games with the only loss being the second round Junior Cup defeat at home to Aylesford. Wins at home to Medway and Faversham as well as wins on the road at Ashford and Tunbridge Wells have seen us sitting pretty at the top of the league. Let's see what that looks like on Sunday night, eh!

The coaching team still looks strong with me at the helm, ably assisted by Patrick Liddle as forwards coach and Lee Halliday looking after the backs. We are assisted by a small but proactive leadership team of skipper Gee Cordell, Alex White and Brioni Reah.

The playing numbers have grown steadily over the past 5 months. When we held our open day back in June 2022

we had around 15 players and although a handful have left the area - we are delighted they have taken their boots with them and are playing for other clubs - we are adding new players every week.

We are proud to currently be boasting a squad of 35 players with a couple more ready to make their debuts tomorrow. As we go into 2023 we have a packed fixture list with games against Edenbridge, Faversham, Sheppey, Bexley, Dartford Valley and Sevenoaks as well as an end of season 7s trophy to defend from last season.

I am often asked what success looks like and we have discussed this at length with the coaches and leaders. The Inner Warrior league is very much a foundation league with clubs taking their first steps on the RFU ladder. Promotion can happen if we finish high enough - top 2 or 3 - and we are ready to move up. We think we are.

And if the increase in player numbers continues we could be at 50 players by the summer and we might even be looking at getting 2 XV's out; one in a higher league and another staying in the Inner Warrior.

But let's get walking properly before we start to run. We are running well at the moment. And we're smiling. That is the main thing!

Ian Lodge
Head Coach Thanet Wanderers Ladies section



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Thanet Wanderers

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Postition sponsored by: Bill Hurley

3 Joe Carlier

Postition sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore

4 Andrew Letts

Postition sponsored by: Mark O' Riordan

5 Jack Startin

Postition sponsored by: Barry Winson

6 Warren Riddell-Broomfield

Postition sponsored by: Michelle McClean

7 Steve Jones

Postition sponsored by: Chris Marson

8 Noah Dann

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 Nick Herbert (Capt).

Postition sponsored by: Neil Armstrong

11 Harrison Leach

Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover

12 Dan Clement

Postition sponsored by: Jason Deacon

13 Cameron Pond

Postition sponsored by: John Keohane

14 Tom Stevens

Postition sponsored by: Peter Tierney/Ray Roby

15 Henry Mirams

Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond

Replacements:

16 Mike Whitehead

Postition sponsored by: Dave Brown

17 Regan Doody

Postition sponsored by: Four Candles Alehouse

18 Marius Thompson

Postition sponsored by: Terry Tuttle

Referee

Gareth Edwards

Touch Judge

Clive Lewis

Postition sponsored by: Pegasus Storage Solutions

Heathfield & Waldron

Away team colours: green with white band

1 Ollie Tooke

2 Tom Cornwall

3 Reece Webb

4 Sam Crichton

5 Ed Koops

6 Jem McVicker

7 Jayden Rainbow

8 Angus Taylor (Capt)

D.O.R.

Not Supplied

Head Coach

Dave Cook

Assistant Coach

Not Supplied

Team Manager

Not Supplied

Physio

Not Supplied

9 Ben Irwin

10 Harry Reilly

11 Liam Dunkley

12 Lucas Cuming

13 Dion Cornerford

14 Jay Massey-Taylor

15 Toby Siompson

Replacements:

16 George Hayter

17 Dan Canneaux

18 Will Chambers



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MATCH REPORT

Ashford Colts 12-16 Thanet Wanderers Colts

On Sunday the 27th November Thanet Wanderers Colts were away to Ashford to play in the fourth round of the Kent League games, looking for a positive reaction to their below par performance in the previous round.

The weather was again wet with considerable amounts of rain and many thought the game might well get called off, but this is rugby and it doesn't stop for a bit of rain!!

Thanet had initially selected a squad of 20, but withdrawals through injuries and other commitments meant some late call ups were necessary, but they still travelled with a strong squad of 19 that made it to Ashford despite road closures and the bad weather.

The game kicked off and Thanet straight away had the look of a team ready to put behind them the poor performance of their last outing. Ashford decided to kick for territory and gave Thanet's full back Henry Carruthers lots of testing high balls to deal with and he came through the test with flying colours, gathering the ball well and taking the game back to them.

Both teams were making breaks and putting their tackling skills into practice, with Wanderers' Isaac Divine racking up huge numbers and others including Finn Hickmott, Ollie Jordan Smith and Toby Hunt all making massive hits and battling it out in the rucks.

Thanet applied a lot of pressure on the Ashford defence, with Tom O'Callaghan, from scrum half, making probing run after run. Hugo Evans and Harrison Quittenden made a series of breaks and after one such move the ball eventually found the speedy Stanley Ball on the wing who powered over for a try. This was a brilliant score for Ball on his return to the team after injury. The score was unconverted. On the other wing Alfie Pearce again showed his skill, neat footwork and speed.

The Wanderers scrum was back to its imperious best with the front three of captain Max Anderson, Fred O'Halloran and Ben Couldridge dictating forward momentum and had it not been for the one and half metre rule on the limit of the shove, they might well have carried on with the push all the way to the next town!!

Around some 14 minutes into the game the Ashford number 7 had a bit of a rush of blood to the head and dump tackled Zach Ralph to ground on his neck. This dangerous move surprisingly went unpunished, but unfortunately for safety reasons, Ralph was withdrawn

from the match in order to monitor him. This was a real shame as he was having a great game up to that point. Alfie Reeves came on as his replacement and immediately made some great carries.

In the 25th minute Thanet were awarded a penalty which Charlie Panteli elected to kick. In tough conditions he slotted the ball over to show why he is highly regarded as a 10 on the pitch and a valuable member of the team.

At half time the score was Ashford 0 Thanet 8. Wanderers had had the better of the game, but were probably guilty of not using their wide players enough at times when they could have done so, but nonetheless the coaches were still satisfied with the general performance of the first half.

The second half kicked off with all Thanet's replacements on the field including Joe Sykes, Joseph Near and Will Mahoney. Wanderers immediately went on the attack with Mahoney putting in a strong carry on the wing. This was followed by some Ashford possession. Thanet applied pressure on the Ashford defence while the home side was trying to work their way out of their own 22 and when their winger tried to pass back inside this was anticipated by Wanderers Hickmott who intercepted the ball and ran in unopposed to score and put the St Peter's boys 13-0 up.

Ashford fought their way back into the game and in the 40th minute after a powerful drive they crashed over to score and this was converted to bring the score back to 13-8. Thanet then saw more of the ball with Near winning it back and Sykes trying to break the lines.

Thanet lost a little discipline when first Reeves was singled out for two no wrap tackles. When he executes these correctly, which no doubt he will going forward, he will be very effective. Then a few minutes later Evans was penalised for two high tackles in quick succession and both players received yellow cards. Although down to 13 players, Thanet battled hard and dug in but a few minutes later they lost another unconverted try to reduce their lead to one point with the score now 13-12.

Once back up to their full 15 complement, Thanet finished the game strongly with their fitness paying off. They could have had a few more tries had they passed the ball better and used their wide players more, but with two minutes to go until the end of the match,

Panteli settled the nerves when he scored the final three points from a penalty to put Wanderers fours points up which they maintained all the way to the final whistle.

At the end of the game the result was Ashford 12, Thanet Wanderers 16. This was a dogged performance in tough conditions from the Thanet team who battled hard when down to 13 players to maintain their foothold in the game and even managed to push up field during this period.

There were a lot of excellent performances throughout the Wanderers team. but the 'Please Sir' man of the match was awarded to Max Anderson. who put in some huge tackles, carried the ball well and as captain of the side led by example throughout. Well done Max.

Thanet Wanderers Colts: Max Anderson (C), Fred O'Halloran, Ben Couldridge, Hugo Evans, Finn Hickmott, Isaac Divine, Charlie Panteli, Alfie Pearce, Harrison Quittenden, Henry Curruthers, Tom O'Callaghan, Joseph Near, Toby Hunt, Will Mahoney, Joe Sykes, Ollie Jordan Smith, Alfie Reeves, Zach Ralph, Stanley Bal

Matthew Hickmott.



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	12	10	0	2	405	146	259	7	1	48	0
Bromley	12	9	0	3	300	186	114	6	0	42	0
Charlton Park	12	9	0	3	324	258	66	6	0	42	0
Beccehamian	12	8	0	4	337	222	115	7	2	41	0
Cranbrook	11	8	0	3	320	182	138	6	0	38	0
Ashford	12	7	0	5	229	199	30	2	2	32	0
Heathfield & Waldron	11	6	0	5	235	244	-9	4	2	30	0
Deal & Betteshanger	12	5	0	7	233	287	-54	3	2	26	0
Folkestone	12	3	0	9	203	376	-173	4	1	17	0
Thanet Wanderers	10	3	0	7	123	300	-177	2	0	14	0
Crowborough	12	2	0	10	207	358	-151	3	0	6	-5
Aylesford Bulls	12	0	0	12	186	344	-158	2	3	5	0

COUNTIES 1 KENT FIXTURES

Saturday 10th December 2022

Aylesford Bulls v Ashford

Charlton Park v Deal & Betteshanger

Beccehamian v Old Alleynians

Crowborough v Cranbrook

Bromley v Folkestone

Thanet Wanderers v Heathfield & Waldron

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MATCH REPORT

Cranbrook RFC 37-12 Thanet Wanderers RUFC

Wanderers fail to build on a competitive first half performance.

Joe Carlier stepped up to the first XV tighthead berth after an absence of several seasons. He was joined in the front row by hooker Michael Whitehead and there was a debut for Steve Jones at open-side after showing well in the 2s' opening matches. Noah Dann played at number 8 and Tom Stevens again played on the right wing, Lewis Downer was due to return after injury in the centre but pulled up in the warm up and was replaced by Cam Pond, meaning only two were on the bench.

It was a cold, grey afternoon in the Weald as Wanderers kicked off on a sticky surface. Thanet contained an early Cranbrook attack well and aided by a penalty were soon in an attacking position themselves. A strong drive, following a line-out, saw Danny Clement emerge from the pile of bodies as the try scorer. Tom Walton's conversion attempt from wide right was just wide but Wanderers led 5-0. Play was punctuated by too many penalties, against both teams, before Cranbrook showed some nice handling to score a converted try on 17 minutes. Thanet returned to the attack and Carlier was nearly there after another concerted attack on the home line. Another attack was mounted minutes later and Louis Marshall, who was playing in the centre today, emerged from nowhere to race in and touch down under the posts. Walton added the extras for Wanderers to lead 12-5. Whitehead took a break with Regan Doody on in his place. Marius Thompson was at full back and his hunt down and tackle of the catcher of his long clearance epitomised the determination Wanderers were playing with. Thanet were however conceding too many penalties and when another was called, on the verge of half-time, they were slow to get into position and the hosts quickly sent the ball along the line before scoring their second try which was unconverted for a 12-12 scoreline at the break.

Marshall had been injured just before half-time and was replaced by Callum Doody. Despite conceding a late score, Wanderers had competed well in the first half but at the first scrum in the second half they were

pushed off their own ball. The immediate danger was averted and a good clearance took play to the halfway line but the warning was clear. Walton was shown yellow by today's referee Josh Methven, after six minutes of the second half for a high tackle. The decision looked borderline but there were no complaints from Thanet's Head Coach, Mike Pond who described the official's performance as the best his side had encountered this season. The resulting penalty rebounded from the post and the danger was cleared. Three minutes later a dominant scrum, from the hosts, drew another penalty and a 15-12 lead for them. Thompson was now withdrawn as Marshall returned and shortly afterwards Walton was back. Cranbrook however had their tails up and in a five minutes spell scored two tries, with one conversion, to open up a 27-12 lead. The testing surface was clearly telling on some of the Wanderers although there was no waning in their spirit and commitment but Cranbrook had found another gear and a further penalty and a good try and conversion meant they had scored 25 unanswered points in the second half to win convincingly by 37-12.

Both Carlier and Jones transferred their good form for the 2s into the first XV and veterans Clement and Letts were, as ever, integral to the team's battling performance. However, the coaches' choice as man of the match was Louis Marshall. Not only did he score a try but his effective defence and forceful direct attacks were a constant threat to the opposition before he was slowed by injury.

Next week Heathfield and Waldron are the visitors to St Peters Rec. The away game was abandoned when the referee was injured after ten minutes play. The East Sussex side had made a good start to that game and had taken an early lead. They will doubtless hoping to continue their impressive start to this first season after promotion. All support will be welcome and a Christmas lunch is available before the game: contact Kelly to reserve your place. Kick off is at 2 PM

Colin Whiteley



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	Aylesford Bulls	Beccehamian	Bromley	Charlton Park	Cranbrook	Crowborough	Deal & Betteshanger	Folkestone	Heathfield & Waldron	Old Alleynians	TWRUFC
Ashford		22-8	12-5				14-5		45-15	13-15	17-10	13-3
Aylesford Bulls				10-31	14-36	13-17	30-40	20-33	19-28			
Beccehamian		33-15		48-10		25-12		5-34				69-3
Bromley	17-13				18-0		57-15			33-0	12-37	
Charlton Park	37-21		23-21				43-0			52-19		
Cranbrook	31-19			10-22	72-0		34-17	24-14	51-12		15-46	37-12
Crowborough			26-34					18-32		17-29	10-37	35-10
Deal & Bettes	35-8		25-32	13-27	9-29		HWO	45-24		15-19		
Folkestone		29-24	14-29	3-26	14-45		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		76-0				63-5
TWRUFC		31-11		10-34	7-23			23-10				

RESULTS FROM COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

Saturday 26th November 2022

Beccehamian 25-12 Cranbrook

Bromley 33-0 Heathfield & Waldron

Charlton Park 37-21 Ashford

Folkestone 32-24 Crowborough

Old Alleynians 76-0 Deal & Betteshanger

Thanet Wanderers 31-11 Aylesford Bulls

Saturday 3rd December 2022

Ashford 14-5 Crowborough

Cranbrook 37-12 **Thanet Wanderers**

Deal & Betteshanger 25-32 Beccehamian

Folkestone 29-24 Aylesford Bulls

Heathfield & Waldron 17-21 Charlton Park

Old Alleynians 27-13 Bromley



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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.

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SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

The mystery behind why Swing Low Sweet Chariot was first sung at the home of English rugby has been solved, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) believes.

It has long been an anthem of England fans and is belted out lustily whenever the national team plays at Twickenham.

The African-American spiritual was not thought to have been sung there until 1988 when Chris Oti got a hat trick of tries for England, but archive footage has been found of it being sung in 1987 when Martin "Chariots" Offiah played. The speedy winger was given the nickname "Chariots" as a play on words with the film "Chariots of Fire" which is about two athletes competing in the 1924 Olympics.

Curator of the Twickenham based World Rugby Museum Phil McGowan, who unearthed the footage, believes Swing Low was clearly sung in 1987 with a nod to the "chariot" in both the song's name and Offiah's nickname.

The discovery of the archive footage from the 1987 Middlesex Sevens tournament was a surprise even to the rugby legend himself. "People used to ask me if it was a reference to me and I said, I don't think so" said the 53 year old Londoner who is regarded as one of the greatest rugby league players of all time, but who started out in rugby union. "When the RFU told me that they had found the footage I thought, 'wow, so I have got some link with this song'".

McGowan said that what sparked his detective work was a conversation with a visitor to the World Rugby Museum who very casually said he remembered singing Swing Low for Offiah at the Middlesex Sevens. "That wasn't much of a big deal but later on it occurred to me that Martin Offiah only played in the Middlesex Sevens in 1987 which was the year before this song was supposed to have been sung for the first time at Twickenham", said McGowan.

He then got hold of the archive footage from the BBC programme Rugby Special. "I played it through and there it was, it's unmistakable", said McGowan, who was very surprised because the story about England winger Oti had been established for a long time.

The association with Martin Offiah suggests it was a play on words. His name was already making waves in the sport of rugby so a lot of people would have

turned out to the Middlesex Sevens just to see him play. McGowan believes many rugby fans would have already known Offiah by the nickname "Chariots". In his autobiography Offiah actually mentions that he was given the nickname by the chairman at Rosslyn Park, which was the rugby union team he was playing for in 1987. So the nickname was already in circulation at that time.

McGowan believes the crowd at Twickenham would already have known Swing Low because it had been sung in rugby clubs since the 1960s. Folk singer Joe Stead has claimed he introduced it to the rugby fraternity as early as 1960 after hearing it from civil rights activist Paul Robeson.

In relation to its debut at Twickenham, the longstanding theory was that a group of boys from Douai School in Berkshire started singing the song when England played Ireland in the Five Nations Championship in 1988. The boys were said to be serenading Oti, a black player, making this theory controversial because the song is linked to slavery. Four members of Market Bosworth Rugby Club have also claimed they started singing the song first at the same match, but said they were not serenading Oti.

Offiah said people often still sing Swing Low at him when he watches matches, even though his link to the song had not been established until now.

In a neat coincidence, Chariots of Fire screenwriter, Colin Welland was a rugby fan and penned the foreword to Offiah's autobiography. "He wrote some beautiful words about me and he wrote about seeing me playing rugby at Twickenham and being Chariots, but it didn't dawn on me," said Offiah.

Offiah added "I still go to Twickenham quite a lot and they sing either Jerusalem or Swing Low and a lot of people in the crowd turn to me.

Swing Low Sweet Chariot is thought to have been composed by a slave called Wallace Wallis with his wife Minerva in the 1800s. There are several theories about its meaning including that it conveyed a coded message to slaves instructing them to escape. However, Horace Clarence Boyer, a prominent scholar of African-American music believed the song was about death. Professor Boyer, who died in 2009, told a BBC documentary that the song fits into a group of spirituals that say "I would rather die than be here Lord, just come and take me right now".

The song was brought to a wider audience by the Fisk Jubilee Singers, who made the earliest known recording of it in 1909. It has since been covered several times by artists including BB King, Sam Cooke, Etta James, Eric Clapton, Johnny Cash and Beyonce.

A version called Swing Low (Run With The Ball) was recorded for the 1991 Rugby World Cup. Other versions have been recorded for subsequent world cups including by UB40 and Russell Watson.





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