

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

THANET

WANDERERS

v Old Alleynians RFC Saturday 7th January 2023. Kickoff 2.00pm



THANET WANDERERS



THANET WANDERERS RUFC

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FIRST XV FIXTURES

2022 – 2023

2022

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

2023

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

Fixtures in BLOCK Type are Counties 1 Kent League dates

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

There's a warm welcome today for the coaches, players, officials and spectators of Old Alleynians, most of whom will have made the long trip from South London to Thanet for today's match. We hope you enjoy your visit to Broadstairs and that today's match is a good one and without injury for the players of both sides.

Old A's players were all old boys of Dulwich College until the club became fully open in 1995. The rugby club maintains a strong association with the college where many of today's players, in their five XVs, first learnt their rugby. The club has an illustrious history with a long list of internationals including, Bath Loose-head prop Beno Obano, who followed Nick Easter, Andrew Sheridan and David Flatman into the England team, and won his first cap on the 6th February 2021 against Scotland.

Our visitors today have enjoyed a good season to date with just two games lost and ten won to leave them 6 points clear at the top of Counties 1 Kent. These include some very high scoring wins such as a recent drubbing of Deal and Betts by 76-0 and not forgetting our away fixture at O A's ground on the edge of London's South Circular road, that was lost 63-5 in October. During the icy spell on 10th of December our home game with Heathfield and Waldron was the only match played in our league due of course to Thanet's prevailing micro climate! The match was preceded by our annual Christmas lunch which was most enjoyable and, like the post match players' meals, received many plaudits from both our supporters and the visitors. Congratulations and thank you to our Catering supremo, Kelly Smith and her team, for another excellent meal from all of us who enjoyed our meals on the day. Please watch our websites for the date of the next sit-down lunch and reserve your place. After failing to trouble the scorer against Heathfield we had a good result at Deal in our last fixture just prior to Christmas, when we showed great resilience to win a full blooded local derby. The gutsy manner of the victory was particularly pleasing as was the notching of a fourth consecutive win over our old rivals. However, we are at the wrong end of the table as we commence our 2023 fixtures. An unprecedented run of injuries in the autumn resulted in a series of

disjointed performances from the team and losing, just like winning, can become a habit. Let's hope that the indomitable spirit shown at Deal today. When Alleynians visited us last season they were also riding high in this league but Wanderers produced a very pleasing result that was based on some fine defence and a man of the match performance from Marius Thompson (not forgetting Neil Wakefield's sprint to the line for the opening try!) to win 36-17.

After the deaths of two of Wanderers' oldest and longest serving members, Roddy Macaulay and Brian Bingham, Peter Hawkins sadly informed the club of the death of his friend and another long time Wanderer, Roger Bishop. Roger was known to many within the club as the 450 man due to his dedication to the Wanderers monthly fundraiser that grew from the 200 club, when he took over in 1978, to the 450 club as it is today almost solely due to his tireless efforts. It seemed that not a weekend passed without Roger's familiar figure being seen striding around the clubhouse and its grounds with his clipboard in hand as he sought to introduce more happy members to the benefits of the 450 club. The funds that Roger raised were a tremendous asset to the club and the 450 club continues to flourish thanks to his hard work in growing its membership. Roger played in the second row for Wanderers, principally in the 2nd XV during the 70s and 80s and he joined with Peter Hawkins, Neil Armstrong and Tony Beable to start Wanderers' mini section which has become an important part of the club. Roger had been suffering from a rare form of blood cancer recently, a fact that was known only to his closest friends. The funeral was due to be held on Thursday. RIP Roger, you will be much missed.

A happy New Year to all Thanet Wanderers as we start the second period of the season. Thank to to all who give so freely of their time to progress the club's success whether on or off the pitch

Please respect today's referee, and as ever, C'mon Wanderers.

Colin Whiteley

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FROM THE HEAD COACH

Happy New Year to everyone at Thanet Wanderers and to our visitors today, Old Alleynians. Our win away to Deal in the last game of 2022, saw us climb one space out of the relegation zone. The second "double" over our local rivals, was probably the high point of an otherwise disappointing first half of the season for us. Whilst aiming to improve our league standing over the next ten games, our job couldn't have been made any harder, due to us having to play the top four teams in the league over the next four weeks. Having lost to all four teams in the first round of matches with an aggregate score of 189 points against and just 25 for, it's going to be a tough month ahead. Hopefully with some players coming back from injury to bolster the pack and the way the back line played at Deal, we may surprise some of those four teams, who were hoping for an easy return fixture.

The Christmas social on the 17th December after the Deal victory, was probably the best one yet. Thanks to Mike Whitehead and Noah Dann, the Director and Producer of the greatest story ever told, over 50 players dressed up in their given roles to re-create the Christmas Nativity in the clubhouse. The birth of baby Jesus was particularly moving. The twelve days of Christmas rendition with the lyrics adapted to more of a Thanet Wanderers theme was very entertaining, so much so that a second rendition was performed later in the evening for anyone that missed the first. The ensuing pub crawl through Broadstairs was its usual messy fun and a night few of us can actually remember much about. Which is probably for the best.

As some of you may have seen on social media, our first team hooker Neil Wakefield has decided to call time on his playing days. He was due to retire at the end of

the season but has decided to go now as in his words, "his body is telling him it's time to stop". Neil has been a great servant to the club, taking a sabbatical in his twenties to play National League rugby with Canterbury before returning to finish his playing days at his local club. Not many hookers at this level have the accuracy of his "darts" and his contribution around the pitch, both in attack and defence, has always been exceptional. It leaves a huge pair of boots to fill in the team and today Kurt Pearson has been given that role. Kurt is an outstanding rugby player who has been knocking on the door of first team rugby for a few years now and following a change of career is available far more than he used to be and has a chance to make the position his own. Young Reagan Doody who is hooking for the second team today will also be looking to stake a claim to the first team number 2 shirt. We wish them both well in the challenge ahead.

So as we enter a run of 10 games without a break, please get behind the lads from the touchline. There have been a lot of new faces in the first team this season and I'm sure a few more still to come through. Tuesday's training session saw 6/7 of our colts attend senior training for the first time and some showed real potential to work their way through the third and second teams. Then hopefully like Andrew Dolan and Noah Dann have managed to do this season, establish themselves as regular first team players. Who knows, in years to come, we could be saying farewell to them as club legends like we are today to Neil Wakefield. We will miss you mate. You wore your shirt with pride and gave it your all. That's all we can ask of any Thanet Wanderer.

Mike Pond



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CHRISTMAS DRAW RESULT

And the winner is: Warren Riddell-Broomfield

Well done to 1st XV regular Warren Riddell-Broomfield and his partner Thanet Wanderers Ladies Captain Gee Cordell for winning the Christmas hamper.

Photos show the hamper and Gee being presented with it by Ladies coach Patrick Liddell.



CODES OF CONDUCT

PLAYERS CODE: Play by the Rules and Laws of the Game **DO NOT SWEAR**

Play for fun Be a good sport Improve your skills Never give up Be fair
 Do not be selfish Do not show off Control your temper
Do not argue with the referee Do not use non-prescribed controlled drugs

COACHES' CODE: Teach players to play by the Rules and Laws of the Game

Get the right equipment and facilities Be reasonable Avoid mismatches Be generous with praise
 Do not favour your best players Being a coach should be fun too Never condemn
 Give your voice a rest Good coaching-running with the ball Doctor /Physio knows best
It's the players who matter most not their won/lost record

PARENT'S AND SPECTATORS CODE: Never force a child to play rugby especially if he/she feels unwell

Always remember children play rugby for their enjoyment not yours
 Encourage your child to play by the Rules and Laws of the Game
 Teach your child that victory isn't everything Never yell at a player for making a mistake
 Encourage your child to improve his/her skills through coaching
 Applaud good play by either team Stay off the pitch!
DO NOT ABUSE ANYONE (ESPECIALLY THE REFEREE)

Thanet Wanderers does not tolerate bad behaviour by any player or spectator and asks everyone to abide by the above codes

MATCH REPORT

Thanet Wanderers 0 – 18 Heathfield & Waldron RFC

Wanderers slump to eighth defeat despite a battling display in the second half.

Hooker Neil Wakefield and Mike Morris returned to Thanet's front-row whilst last week's loose-head prop Danny Clement found himself at inside centre this week. Henry Mirams was back on one wing with, scrum-half by choice, Harrison Leach, on the other.

Thanet's sunshine had loosened the frost sufficiently for the game to go ahead and become the only fixture played in Counties League Kent One on 10th of December.

Wanderers kicked off down the slope into the bright sunshine which made high balls testing. Tom Walton's early penalty attempt, from distance, carried but was just wide. Joe Carlier was shown an early yellow and on ten minutes Heathfield opened the scoring with a penalty but there was little pattern to either side's play as errors and penalties punctuated the exchanges. Finally, on 25 minutes, the visitors crossed halfway between the touchline and the posts and the conversion opened a ten point lead. Thanet's full-back, Marius Thompson, showed good opportunism, to take Wanderers to ten metres out but the opportunity was then lost by a knock-on. Wanderers were contesting well but over-urgency was proving costly with retaining possession. Thompson's tackle prevented a likely try and Nick Herbert's good clearance took Wanderers to thirty metres out. Open-side, Steve Jones, in his second first XV game, made a nice half-break and Walton was constantly sniping as he sought an opening but the visitors' defence was sound and they closed the half with a further penalty to lead 13-0.

Mike Whitehead gave Joe Carlier a break as he joined from the bench for the second-half and there was some confidence in the home camp that the deficit could be overcome. However, after Wanderers had repelled one wave of attacks from the visitors, a second onslaught eight minutes into the half saw their forwards drive over, wide left, for an unconverted try and an 18-0 lead. A Thanet attack was penalised with the line close but another forward drive again took them close before a knock on was called. Cam Pond now took a break with Tom Stevens joining a reorganised back line and shortly

afterwards Regan Doody joined from the bench with Jones going off. Warren Riddell-Bloomfield popped up with a big tackle to halt a visitors' dangerous attack and the home pack took up residence in Heathfield's 22. Wakefield drove for the line from a penalty and many more followed as Heathfield protected their line but on this occasion there was no card from today's referee, Mr Gareth Edwards. As Wanderers went for the line, an ailing Andy Letts and fellow lock Jack Startin were excellent in a formidable effort from the pack. However, after fifteen minutes of intense pressure from Thanet's pack and some outstanding defence from the visitors, the siege was lifted when a penalty was signalled and Heathfield cleared to thirty metres. With three minutes of regular time remaining, Heathfield were penalised and were marched back ten metres with the offender being shown yellow, Thanet were unable to benefit from the advantage in the minutes left and the final score remained 18-0 to the visitors.

Wanderers gave a spirited performance, particularly in the second-half, but will be concerned that no points resulted from their efforts and their points difference in the league table is the worst of all of the clubs and their points scored, 123, is 63 short of the next lowest. There were good individual performances with Noah Dann progressing quickly at No 8 and Neil Wakefield's accuracy at the line-out and leadership in the pack was particularly valuable. However, today's man of the match was, stand-in skipper Nick Herbert. Playing at ten today, he set a good example by tackling well above his weight and distributing accurately and making many metres. He will be aiming to help turn around the club's fortunes when they make the short trip to Deal next Saturday. Kick Off 2.00 PM. Please support the boys as they hope to record the double over their old rivals in this local derby.

SQUAD: Mike Morris, Neil Wakefield, Joe Carlier, Andy Letts, Jack Startin, Warren Riddell-Bloomfield, Steve Jones, Noah Dann, Tom Walton, Nick Herbert (C), Harrison Leach, Danny Clement, Cam Pond, Henry Mirams, Marius Thompson. **REPLACEMENTS:** Mike Whitehead, Regan Doody, Tom Stevens.

Colin Whiteley



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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



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THANET WANDERERS LADIES AND GIRLS

December 2022

It's quite a short one this month as we have been blighted with the frozen pitches and other teams being snowed in! The ladies have still been training though, with multiple layers on! Looking forward, with several cancellations in the first part of this season, January to March are going to be jam-packed with fixtures (see below). There are a couple of friendlies that have been arranged as well. Generally, we are still growing and are seeing new faces all the time. As the DOR for the ladies, I am extremely proud of how far we have come and how much of a great team we have. Not only do we enjoy the rugby, the ladies support each other outside of the sport as well. We also enjoyed an outing to Bugsy's for Christmas, kindly arranged by our wonderful Captain Gee. 2023 is looking very promising for the ladies, going into Christmas joint top of the table!

This month, the girls have been mostly training and developing their skills. It was great to finish the year with a bit of a Christmas party in the clubhouse and the girls received some goody bags. In the new year there are Waterfall Finals for the different age groups and Thanet are contributing more players than ever before to the Viragos team. This is a credit to the coaches and organisers for the girls' section. That being said, the girls' section is desperate for more coaches so that more

girls can start training as we have two coaches for 30 girls. If you are interested, please message me (Vicky) at vicky.flower@thanetwanderers.co.uk.

If you are thinking of joining but are a bit tentative, come along and watch a training session to help you make up your mind – you will see we cater for all abilities. Questions are always welcome and there is no such thing as a silly one when it comes to rugby! Ladies training is 6:30pm at the club every Tuesday and fitness is at War Machines (for females 14+) every Thursday at 6pm. Girls train every Tuesday at the club from 5:30pm and Sunday's from 9:30am (check venues).

Important dates:

Jan 8th – Various Girls Viragos fixtures TBC
Jan 15th – Various Girls Viragos fixtures TBC
Thanet Ladies vs Edenbridge Ladies (home) KO 2pm
Jan 22nd – Gravesend/Darts vs East Kent Viragos U18s (away) KO TBC
Thanet Ladies vs Folkestone Ladies (home) KO 2pm
Jan 29th - East Kent Viragos U18s vs Medway (home) KO TBC
East Kent Viragos U12s Waterfalls Finals TBC

Vicky Flower the Ladies DOR



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MATT PROUDFOOT SET TO LEAVE ENGLAND

England forwards coach Matt Proudfoot is set to leave his RFU role to take up a new gig in South African rugby.

Proudfoot, who has been in his current role for just under three years, will not be retained by Steve Borthwick's new England regime. Proudfoot coached the Springboks' forward pack that demolished England's scrum in the final of the Rugby World Cup in 2019./

Proudfoot and Borthwick would have worked together for a year under Eddie Jones before Borthwick upped sticks in 2020 to take over as head coach of Leicester Tigers. More recently the South African was coaching alongside former England hooker Richard Cockerill.

Proudfoot, South African born and a former Scottish international, became forwards coach having been involved in the Springboks team since 2016. The former prop was part of Rassie Erasmus' backroom staff during the victorious Rugby World Cup run.

He previously coached at Western Province and Stormers in South Africa and Kobelco Steelers in Japan.

Proudfoot, capped four times for Scotland between 1998 and 2003, played for Edinburgh and Glasgow Warriors and the Leopards and Blue Bulls in South Africa.

According to The Telegraph, Borthwick's first mission as England coach is to improve the scrums ahead of the Guinness Six Nations. The former Leicester Tigers coach is to bring in 35-year-old veteran Dan Cole as part of a bid to bolster their setpiece. Cole hasn't played for England since the aforementioned Rugby World Cup final, where the English pack was dismantled by the then Proudfoot-coached Boks.

"There's a lot of potential in the players we have and I want to produce a team that delivers, so I'm going to devote myself wholeheartedly to try to help this team deliver and be a team that we can all be proud of," Borthwick said recently. "Ultimately on that first game of the Six Nations are we going to be perfect? No. Is it going to be exactly how the team is going to play? No. It is going to be the start but what is absolutely clear is the team needs to go out there and it needs to fight."



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Thanet Wanderers

Home team colours: blue, black and gold hoops

1 Dan Clement

Position sponsored by: Peter Hawkins

2 Kurt Pearson

Position sponsored by: Bill Hurley

3 Gulliver Goodall

Position sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore

4 Andrew Letts

Position sponsored by: Mark O' Riordan

5 Jack Startin

Position sponsored by: Barry Winson

6 Warren Riddell-Broomfield

Position sponsored by: Michelle McClean

7 Steve Jones

Position sponsored by: Chris Marson

8 Noah Dann

Position sponsored by: Malcolm Sinclair

Head Coach

Mike Pond

Position sponsored by: Colin Whiteley

Forwards Coach

Elliot Blackmore

Position sponsored by: Andy Bull

Fitness Coach

Gareth Redmond

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Team Manager

Michelle McClean

Position sponsored by: Carmen Glover

9 Tom Walton

Position sponsored by: Jeremy Ward

10 Nick Herbert (Capt).

Position sponsored by: Neil Armstrong

11 Henry Mirams

Position sponsored by: Paul Glover

12 Louis Marshall

Position sponsored by: Jason Deacon

13 Charlie Knight

Position sponsored by: John Keohane

14 Andrew Dolan

Position sponsored by: Peter Tierney/Ray Roby

15 Marius Thompson

Position sponsored by: Geoff Redmond

Replacements:

16 Joe Carlier

Position sponsored by: Dave Brown

17 Connor Brown

Position sponsored by: Four Candles Alehouse

18 James Crompton

Position sponsored by: Terry Tuttle

Referee

Andy Bishop

Touch Judge

Clive Lewis

Position sponsored by: Pegasus Storage Solutions

Old Alleynians

Away team colours:

1 Richard Garrett

2 Rory Simpson

3 Oli Lamprell

4 Tom Grahamshaw

5 Derayo Adetosoye

6 Oli Overman

7 Harry Philpot

8 Gill Crouch

D.O.R.

Not Supplied

Head Coach

Not Supplied

Assistant Coach

Not Supplied

Team Manager

Not Supplied

Physio

Not Supplied

9 Toby Anthony

10 Henry Dewing

11 Rory Holford

12 Robbie Outram

13 Tommy Williams

14 Tom Smith

15 Tom Vogel

Replacements:

16 Tom Weightman

17 Butji Hanyane

18 Charlie Austin-Groome



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R.I.P. ROGER BISHOP

It is with the deepest regret that we inform you of the passing of Roger Bishop, another of Thanet Wanderers stalwarts.

Roger died early in the morning of the 14th December 2022 from a rare form of blood cancer. Roger concealed his illness from all except those closest to him. His funeral was held on the 5th January at Thanet Crematorium followed by a wake at the Fayreness Hotel.

Roger was a Wanderer through and through. He was recognised as a reliable member of the front-row during the nineteen seventies where he played mainly in the second tier of the club's sides. After his playing days Roger joined with others, including Maggie Watts and Peter Hawkins to help set-up and coach the club's mini and junior section which has become such an important part of the club. His fund raising skills were most evident in the expansion of the 100 club into the 450 club for which he was almost solely responsible. No weekend passed without Roger, complete with his clipboard, scouring the clubhouse and pitches for new members of the syndicate. His success is easily measured by the number of members who are now part of this important



fundraiser. Thank you for all you did for Thanet Wanderers Roger. The comments and engagements on the club's Facebook page speak volumes about the esteem that you were held in within the club. Roger's widow Marilyn, has been touched by the affectionate tributes paid to Roger.

Donations in Roger's memory, for Cancer Research or Water Aid can be made to c/o

HRP Palmer, Funeral Directors, 30 Hardres Street, Ramsgate CT11 8QF.



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MATCH REPORT

Deal & Betteshanger Lion RFC 16 – 21 Thanet Wanderers RUFC

Christmas cheer for the Wanderers in the local derby at Deal.

Danny Clement returned to the front row after his away day in the centre and Gully Goodall was at tighthead. There was a new line-up in the centre with Louis Marshall partnering with the returning Charlie Knight. Callum Doody returned on the left wing and Drew Dolan came back at full-back to replace the injured Marius Thompson. A good number of Thanet supporters had made the short trip to the Drill Field at Deal where the sunshine had helped the frost to leave the pitch.

There was a welcome urgency to Thanet's play in the lively opening minutes. No one was more eager for the fray than Louis Marshall and his early break set good field position. Tom Walton's big tackle also reflected the team's mood as he drove a much larger opponent back. Most of the play continued to be played in Deal's 22 and on eight minutes Walton appeared to have opened the scoring but was called back for crossing. Wanderers were not to be denied for long and two minutes later an alert Charlie Knight broke from his own half and drew the defence well before passing inside to Walton who raced in under the posts and his conversion gave the visitors a 7-0 lead.

Gully Goodall was relishing the contest and his powerful carry put Thanet back on the attack. Henry Mirams cleared well under pressure but when Wanderers went offside just inside their own half the Lions' Connor Moss nailed the three points. A Deal penalty to around 5 metres from Thanet's line maintained the hosts' pressure but Wanderers responded well before Marshall broke out before handing on to Dolan who took play to Deal's ten-metre line before being brought down. On thirty minutes more good handling put Thanet in an attacking position and a powerful drive from the Wanderers pack ended with lock forward Jack Startin claiming the try which was converted by Walton for a 14-3 lead. Back came the Lions and a penalty led to a line-out 15 metres out but a poor throw gave Thanet the chance to clear but touch was not reached. More scrappy play persisted into added time. Callum Doody's powerful tackle defused a dangerous attack before the Referee, Simon Bingham, sent Thanet's scrum general, Neil Wakefield, to the sin bin. The ten minutes of added time ended when a Deal

attack was held up and Thanet went into the break with their 11-point lead maintained.

Wanderers made a good start to the second half with Walton surging from his own half before being caught. Startin was then adamant that he had touched down for the second time in the game but the referee was unsighted. Wakefield returned from his yellow card but No 8, Noah Dann, who had been on great form replaced him in the bin a minute later. Four minutes later Deal forwards rumbled over for a try that Connor Moss converted. Two penalties in four minutes from Moss quickly followed and now Wanderers trailed 16-14. Eight minutes later and back to full strength, Thanet attacked down the left through Knight who made many metres and when he was dragged down Walton took over and ran around the opposition for a fine try. The excellent conversion made the score 21-16 to Wanderers who defended brilliantly as the Lions exerted strong pressure in the closing ten minutes. When the hosts infringed and time was up, the resulting penalty was banded into touch.

All of the Wanderers' replacements made important contributions to the win. Harrison Leach will now take a break from the game as he prepares for the fitness tests required for his chosen career in the Royal Navy. Good luck Harrison.

There were many candidates for the man of the match award in an excellent team performance that battled through a quarter of the match with 14 players. Nick Herbert made another significant contribution at ten, and Tom Walton scored two tries and kicked three crucial conversions. Charlie Knight was a constant threat with the ball in hand and took much pressure off his teammates as the home defence targeted him. Head coach Mike Pond however had no hesitation in naming a forward, Number 8, Noah Dann, as the man of the match. He was outstanding in the superb pack that worked so hard to secure the win against determined opponents

Wanderers coaches were delighted with this fine performance after struggling during much of the first half of the season. Injuries continue to plague the squad but Connor Brown is targetting a return in the new year and skipper Sam Taylor hopes to resume running in the new year after missing the first half of the season. Harry

Clemo was due to return to the front row this week but suffered a hamstring problem in training. Danny Clement again stepped in and as instructed by his bride-to-be, Head Physio, Monique Boorman he avoided injury. Good luck to them both for your wedding on the 23rd of December, we can't guarantee he will return home every week without a black eye.

SQUAD: Clement, Wakefield, Goodall, Letts, Startin, Riddell-Bloomfield, Jones, Dann, Walton, Herbert (c) Doody C. Marshall, Knight, Mirams, Dolan.

Subs: Whitehead, Doody R. Leach.

Wanderers will return to action on the 7th of January 2023 when Old Alleynians are the visitors OAs are the current league leaders and defeated Wanderers 63-5 when the teams met in October.

Colin Whiteley



COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE 2022-23

Team	P	W	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS	ADJ
Old Alleynians	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	13	8	0	5	251	220	31	2	2	36	0
Heathfield & Waldron	12	7	0	5	253	244	9	5	2	35	0
Deal & Betteshanger	13	5	0	8	249	308	-59	3	3	27	0
Thanet Wanderers	12	4	0	8	144	334	-190	2	0	18	0
Folkestone	13	3	0	10	224	398	-174	4	2	18	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 7th January 2023

Ashford v Cranbrook

Charlton Park v Bromley

Aylesford Bulls v Heathfield & Waldron

Deal & Betteshanger v Crowborough

Beccehamian v Folkestone

Thanet Wanderers v Old Alleynians

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U15S SARACENS DPP

Normally December 21st is a day when the impending doom of Christmas is looming large, and the festive spirits are spluttering begrudgingly into action. It is also a day in our household that normally sees the arrival of those family members that are as welcome as a hedgehog in a condom factory. This year should have been no exception but for the fact that Saracens in their infinite wisdom decided to arrange their U15s DPP games at the Store X stadium just before we all downed tools and started the Turkey eating marathon.

One saving grace in this household was that whilst we were fighting our way through the Christmas traffic to NW4 we were 80 miles away from the festive arrival of Great Aunt Ethel and Great Uncle Bert, whose festive tour of relatives had reached house No 3. You can tell they are about to arrive as the smell of moth balls and the odour of a rather angry leg ulcer which Ethel has been nurturing for quite some time arrives at the door a good 10 minutes before they do.

They bring with them Archie, a feral little highland terrier, who due to the fact of never having been 'done' makes his amorous way around the house ingratiating himself with anything that takes his fancy. This year's favourite attraction was the Father Christmas Festive Cushions which had been quietly sitting on the sofa minding their own business until Archie clamped his eyes on them and decided that he had found his soul mates and attempted to make lots of little cushions as vigorously as possible. Archie was quickly dispatched to the garden where his attention turned to a semi-inflated Gilbert Size 5 rugby ball, we wish them luck in their future life together.

Anyway, whilst Ethel, Bert and Archie worked their way through the dry sherry, Cadbury celebrations selection box and any soft furnishings they could find (I will leave you to decide who preferred what), myself and two of the U15s squad made our way up to NW4 for an afternoon of rugby. The Thanet boys were all grouped together in the afternoon session which started at 2pm with a series of round robin matches between 4 teams. Each team comprised of approx. 25 players who were substituted in and out of play during the 30 minute matches. There were some excellent players on view from the cream of the clubs from Kent, Essex and Hertfordshire. The Wanderers more than held their own with some excellent performances from all of the boys. As always there were the over enthusiastic parents, one loudly supporting their little Tarquin, whose balls handling skills unfortunately matched Archie's choice in possible suitors.

All of the boys really enjoyed the experience and came away having made some new friends and experienced what it is like to play in an unfamiliar team, and all rose to the occasion, again very similar to our little Archie.

The 3-hour trip back was not quite so enjoyable as the rest of the day, but did result in us missing the departure of our visitors as they had thankfully moved onto their next victims. Our violated soft furnishings were wondering what had hit them and I am sure they will refuse to make an appearance next Christmas.

The next matches are set for March 2023 which should be another enjoyable day for all. Here's hoping that our festive visitors do not make another impromptu visit as our cushions can only take so much.

Andy Bull



RESULTS GRID COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

Away Team ▶	Ashford	Aylesford Bulls	Beccehamian	Bromley	Charlton Park	Cranbrook	Crowborough	Deal & Betteshanger	Folkestone	Heathfield & Waldron	Old Alleynians	TWRUFC
Home Team ▼												
Ashford		22-8	12-5				14-5		45-15	13-15	17-10	13-3
Aylesford Bulls				10-31	14-36	13-17	36-40	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	15-46	
Cranbrook	31-19			10-22	72-0		34-17	24-14	51-12			37-12
Crowborough	18-32		26-34							17-29	10-37	35-10
Deal & Bettes	35-8		25-32	13-27	9-29		HW0		45-24	15-19		16-21
Folkestone	21-22	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		0-18		

RESULTS FROM COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

Saturday 10th December 2022

Aylesford Bulls **P** Ashford

Beccehamian **P** Old Alleynians

Bromley **P** Folkestone

Charlton Park **P** Deal & Betteshanger

Crowborough **P** Cranbrook

Thanet Wanderers 0-18 Heathfield & Waldron

Saturday 17th December 2022

Bromley **P** Beccehamian

Cranbrook **P** Aylesford Bulls

Deal & Betteshanger 16-21 **Thanet Wanderers**

Folkestone 21-22 Ashford

Heathfield & Waldron **P** Crowborough

Old Alleynians **P** Charlton Park

P = postponed

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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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FIVE CLASSIC RUGBY WORLD CUP QUARTER-FINALS

We look back on 5 classic quarter-final matches in rugby world cup history.

AUSTRALIA 19 – 18 IRELAND (1991)

It all kicked off in the beginning of this game, quite literally. A huge punch up from the kick-off between both packs set the tone for a fired-up Ireland to push Australia all the way to the final whistle. Gordon Hamilton, the Irish flanker sitting with one arm punching the air in the corner on the Lansdowne turf is one of the iconic images of this World Cup. The Irish fans euphorically spilled on to the field thinking a semi-final with the All Blacks was on the cards. Only six minutes remained when Hamilton scored the try to put Ireland in the lead 18-15 in what looked to have all the makings of a monumental upset. The Wallabies had other ideas, though. A well worked backline move from a scrum approximately ten metres from the Irish try line proved to be decisive.

Stand-in captain Michael Lynagh was on hand to break Irish hearts by scoring in the corner late on after picking up a loose ball from David Campese. Campese was at his influential best during this match, scoring a brace of tries for the southern hemisphere side. The first included a superb sidestep by the No 11 after receiving scrappy ball from a lineout and his second came from a well-worked backline move with fullback Marty Roebuck playing provider to allow Campese in for a simple touch down. Ireland's Ralph Keyes was slotting over points with the boot at regular intervals for the home side and he ended the game with fourteen points. Unfortunately for Ireland, Hamilton's try didn't quite get them over the line in one of the great quarter finals. Australia went on to beat the All Blacks in the semi-finals and then England 12-6 in the final at Twickenham to lift the Webb Ellis Cup for the first time

ENGLAND 21 – 44 SOUTH AFRICA (1999)

Jannie De Beer etched his name in the history books with a kicking display that rocked the core of Clive Woodward's England team. It was later stated that this particular loss lay the foundations for England's 2003 World Cup success. The game itself was a battle of attrition and didn't provide the tries or fluid rugby that other knock-out games did. However, it still had all the drama. There was a kicking masterclass of the

highest order from De Beer as he bagged thirty-four points with the boot including a world record five drop goals and a 100% kicking rate from the tee. The game proved to be a clash of the set piece and tactical kicking was at a premium.

Tries by Joost Van Der Westhuizen and a late try by Pieter Rossouw meant that the Springboks would face Australia in the semi-finals. An impressive performance by current Springbok coach Rassie Erasmus on the side of the scrum was one of the few stand out performances - apart from De Beer. England's Paul Grayson kicked eighteen points with a certain Jonny Wilkinson coming off the bench to land a single penalty. The game was extremely close until the closing 10 minutes when South Africa managed to create daylight between themselves and England through De Beer's boot. A twist of fate in extra time in the semi-final saw an extremely rare Stephen Larkham drop goal knock Nick Mallet's side out of the 1999 World Cup.

ENGLAND 28 – 17 WALES (2003)

Clive Woodward's side were severely tested in the Suncorp Stadium during this quarter final but it must be said they were too good for Wales when it mattered. Despite Steve Hansen's side throwing the ball around at will and scoring three tries to one, it was Wales who were on the plane back home from Australia after an entertaining quarter-final match. Wales' first try was outstanding, with a superb piece of running wizardry from Shane Williams putting Stephen Jones over in the corner. A driving lineout saw Colin Charvis stretch over the whitewash for the next five pointer and Martyn Williams gathered a loose ball after a cross-kick to touch down for the third. Wales were fantastic. However, England squeezed the life out of their rivals with consistent pressure and penalties, with Wilkinson scoring twenty-three points on the day. At one stage it looked like a potential upset could be on the cards but an inspirational performance by substitute Mike Catt proved to be the tonic to settle English nerves. Will Greenwood scored one of the great World Cup tries after a sublime run by fullback Jason Robinson, who danced his way

through numerous Wales defenders before passing to the England centre. England went on to beat France in the semi-final before winning the tournament for the first time. After this gruelling encounter Woodward said "We're extremely relieved but it was about winning. We've come here to win the World Cup and hopefully we will fire on all cylinders next week".

FRANCE 20 – 18 NEW ZEALAND (2007)

This was an upset of seismic proportions and another knockout blow for tournament favourites New Zealand. It was to be the last failure for the mighty All Blacks for a long time until they tasted defeat again in another Rugby World Cup match. The scene was set with Raphael Ibanez and his men staring down the haka from close quarters in one of the great spectacles of world rugby. Richie McCaw's side were looking comfortable, leading 13-3 at half time. A well worked Luke McAlister try in the first half had been the highlight when the No 12 ran a delightful line to break the French defence. Then came one of the great fightbacks of World Cup rugby that only the French seem capable of performing. A try from flanker Thierry Dusautoir brought the men in blue right back into the game. This was followed by a controversial try by Yannick Jauzion to give France the lead. In the build up to the try Damien Traillie went through a half gap and fed a forward pass to Frederic Michalak which wasn't picked up by Wayne Barnes and his assistants. Michalak subsequently swivelled near the try line and fed the ball to the Toulouse centre for the match winning try. A large contingent of jubilant French fans had made their way over to Cardiff for this famous victory and as

a result of the outcome they were able to look forward to a home semi-final against England, which they subsequently lost 14-9 in a fiercely contested game. Notably, this was the first time in World Cup history that New Zealand didn't qualify for the semi-finals.

AUSTRALIA 35 – 34 SCOTLAND (2015)

Unfortunately, this quarter final will be remembered for the controversial refereeing decision by South African referee Craig Joubert. It was, however, an outstanding game of rugby. Scotland were penalised for a deliberate offside when the ball seemed to have come off a Wallaby from a clumsy lineout tap by Scotland in the 80th minute. Australia dominated the territory with 62% as well as bossing the possession, but this didn't stop the game from being an absolute nail biter. There were tries a plenty at Twickenham, eight of them to be exact with five of them being scored by Australia. However, Scotland led 16-15 at half time. Two tries by Drew Mitchell for the Wallabies as well as a five-pointer by fellow wing Adam Ashley-Cooper were key in setting up this Wallaby victory. Greig Laidlaw contributed nineteen points with the boot in what was an inspired shift by the Scotland captain who nearly kicked them to victory. A Mark Bennett intercept try in the 74th minute looked as though it had got Scotland over the line as they led 34-32 going in to the final few minutes. The contentious call from Joubert meant that Australia went on to meet Argentina in the semi-final. Scotland coach Vern Cotter stated "It's pretty tough, the guys played very well, they never let go and fought the whole way"





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