

THANET

# WANDERERS

v Deal & Betteshanger RFC Saturday 24th September 2022. Kickoff 3.00pm

THANET WANDERERS



THANET WANDERERS RUFC

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## FIRST XV FIXTURES

# 2022 – 2023

2022

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

2023

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

Fixtures in BLOCK Type are Counties 1 Kent League dates

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## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

On behalf of the players, coaches, members and club officers of Thanet Wanderers, it gives me great pleasure to welcome our counterparts from Deal and Betteshanger RFC to St Peters this afternoon.

Indeed, there's a big welcome to all who are here for the men's first home game of the Wanderers' season, a very local derby against our nearest league neighbours from the Deal based club.

Deal and Betteshanger RFC was formed just sixteen years ago when Betteshanger RFC and Walmer Wanderers RFC both found themselves short of players for very different reasons,

Betteshanger were nicknamed, 'The Colliers' and therein lies the key to where most of their players were sourced from. World War 2 cut short the early plans of the side formed in 1936. When reformed in the 1948-49 season, the association of players with experience in the Yorkshire and Lancashire rugby leagues and a strong body of Welsh exiles made them a force to be reckoned with.

The County Sevens title was won twice and promotions secured from Kent2, Kent 1 and London League 4. And of course, they came within a whisker of stopping Wanderers' run to the Intermediate Cup triumph at the first round. The closure of the collieries was for the club and many of its members, a body blow to their hopes and aspirations.

Nearby Walmer Wanderers was formed in 1958 and changed its name to Deal Wanderers after separating from the Cricket club. There was a strong association with the Royal Marines' School of Music who tragically lost 11 bandsmen in the IRA bombing of 1989, some of whom played for the club. The closure of the school in 1996 ended that potential route for players and over the following years the need for a merger between the two clubs was recognised and in 2006 Deal and Betteshanger Lions was formed. The club's successful playing record over the years since the merger and the growth of its junior section is testament to the wisdom of that decision and the amalgamated club is recognised as a real force in Kent Rugby.

Today's match is an intriguing one. The visitors won their first match away at Beccehamians by 34-5 but lost at

home last Saturday against a resurgent Charlton Park team who seem to be back to full strength and playing well again. Wanderers have yet to settle into any sort of rhythm although the start to our season has been a difficult one for both coaches and players. After a useful run out against a Canterbury side on the 4G pitch at Simon Langton GS, the league game against Ashford proved to be a match too soon for the Wanderers. With an early cancellation having been posted for the match against Cranbrook on the 10th, last Saturday's fixture at Heathfield and Waldron had that first game of the season feel. Conditions were near perfect, we had a good side out and everything was set for an enjoyable afternoon. The home side were quickly into their stride and had ten points on the board after ten minutes, before a collision between the referee, Alex Lambe, and a home player, caused injury to the ref's knee and he could not continue. There being no other suitably qualified referee available, there was no alternative other than to call the fixture void and reschedule it for the new year. Mr Lambe has posted that he sustained mainly soft tissue damage and thanked everyone from both sides for their care and concern. Heathfield is a very pleasant club to visit: thanks to all supporters who made the long trip, but with the high cost of coach travel we can ill afford a second trip there in the season.

Last season we recorded the double over Deal winning 33-23 away in September and by 21-17 at home in the Christmas fixture, which, as the score suggests, was a very close encounter.

Let's hope for a good, injury free, game this afternoon. The scheduled referee is Steve Matthews whose visits we have enjoyed in the past. Please respect the referee.

Club Captain, Sam Taylor, is recovering well from his knee operation, but is likely to be out until at least the New Year. Senior Player, Nick Herbert, has taken over the role.

Tomorrow the Ladies XV open their League programme with a home fixture v Medway 2s. Kick off is at 2PM, please support if you can.

C'mon Wanderers.

**Colin Whiteley**

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## FROM OUR CLUB

# CHAIRMAN

Welcome.

The 21/22 season, our first post pandemic was an excellent year with great performance on and off the pitch.

My sincere thanks go to the volunteers, coaches, players and all the members who make this a great place to be. I am grateful to all our committee members and trustees who have worked hard to revitalise our club.

I think it is safe to say we recovered from the pandemic and are in good health as a club.

Last season the first team met their target position in the league, even though the potential to finish higher in the league was evident. With the restructuring of the leagues this season, the potential for a higher finish is clearly possible. However, our slow start with game postponements and last week's match being abandoned has not enabled our team to get into their rhythm, I am sure that will change today.

Last season our Women's team was re-launched and has quickly grown to a strong squad of 34. Their first game for 17 years took place on 27th March 2022, which resulted in a narrow victory. With follow up tournament victories and narrow losses to higher rated teams, the team will enter the Inner Warrior League for the first time for the 2022-23 season. We look forward to watching their progress and supporting them through the season.

The Age-grade teams continued to grow during the season and reached pre-pandemic numbers. Each age group have strong numbers, and most have been training over the summer in preparation for the season. Girl's rugby is also growing, and the club will support this during the season with a focused programme of schools coaching for girls, introducing them to the game. Our Schools Hub, based at the club on a Wednesday afternoon was very successful last year, with a strong coaching team and strong numbers. The Hub will continue this season hoping to attract more juniors to rugby and ultimately as members of the club.

The SEND (Special Needs Rugby) initiative was one of the highlights of the year. Introducing the rugby to boys and girls with Special Educational Needs. To watch the smiles and the joy of players, parents and coaches epitomised what our community club is all about. We hope to continue this during the season and build on a great initiative.

This year we see the introduction of our new Colts program which brings together our U17s and U18s age groups into one squad. The current squad is about 50 strong and the program is aimed at elevating the Thanet Wanderers rugby experience

for these age groups and bridging the gap between Age-grade and Senior rugby. With our Senior coaches working closely with the Colts coaches the program will develop, over the next two seasons, the style of rugby and culture that prepares players for senior rugby, wherever they may play in the future, but hopefully remain in the club as Senior players.

Off the pitch our club operations team have been very busy completing some much-needed improvements. The Junior Shed refurbishment has been finished and my thanks goes out to all the donations and volunteers who have contributed to a great facility. In the club house we have installed a new boiler and we have refurbished the Gym with new equipment. Our catering facilities have been upgraded, with drinks and food ordering now available from pitch side using our Order & Pay App.

The 450 Club has been re-organised and is looking for new members.

Our Sponsorship has continued to grow reflecting the strong links with the community and our thanks goes to all that support the club.

As we start this new season, our emphasis will be on our club culture and further extending our reach into the community, as well as the continued successes on the field of play.

We must remember that our primary goal is that we provide an enjoyable experience for all players, members and the community. Our club is committed to improving all aspects of equality, inclusion, and diversity within the club.

Conduct, on and off the pitch, is a key focus this season. Across Kent last season there was an increase of poor discipline on and off the pitch and match official abuse. Our Code of Conduct clearly outlines our expectations of everyone who is associated with the club. Our game regulators in Kent and at the RFU will be monitoring closely how clubs manage discipline. Please take time to read the Code of Conduct. Remember that our club is manned by volunteers who give generous amounts of time to coach, referee and provide club services. Any abuse or ill-discipline will not be tolerated.

I wish everyone associated with the club a successful season and look forward to some great rugby, entertaining socials and most importantly that everyone remains safe and healthy.

*Chris*

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## FROM THE HEAD COACH

At last we have senior rugby back at St Peter's. As if the last two seasons haven't been strange enough, for the first time, certainly in my 40 years at the club, the start of this season has been delayed by the drought conditions experienced in the south east of the country. This played havoc with our pre-season preparation and conditioning the players ready to start playing again. Nick Herbert has been named Vice-Captain for 2022/23 and will skipper the first team in Sam Taylor's absence following his knee surgery, until he returns to full fitness, hopefully after Christmas. We were lucky enough to get a warm up game against Canterbury seconds on their 4G pitch, whilst our pitch remained completely unusable. So on a cooler evening under lights on the 19th August, 26 of the squad got at least 40 minutes of competitive rugby. It was good to see some of the younger lads getting some game time and the older lads proving they still have at least "one more season" left in their legs!! Two weeks later after much deliberation and discussion over player safety, Ashford declared their pitch playable and we headed off to our East Kent rivals for the first league game of the new season. This season the league has a new name, Counties 1 Kent, despite containing 2 teams from Sussex and one from the London borough of Southwark. It remains at level 7 of the National leagues. Our squad have set themselves a target of top three, to be in the mix at the end of the season to have a crack at the top spot and possibly promotion. Having watched how hard they are working at training, we have seen an inner belief in them that this goal can be achieved. So it was quite a shock to witness such a lack lustre performance and a narrow defeat to a determined Ashford team.

Our line out was one of the best in the league last season but it failed to function smoothly, so we lost the attacking platform that we needed to play the wider game we had planned. Our scrum was solid though and in an area we have previously struggled, it proved that improvements have been made. The backs never really

made enough in roads into a tenacious home defence and as frustration grew our discipline let us down. As Elliott always tells us "we win or we learn" and we certainly learnt a lot that day.

So with our pitch still unplayable and Cranbrook deciding too late that the fixture could have been flipped we were left with a free weekend to lick our wounds before heading down to Heathfield to be greeted by the most amazing lush green pitch on a perfect sunny day and light breeze. With the long journey still in the lads legs we conceded a penalty almost directly from the kick off and went 3-0 down. An interception on our first venture into the opposition's half saw play return to our own '22 and a mis-communication defending at the line-out gifted the home team with a converted try, 10-0 inside 10 minutes. Then the weird start to the season continued when a minute later the ref was bundled over when getting in the way of a Heathfield player and his resultant injury meant the game had to be abandoned!!! Again, for the first time in my time at Thanet that this had happened. After a long journey down to the wilds of Sussex, the thought of having to return to re-play the game is very frustrating. We do however wish our referee the speediest of recoveries from what appeared to be a nasty injury.

The strength we have in depth now is the best it's probably ever been and therefore we expect our Twos to have a very successful season with a league and cup campaign to fulfil. I have no doubt the thirds will continue to win everything they compete in and look forward to Bill picking up another piece of silverware next April. It would be even better if the other captains joined him at the end of this season awards dinner.

I hope to see as many of you as possible supporting the lads from the touchline and celebrating afterwards in the clubhouse with all the senior teams.

**Mike Pond**

# MATCH REPORT

## Ashford RFC 13 – 3 Thanet Wanderers RUFC

A disappointing performance from Wanderers in their league opener at Ashford.

This was one of only two matches to go ahead in the Kent Counties leagues on 3rd September, the remaining ten were all postponed. Hard pitches have made it difficult for teams to prepare their teams, or their pitches, to be ready in time for the league kick off. However both teams had agreed that this fixture should proceed with an eye to the busy schedule of league fixtures ahead and fortunately no serious injuries occurred.

Wanderers kicked off with the breeze but it was the hosts who were soon threatening the Thanet line after three penalties were conceded in a four minute spell. The immediate danger was cleared after sound Wanderers' defending but a line out knock on halted Thanet's momentum. A good penalty clearance from full back Sam Rolfe took Wanderers to near half way and on eighteen minutes the same player was on target with a well struck penalty from in front on the home ten metres line. Wanderers led 3 nil. Ashford returned to the Thanet half and it was no surprise when their pack drove over as they attacked wide right. The conversion attempt was wide but the hosts had the lead, 5-3. With thirty minutes played Rolfe's penalty attempt, from half way, rebounded from the home cross bar and was scrambled away. An error strewn ten minutes brought half time close. Wanderers' series of pick and goes took them close but the drive for the line was brought down and Thanet were penalised for not releasing.

Despite Ashford having the best of the first half, the lead was just two points and there was everything to play for in the second half. Lenny Brown replaced Connor Brown in the second row as the second period got underway. An early penalty attempt from halfway for the hosts sailed right of the posts. A good tackle brought down Marius Thompson in full flight and the ball went loose. A penalty attempt was wide for Thanet

before Louis Marshal broke strongly before being halted 15 metres out. Noah Dann had made his first XV debut today at open-side and now retired after a shift distinguished by his good work at the breakdown. Connor Brown returned to replace him. Michael Morris showed well when he came on in the front row minutes later for his second first team outing. Today's youthful referee had a good match and was quick to punish any dissent and both sides' indiscipline was rightly punished. A comment on a decision cost Thanet three points as the penalty was advanced ten metres, the home kicker slotted the kick and Wanderers were behind 8-3. Lenny Brown was shown yellow for not rolling. With ten minutes remaining, Ashford's pack secured a second try that went unconverted so Thanet needed two scores in the remaining ten minutes. Their last gasp attacks failed to break through and in the closing minutes Wanderers were once more punished for dissent that advanced their opponents ten metres.

Ashford thoroughly deserved their win by 13-3 and top the league. It was a very rusty performance in what was perhaps a match too soon for the Thanet side. Their costly indiscipline was not acceptable to the Wanderers coaching team and will be addressed.

Wanderers Squad: James Green, Neil Wakefield, Gully Goodall, Jack Startin, Connor Brown, Warren Riddell-Bloomfield, Noah Dann, James Hamilton, Tom Walton, Marius Thompson, Louis Marshall, Nick Herbert, James Crompton, Harrison Leach, Sam Rolfe. SUBS: Michael Morris, Lenny Brown, Cameron Beck.

Some rain is forecast for the coming week but whether it will be enough to make Thanet's St Peters pitch playable for the Cranbrook fixture must be very doubtful. The club's website and social media sites will bring the updates.

**Colin Whiteley**



## THANET WANDERERS COMMUNITY DAY – 2022

A week with some rain had transformed the brown grass of St Peters Park into its familiar green, ready to welcome everyone to a sunny Thanet Wanderers for their Annual Community Day on 11th September.

There was an early start to proceedings with the club's new junior pavilion being declared open by Mr Barney Durrant, headmaster of St Lawrence College in Ramsgate, and Andy Rolfe, business development director of Roe Timber Frames Ltd also in Ramsgate who were introduced by club chair, Chris Panteli. Both concerns had been generous sponsors of the project to convert the derelict cricket pavilion into a modern storage facility for the club's junior members. Ian Rutherford from Pegasus storage in Margate was also present to see that his donated units were being put to good use. The club thanks them and all who have made contributions to this successful renovation.

This was followed by a very well observed minute's silence to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth on

Thursday. The creation of an, 'all of club' photograph was undertaken by Ted of Immi Photography [ted@immi-photography.com](mailto:ted@immi-photography.com) who completed his daunting task with aplomb and who donated his services to the club. Thank you Ted.

The morning continued with activities for all. Simon Thompson lettings director of Club Sponsor, Miles and Barr helped man his company's stall and Marc Harris, Director of Group Services for Watkins, another of the club's major sponsors, was also a welcome guest.

Thank you to all the club volunteers and coaches who supervised the many activities and to Kelly Smith and Gerry Doyle who provided refreshments in the clubhouse; without you there could be no Community day. Special thanks and congratulations to Peter Ruranski who organised the event.

**Colin Whiteley**

## BECOME A SOCIAL MEMBER!!

This is a new category of membership which allows a parent or guardian to become a Social member of the club and to be eligible for the 10% discount in the bar and kitchen and be able to apply for International match tickets. The price for this membership is £60 per season and can be paid in 12 monthly instalments of £5.00 per month.

Note: This membership does not allow the member to play for the club or to have a vote at the AGM.

To register please fill in the registration form - <https://forms.gle/P8Rm7C8TD8QyNYbc7>

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# Thanet Wanderers

Home team colours: blue, black and gold hoops

**1 Jimmy Green**

*Postition sponsored by: Peter Hawkins*

**2 Regan Doody**

*Postition sponsored by: Bill Hurley*

**3 Harry Clemo**

*Postition sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore*

**4 Jack Startin**

*Postition sponsored by: Mark O' Riordan*

**5 Andy Letts**

*Postition sponsored by: Barry Winson*

**6 Warren Riddell-Broomfield**

*Postition sponsored by: Michelle McClean*

**7 James Hamilton**

*Postition sponsored by: Chris Marson*

**8 Connor Brown**

*Postition sponsored by: Malcolm Sinclair*

**Head Coach**

**Mike Pond**

*Postition sponsored by: Colin Whiteley*

**Forwards Coach**

**Elliot Blackmore**

*Postition sponsored by: Andy Bull*

**Fitness Coach**

**Gareth Redmond**

*Postition sponsored by: Pegasus Storage Solutions Ltd*

**Team Manager**

**Michelle McClean**

*Postition sponsored by: Carmen Glover*

**9 Tom Walton**

*Postition sponsored by: Jeremy Ward*

**10 Nick Herbert**

*Postition sponsored by: Neil Armstrong*

**11 Louis Marshall**

*Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover*

**12 Cameron Beck**

*Postition sponsored by: Jason Deacon*

**13 Charlie Knight**

*Postition sponsored by: John Keohane*

**14 Henry Mirams**

*Postition sponsored by: Peter Tierney/Ray Roby*

**15 Marius Thompson**

*Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond*

*Replacements:*

**16 Mike Morris**

*Postition sponsored by: Dave Brown*

**17 Lenny Brown**

*Postition sponsored by: Four Candles Alehouse*

**18 Callum Doody**

*Postition sponsored by: Terry Tuttle*

**Referee**

**Steve Matthews**

**Touch Judge**

**Clive Lewis**

*Postition sponsored by: Pegasus Storage Solutions*

# Deal & Betteshanger

Away team colours:

**1 Jack Nye**

**2 Matt Curd**

**3 Sam Hanley**

**4 Ross Widdett**

**5 Harrison Hinkins**

**6 Cian O'hanlan**

**7 Joe Michael**

**8 Jack Morgan**

**D.O.R.**

**Peter Hollingworth**

**Head Coach**

**Danny Vaughan**

**Assistant Coach**

**Not Supplied**

**Team Manager**

**Alison Squire**

**Physio**

**Not Supplied**

**9 Jamie Talbot**

**10 Luke Armstong**

**11 Sam Donnelly**

**12 Ant Hart**

**13 Richie Collins**

**14 Jack Parker**

**15 Henry Evans**

*Replacements:*

**16 Nathan Parker**

**17 TBA**

**18 TBA**



**Ball and match sponsor is Miles & Barr**

# MATCH REPORT

## Canterbury 19 – 12 Thanet Wanderers

Wanderers pre-season preparation has been curtailed by the hard pitches, so the opportunity to play a game on the 4G pitch at Simon Langton Boys GS was welcomed by Thanet's senior squad and their coaches.

Thanet opened strongly and dominated early exchanges. On ten minutes, a penalty took Wanderers deep into the opposition 22 and despite the loss of the line-out, a powerful subsequent scrum drove the Canterbury pack off their ball and over their try line for scrum half Tom Walton to touch down wide left. Sam Rolfe's conversion attempt was wide.

On 18 minutes Canterbury finally made their way into Thanet's half but Wanderers' defence was sound. Ten minutes later, Thanet's dominant pack set good position wide left and No 8 Lenny Brown broke away to power over for the second try. Sam Rolfe made a good conversion for Wanderers to lead 12-0. There was no further score before the whistle sounded to end a very encouraging first half for Thanet.

Both sides made changes for the second period and the home side had clearly strengthened as the early plays demonstrated. Wanderers defence remained good but Warren Riddell-Broomfield was shown yellow after ten minutes for not rolling away and a strong Canterbury drive from the resulting line-out opened their scoring. Dan Hill landed a good conversion to make the score 12-7.

As Thanet attacked ten minutes later, an interception set a speedy, substitute winger away for Canterbury and there was no catching him. Hill's conversion attempt rebounded off the post, so the scores were level at 12 all with around a quarter of the game to play.

A Canterbury drive, with ten minutes remaining, took them over wide left and Hill's well judged conversion put the hosts ahead 19-12. Wanderers battled hard but could not find their way to the line.

The game gave good game time to 26 of Wanderers' senior squad, including youngsters getting their first taste of senior rugby. The tackling was first class and augurs well for the season ahead. Head Coach, Mike Pond, was very pleased with the squad's performance and looks forward to the league season when six of tonight's notable absentees will be aiming to return to the first team ranks.

Thank you to Canterbury for hosting this worthwhile game and to referee, Steve Matthews for another polished performance.

The decision has been made to postpone the first two scheduled first XV league fixtures, away at Ashford on the 3rd of September and at home to Cranbrook on the 10th. Some substantial rain will be hoped for in the interim period, so that the game on the 17th, away at Heathfield, can then go ahead.

**Colin Whiteley**

## FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY AT THANET WANDERERS

### October 2022

15th - Lunch in aid of Prostate Cancer Charity.

29th - NHS lunch at clubhouse.

### November 2022

26th - Lunch at clubhouse to raise monies for the club.

### December 2022

2nd (Friday - Evening rugby match between Chatham House & St Lawrence.

### March 2023

3rd - Thanet Passport rugby day at Thanet Wanderers club grounds.



## A XV (SECOND XV) FIXTURES

# KENT RURAL A LEAGUE

2022

<b>Oct</b>	1	SNOWDOWN CW 1sts	<b>HOME</b>
	8	ASHFORD 2nds	<b>HOME</b>
	15	DEAL/BETTES 2nds	AWAY
	2	DOVER 2nds	AWAY
	29	ASH 1sts	AWAY
<b>Nov</b>	5	MEDWAY 4ths England v Argentina	<b>HOME</b>
	12	GILLINGHAM 2nds England v Japan	<b>HOME</b>
	19	England v New Zealand	
	26	England v South Africa	
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	17	DEAL/BETTES 2nds	<b>HOME</b>

2023

<b>Jan</b>	7	SNOWDOWN CW 1sts	AWAY
	21	DOVER 2nds	<b>HOME</b>
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	11	MEDWAY 4ths England v Italy	AWAY
	18	GILLINGHAM 2nds	AWAY
	25	Wales v England 4.45pm k.o.	
<b>Mar</b>	11	ASHFORD 2nds England v France 4.45pm k.o.	AWAY
	18	Ireland v England 5.00pm k.o.	
	25	SITTINGBOURNE 2nds	AWAY
<b>Apr</b>	7	Easter Good Friday.	

Fixtures in BLOCK TYPE are KENT RURAL A LEAGUE matches.

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## FROM THE LADIES

# HEAD COACH

It has been a while in the making but tomorrow (Sunday 25th Sept) sees the Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ladies XV take to the field for the first time since 2004 in an Inner Warrior League game against Medway RFC right here at St. Peter's, KO 2pm.

The story has been well documented in previous programmes by Director of Rugby, Vicky Flower but in short we have come from having two ladies turning up for a run around with the girls a year ago to a squad of more than 30 players who are raring to go tomorrow.

The end of last season saw a few friendlies against Sheppey, Folkestone, Old Gravesendians, Medway and a Belgian touring side as well as a first cup victory in the Kent Development 7s at Tunbridge Wells RFC.

So with that success behind us, we decided that we had enough players to enter the Inner Warrior league which is the bottom rung of the Women's RFU ladder. But you got to start somewhere, right?

The good news as far as the travelling is concerned at least is that there are a bunch of other clubs in Kent who are at a similar stage, so our oppo lies with Medway, Faversham, Tunbridge Wells, Old Gravesendians and Folkestone with the first of those games taking place tomorrow.

Skippered by Gee Cordell who was a junior at the club, ably assisted by vice-captain and ex-Saracen Milly Thurman-Newell the team has seen an influx of new players, some experienced, some less experienced but all of them keen and all of them loving every minute of it.

Vicky brought me in as head coach to get the path to league rugby structured and organised and we have Patrick Liddle leading as a forwards coach and token club Northerner, Lee Halliday taking charge of the backs. Brioni Reah who was one of original two ladies has a player-coach role in her first steps as a rugby coach.

Over the summer we ran a series of recruitment activities including a few Open Days to encourage players to come and give it a go and we have added more than 15 players to the squad over that period.

With more than 10 players with little or no rugby experience at all, we have started from the basic passing, catching and running lines skills and set to work on identifying positions for the players. Then we have got going with some set-piece stuff and we are all grateful for the other members of our club who have come along as guest coaches to lend their expertise, amongst them Glenn Leach, James Green, Jack Cohen.

And so to tomorrow . . .

We have a full starting XV which will be the first time that we have played a full game, as well as 4 rolling subs as we embark on a full 80 minute match on the 1st XV pitch.

We are pretty sure that we have got the squad selection right but there are certainly some players where we are still trying to find final positions. Tomorrow will give us a good opportunity to get players playing part games across a range of positions and as coaches, we can assess skills and match them to positions.

That 1st XV pitch is a big'un so we will be looking to use our physical pack to create space and then get the ball out into those wide channels. It is going to be hard work on the big pitch but it's the showpiece pitch so our first game was only ever going to be on there.

Feel free to come and see us tomorrow at St Peter's, kick off at 2pm with the clubhouse open for refreshments.

**Ian Lodge, Ladies Head Coach**



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# COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE 2022-23

Team	P	W	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS	ADJ
Ashford	3	3	0	0	67	29	38	1	0	13	0
Charlton Park	2	2	0	0	81	28	53	2	0	10	0
Old Alleynians	3	2	0	1	62	45	17	1	0	9	0
Folkestone	3	1	0	2	43	62	-19	1	1	6	0
Cranbrook	1	1	0	0	34	17	17	1	0	5	0
Deal & Betteshanger	2	1	0	1	43	34	9	1	0	5	0
Bromley	2	1	0	1	38	40	-2	1	0	5	0
Beccehamian	2	1	0	1	26	42	-16	0	0	4	0
<b>Thanet Wanderers</b>	1	0	0	1	3	13	-10	0	0	0	0
Aylesford Bulls	2	0	0	2	27	50	-23	0	0	0	-5
Crowborough	2	0	0	2	35	66	-31	0	0	0	0
Heathfield & Waldron	1	0	0	1	19	52	-33	0	0	0	0

## COUNTIES 1 KENT FIXTURES

Saturday 24th September 2022.

Ashford v Folkestone

Aylesford Bulls v Cranbrook

Beccehamian v Bromley

Charlton Park v Old Alleynians

Crowborough v Heathfield & Waldron

**Thanet Wanderers** v Deal & Betteshanger



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## RESULTS GRID COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

Away Team ▶	Ashford	Aylesford Bulls	Beccehamian	Bromley	Charlton Park	Cranbrook	Crowborough	Deal & Betteshanger	Folkestone	Heathfield & Waldron	Old Alleynians	TWRUFC
Home Team ▼	Ashford	22-8										13-3
Aylesford Bulls									19-28			
Beccehamian								5-34				
Bromley											12-37	
Charlton Park										52-19		
Cranbrook							34-17					
Crowborough								18-32				
Deal & Betties					9-29							
Folkestone				3-26							12-17	
Heathfield & Waldron												
Old Alleynians			8-21									
TWRUFC												

## RESULTS FROM COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

### Saturday 3rd September 2022

Ashford 13-3 **Thanet Wanderers**

Aylesford Bulls **P** Crowborough

Cranbrook **P** Charlton Park

Deal & Betteshanger **P** Bromley

Folkestone 12-17 Old Alleynians

Heathfield & Waldron **P** Beccehamian

### Saturday 10th September 2022

Aylesford Bulls 19-28 Folkestone

Beccehamian 5-34 Deal & Betteshanger

Bromley 12-37 Old Alleynians

**P = postponed AB = Abandoned**

Charlton Park 52-19 Heathfield & Waldron

Crowborough 18-32 Ashford

**Thanet Wanderers P** Cranbrook

### Saturday 17th September 2022

Ashford 22-8 Aylesford Bulls

Cranbrook 34-17 Crowborough

Deal & Betteshanger 9-26 Charlton Park

Folkestone 3-26 Bromley

Heathfield & Waldron **AB Thanet Wanderers**

Old Alleynians 8-21 Beccehamian



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# MATCH REPORT

## Heathfield & Waldron RFC V Thanet Wanderers RFC

The match was abandoned after 12 minutes when the referee, Mr Alex Lambe, was injured following a collision with H&W's open-side Tom Cornwall. Despite treatment from both physios, Alex, who had had a good start to the game, could not continue and required an ambulance to go to A&E for further treatment. We wish him a speedy recovery. No qualified society referee was present to take over the whistle so much to the disappointment of the players and the good crowd, the abandonment was confirmed with the home side leading 10-0.

The hosts had enjoyed much the better of the few minutes played in near perfect conditions. An early

penalty from full back Simpson, who also made a good conversion of a well worked try from open-side Cornwall, opened up a useful 10-0 lead before the injury occurred. It could have been worse for Wanderers, save for an excellent try saving tackle from Marius Thompson, as another attack headed for Thanet's line.

The loss of playing time will be worrying for Thanet's coaches with a local derby versus Deal and Betteshanger at home next Saturday (Kick Off 3PM) followed by a long trek to Dulwich, on 1st October, to play Old Alleynians.

**Colin Whiteley**



**SEASON OPENER**



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