Official match day programme of Thanet Wanderers Rugby Union Football Club

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V ASDIORD REP Saturday 11th March 2023. Kick off 3.00pm

THANET WANDERERS



THANET WANDERERS RUFC

Minimum Donation of £3

www.thanetwanderers.co.uk



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

On behalf of the officers and members of Thanet Wanderers it gives me much pleasure to extend a warm welcome to those of our visitors today who are here principally to enjoy the great social occasion that is the Paul Keohane Sports Fund Annual Lunch. There is an equally warm welcome for the officials, players and supporters of Ashford RFC who are here to support or play for their team in a fixture that is Wanderers' final League match of the season, although the visitors have another rearranged match to play in this topsy turvy season.

The Paul Keohane Sports Fund was set up in memory of Paul Keohane, who sadly died in 2015. Paul, who was born in 1963, was a former Chatham House G.S head boy, who read Law at Lincoln College, Oxford University where he gained four blues in both hockey and athletics. Paul was a dedicated sportsman, a Thanet Wanderer, he represented Kent and London Schools at Rugby. He played Hockey for SE England and gained 4 England schools Hockey caps and was later selected in the Great Britain U23 Hockey Squad. He worked in investment banking in the City of London, where he was able to sponsor under-privileged children and this provided the seed of an idea that has flowered into the Sports Fund that carries his name. Paul truly believed in the power of sport as an agent to bring communities together. One of the main objectives from the early days of the fund, that was founded in 2016, was to finance the provision of training and coaching sessions in Thanet schools' curricula that would be presented by qualified coaches and provide an introduction to rugby for both boys and girls. Working in conjunction with club sponsors including Miles and Barr and Watkins and of course, Thanet Wanderers, the schools programme continues to flourish. Mario Garcia, Wanderers' Minis Coach, is presently very busy providing coaching at many of the area's junior schools who have been very appreciative and many new recruits have been seen at the Club's regular Sunday morning sessions. The SEND sessions will restart after Easter and it is a privilege to host these special voungsters and their families. The PKSF

fund has also provided help to other causes within the Thanet Community including wheelchairs used in the 'Beach within Reach' Charity and funding to help provide families of the Royal Harbour Academy pupils with Christmas essentials. The Fund has made tremendous progress since the first fundraising lunch in January 2016. Please do dig deep this afternoon and support the trustees of the fund, John Keohane, Gary Frame, Jimmy Green, Chris Marson and Tony Michael as they look to you to help them continue to provide funding for their admirable work throughout the coming year.

The club's head coach, Mike Pond, will have written elsewhere in the programme about the prospects for the first XV this afternoon in their match against Ashford in the closing match of Wanderers' league season. He with his fellow selectors have faced considerable problems trying to field a consistent squad in what has become a highly competitive league. My stats record that fifty players have played for the first XV this season and that the absence of senior players like Jimmy Green, who needed surgery on his shoulder and Neil Wakefield who retired at Christmas have left big gaps, not only in the front row, but also in the team's leadership on the pitch. Surgery on his knee has meant that team captain, Sam Taylor, has not played this season and last season's top try scorer. Charlie Knight, has only been able to play in a very limited number of games. He did play last week at Aylesford and bagged a brace of tries and hopes to play today. Good luck to him and to all the mixture of vouth and experience who will feature for Wanderers today. Their opponents Ashford will hope to build on an already successful season when they have won twelve fixtures including a defeat of runaway league leaders Old Alleynians, something only one other club has succeeded in doing. Ashford defeated us 13-3 in our first game of the season on a September day when the pitches were rock hard and we were far from match fit.

I trust that we will see a competitive, injury free, match today.

Colin Whiteley



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FROM THE HEAD COACH

After the huge disappointment of a below par performance against a very average Crowborough team, the trip to Heathfield the following week required a better performance and a win to keep our hopes alive of staying in Counties One next season. For 60 minutes the lads produced it despite injuries to skipper for the day, Jack Startin and latterly Tom Walton. The lack of self belief that has been so mysteriously overwhelming this season, reared its head again in the last 20 minutes and allowed a very young and inexperienced Heathfield team to run in three late tries and take an unexpected bonus point win that 25 minutes earlier seemed impossible. Our last away trip to Aylesford last week meant a defeat would secure our relegation, if Crowborough could beat Folkestone which they subsequently did. Despite us beating Aylesford 22-6 and not conceding a try for the first time this season, we only scored 3 tries ourselves allowing another valuable bonus point to slip through our fingers. Our fate now lies in the hands of Bromley, so strong all season long and due to travel to Crowborough next weekend for their final league game of the season. We have firstly to win today to put any sort of pressure onto Crowborough who should dispatch Aylesford, their opponents today, with relative ease and with a bonus point. This would mean Crowborough having to get at least a bonus point from their game with Bromley to have a chance of overhauling us. A very tight end to a very tough season.

As it's probably my last report of the season, I would like to thank everyone, who like the 50 players that have represented the first team, have been at the coalface each week through this tough season. Our physio team of Mon, Clemo, Fran, and Tom have worked tirelessly on training nights and match days dealing with the unprecedented amount of injuries this season has thrown at them. Some weeks without their amazing work we'd of struggled to get teams out. The team

managers. Michelle McClean. Mike Whitehead and Bill Wallace put in an incredible amount of time during the week ensuring we get all the teams out at the weekend, though some weeks when injuries and unavailabilities were at their worst some games have had to be rearranged. Team captains, Nick Herbert, Pete Mc and Bill again have worked incredibly hard at keeping team spirits high and training numbers far higher than they could have been. To the social crew headed up by Mike and Noah, we've had some amazing nights, not often celebrating wins, but enjoying the social side of the sport we all love. And finally the coaches who have been out there every Tuesday and Thursday since the beginning of July come rain or shine. Elliot, Gareth, Kieran, Mike and Bill, you make a cold, wet training night worth turning up for.

Whatever happens today and next week at Crowborough, we will face next season with the same determination to play good rugby and just as importantly to have fun, whether on or off the pitch. The clubhouse today is full of people associated with Thanet Wanderers to raise money to ensure as many young people with a desire to play rugby, get the opportunity to do so, through the amazing work that the PKSF provides. The young players that come through our junior section and the local schools are the future of our club and should be nurtured accordingly. Please support this event in any way you can.

I am gutted to be missing the final league game, especially with so much at stake, but I am with my family at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh attending Cameron's graduation ceremony after so many years of training and studying, he has qualified as a Clinical Dental Technician. A very proud Dad moment that I couldn't possibly miss.

Mike Pond



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MATCH REPORT

Sun 26th Feb 2023: Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ladies 55 Bexley Ladies 5

Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ladies maintained their 100% Inner Warrior league record with their 6th consecutive win at home to Bexley Ladies.

With a reshuffled side to give all players game time, Thanet took to the field led for the first time by Georgia Elks who has just received her call up to the Kent squad.

With a simple game plan of moving defenders around and exploiting the space, Thanet were soon two tries to the good. First a break by Tilia Elliston and a superbly timed offload to Sophia Richardson saw the latter go in underneath the posts. Then, the same combination came together a few moments later for a near identical move and try and Thanet were 12-0 to the good.

Bexley are a solid side and attempted to run the ball through the middle of the Thanet pack most of the day, but the Thanet pack were able to combat most of what came their way, most notably with tough tackling displays from Aisha Williams and Vicky Flower.

After a turnover in the tackle, quick hands from the Thanet backs saw speedy winger Amy Coster put into space and her pace saw her get around the Bexley cover defence to dot down in the corner to increase Wanderers' lead to 19-0. Bexley were dangerous on the counter attack and ball retention from Thanet will need to be better against higher ranked sides. After one such turnover the Bexley fly half performed a similar move to Costers' a few minutes earlier and she scored in the corner to reduce the deficit to 19-5.

20 minutes into the game saw the first of the bench players enter the field and centre Izzy Lodge got on the scoresheet twice within the first few minutes with a try from Elks in between them and Thanet were beginning to stretch away to a 38-5 lead.

Richardson then got her hat-trick and followed that up in quick time with her fourth and completed a convincing 55-5 victory.

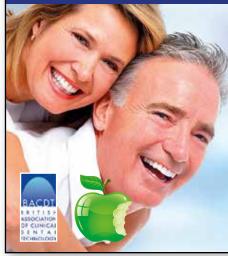
Thanet have two tough home games over the next few weeks with the visits of Dartford Valley and Cranbrook before the return to league action to try and sew up the league campaign at Old Gravesendians.

Tries: Richardson 4, Coster, Elks, Lodge 2, Con: Richardson 3, Bish L 2

lan Lodge



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MATCH REPORT

Thanet Wanderers Vets 10 -7 Dover Vets

Spitfire Gold - Bowl Semi-Final - 26th February 2023 Wanderers Vets edge out their near-neighbours in an entertaining Semi-Final.

Thanet kicked off down the slope and some good defence from both sides soon indicated that a try-fest was unlikely. Thanet had opportunities but two early casualties were Thanet's lan Lodge and Jonty Stevens. With twenty-five minutes played, Kris Finneran slotted a well-struck penalty to open up a 3-0 lead and that remained the score at half-time.

Ten minutes into the second half Peter Macaulay, Wanderers' team organiser and captain, was part of some good handling before having to battle through the final few metres to touch down and then convert his own try with the assistance of a post. Wanderers led 10-0. Back came Dover and within a couple of minutes they crossed for a converted try to set up an exciting final quarter. Wanderers put in a great defensive shift and despite the loss of Finneran and Stuart Plumridge to an accidental clash of heads hung on to win 10-7.

Thanet will now face Old Gravesendians in the final after they defeated Blackheath in the other semi-final by 26-20. The game will kick off at 2.50 PM on 15th April at Maidstone RFC's ground



Aylesford Bulls RFC 6 – 22 Thanet Wanderers RUFC

Two tries for Charlie Knight as the Wanderers win a hadfought encounter.

The Wanderers' pack showed six changes to last week's starting XV. There was a first-team debut for Tom Ball in the second row where he became the 50th player to appear for the Wanderers' first XV this season. He replaced Jack Startin whose injury sustained last week at Heathfield is likely to mean a long layoff. There was a start for Harry Clemo, at tight-head, after his return to the bench last week whilst Regan Doody was hooker and Brett Scott started at six. Skipper Nick Herbert was back at ten after injury and Charlie Knight was on the left wing.

The Bulls kicked off and had much the best of the opening ten minutes penning Wanderers in their half. Their big runners in the pack and midfield were repeatedly repulsed and a kickable penalty was missed before Knight led the breakout. Joined by Noah Dan a penalty was drawn which Tom Walton despatched for a 3-0 lead after 13 minutes. This was Thanet's first incursion into the hosts' half. Five minutes later, Walton's more ambitious attempt from the wide right on the home ten metres line was good for distance but just left of the posts. Clemo's charge down of an attempted clearance and fellow prop, Danny Clement's advance, set up some good handling and a final drive over the line from Knight. Walton's conversion from close to the touchline was brilliant and the Wanderers were 10-0 ahead. Back came the Bulls and when Wanderers infringed, in front and 25 metres out, their kicker made no mistake. A long penalty to touch set up another spell of attack from the Bulls and when Wanderers broke clear, they were penalised at a breakdown. Referee Ben Johnson had previously warned the side and it was full-back Marius Thompson who was shown the yellow card.

The Bulls' subsequent attack was resisted and with half-time close, Knight received just outside his 22 and weaved through his opponents on his way to touch down halfway between posts and touch. Walton's conversion made it 17-3 to the Wanderers. Good chases from Louis Marshall and Henry Mirams snuffed out promising attack situations for the hosts and the score was unchanged at halftime.

10

When Thompson's ten minutes in the sin bin expired he did not return, due to a dead leg, and was replaced by James Crompton. The Wanderers' penalty count continued to rise and seven minutes into the half, the Bulls converted one from close to reduce the deficit to 17-6. Following another referee's warning, Dann was now shown yellow. Both of Thanet's remaining subs, Ed Plori and Andy Bourton made significant contributions during their minutes in the match. Ball, who made an impressive debut, was close to scoring after Knight initiated a flowing movement from his wing. One of the Bulls was now shown yellow and Wanderers went close from the line-out that followed. At the other end. Walton's long clearance from a penalty broke up a spell of the Bulls' pressure. When the referee announced seven minutes remained Thanet pressed and with the final play of the game the forwards went close before the ball was spun to Herbert who raced in. Walton's hurried conversion attempt was wide but no time remained and the Wanderers had won 22-6.

Wanderers' coaches were delighted with the win that was founded on a strong defensive performance. Outstanding, with a fine tackling record, was Brett Scott and Andy Letts celebrated an estimated 350 games for Thanet with another huge performance. There was another big game from Adam Harrison at inside centre but, after another fine performance, it was number 8, Lenny Brown who was chosen by the home side and endorsed by Thanet's coaches as Wanderers' man of the match.

Next Saturday, the 11th of March will see the Wanderers play their final league match of the season, at home, to Ashford (Kick Off 3 PM), who have had a very good season to date, winning twelve matches. All support will be very welcome as the Wanderers look for points to improve their league position with the possibility of relegation still looming. The match will be proceeded by the annual Paul Keohane Sports Fund Charity lunch which will make for a great atmosphere for the game. There may be a few returned tickets available if you haven't booked yet, check availability with John Keohane or Kelly, please. **Colin Whiteley**





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 pratice 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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Wanderers are well beaten by their resurgent Sussex visitors.

It was good to see Charlie Knight back for just his fifth appearance of the season for the Wanderers. Alex Tuddenham was back too as a front-row sub after over a year out with shin splints and Ed Plori stepped up to turn out for the first XV at Number eight for the first time in many seasons.

Many spectators who had enjoyed the excellent sponsors' lunch were still seeking their best viewing spot as the Crows kicked off and were quick to pounce on a loose ball to touch down and with a good conversion take a 7-0 lead. The Wanderers were attacking through their backline at every opportunity, but the visitors' defence was good. Finally, with thirty minutes played, some classy handling among the home backs was initiated by skipper Nick Herbert in an interchange with Charlie Knight and when halted just short of the Crows' line, the pack took over with Jack Startin touching down. Marius Thompson made a good conversion to level things at 7 all. Nick Herbert, who had nearly lost his own head to a high tackle, that was not seen earlier by the unsighted referee, Simon Bingham, was now the transgressor and received a yellow card. The drive from the subsequent penalty brought another forwards try from the Crows that opened a 7-14 lead that quickly became 7-21 when the Crows' scrum half was guick to grab another loose ball and dart through the home defence. Wanderers were playing with the

advantage when flanker Steve Jones made a break that took him close to the visitors' line but he was brought down just short and the line-out from the pending penalty was not straight and there was no change to the score at half-time.

The visitors started the second half with energy and ambition and a big tackle from Thompson was needed to halt their advance. Four minutes later Crowborough, whose pack had a good day, again drove over under the posts to chalk up the try bonus point. This was soon followed by a similar try that went unconverted but with no further score the 7-33 score stood until the game ended. Charlie Panteli made a confident debut from the bench playing at ten. He replaced injured Henry Mirams and joined fellow colt, Sam Molyneux. Wanderers could find no further score during the remaining twenty minutes, despite having periods of dominance, and the final score remained 33-7 to Crowborough. Wanderers' man of the match, chosen by Thanet's coaches, was front-row forward Alex Tuddenham who played out of position and put in an excellent performance after being unable to train or play rugby recently because of shin splints. Crowborough chose a back who they saw as Wanderers' Man of the match and it was Marius Thompson, who kept probing and gave everything towards his team's effort. The Crows will approach their run in to the league's close of four home matches confidently.

Colin Whiteley









Thanet Wanderers Colts 8 v Gravesend 25

Sunday 4th March 2023. Thanet took part in their final Kent league match against Gravesend and went into it knowing that since both teams had similar records and sat first and second in the league respectively it was probably winner takes all.

The game kicked off, and Gravesend came out of the blocks fastest. In the first minute of the match after a quick break on the left wing, Gravesend nearly scored. Thanet did not learn from this move and two minutes later the visitors came fast down the same wing. Farzam Yasir put in some fantastic cover tackles but Gravesend were able to power forward and score. Gravesend continued to dominate early on but Thanet grew into the game and there followed a period when both teams tested each other. Thanet did have chances and at times did move the ball well, but rather panicked on getting into the 22 and could not capitalise on their opportunities.

With 27 minutes gone, Thanet conceded a penalty that Gravesend punished by extending their lead out to 0-8. Thanet pushed back and towards the end of the first half they grew more into the game and were finally awarded a penalty which Charlie Panteli duly converted to reduce the lead to 3-8

At the end of the first half the score was Thanet Wanderers Colts 3 Gravesend 8. Gravesend had been the better side, but were only 5 points up and Thanet knew they had missed chances and not played at their best and they were still well in the game.

At the interval Thanet made some changes to give all players in the squad game time. At the start of the second half Gravesend again came out the stronger and a little more determined. Wanderers showed some excellent defence with lots of crucial tackles being made, but unfortunately for them in the 43rd minute Gravesend broke free and scored in the corner which was well converted from out wide to make the score 3-15. Thanet let their guard down again in the 49th minute. After they had shown strong defence near their own line they lost concentration and allowed the visitors an easy run in for a further try which was converted to extend their lead to 3-22. This seemed to spark Wanderers into life and after some great attacking play, their best player on the day, Yasir, scored in the corner to bring the score back to 8-22.

Gravesend, lost a little discipline and suffered two yellow cards in quick succession, but Thanet could not take advantage of the situation and the opposition held firm. In the last minute Gravesend got another penalty to push their lead out to 8-25 and from the resulting kick off it was soon all over.

The final result was Thanet Wanderers Colts 8 Gravesend 25. Gravesend were worthy winners and also won our Kent league group. Thanet can be proud knowing they went into this last game with a chance of winning the league, especially as they have had to rely heavily this season on the younger under 17s in the squad. If this group can stay together and have the same hunger they have had in the past, I fully expect them to win next season. It's not the wins you learn from most, that's easy to reflect upon, it's the defeats and in this case it can be used as a learning moment and an experience to push on from.

Thanet Wanderers Colts: Max Anderson (C), Fred O'Halloran, Ben Couldridge, Archie Kujawinski, Hugo Evans, Finn Hickmott, Isaac Divine, Gil Smith, Sam Stevenson, Charlie Pantelli, Stanley Ball, Tom O'Callaghan, Henry Curruthers, Owen Reed, Farzam Yasiry, Dom Springer, Shaheer Kahn, Josh Jury, Joe Sykes, Zach Ralph.

Matthew Hickmott

Thanet Wanderers

Home teamcolours: blue, black and gold hoops

- 1 Harry Clemo Postition sponsored by: Peter Hawkins
- 2 Kurt Pearson Postition sponsored by: Bill Hurley
- 3 Daniel Clement Postition sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore
- 4 Andrew Letts Postition sponsored by: Mark 0' Riordan
- 5 Tom Ball Postition sponsored by: Barry Winson
- 6 Brett Scott Postition sponsored by: Michelle McClean
- 7 Noah Dann 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

Fitness Coach Gareth Redmond Position sponsored by: Pegasus Storage Solutions Ltd

Team Manager

Michelle McLean Postition sponsored by: Carmen Glover

- 9 Tom Walton Postition sponsored by: Jeremy Ward
- 10 Nick Herbert (Capt) Postition sponsored by: Neil Armstrong
- **11 Harrison Quittenden** Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover
- 12 Adam Harrison Postition sponsored by: Jason Deacon
- 13 Henry Mirams Postition sponsored by: John Keohane
- 14 Louis Marshall Postition sponsored by: Peter Tierney/Ray Roby
- **15 Marius Thompson** Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond

Replacements:

16 Michael Whitehead Postition sponsored by: Dave Brown

- 17 Lenny Brown Position sponsored by: Four Candles Alehouse
- 18 Andrew Dolan Postition sponsored by: Terry Tutte
- Referee Oliver Tyson

Touch Judge Gareth Redmond Postition sponsored by: Pegasus Storage Solutions

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Ashford RFC

Away team colours:

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- 3 Norman
- 4 Davey
- 5 May
- 6 Knight
- 7 Stuckey
- 8 Tango

D.O.R. Chris Dengate Head Coach Not Supplied Assistant Coach Not Supplied Team Manager

Not Supplied

- Physio
- Not Supplied

- 9 Fitzmaurice
- 10 Cox
- **11** Manktelow
- 12 Drew
- 13 Kemp
- 14 Myezwa
- 15 Blyth
- Replacements:
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- 17 Knott
- 18 Gray





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Heathfield and Waldron RFC 24-8 Thanet Wanderers RUFC

Heathfield pull clear in the final quarter after a well contested first hour.

There were nine changes to the Wanderers squad compared to last weeks team. Danny Clement returned at loose-head prop and Andy Bourton stepped up to fill the tighthead berth. There was a first start for Charlie Panteli at ten with Tom Walton at scrum-half. It was good to see Brett Scott back on the bench in the blue, black and gold.

This fixture was rearranged from the game in mid September that had to be arranged after the referee was injured. Only four of Thanet's starters remained from that game and it was clear that there had been changes to H&W's ranks too, with both sides starting with a blend of youth and some players of long experience.

Heathfield and Waldron (H&W) made a guick start before a good mark, under pressure, from Marius Thompson helped Thanet to settle. Wanderers were penalised for not releasing but a good long clearance from Walton eased the pressure. Wanderers did well to keep their line intact in the opening fifteen minutes with most of the play in their half but H&W then sent the ball along the line for their left winger to touch down for an unconverted try. Connor Brown now broke well and drew a penalty for Thanet in midfield just inside the home 10 metre line. Walton sent his kick high and straight to make the score 5-3 to H&W. Wanderers were now showing more fluency and when Panteli grabbed a goal-line drop out, he quickly sent Thompson away and the full back made good metres before handing on for Henry Mirams to race over in the left corner. Walton's conversion attempt went across the face of the posts but Wanderers led 8-5. Wanderers were going well and a penalty sent them to around 25 metres out. Dann competed well at a line out to rescue possession and the visitors looked threatening before being recalled

for a borderline forward pass. Four minutes of the half remained when Wanderers Captain for the day, Jack Startin, landed awkwardly after a competitive line-out and had to be helped from the ground. Ed Plori moved from 8 to the second row and Brett Scott came on at 8.

Wanderers attacked strongly as the second half began. Brown and Thompson combined well but the hosts won the subsequent race to touch down. Thanet's backs augmented a drive in an effort to cross the line but the home defence stood firm and 15 minutes into the half, Tom Walton was also forced off having exacerbated a persistent injury. Inside centre Adam Harrison moved to scrum half and Lewis Downer went on in the centre. Wanderers continued to look dangerous before, on the hour, H&W took advantage of a favourable bounce from a clearance kick to move the ball right and run in their second try, which was converted, for a 12-8 lead. H&W were now playing with the momentum and were rewarded with a try, after a flirtation with the right touchline. Brown was shown yellow as Wanderers defence was tested and with the last play of the match the hosts helped themselves to a try bonus point following some poor defence from Wanderers. The excellent conversion from near the touchline sealed a good victory for H&W who remain in fifth place with Wanderers continued participation in this league looking increasingly endangered with two games to play. Next week the team visits Avlesford who are in bottom place but have shown much improved form as the season draws to a close. Kick off is at 3pm and all support will be very welcome.

The back row put in a terrific shift against Heathfield and Noah Dann's athleticism, tackle completion and competition at the breakdown was outstanding today: he was the Wanderers' coaches choice as man of the match. **Colin Whiteley**



Full details of all fixtures, results, social events and sponsors can be found at: www.thanetwanderers.co.uk



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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.

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GERRY DOYLE 07943 500197

2023-02-19 Thanet Wanderers 72 vs Dover 0

After a convincing win away at Dover it was great that Dover fulfilled the fixture at the St Peter's Rec showing strong moral fortitude in coming down for what they must have anticipated being a tough morning.

Buoyed by a win last week against a strong Ashford side, Thanet were blessed with a plethora of quality players this week (21) after good attendance at training midweek. The coaches were in the position of being able to try a few different combinations and give some players a short rest. We also saw the debut of Marcus as a welcome addition to the squad.

Dover had the bigger side and a large squad, so Thanet knew they couldn't relax too much. They also wanted to build on the performance from last week. From the kickoff it was clear Thanet only needed to maintain their discipline and move the ball for tries to come. Indeed, it wasn't long before Will Gedge barreled over the line to score the first try as Dover struggled to compete with Thanet's intensity and strength both up front and in the backs (5-0). The next score came from similar pressure and a strong run from Charlie Page with the conversion by Callum Duffy (who kicked well all game) (12-0).

The next try was one for the crowd as Thanet were now moving the ball well through the backs as the pack set up quality fast ball. Passed down the line to the wing with a bit of space, Jem Harris then sidestepped two defenders to place the ball untouched over the try line (19-0). It was then Kyle Pitcher and Dillon Shelley's turn to both score tries through their dynamism and natural flair (31-0). Dover although struggling never gave up and if it was not for some tenacious tackling the score line would have been far higher at this stage.

The next try was from an ebullient Freddie Durrant who was tackling and rucking nonstop in his time on the pitch (38-0). Not to be out done the forwards then gave Will Gedge another try as he again seemed impossible to stop (43-0). Thanet were creating options all over the pitch and really varying both their kicking and passing game. The next try for Jem Harris, his second, was all made by the backline passing as he simply had to catch and put the ball down (48-0).

The backs were not being greedy and really used the ball to create overlaps and space. It was the captains turn to get on the try line really leading by example all through the game with a characteristic run off the scrum half Rasmus Wallace to push past two Dover players to score (53-0). With Dover's heads going slightly down the next two tries were individual ones scored by the tenacious Dan Jury as he cut clear lines right through the Dover defence (65-0). The final try came right from the kick off as Archie Hussey caught the ball and ran half the length of the pitch offloading to Finn Wilmans, who ran a great supporting line to score under the posts (72-0). This Rounded off a very impressive, controlled game by Thanet. Special mention must go to Joseph Keohane-McGrath who although he didn't get on the score sheet talked and rucked his heart out to get man of the match.

The confidence of the squad continues to grow as the players develop after a bumpy start to the year.

U16's Squad: Callum Duffy, Freddy Durrant, Levi Freedman, Will Gedge, Daniel Jury, Fin Harris, Jem Harris, Archie Hussey, Kyle Pitcher, Owen Long, Joseph Keohane-McGrath, Zachery Oliver-Hendy, Noah Osgood, Charlie Page, Ollie Parker, Dillon Shelley, Tristin Surry, Finn Wilmans, Rasmus Wallace, Eden Williams-Verrall,

Debut: Marcus Injured: Luke Herbert, Ellis Rees-Plumridge

Simon Harris



COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

Team	Р	w	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS	ADJ
Old Alleynians	21	19	0	2	800	250	550	15	1	92	0
Bromley	20	15	0	5	534	268	266	11	1	72	0
Beccehamian	21	13	0	8	559	362	197	10	4	66	0
Heathfield & Waldron	20	13	0	7	422	430	-8	8	3	63	0
Charlton Park	21	13	0	8	493	530	-37	9	1	62	0
Deal & Betteshanger	21	11	0	10	447	476	-29	7	3	55	0
Ashford	20	12	0	8	399	346	53	4	2	54	0
Cranbrook	20	11	0	9	505	464	41	9	1	54	0
Thanet Wanderers	21	6	0	15	283	574	-291	4	0	28	0
Crowborough	20	6	0	14	390	528	-138	6	1	26	-5
Folkestone	21	3	0	18	339	707	-368	5	4	21	0
Aylesford Bulls	20	1	0	19	315	551	-236	3	6	13	0

COUNTIES 1 KENT FIXTURES

Saturday 11th March 2023

Beccehamian v Heathfield & Waldron

Bromley v Deal & Betteshanger

Charlton Park v Cranbrook

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Old Alleynians v Folkestone

Thanet Wanderers v Ashford





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Away Team ▶	As	Aylesf	Becc	Br	Charl	Cra	Crow	D: Bette	Folk	Heat Wa	OId AI	Ţ
Home Team 👻	Ashford	Aylesford Bulls	Beccehamian	Bromley	Charlton Park	Granbrook	Growborough	Deal & Betteshanger	Folkestone	Heathfield & Waldron	Old Alleynians	TWRUFC
Ashford		22-8	12-5	8-16	31-5	39-5	14-5	27-12	45-15	13-15	17-10	13-3
Aylesford Bulls	3-12		23-21	10-31	14-36	13-17	36-40	20-33	19-28	14-19	7-32	6-22
Beccehamian	45-12	33-15		48-10	22-12	25-12	29-5	5-34	39-7		13-27	69-3
Bromley	17-13	33-17	18-15		18-0	38-0	57-15		72-0	33-0	12-37	27-0
Charlton Park	37-21	35-32	23-21	13-5			43-0	36-39	30-15	52-19	15-46	21-13
Cranbrook	31-19		36-16	10-22	72-0		34-17	24-14	51-12	26-38	17-46	37-12
Crowborough	18-32		26-34		26-10	39-15		AWO	47-10	17-29	10-37	35-10
Deal & Bettes	35-8	35-27	25-32	13-27	9-29	27-26	38-8		45-24	15-19	0-17	16-21
Folkestone	21-22	29-24	14-29	3-26	14-45	15-20	32-24	19-39		17-21	12-17	5-19
Heathfield & Waldron	$\overline{}$	27-8	40-15	29-25	17-21	15-21	20-18	8-10	32-15		22-34	24-8
Old Alleynians	40-19	17-8	8-21	27-13	89-7	33-11	41-7	76-0		68-10		63-5
TWRUFC	$\overline{}$	31-11	0-22	10-34	7-23	24-40	7-33	23-10	41-32	0-18	24-35	

RESULTS GRID COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

RESULTS FROM COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

Saturday 18th February 2023	Deal & Bette
Beccehamian 45-12 Ashford	Heathfield &
Bromley 38-0 Cranbrook	Old Alleynian
Charlton Park 35-32 Aylesford Bulls	Saturday 4t
Folkestone 19-39 Deal & Betteshanger	Ashford 31-5
Old Alleynians 68-10 Heathfield & Waldron	Aylesford Bu
Thanet Wanderers 7-33 Crowborough	Cranbrook 3
Saturday 25th February 2023	Crowboroug
Bromley 18-15 Beccehamian	Deal & Bette
Crowborough 39-15 Cranbrook	Heathfield &

Deal & Betteshanger 35-27 Aylesford Bulls
Heathfield & Waldron 24-8 Thanet Wanderers
Old Alleynians 89-7 Charlton Park
Saturday 4th March 2023
Ashford 31-5 Charlton Park
Aylesford Bulls 6-22 Thanet Wanderers
Cranbrook 36-16 Beccehamian
Crowborough 47-10 Folkestone
Deal & Betteshanger 0-17 Old Alleynians

Heathfield & Waldron 29-25 Bromley

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Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ladies 79 Sheppey Ewes 5

Thanet Wanderers RUFC Ladies welcomed Sheppey to St Peter's Recreation Ground on Sunday the 19th February in an Inner Warrior match, a repeat of the narrow victory that Thanet took away from Sheppey last April in Sheppey's first ever ladies match.

Both sides have developed well since that game which was 10-a-side whereas this match saw two squads each with 20 players, 15-a-side and full replacement benches.

With regular captain Gee Cordell away, Alex White stepped up as captain and it was debutant scrum half Maria Castellina and White who pulled the strings to move the Thanet pack around the park before releasing the backs.

Prop Neave Evans was the first to get on the scoresheet after good work from Aisha Williams before number 8, Milly Thurman-Newell added two further tries with trademark barraging runs through the middle for an early Thanet 19-0 lead. Centre Izzy Lodge then added to the home side's total with a cut inside and scamper over from 30 metres before White hit her third conversion. Sheppey were far from done despite shipping early

tries and started to dominate the midfield forwards

tussle. Repeated phases in the 22 saw the Thanet defence run out and Sheppey crashed over for a try to reduce the deficit to 26-5.

Thanet's debutant winger Abbey Duff scored before Lodge got her second for a 38-5 half time lead whilst Thanet's third debutant Charlotte was instrumental in the build-up to the try.

The second half saw much of the same with Thurman-Newell completing her hat-trick of tries and Leonie Bich getting on the scoresheet inbetween.

Wanderers' points machine, Sophia Richardson, then increased Thanet's lead with 2 tries and 2 conversions with another try inbetween from Lucy Challenger. In the later stages of the game, Thanet put on their fourth and fifth debutants, Daisy Osborne and Carley Powderham which is a key indicator on how this squad is growing.

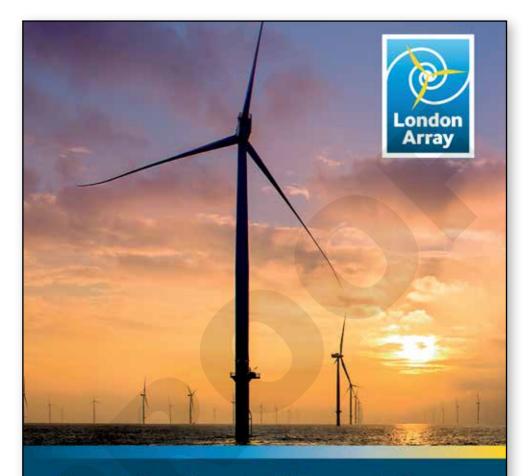
Tries: Evans, Thurman-Newell M 4, Lodge 2, Duff, Bish L 2, Richardson 2, Challenger Con: White 6, Richardson

Ian Lodge - Head Coach, Ladies Section





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