

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

THANET

# WANDERERS

v Charlton Park RFC Saturday 29th October 2022. Kick off 3.00pm

THANET WANDERERS



THANET WANDERERS RUFC

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RODDY

# MACAULAY

Roddy Macaulay, who has died aged 94, was, for many years, a much respected and loved local GP in Broadstairs. He joined his father in the family practice in Broadstairs in 1964 after completing his studies at Lincoln College Oxford. For many years afterwards Roddy organised an annual get-together of the Rugby team from the college. He has been a Wanderer since 1945 as the club resumed full operations after the second world war and played as a wing three-quarter until injury curtailed his playing career. This was a blessing in disguise for Wanderers because he then channelled his energies into administration. Roddy clearly enjoyed organising and attending a good night out and among his souvenirs are many tickets to Thanet Wanderers' Annual Balls which he attended with his beloved wife Jane. Initially club treasurer for twenty-five years, he then became club secretary for another

twenty-five before taking a short break and then becoming President for five years until 2008. He was made a life member in 1969 and was the longest serving member of the club. Not the least of his achievements was to become the father of triplets, Liz, Henry and Peter, who continues to play for Wanderers and rumour has it he may be making an appearance in this afternoon's match. Bridge was another abiding passion for Roddy who continued to play remotely until shortly before his death. Roddy was, until recently, a regular at Wanderers matches where he kept a keen eye on today's players from the clubhouse balcony and heaven forbid that anyone should miss a tackle! The time he gave to the Wanderers is quite remarkable and for his family, an example of how to live a thoroughly good life!

**RIP Roddy, you will be missed.**



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# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

There's a very warm welcome today for those representatives of the National Health Service who are able to join us for today's lunch which is a token of the club's and the Paul Keohane's Trust's thanks to them for their care on every day of the year and particularly for their magnificent life-saving efforts during the pandemic. We welcome too, the officials, players and supporters of Charlton Park RFC, who today have Doug Hursey, the President of Kent RFU, who is also the CEO of Charlton Park, amongst their numbers. We are delighted that you can join us today Doug and we look forward to hearing your promised few words.

There are not too many of us around nowadays who remember life before the NHS was created on the 5th of July 1948. Prior to that date, there was a very limited service for a limited number of workers but not for their families. Many families were registered with a GP and paid to be on his panel but many of the neediest were excluded because of the cost and the doctor expected to be paid when he called to see a sick patient. In my own family, my parents' first and third children both died in their first year during the early 1930s and my mother, who herself had been a nurse in the 1920s, would point out that the treatment they required would have been routine in the UK, had they been born a generation or two later when we had the NHS and the research that has taken place since its creation. The fear that sickness caused by such diseases as Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria and TB current, was a very real one for parents at that time. The creation of a health service, that was funded by taxation, but was free at the point of service, was a magnificent achievement for the driving force behind it, Aneurin Bevan, the Labour Health Secretary. He resigned from office when his government imposed prescription charges in 1951 for dentures and spectacles. Today's heirs to the early pioneers of the health service continue to provide care that is second to none in the world. We are proud to welcome you as our guests today, thank you for joining us for lunch.

The Charlton Park Rugby Club was founded in 1893 and played as Old Charltonians until 1920. Like so many clubs, their early history was an itinerant one. Wanderers had begun their rugby journey seven years earlier but the histories of the two clubs run similar paths, turning out multiple teams up until the second

world war. The Park's pavilion was destroyed by a bomb and with housing desperately needed, prefabs were built on the ground. After the war, the south Londoners had a thin time up to the 1970s when new players appeared. Park's climb up the newly formed leagues in the 80s and 90s was a steady one and culminated with promotion to National Division 4 South in 1996 where their stay was short as professionalism began within our game. Wanderers' trip to Twickenham, to win the inaugural Intermediate cup, was in 1997 and twenty years later Park made the same journey but finished runners-up to West Leeds after a close game. Park lost to Wanderers in the 1998/99 season, in London One, when sides played each other just once and went on to be relegated whilst Thanet finished in 3rd place. Wanderers survived for another six years in that league before being relegated from a league that then contained the likes of London Scottish and Richmond. Our paths have crossed regularly in the seasons since and some good contests have been seen. Last year we both won away with Park being our successful visitors on the day of the Colin Brown memorial day.

What does today's match hold? Thanet's progress this season has been hampered by an unprecedented spate of injuries and we are now in tenth place in the twelve-team league. Young players have stepped up and will have gained valuable experience for the seasons ahead. Charlton Park are just two positions higher and both sides will be aiming to move up the table today.

I understand that this will be back-row forward, James Hamilton's, last game for Wanderers before he returns to his native New Zealand. James is a quality and very likeable player who was the first XV's player of the season last year: his services have been invaluable to the club. Thank you, James.

Today's match will be preceded by a minute's silence when we will remember Dr Roddy Macaulay who died last week at the age of 94. You will be missed on the balcony today Roddy as you have been over recent months. You leave a big gap within our club. A separate notice appears elsewhere in this programme.

C'mon Wanderers.

**Colin Whiteley**



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## FROM THE HEAD COACH

We welcome Charlton Park to St.Peters today for our latest league game. In recent seasons these have always been tight affairs with just a couple of points separating us either way. Honours were even last year with both teams winning the away fixture. Our job was made harder at Kidbrooke when Louis was inexplicably sent off 15 minutes into the game. The red card was later rescinded but the damage was done. Fortunately we just about scraped the win with 14 men digging in for 65 minutes. Today we hope to keep 15 players on the pitch for the whole 80 minutes to get that elusive second victory of the season. Looking at Charlton Parks results this season; they seem to be having the same extremes of performance as ourselves. This is probably due to availability and trying to create a settled team that is proving difficult to all teams in this league, with the exception of Cranbrook, who remain the only unbeaten team in the league after 7 rounds of matches and despite having only fulfilled 6 of them, they sit top of the table. Interestingly 3 of the 4 promoted teams occupy 3 of the top 5 places in the league. Our next 3 games after today are against the teams all around us at the bottom of the table. Wins here will lift us back out the bottom third securing mid table safety by Christmas and with our two games in hand we could still achieve a good finish come the end of the season. We have adjusted our pre-season aim of a top three finish, due to the stuttering start to the season following a glut of injuries to key players. Hopefully our luck will return and results will start to improve.

At the same point last season we had had a similar slow start to the campaign, again winning only 1 of our first 5 matches and later just 2 of our opening 8 fixtures. Maybe we are just slow starters here at Thanet, as we got moving from then on, only losing 5 of the next 14 matches. Rest assured the lads will be working hard to get things on track both at training and on match day.

Today we will be remembering a true Wanderers legend with a minutes silence before kickoff. Dr Roddy Macaulay was already a club icon when I joined Thanet Wanderers in 1983. His very vocal support from the touchline back in the 80's, when I started my first team playing days and latterly from the balcony, was unforgettable. He's encouragement to those on the pitch to "tackle, tackle, tackle" which was replaced later with "corner flag, corner flag" and his most recent shouts of "get into him", always let you know that Roddy was watching and cheering you on. He was a great servant of the club, holding most of the top officers jobs at some point. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him. We are fortunate to have his son Peter playing in the first team today to help us remember Roddy and celebrate his life.

We bid a fond farewell to James Hamilton as he plays his final game for us today. James casually rocked up one Tuesday night last summer, when Covid restrictions were being lifted and the club was gradually getting back into pre-season training for 2021/22. His kiwi accent should have been the giveaway. Not wanting to over impress from day one he gradually showed over the next few weeks what a quality player he was. He received more man of the match awards than anyone else through that season, missing only one game to watch his beloved All Blacks team play Wales in the autumn internationals. He was rightly named Player of the Season at the club supper in April. He certainly will be missed by the whole squad, coaches and supporters alike, not just for his contribution on the pitch but socially as well. We wish you a safe trip home and a long and successful rugby playing career.

**Mike Pond**

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## FIRST XV FIXTURES

# 2022 – 2023

### 2022

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

### 2023

<b>Jan</b>	7	OLD ALLEYNANS	HOME
	14	BROMLEY	AWAY
	21	BECCEHAMIAN	HOME
	28	CHARLTON PARK	AWAY
<b>Feb</b>	4	CRANBROOK England v Scotland	HOME 4.45pm k.o.
	11	FOLKESTONE England v Italy	HOME
	18	CROWBOROUGH	HOME
	25	HEATHFIELD & WALDRON Wales v England	AWAY 4.45pm k.o.
<b>Mar</b>	4	AYLESFORD BULLS	AWAY
	11	ASHFORD England v France	HOME 4.45pm k.o.
	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

# MATCH REPORT

## Thanet Wanderers 10 – 34 Bromley RFC

Wanderers' faltering start to the season continues with defeat to Bromley.

Prior to the match three debutants, Tyler Cawood, Lewis Downer and Mike Whitehead were presented with their match shirts by Club Chairman Chris Panteli. It was good to see Kieran Wright back in a Thanet first XV shirt but the dismal news on the fitness front again limited the selection pool. This was exacerbated in the warm up when Sam Rolfe, who expected to return to first team duties at full back, pulled up. Marius Thompson moved to full back and Downer started in a re-jigged back line. Harrison Leach was called up from Deal, where he was playing for the 2s, to complete Wanderers 1st XV squad.

Playing up the slope, with the wind, Wanderers dominated the opening minutes but conceded a penalty and Bromley cleared that early danger and established themselves in Wanderers half. The visitors' pack used a series of pick and goes to open the scoring and minutes later converted a penalty to open up a 10 point lead. Thompson's long clearance showed the strength of the wind as it was gathered by the gusting wind and bounced over the dead ball line meaning a restart on Thanet's ten metre line. Louis Marshall, on Wanderers left wing was tackling strongly and forcing his way over the gain line but the visitors' defence was sound. The referee was knocked over conjuring up visions of the abandoned match at Heathfield for Wanderers but thankfully James Goksaran was able to continue and complete a good match. Nick Herbert reduced the deficit to 10-3 with a penalty when a Bromley hand was active in the ruck but two minutes later a converted try put the visitors 17-3 ahead. With half time approaching, a Bromley penalty set them around twenty metres out and a try followed wide left to give them a 22-3 lead at the interval.

Just four minutes after the restart, Bromley took advantage of some soft Thanet tackling to register their bonus point try and lead by 27-3. Tyler Cawood had made his debut in the second row earlier but now the genial giant was forced off with a hand injury which could sideline him for some time. He has recently returned to the Thanet area after army service which included being on the bench for the Army and Navy game. Inside centre, Cam Pond, became the next to withdraw after being knocked out and around the hour mark Bromley crossed for a fifth try. Five minutes later some quality handling amongst Thanet's backs tackled from right to left before Tom Walton, who was playing in the centre, ghosted through, in his inimitable way, to touch down under the posts for Thompson to convert and make the score 34-10 to the visitors. Thanet worked hard to reduce the deficit but will be disappointed that they could not find another score against a Bromley side who had had their own share of injuries and whose seniors in the scrum were clearly struggling. Credit goes to determined defences that there was no further score and Wanderers had suffered another heavy defeat.

Leach played well after reaching the ground just before half-time and blindside Warren Riddell-Broomfield worked incredibly hard in defence where his example was inspirational. Skipper Nick Herbert also led by example with fine tackles but today's man of the match was Kieran Wright who switched from the second row to the back row and had a great game in both positions. Work commitments may limit his availability but it was good to see him back.

**Colin Whiteley**



# MATCH REPORT

## East Kent Viragoes U 16s girls v Aylesford Bulls/Sevenoaks U16s girls

On Sunday the 9th October, Thanet U16's Girls joined forces with girls from Deal and Dover as the Viragos, to take on a team made up of girls from Aylesford Bulls and Sevenoaks. As separate girls' teams last year, both Aylesford Bulls and Sevenoaks proved overwhelmingly powerful and as a combined outfit this season they will be an unenviable force to come up against.

The Viragoes were one player short for the first ten minutes of the game due to prevailing traffic conditions in the area, but despite this the team resisted several strong attacks from the combined Sevenoaks Bulls. However, it wasn't long before the power and speed of the opposition got the better of the Viragos and they were over for their first try. After a second try against the Viragos the East Kent girls composed themselves while under the posts and hit back hard from the kick off. After recovering the ball they maintained possession as they forced their way up the field, off loading out of tackles, they rucked hard and fast and eventually passed the ball wide to the full back who powered over the try line to score. This was a great demonstration of all round rugby play. Unfortunately, the kick for the two extra points was unsuccessful as the ball struck the posts.

Having been buoyed up by this great piece of play, the girls unfortunately switched off momentarily at the restart and the Sevenoaks Bulls ran in a further try almost immediately.

At half time the score was four tries to one in favour of Sevenoaks Bulls, but nevertheless it had been a very competitive first half, with some very impressive rugby from both teams.

The second half wasn't so easy for the Viragoes. Their lack of substitute players inevitably meant that the girls on the field had to work very hard all match against a team able to interchange players from a squad of twenty plus girls. Despite some valiant attempts by the Viragoes to maintain possession, ruck and counter ruck, the Sevenoaks Bulls were able to use their speed, power and fitness on a huge first team pitch to ship the ball wide and run in some impressive tries, six in all.

Although the final tally was 55 points to 5 in favour of Sevenoaks Bulls, the match had seemed a great deal closer than the score indicated and I'm sure the girls will look forward to narrowing the score line to get a closer result at any future meetings between the two sides.

**Steve Powell**



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# THANET WANDERERS SEND PROGRAMME

What we have achieved so far.

Thanet Wanderers started our first ever SEND hub in July this year for an initial 7-week programme for term 6 and the uptake was incredible with the rugby club having 20 plus students at each session with a range of ages from 5 up to 20. We have had students with autism, partially sighted and ADHD.

We were fortunate to have received an initial grant for the project from Sport England and we collaborated with Kent Rugby, Wooden Spoon and Inclusive Sport, all of whom were actively engaged in the project, and this helped massively.

We split the groups of attendees into under 11s and over 11s where we did a combination of different games and skill-based activities, and we tried to get students feedback on what they enjoyed and let them have an input in the choices and decisions as to what was included in the sessions.

After the success of the 7-week programme we arranged some bonus sessions in the school holidays as we could see as a club, the need for and importance of the programme and how much parents and students had enjoyed the original sessions.

We had already decided to restart the programme for next year (2023) for a longer period and agreed we would do a whole term so term 5 and term 6. As we didn't want to wait that long, we also worked out a 9-week programme to run from the 28th of September through to the 30th of November for this year.

We supply free food every week when the students are given pizza, chips, and chicken nuggets and as you can imagine this goes down incredibly well and is a firm favourite.

With the monies from a previous grant we were able to give out prizes to all attendees every week and the type of prizes we have given out include

- Trophies
- Medals
- Rugby balls
- Hats
- T-shirts specifically made for the programme
- Colouring books and colouring pens
- Sweets and chocolates

We are still in our first year since starting something that is completely new to the club and pretty much unheard of in Kent rugby. We are very fortunate as a club to have lots of amazing volunteers who have helped massively with getting this programme off the ground and helping coach each session. We pay for a coach from Inclusive Sport to help with the programme which is an expense to the club but also gives us more help with the coaching.

Parents feedback has been amazing and so positive, and you can feel and sense the need for SEND programmes in the area and there is a huge demand but sadly not enough out there for students to access. The fact that Thanet Wanderers are able to offer this service free of charge with no expense to parents or carers is great credit to the club and a huge achievement.

James Green

THANET WANDERERS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

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**THANET WANDERERS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB**

# CONTINUING FOR 2022-23



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## Help support the future of our Club

# Thanet Wanderers

Home team colours: blue, black and gold hoops

**1 Daniel Clement**

*Postition sponsored by: Peter Hawkins*

**2 Neil Wakefield (Capt)**

*Postition sponsored by: Bill Hurley*

**3 Gulliver Goodall**

*Postition sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore*

**4 Jack Startin**

*Postition sponsored by: Mark O' Riordan*

**5 Andrew 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**

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**Team Manager**

**Michelle McClean**

*Postition sponsored by: Carmen Glover*

**9 Harrison Leach**

*Postition sponsored by: Jeremy Ward*

**10 Peter Macaulay**

*Postition sponsored by: Neil Armstrong*

**11 Louis Marshall**

*Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover*

**12 Tom Walton**

*Postition sponsored by: Jason Deacon*

**13 Lewis Downer**

*Postition sponsored by: John Keohane*

**14 Tom Stevens**

*Postition sponsored by: Peter Tierney/Ray Roby*

**15 Andrew Dolan**

*Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond*

*Replacements:*

**16 Mike Whitehead**

*Postition sponsored by: Dave Brown*

**17 Lenny Brown**

*Postition sponsored by: Four Candles Alehouse*

**18 Fran Gillespie**

*Postition sponsored by: Terry Tuttle*

**Referee**

**Simon Bingham**

**Touch Judge**

**Clive Lewis**

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# Charlton Park RFC

Away team colours: red and white hoops

**1 Archie McDonnell**

**2 Felix Marot**

**3 Cameron Belcher**

**4 Ally McQuitty**

**5 Ross McManus**

**6 Bruce Tuikova**

**7 Jake Conway**

**8 Luke Boyns**

**D.O.R.**

**Mark Garratt**

**Head Coach**

**Lee Amzaleg**

**Assistant Coach**

**Not Supplied**

**Team Manager**

**Not Supplied**

**Physio**

**Not Supplied**

**9 Will Robertson**

**10 Alex Miller (Capt)**

**11 Reion Raybe**

**12 Mesake Kini**

**13 Tommy Nightingale**

**14 Jerry Nacagilevu**

**15 Jack Hudson**

*Replacements:*

**16 Jordan Guy**

**17 BJ Bridges**

**18 Vereti Naitaka**



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# MATCH REPORT

## Beccehamian RFC 69 – 3 Thanet Wanderers RUFC

Wanderers slip to their heaviest defeat of the season so far in West Wickham.

Beccehamian were supported by a good sized sporting crowd who had enjoyed a splendid President's Lunch and whose numbers was bolstered by three fine gentlemen from the Chelsea Pensioners.

Wanderers team was further depleted when Neil Wakefield and Cameron Pond, from the original selection, were declared unfit. Tom Walton played at full back with Harrison Leach at scrum half.

It was clear from the kick off that Beccehamian were ready for an open game of rugby. Despite a couple of early successes for Wanderers at set scrums, good handling took the hosts over after three minutes for a converted try and a converted penalty minutes later opened a 10-0 lead. Good work from Wanderer's pack led to a converted penalty from Wanderers' ten, Marius Thompson but Beccehamian responded with a penalty and an unconverted try to lead 18-3 after half an hour. Thompson withdrew with a recurrence of a shoulder injury: Ollie Greene-Taylor joined a reshuffled back line. Kurt Pearson replaced Mike Whitehead in the front row. Two more tries, with one converted, followed for the hosts with some quality off-loads and passing to open a 30-3 lead and gain a try bonus point. Two penalties for Thanet gave them good field position but a forward pass with the line close meant no change to the score as the first half ended.

Noah Dann came on in the back- row replacing Lennie Brown for the second half. Beccehamian went further ahead with a converted try three minutes in. Walton's fine kick took Thanet to 30 metres out but the home defence was sound. Warren Riddell-Broomfield made a try saving tackle that epitomised his unflagging commitment. Whitehead returned as

Danny Clement withdrew with a dead leg. An excellent long pass resulted in Beccehamians sixth try and the seventh followed five minutes later to make the score 49-3. Clement returned replacing Pearson who was sidelined with a hand injury. A penalty raised the hosts half century before Dann was shown yellow for a high tackle and a further try made the score 57-3. Skipper Nick Herbert was adjudged to have made a high tackle which took Wanderers down to thirteen men as the game moved in to the final ten minutes. Winger Andrew Dolan ran well but was brought down just short of the line and Beccehamian added a further try before showing admirable commitment to protect their line as Wanderers pressed in the closing minutes. Walton became the latest injury worry for Thanet as he limped off with an ankle injury before the hosts added to Wanderers' misery with a tenth try to make the final score 69-3.

Gully Goodall travelled to fill the tighthead berth for Thanet and had an outstanding game which made him this week's man of the match. There were too few bright spots for Head Coach Mike Pond who acknowledged the excellent performance of Beccehamian who well deserved their win.

Next Saturday Charlton Park are the visitors to St Peters. Kent RFU President, Doug Hursey, who is also the Park's CEO, will attend. The game will be preceded by a lunch to say thank you to fifty Guests from the NHS after their efforts over the years and particularly during the pandemic. Please be there to watch the game, which will be preceded by a minute's silence in memory of, Wanderers legend, Dr Roddy Macaulay who died on Thursday and to join us at lunch to say your thank you to the NHS.

**Colin Whiteley**



# COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE 2022-23

Team	P	W	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS	ADJ
Cranbrook	6	6	0	0	226	76	150	4	0	28	0
Old Alleynians	7	6	0	1	225	83	142	4	0	28	0
Bromley	7	5	0	2	184	126	58	4	0	24	0
Beccehamian	7	4	0	3	208	132	76	3	1	20	0
Heathfield & Waldron	6	4	0	2	145	126	19	3	1	20	0
Ashford	7	4	0	3	152	125	27	2	1	19	0
Deal & Betteshanger	7	4	0	3	134	112	22	2	0	19	0
Charlton Park	7	4	0	3	164	199	-35	3	0	19	0
Folkestone	7	1	0	6	98	232	-134	1	1	6	0
<b>Thanet Wanderers</b>	5	1	0	4	44	189	-145	1	0	5	0
Aylesford Bulls	7	0	0	7	112	184	-72	1	2	3	0
Crowborough	7	1	0	6	117	225	-108	1	0	0	-5

## COUNTIES 1 KENT FIXTURES

Saturday 29th October 2022

Ashford v Old Alleynians

Crowborough v Beccehamian

Aylesford Bulls v Bromley

Heathfield & Waldron v Folkestone

Cranbrook v Deal & Betteshanger

**Thanet Wanderers** v Charlton Park



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# MATCH REPORT

## Thanet Wanderers Colts 24-8 Beccahamian Colts

Sunday the sixteenth of October saw Thanet Wanderers Colts play their first home game of the Kent League for the 2022-23 season against Beccahamian Colts. Both sides had won their opening games in this competition, the visitors having run in forty points plus against their opposition, so a great encounter was expected between the two sides.

Thanet again had a lot of players unavailable for this match, but with a big squad full of quality to choose from, still managed to select another exciting team. St Peter's Recreation Ground looked splendid in the autumnal sun and a decent crowd gave the young players an added incentive to raise their game for the occasion.

The game kicked off with Thanet receiving the ball and it became instantly apparent that the Beccahamian side was a team of big lads, but this provided a challenge that the Thanet players were ready to take on. From the outset Wanderers two flankers, Finley Hickmott and Isaac Divine, were in the action, both putting in big hits and scrapping for the ball in the rucks.

Thanet welcomed back scrum half Sam Stevenson and he was in fine form all game, putting pressure on his opposite number and dictating play. The new centre pairing of Toby Hunt and Ollie Jordan Smith had a great influence on the game, Hunt making big territory gaining runs and Jordan Smith showing some great handling touches and his adept kicking skills. Wanderers gained a penalty in the second minute of the game, but from a difficult angle a valiant attempt by kicker Charlie Panteli just missed putting Thanet in the lead.

Both Wanderers second rowers, Flynn Shingles and Oskar Wallace, excelled in the line out and put in a big shift throughout the match. Thanet put huge pressure on the Beccahamian line for a good 15 minutes, with Hugo Evans, Ben Couldridge, Fred O'Halloran and captain Max Anderson all trying hard to break their defence, but credit to the opposition they held strong.

Despite the Beccahamian forwards having an advantage in size over the smaller Thanet pack, Wanderers scrum dominated the opposition throughout the game. Thanet's front three set the tone, but all eight home side forwards put in a creditable performance, making this a highlight of the game from the Thanet's coaches point of view. In the 18th minute, from a Thanet

scrum on the opposition's five yard line, the ball was picked up by Wanderers Stevenson who ran in for the opening try, which Panteli converted. Thanet 7-0 up.

A little ill discipline crept in from the Thanet players and the referee for the day picked up on this. In the 21st minute Wanderers were punished and from the resulting penalty, which the opposition elected to kick for goal, the score was brought back to 7-3. The Thanet team jumped back into life and applied more pressure on the opposition which paid off in the 24th minute when quick passing wide and a great wandering run from winger Joe Sykes saw him off

load to support runner Anderson, who ran in for an unconverted try. The Beccahamian lads never gave up and in a rare trip into the home side's half, exploited some missed tackles to run in a try of their own and reduce the lead.

At half time the score was 12-8 to Wanderers. Although the Thanet boys were pleased with their performance they wanted to improve the score line in their favour knowing that they had probably left a few points out on the field. At half time the Thanet coaches introduced their replacements bringing Vinnie Perkins, Will Mahoney, Zach Ralph and Joseph Near into the game for the second half.

Perkins and Mahoney had some great runs from their positions on the wings putting pressure on their opponents. Thanet continued to work very hard as a team and Harrison Quittenden playing at full back had a near faultless game, catching, carrying and kicking.

Joseph Near put in a good performance, making tackles, retaining the ball and having the confidence to take on the away team, while Ralph looked strong on the pitch until he took a knock that put him out of the game. In the 17th minute of the second half, Thanet attacked and some quick thinking by Panteli saw him nudge the ball through the on coming defence for Jordan Smith to chase and expose the Beccahamian blind side and touch down. The conversion attempt was unsuccessful.

Thanet's last score of the day came in the 24th minute when some brilliant quick passing to the left released Alfie Pearce. He still had a lot to do, but was determined to get on the score sheet and after avoiding several opposition tackle attempts he did just that and Panteli converted the try.

The final score was Thanet Wanderers 24 Beccahamian 8. This was an excellent performance from the Wanderers boys. The coaches always say, look for a good performance and the result will take care of itself and this was certainly the case on this occasion.

All the squad played well and showed a real togetherness as a team. Two sides have been brought together to form the Colts, which is never an easy process, but the lads showed real 'team spirit' and put on a really positive performance which is most pleasing to the coaches. There were a few very good candidates for the 'Please Sir' Man of the match this week with Flynn Shingles, Sam Stevenson, Hugo Evans and

Harrison Quittenden all putting in big displays, but the award finally went to Ben Couldridge. He was not only formidable in the scrum, but tackled and carried without fear and caused carnage when running the hard line. Well done Ben.

**Thanet Wanderers Colts:** Max Anderson (C), Fred O'Halloran, Ben Couldridge, Vinnie Perkins, Finn Hickmott, Isaac Divine, Hugo Evans, Zach Ralph, Ollie Jordan Smith, Toby Hunt, Alfie Pearce, Harrison Quittenden, Joe Sykes, Joseph Near, Will Mahoney, Sam Stevenson, Flynn Shingles, Oskar Wallace, Charlie Panteli.

**Matthew Hickmott**



## THANET WANDERERS RUFC LTD

# CONTACTS

POSITION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
PRESIDENT	Colin Whiteley	<a href="mailto:colin.whiteley@thanetwanderers.co.uk">colin.whiteley@thanetwanderers.co.uk</a> 07842-559943
CHAIRMAN	Chris Panteli	<a href="mailto:chris.panteli@thanetwanderers.co.uk">chris.panteli@thanetwanderers.co.uk</a> 07368-136839
SECRETARY	Peter Hawkins	<a href="mailto:peter.hawkins@thanetwanderers.co.uk">peter.hawkins@thanetwanderers.co.uk</a> 07967-086232
DIRECTOR OF RUGBY (seniors)	Neil Roby	<a href="mailto:neil.robby@thanetwanderers.co.uk">neil.robby@thanetwanderers.co.uk</a> 07790-610084
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	Kelly Smith	<a href="mailto:kelly.smith@thanetwanderers.co.uk">kelly.smith@thanetwanderers.co.uk</a> 07368-969558
CLUB DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	Andy Bull	<a href="mailto:andy.bull@thanetwanderers.co.uk">andy.bull@thanetwanderers.co.uk</a> 07710-456225
DIRECTOR OF RUGBY (ladies)	Vicky Diamantis	<a href="mailto:vicky.diamantis@thanetwanderers.co.uk">vicky.diamantis@thanetwanderers.co.uk</a> 07751-821651
DIRECTOR OF RUGBY (juniors)	Annemarie Carfoot	<a href="mailto:annemarie.carfoot@thanetwanderers.co.uk">annemarie.carfoot@thanetwanderers.co.uk</a> 07968-541302
HEAD OF FACILITIES	Gerry Doyle	<a href="mailto:gerry.doyle@thanetwanderers.co.uk">gerry.doyle@thanetwanderers.co.uk</a> 07943-500197
HEAD OF SPONSORSHIP	Peter Ruranski	<a href="mailto:peter.ruranski@thanetwanderers.co.uk">peter.ruranski@thanetwanderers.co.uk</a> 07740-274163
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Annemarie Carfoot	<a href="mailto:annemarie.carfoot@thanetwanderers.co.uk">annemarie.carfoot@thanetwanderers.co.uk</a> 07968-541302
FIXTURE SECRETARY	Peter Hawkins	<a href="mailto:peter.hawkins@thanetwanderers.co.uk">peter.hawkins@thanetwanderers.co.uk</a> 07967-086232
HEAD COACH	Mike Pond	<a href="mailto:mikepond@aol.com">mikepond@aol.com</a> 07957-891857
1ST TEAM MANAGER	Michelle McClean	<a href="mailto:michellefmclean@yahoo.co.uk">michellefmclean@yahoo.co.uk</a> 07890-663168



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

## RESULTS FROM COUNTIES 1 KENT LEAGUE

### Saturday 15th October 2022

Ashford 13-15 Heathfield & Waldron

Aylesford Bulls 20-33 Deal & Betteshanger

Charlton Park 23-21 Beccehamian

Cranbrook 51-12 Folkestone

Crowborough 10-37 Old Alleynians

**Thanet Wanderers** 10-34 Bromley

### Saturday 22nd October 2022

Beccehamian 69-3 **Thanet Wanderers**

Bromley 57-15 Crowborough

Deal & Betteshanger 35-8 Ashford

Folkestone 14-45 Charlton Park

Heathfield & Waldron 15-21 Cranbrook

Old Alleynians 17-8 Aylesford Bulls

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# MATCH REPORT

## Thanet Wanderers Colts 24-14 Sittingbourne Colts

Sunday the 23rd October saw Thanet Wanderers Colts welcome Sittingbourne Colts to St Peter's Recreation Ground for a friendly rugby match. Wanderers had a full squad of players, many having their first competitive game of the season and four making their debut for the club.

Sittingbourne have struggled for numbers this season and so to even up the sides Wanderers lent Sittingbourne six of their players, all of whom had played in previous weeks.

The weather conditions were wet and dark and then it became even wetter, so that when the lads came out from the changing rooms they almost decided to change into their swimming trunks and goggles. Despite the horrible conditions, anticipation was high for a good game and a decent crowd had gathered to watch, for which the lads were extremely grateful.

The game kicked off and immediately the wet conditions played their part with the ball as slippery as a bar of soap. Early on Owen Read and Captain Dominick Springer both had a couple of great territory gaining runs, ably supported by Alfie Pearce and Harvey Stocker.

One encouraging feature this season has been how good Thanet's scrum has performed and even though there were practically eight different forwards this week, this trend continued. The front row of Tom Welsh, Sam Bridle and Springer were dominant and playing at eight for the first time, Shaheer Khan showed he was very comfortable in that position.

Harrison Quittenden at full back gathered the ball with ease each time it was kicked into Wanderers' half, collecting it and running back hard at the opposition, making big yardage for the team. Thanet's two second row for the day, Clayton Brooks and Reece Davies, both got struck in at the breakdowns and carried the ball well. In the 10th minute after great work to steal the ball back by Wanderers, good passes from Joseph Near and Alfie Pearce released Alfie Reeves who from a long way out managed to run in to score a try in the corner and give the home side the lead. The conversion attempt was unsuccessful. Both Thanet wings, Brandon Davies and Luca Ruocco Gibson, had chances with the ball in hand, but good tackling by the opposition shut them down and prevented further scores.

In the 30th minute Thanet pressure on Sittingbourne's line paid off. Josh McCulley made a couple of attempts

to cross the line before the ball found its way to Bridle who powered over to score and Quittenden added the two extra points to give Wanderers a 12-0 lead.

Sittingbourne were always pushing Wanderers with their Thanet players Joe Sykes, Sam Molyneux and Finn Hickmott always at the centre of things, while among the other Thanet lads playing for them, Charlie Panteli showed his brilliant kicking game and Will Mahoney made some hard line runs. In the 34th minute Gil Smith anticipated a Thanet kick, charged it down and kicked on. The ball came back off the post and was expertly collected by Smith who dived over to score. The successful conversion reduced the lead to 12-7.

At half time the score was 12-7 to Wanderers. Wanderers had played well but knew they could have scored more with better ball retention. On the plus side all the new lads had gained game experience and did not look out of place in the team.

As the second half kicked off, two more debutants were introduced into the Thanet team. Sol Morgan-Walls and Max Weinel joined the game and were both played in several positions so that the coaches could determine where best they might fit in. Both gave a great account of themselves. Sittingbourne raised their game and in the 42nd minute Mahoney broke free and managed to score a try which was converted to put them two points up and lead 14-12.

This seemed to spur on Thanet and after good probing runs from Near, Read and Quittenden, Wanderers found themselves in the 48th minute camped out on the Sittingbourne line. From one of a number of ensuing rucks, quick thinking from Pearce enabled him to gather the ball and dive over to regain the lead for Thanet. Quittenden kicked the extra points to make the score 19-12.

The Thanet lads continued to assert themselves more as the game went on. The Wanderers coaches took the opportunity this friendly game offered to give plenty of playing time to the whole squad and to try lads in different positions from their normal roles. In the 63rd minute the final score of the game came from Thanet with Reeves getting his second try of the match to cap a good performance.

The final result was Thanet Wanderers 24 Sittingbourne 14. This was another excellent team

performance from the Wanderers' boys. With so many lads playing their first game of the season and a fair number making their debut for the club, this could have been quite a different outcome, but the team gelled together very quickly and all players had valuable experience to carry forward into the season.

This match was played in the true spirit of the game and demonstrated what a great sport rugby is to play, watch or support. All the squad played well and there were a few candidates for the 'Please Sir' Man of the match. Dom Springer, Reece Davies, Alfie Pearce, Owen Read and Harrison Quittenden all put in good performances, but the award was given to Joseph Near. Joe showed a great all round display in both attack and defence and had his best game to date for the team. Well done Joe.

**Thanet Wanderers Colts:** Tom Welsh, Sam Bridle, Dominick Springer (Capt), Clayton Brooks, Reece Davies, Josh McCulley, Joseph Near, Shaheer Khan, Harvey Stocker, Owen Read, Brandon Davies, Alfie Pearce, Alfie Reeves, Luca Ruocco Gibson, Sol Moegg-Walls, Max Weinel, Ben Couldridge, Fred O'Halloran, Harrison Quittenden.

**Thanet lads who played for Sittingbourne were:** Finn Hickmott, Gil Smith, Sam Molyneux, Joe Sykes, Charlie Panteli, Will Mahoney.

**Matt Hickmott**





## RESULTS FROM OTHER CLUB GAMES

### Sunday 15th October 2022

Deal & Betteshanger 2nd XV 0-102 **Thanet Wanderers** 2nd XV (Kent A Rural League)

Deal & Betteshanger 3rd XV 6-105 **Thanet Wanderers** 3rd XV (Kent C Rural East League)

### Saturday 16th October 2022

**Thanet Wanderers** Colts 24-8 Beccehamian (League)

**Thanet Wanderers** Ladies XV 65-5 Faversham Ladies XV (Inner Warrior League)

### Sunday 22nd October 2022

Dover 2nd XV 25-24 **Thanet Wanderers** 2nd XV (Kent A Rural League)

### Saturday 23rd October 2022

**Thanet Wanderers** Colts 24-14 Sittingbourne Colts (League)

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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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# THANET WANDERERS LADIES

Since the last home programme things have continued to move in a positive direction for the all new TWRUFC Ladies XV.

After our 54-20 victory at Ashford Ladies on 9th October in the RFU Junior Cup, we were back in league action against Faversham Sirens the following week. With the opportunity to blood half a dozen players in their first ever match, the 89-5 victory included tries for debutante Ellie Hunt, Sasha Sinclair and Chairman's daughter, Steph Panteli.

We have continued to grow the squad with Thahseen Ali joining us from Lordswood RFC, Aisha Williams from Folkestone RFC as well as Neave Evans and Daisy Osborn.

But perhaps most importantly three of our current crop of U18s with Tilia Elliston, Izzy Lodge and Sophie West

having their applications to play adult rugby signed off by the RFU taking our player numbers over 30. Welcome to all new members to our new rugby family!

And so to this weekend (Sunday 2pm) when we welcome our visitors, Aylesford Ladies to St. Peter's Rec in the second round of the Junior Cup. Like Ashford, Aylesford compete in the NC2 league, two leagues above us.

It promises to be a tough encounter with both sides fielding 20-strong squads. But it is a cup tie that we are equipped to win, especially if we can benefit from packed sidelines so please come along and cheer on your TWRUFC Ladies XV.

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