

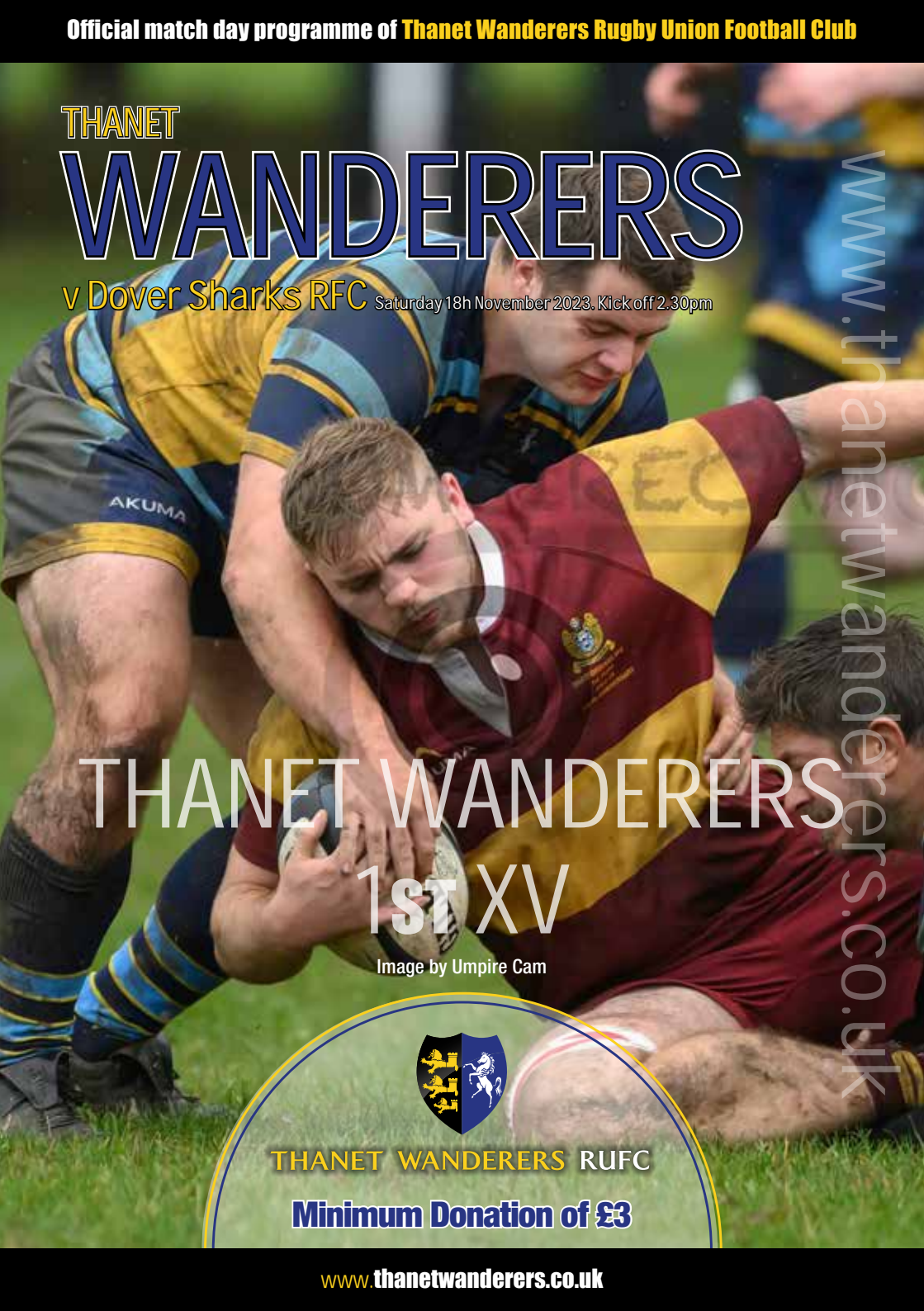
Official match day programme of **Thanet Wanderers Rugby Union Football Club**

THANET

WANDERERS

v Dover Sharks RFC Saturday 18th November 2023. Kick off 2.30pm

www.thanetwanderers.co.uk



THANET WANDERERS 1st XV

Image by Umpire Cam



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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Thanet Wanderers are blessed to be supported by our loyal and incredibly generous sponsors and today we host a Sponsors Lunch, along with our Vice Presidents, as a token of our appreciation for their continued support. We hope you all enjoy the day watching the one game at home this Saturday as our other men's two senior sides are playing away, one at Dover and the other at Ashford.

Tomorrow the ladies field two teams, one at Thurrock and the other at Faversham and both are league games. The Junior sides have 3 games tomorrow, two at home; the under 12s against Gillingham and the under 14s against Vigo, while the under 16s are away at Blackheath. Meanwhile there is training for the u13s, u15s and the Colts as well as for the girls u12s and u14s. This translates into over 200 individuals playing or training in the name of Thanet Wanderers and this number does not include all the coaches and volunteers who also participate.

Then we have the minis section. I can't put a figure on this number, but I'm sure our Safeguarding Officer and Membership Secretary know this figure!!!!

This afternoon we extend a welcome to Dover Sharks RFC and we hope that you enjoy the afternoon and our hospitality and then experience some attractive rugby. At the time of writing this address, the weather looks windy & wet, and I hope it doesn't become the focus of the game and we witness some open running rugby.

Today's opposition are in Counties 1 Kent League and are newly promoted having won outright Counties 2 Kent League last season and gained promotion along with Canterbury 2nds. Their 1st XV has experienced unprecedented success in recent years, rising 6 Leagues in 9 years which is some achievement and deserves congratulations on this success

Dover Sharks RFC have won 2 of their 8 games whilst Thanet Wanderers have 1 win in 8. Dover are placed in 8th Position in the League while Thanet Wanderers are placed in 10th with two teams below them. Dover have lost their last two games and will be looking to change that losing streak. Last week they were narrowly defeated by Beccehamian, 24-26.

Dover's away record is 1 win in 4 games and Thanet would like to capitalise on this statistic. Both teams have a very close average of points scored this season,

with Dover's average 17 points per game and Thanet 16 points per game, so today's game could well be a thriller.

Today's match official is Katie Gent who is being supported by Kent RFU advisor / mentor Clive Evans. We welcome both to St Peters and hope for a clean, fast paced game evenly competed and without injury.

Regrettably, I have to report some sad news in the death of Dave Cookson. Dave passed away on the 2nd November 2023 after a long illness. He was a legendary ex Thanet Wanderer, a past captain of the side and a former teacher at Chatham House Grammar School. Dave influenced many local people in his career, both as a Thanet Wanderer and as a Teacher and he used his wisdom wisely. When he spoke he was definitely worth listening to and he shared his knowledge and wit. With Dave less was definitely more. An ex-pupil of his once told me that Dave (who heralded from the North West) once told him, "you think you're hard, the only thing hard down here, is the water" I am told Dave's final journey will be in a TWRUFC Club shirt

Amy, Dave's daughter, has advised that the funeral will be held on Friday the 1st of December at 1.45pm at Thanet Crematorium, Manston Road, Margate. CT9 4LY and will be followed by a celebration of his life at the De Ville, Ramsgate.

READY, SET, MOW.

We are now in the month of November, and this has become the month for growing moustaches in aid of charity. The charities that are being supported this year are; Suicide Prevention, Prostate Cancer, and Testicular Cancer. Now we all probably know someone who has been affected by one of these illnesses and even if we don't they walk amongst us, so please dig deep and give generously for these worthy causes.

You can donate via a link on the TWRUFC Facebook page so take a look at the progress of "CRIMEWATCH" facial hair and see who you can recognise, bless them!

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

C'mon Wanderers,

Clive Lewis
Club President

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FROM THE DEFENSE COACH

Today we welcome Dover Sharks RFC to Thanet for what we're sure is going to be a physical encounter in this local derby.

After last week's loss to Deal, the players turned up to training with a must win attitude towards the next match and with the support of a noisy home crowd behind them the boys are looking to put on a good show for their supporters in this game against Dover. Whilst on the subject of last week, I'm sure that we all wish a speedy recovery to Leon Doody and Hoani French. Leon suffered a head injury and Hoani, who had to be taken to hospital, came away from the game with ligament damage. Both players were initially treated by our physio team and we would like to thank them for all their hard work so far this season. Although not available to play through injury, both Leon and Hoani attended training this week to show support to their team mates.

No doubt Dover have come to Thanet hoping to cause an upset, but the coaching team are confident that the home side players will play with Thanet in their hearts and winning on their minds. Dover was my childhood

club and so as a former player there, this game means a lot to me personally and I am very excited to see the defensive performance that Thanet put on this afternoon. The players have trained extremely hard and with our two captains, Nick and Sam, leading by example and setting high standards this week's training sessions have been the best we have had so far this season. Being aggressive in our defence is in our DNA at Thanet and we believe it's the extra 5% effort that makes the difference between winning and losing. We pride ourselves on our work rate and getting off the line hard and putting in tackles that make teams fear running down our channels

The coaching team and staff would again like to thank everyone for the support they give us every week at both home and away matches and we hope today will be a day for you to be proud of your first team.

Enjoy today's game and let us hear you SKOL!

Kieran Hopper
Defence Coach



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MATCH REPORT

Thanet Wanderers RUFC 10 – 33 Dartfordians RFC

Dartfordians pull away in the final quarter to win a hard fought contest.

There were eight changes to the side that played at Heathfield in the last league match. Gabe Hayden came in to make an excellent senior league debut at loose-head prop and Harrison Quittenden returned to first team duty at full back. Dartfordians played their rugby last season in Regional 2 (South East) before being relegated, despite having the same number of points as Beckenham, who this season head that league. Now in third place in Counties One Kent League, Darts are one of the early candidates for promotion this season with a third of their games played.

The Bexley based side kicked off and pressed hard for an early score but Wanderers countered well and after five minutes cleared the danger with a penalty. Wanderers had the opportunity to open the scoring with a penalty two minutes later but Marius Thompson's attempt, from Darts' ten metres line, fell just short in the blustery conditions. After twenty-two minutes, Darts opened the scoring as some nice handling was aided by missed tackles in the slippery conditions and the visitors led 7-0. Quittenden and joint skipper, Nick Herbert, both made outstanding tackles to break up threatening attacks. Fellow captain Sam Taylor, now galvanised his pack and their powerful drive finished with a touch down for lock-forward Andy Letts who completed the team try. No conversion, so Darts now led 7-5. Two minutes later a penalty set a line-out for the visitors, 20 metres from the line, on the clubhouse side. The subsequent drive could not be stemmed legally in the slippery conditions and snaked across the field before a touchdown was signalled just left of the posts for Darts to lead 14-5. On the cusp of half time, they thought that a charge down

had led to a further score but offside was signalled and the half ended with scores unchanged.

Danny Clement and Marius Thompson took a break for the second half with Chris Gregory joining a re-arranged pack. Tom Stevens' tackle stopped a Darts' break but Letts now had to leave the pitch with a painful back to be replaced by Dennis Davies. Conditions were now deteriorating rapidly making Quittenden's catch the more worthy but Darts soon went further ahead near the left touchline. The conversion attempt hit the upright and the lead was 19-5 to Darts. Great credit to Wanderers who raised their game to set the platform for an outstanding try through Nick Herbert who dodged and barged his way through to touch down. His own conversion attempt also rebounded from the posts but Wanderers were still in the game at 19-10. Darts had other ideas and were soon camped on the hosts' line before referee, Ross Alexander's patience was exhausted and he was on his way to the posts to signal a penalty try. Scrum-half Leon Doody was the player to be shown yellow but it was not until the closing minutes that Darts recorded their fifth try with another conversion from their excellent kicker to win 33-10.

There was much that Wanderers will learn from this defeat. Coaches and senior players are confident that the spirit and determination shown in this game will move them forward for future matches. Both captains, Nick Herbert and Sam Taylor, put in outstanding shifts today and are determined to turn around the team's fortunes and move up the table. Coaches will hope that the injured players will soon be available and that a more settled side can be available for upcoming games.

Colin Whiteley



Photos by Umpire Cam



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MATCH REPORT

Gravesend Ladies 5 Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ladies 53

Sevenoaks Ladies 53 Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ladies 2nd XV 0

For the first time in the club history, two Thanet Wanderers ladies teams took to the field on Sunday with mixed results for the teams. The 1st XV's excellent start to the season continued with a 53-5 win away at Kent rivals Gravesend whilst the 2nd XV learned many lessons from a 53-0 defeat at Sevenoaks.

The 1st XV game started at a frantic pace with the ball flying from touchline to touchline in the space of one or two phases. However Wanderers soon settled into their pattern of play with strong carries from the forwards and smooth hands from the backs. Wanderers got their reward when Neave Evans crashed over the line.

More characteristic however was Rachel Austerberry finding space between the Gravesend centres to grab her 9th try of the season. A returning Milly Thurman-Newell was injected into the game and her impact was immediate, leaving a trail of Gravesend players in her wake on her way to the tryline. Further tries from Amy Coster and two more for Austerberry, including a superb chip and chase to complete her hat-trick, put Wanderers 36-0 up at half time.

After the break Gravesend came out fighting and grabbed a well deserved try when their no.10 collected a Thanet clearance kick and showed excellent pace around the outside to score. Wanderers heads didn't drop and after more strong carries from Aisha Williams put Thanet on the front foot, Amy Coster used a strong fend and a clean pair of heels to score in the corner. Milly Thurman-Newell crashed over again before slick hands and unselfish play from fly half Alex White allowed Coster to go over in the corner to complete her hat-trick and the day's scoring.

Meanwhile at Sevenoaks despite some hard effort from lots of the players, the 2nd XV came out on the wrong side of the scoreboard 53-0.

Both sides have a weekend off before travelling to Thurrock and Faversham respectively on Sunday 19th November.

Ian Lodge

Head Coach, Ladies Section



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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

Home team colours: blue, black and gold hoops

1 Luke Browning

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2 Michael Whitehead

Postition sponsored by: Bill Hurley

3 Gulliver Goodall

Postition sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore

4 Andrew Letts

Postition sponsored by: Mark O' Riordan

5 Dennis Davies

Postition sponsored by: The Four Candles

6 Warren Riddell-Broomfield

Postition sponsored by: Michelle McClean

7 Sam Taylor (Capt)

Postition sponsored by: Chris Marson

8 Brett Scott

Postition sponsored by: Dave Brown

Head Coach

Elliot Blackmore

Postition sponsored by: Colin Whiteley

Assistant Coach

Kieran Hopper

Postition sponsored by: Andy Buli

Team Manager

Michelle McClean

Postition sponsored by: Carmen Glover

9 Tom Walton

Postition sponsored by: Jeremy Ward

10 Marius Thompson

Postition sponsored by: Ray Roby/Peter Tierney

11 Cornel Fredericks

Postition sponsored by: Pegasus Storage Solutions

12 Nick Herbert (Capt)

Postition sponsored by: John Keohane

13 Henry Mirams

Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover

14 Louic Vroninks

Postition sponsored by: Terry Tuttle

15 Harrison Quittenden

Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond

Replacements:

16 Daniel Clement

Postition sponsored by:

17 Connor Brown

Postition sponsored by:

18 Adam Harrison

Postition sponsored by:

Referee

Katie Gent

Touch Judge

Postition sponsored by:

Dover Sharks RFC

Away team colours:

1 Owen Mills

2 Kirk Savage

3 Shaun Puddlesden

4 Tom Clark

5 Dylan Gardener

6 George Pugh

7 George Smith

8 Clayton Preece

D.O.R.

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Martyn Beaumont

Assistant Coach

Chris Lucas

Physio

Joe Rodgers

9 George Sayers

10 Tom Eddolls

11 Tom Sayers

12 Blair Charge

13 Nathan Annakie

14 Dan Hillier

15 Gary Price (Capt)

Replacements:

16 Ryan Gaughran

17 Harry Richardson

18 Issac Bryant



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FIRST XV FIXTURES

2023 – 2024

2023			2024				
Sep	16	ASHFORD	AWAY	Jan	6	BECCEHAMIAN	HOME
	23	CANTERBURY 2nds	HOME		13	CRANBROOK	AWAY
	30	BECCEHAMIAN	AWAY		20	BROMLEY	HOME
Oct	7	BROMLEY	AWAY		27	HEATHFIELD & WALDRON	HOME
	14	CRANBROOK	HOME	Feb	3	DARTFORDIANS	AWAY
	21	HEATHFIELD & WALDRON	AWAY		17	DEAL & BETTES	HOME
Nov	4	DARTFORDIANS	HOME	Mar	2	DOVER	AWAY
	11	DEAL & BETTES	AWAY		16	CHARLTON PARK	HOME
	18	DOVER	HOME		23	CROWBOROUGH	AWAY
Dec	2	CHARLTON PARK	AWAY	Apr	6	ASHFORD	HOME
	9	CROWBOROUGH	HOME				
	Fri 15	CANTERBURY 2nds	AWAY				
		(7.45pm k.o.)					

Fixtures in BLOCK Type are Counties 1 Kent League dates



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MATCH REPORT

Deal and Betteshanger Lions RFC 25 – 7 Thanet Wanderers RUFC

Wanderers' improved second-half performance cannot prevent a comfortable win for the Lions.

There were six changes to Thanet's starting XV compared to those who started last week's game against Dartfordians. Veterans Danny Clement and Andy Letts were missing due to illness or injury and Marius Thompson was on international duty for Norway in Latvia. Cam Pond came in for Henry Mirams in the centre and it was good to see Antony Theodosiou back on the wing after missing a couple of seasons through injury. Luke Browning and Reagan Doody were back on front-row duty.

Wanderers kicked off and quickly threatened the opposition line only to concede a penalty and lose their attacking position. The Lions made no mistake when they converted good field position into points through smart handling to take an early 7-0 lead. Warren Riddell-Bloomfield made a big tackle to prevent another try minutes later but the Lions went further ahead with a penalty and after ten minutes led 10-0. Winger Will Mahoney made a great chase and won a penalty at the subsequent breakdown. Cam Pond took a quick tap-and-go and went close before Wanderers were again penalised allowing the hosts to make a long clearance. Deal extended their lead with an unconverted try for their winger who was left with an unopposed path to the line. The conversion attempt rebounded from an upright to make the score 15-0. Harrison Quittenden combined well with Theodosiou and it took a couple of home defenders to haul the winger down. Today's referee, Ian Barter, decided that Riddell Bloomfield had not used his arms sufficiently in a tackle and he was shown a yellow card. Deal's speculative chip was nicely weighted and was not dealt well with in the Thanet in-goal area, allowing the Lions to race in and touch down for an unconverted try. The hosts pushed hard for their fourth try but Goodall's strong tackle was typical of his and the pack's big defensive shift. Quittenden cleared deep into the home half with a penalty but a double movement with the line-out throw brought Deal another penalty and the clearance meant the first half score stayed at 20-0 to the Lions.

Mahoney took a break at the start of the second half, Tom Stevens and Hoani French joined the contest. Wanderers started the half well and after seven minutes,

a strong drive earned a penalty and the follow up drive ended with Wanderers number seven and joint captain, Sam Taylor claiming his fifth try of the season. Louis Marshall revealed another talent with a nicely struck kick conversion to see Thanet reduce the deficit to 20-7. The next score was clearly important and seven minutes later Deal's ten produced a powerful run to cross for the unconverted bonus point try. Joint captains Taylor and Nick Herbert were great role models as they urged the team to raise their game for the final quarter. Riddell-Bloomfield took a break with Kurt Pearson replacing him. Minutes remained when Wanderers young scrum-half, Leon Doody suffered a head injury and had to leave the field. Quittenden took over as scrum half. A fine penalty from Herbert had set Wanderers well in Deal's half but moments later there was an urgent call for treatment for French who was down with what appeared to be a broken ankle, in a position on the pitch from where he could not be safely moved. We wish Aitch a speedy recovery. The referee, who had officiated with plenty of calm common sense throughout, suggested the game be ended a few minutes early and, with captains in agreement, Deal were declared the winners by 25-7.

There was again no lack of commitment from the Wanderers team. The lack of continuity of players' availability has made it impossible for the coaches to select a consistent side who have trained and practised together. The pack has defied this trend with four experienced players, Lenny Brown, Gully Goodall, Andy Letts and Warren Riddell-Bloomfield missing just one match. Veteran Danny Clement has played through injury to feature in the front row on six occasions and newcomer Dennis Davies has missed only two as he aims to nail down a regular spot in the team. The only two ever present in the eight matches played to date are, number eight Brett Scott and open-side Sam Taylor. Congratulations to them all. Often apparently outgunned for height and weight the pack has put in a series of fine performances. Their combined abilities, especially notable in defence, have been of great value to the team who have featured 39 players in the eight games played, with consequent problems for the second and third fifteens.

Colin Whiteley



WOMEN'S NC2 SOUTH EAST (EAST) LEAGUE 2022-23

Team	P	W	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS
Thanet Wanderers Ladies	4	4	0	0	228	35	193	0	0	18
Thurrock Ladies 2nds	3	3	0	0	152	42	110	0	0	12
ordswood Valkyries Ladies	4	2	0	2	101	110	-9	0	0	12
Ashford Ladies	4	2	0	2	47	133	-86	0	0	12
Westcliff Ladies	3	2	0	1	153	40	113	0	0	11
Southend Saints Ladies	3	1	0	2	86	95	-9	0	0	8
Gravesend Ladies	4	0	0	4	10	174	-164	0	0	7
Cranbrook Ladies	3	0	0	3	36	184	-148	0	0	3

WOMEN'S NC2 SOUTH EAST (EAST) LEAGUE RESULTS

Sunday 5th November 2023

Lordwood Valkyries Ladies 45-26 Cranbrook Ladies

Ashford Ladies 7-42 Westcliffe Ladies

Southend Saints Ladies 12-42 Thurrock Ladies 2nds

Gravesend Ladies 5-53 Thanet Wanderers

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MATCH REPORT

Thanet Wanderers Colts 55-5 Dover Colts

Buoyant (do you see what I've done here) TWRUFC Colts brushed aside a game Dover side on a wet, horrible, autumnal day at St. Peters Rec. with both sides in danger of drowning in the torrential rain. A deluge which meant only the diehard supporters stayed out in it to watch (not naming names).

Thanet had lost a considerable number of the older players to Kent trials this weekend but were bolstered by a few returning players from the younger side (notably Callum and Archie) and they were confident that this game would be a mere formality.

Thanet started well and exerted dominance, however the tryline seem to elude them as the final pass or break never quite made it over the line. Full credit must go to Dover though as they tackled tenaciously and put up a strong resistance.

Against the run of play, bravely running out of their 22, Dover slipped in between the experimental back line of Thanet and after a wonderful full length of the pitch run, the Dover player put the ball down for the first score of the day to give them a five point lead. This was a big surprise to the home support, but the Dover player unfortunately damaged his shoulder in the process and had to leave the field of play - not what he deserved.

Thanet now realized they had a game on their hands and needed to up the ante. After dominating in the scrum close to the Dover line, Thanet's number 8, Alfie, picked up the ball and no one was going to stop him from scoring from that distance. The try was duly converted by Callum, Thanet's kicker for the day, to make the score 7-5 to the home side.

The heavens had well and truly opened by this point and catching and passing was not easy for either team as the ball had become the proverbial 'bar of soap'. It was Thanet who were coping better with the conditions and a quick ball miraculously moved to the wing saw Ewan score in the corner to increase the lead to 14-5.

The game was effectively over now as a contest, and it was just a matter of how many tries Thanet would score in relation to how often they would drop the ball.

After a good lineout catch and drive the ball was passed to Ellis and with a quick hot step he was over the line (19-5). The next to get on the score sheet was Freddie, who was playing at centre but jackling like a true openside (24-5). Yet another forwards drive and run saw a Thanet prop trundle over the line to take the score to 31-5.

The game had now effectively descended into a sevens game and Thanet were seemingly scoring at will with Dover praying for the full-time whistle to blow. Alfie put a chip in which he collected and passed to see Freddie's brother, Will, score under the posts (38-5).

Charlie was the next in line to score as he showed his pace with a good break. A last show and go dummied the Dover fullback as well as his own wing and he went over under the posts unopposed (50-5). Alfie had the last word with the final try coming from a nice break but, by this point, with little Dover resistance as they were out for the count (55-5)

This was a good result especially after the numerous changes to the squad and the awful conditions in which to play rugby. A word of thanks must go to Stu Plumridge for refereeing in the rain and keeping the game flowing as much as possible. Most of the team and all the supporters (including this part-time journalist trying to make notes on a very soggy notebook) will hope the weather improves for the next game.

Colts Squad: 1 Fin T 2 Josh M 3 Ollie P 4 Owen L 5 Mustafa B 6 Joseph K 7 Charlie P 8 Ellis P 9 Raz W 10 Callum 11 Vinny P 12 Freddy D 13 Dillon S 14 Zac OH 15 Ewan M 16 Harry H 17 Jem H 18 19 Archie 20 Will 21 Alfie R

Simon Harris



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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
Canterbury 2nds	8	8	0	0	345	124	221	8	0	40	0
Crowborough	8	7	1	0	225	125	100	5	0	35	0
Dartfordians	8	6	0	2	283	158	125	6	1	31	0
Beccehamian	8	6	0	2	259	143	116	5	1	30	0
Bromley	8	6	0	2	197	119	78	4	1	30	0
Deal & Betteshanger	8	4	0	4	188	232	-44	4	1	21	0
Ashford	7	3	0	4	138	166	-28	3	0	15	0
Dover	8	2	0	6	170	226	-56	2	2	12	0
Heathfield & Waldron	8	1	2	5	131	198	-67	2	2	12	0
Thanet Wanderers	8	1	0	7	135	280	-145	1	1	6	0
Cranbrook	8	0	1	7	132	331	-199	1	2	5	0
Charlton Park	7	1	0	6	108	209	-101	1	1	1	-5

COUNTIES 1 KENT FIXTURES

Saturday 18th November 2023

Ashford v Bromley

Cranbrook v Deal & Betteshanger

Beccehamian v Charlton Park

Heathfield & Waldron v Dartfordians

Canterbury 2nds v Crowborough

Thanet Wanderers v Dover

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

RESULTS FROM COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

Saturday 4th November 2023

Ashford AB Charlton Park

Beccehamian 58-3 Deal & Betteshanger

Canterbury 2nds 43-14 Dover

Cranbrook 15-15 Heathfield & Waldron

Crowborough 14-10 Bromley

Thanet Wanderers 10-33 Dartfordians

Saturday 11th November 2023

Bromley 45-5 Heathfield & Waldron

Charlton Park 16-50 Canterbury 2nds

Crowborough 28-8 Ashford

Dartfordians 74-14 Cranbrook

Deal & Betteshanger 25-7 **Thanet Wanderers**

Dover 24-26 Beccehamian

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MATCH REPORT

Thanet Wanderers 19 v Medway 19

With storm Ciarán slowly disappearing into the distance it was a brave soul who would have predicted any matches this week. Luckily, despite all the rain, the pitch was deemed playable in the morning and a Medway team ventured out and down to meet us at the Rec - the tree outside the Lanthorne seemingly being the only casualty of the high winds.

Medway are one of the strongest teams in the region so Thanet knew that they had a game on their hands, made harder by the fact that Medway brought 28 players and Thanet could only muster three 'finishers'.

Thanet Colts, however, meant business and this was clearly demonstrated from the kickoff when Finn took the ball and ran directly into his opposite prop number bowling him out of the way with a collision that probably could've been heard back in Medway.

Game on. Thanet were playing some excellent offloading rugby and making ground against Medway who were tackling well and seemingly keeping them at bay. A new half back combination was in place with Rasmus at scrum-half and our first Belgian player of the year, Luca, playing his first game at Thanet. This new combination was moving the ball well and allowed for Freddie playing at inside centre to partner with Vinny at outside centre. With the forwards bulldozing a path, the ball moved through this back combination to Jem on the wing on the halfway line. With a huge amount to do he sidestepped inside to beat his opposite number and in space here, then skipped past covering defense and, with the fullback seemingly falling off him, he raced unopposed under the posts. The conversion was successfully taken by Luca our new Belgium fly off (7-0).

Medway were trying to keep themselves out of trouble by kick clearing but caught Noah Osgood on top form as he dealt with every ball cleanly and ran back making ground every time. The Thanet pack doing well to support Thanet retaining possession again.

Thanet were now flying and seemingly unstoppable as they pounded the Medway line. The next try came from Vinnie with a characteristic strong run through the middle of the park, 12-0. Thanet were winning the contact area with strong runs from all the forwards allowing quick ball to be maintained and it wasn't long before usual try scorer Freddie bounded over for the third try duly converted again by Luca (19-0).

Medway seemingly didn't know what had hit them and from their supporter's reaction weren't expecting to be this far behind in the match in the first half. The game could've been potentially closed out as another break from the big man Alfie saw Dillon take the ball at pace and, had his chip through bounced nicely for him, was easily in under the posts. Unfortunately, the ball would make a difference between scoring or not for us and in this case the ball bounced just out of reach of Dillon with the line at his beck and call.

Little did the Thanet support know how crucial this miss would turn out to be. Thanet turned around into the second half with the wind behind them and seemingly more tries to be had. We continued in the same vein in control however no tries were forthcoming. To be hypercritical, Thanet's kicking game was letting them down slightly and the Medway fullback was having a similar success to Noah from the first half in retaining the ball and running it back into the Thanet defense. Thanet were clearly tiring as Medway with the luxury of many substitutes had fresh legs with which to attack as numbers defending the blindside got shorter and shorter. It was only a matter of time till Medway generated a two on one and scored in the corner.

Thanet, galvanised and determined not to let this go, continued to pummel the Medway line and again attacked through the big forwards. Eventually the ball spread wide but disaster as Medway intercepted the ball in their own 22 and the player ran the length of the pitch to score under the posts.

It seemed impossible that Medway could get anything from this game in the last 10 minutes but now they had the opportunity to draw level if they could score one last try in the last two minutes. Panic had spread in the Thanet team but when Owen had turned the ball over at a ruck everyone thought this would end the game. However, some indecisiveness at the back and strong rucking meant Medway again gained control and managed to force themselves over in the corner. Full credit to the Medway fullback who under pressure kicked the conversion from quite a distance to level the scores. This was the final play of the game, and it will be disappointing to Thanet that they let such a commanding lead slip away. The coaches need to look at the team's game management especially in the last quarter.

However, this was a strong Medway side and perhaps with a few more players coming back from injury on the bench or a little bit more fitness we could've maintained our dominance.

Man of the match could've gone to several players however Noah Osgood had a very strong game at fullback especially under the high ball.

Next week sees our first league game against Dartfordians at home and we need a strong side and numbers to ensure victory.

Colts Squad 1. Finn T 2. Fred O 3. Ollie P 4. Alfie R 5. Owen L 6. Charlie P 7. Finn H 8. Dillon S 9. Raz W 10. Luka 11. Zac O 12. Freddie D 13. Vinnie P 14. Jem H 15. Noah O 16. Josh M 17. Joe N 18. Mustafa B 19. Harry H 20. Joseph K

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