

# TWRUFC v MAIDSTONE RFC



OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME



**Thanet** RUCF  
Wanderers



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# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

*Good Morning from the USA. Apologies for not being able to be in person at St Peter's today, or last week, but I am away in the USA sampling some hospitality from a true Thanet Wanderer family, more on that later.*

Welcome to Maidstone who we haven't seen at St Peter's for many years and I suspect none of their players will have ever played at St Peter's before.

We also extend a big welcome to Mark Shaw who is today's match official.

Congratulations to Elliott Blackmore and the 1st XV with two successive wins to open the season in Counties 2 Kent.

The 2nd XV and 3rd XV make it a full house, both being unbeaten, well done indeed.

Ian Jenkinson 1945-1990.

My wife and I are in the USA staying with Nadine Rowe, in North Carolina. Nadine is the daughter of legendary Thanet Wanderer Ian Jenkinson, whose no 14 shirt (Raleigh Vipers RUFC, North Carolina) is displayed in their clubhouse.

We travelled out with Pam, his widow, who maintains a place in Broadstairs and spends summers back "home".

Ian was legendary in many ways, one of which was his playing record. Until a few years ago he held the record for most tries scored by a Wanderer in a season (now held by Elliott Stokes). Ian would also "borrow" chairs, paintings, lamps etc from local hostelrys on a Saturday night, only to return them later in the week. A fruit machine was prevented from being requisitioned from the Prospect Inn (now the Holiday Inn at Minster), by a coach driver who wouldn't let it on the bus.

Ian was a true gentleman and pioneer who wouldn't tolerate any bad language on the touch. He took his family to live in South Africa (1970 - 1976) returning to play for TWRUFC before moving to the USA, (1981-1990) where he played for Raleigh (Sir Walter Raleigh) Vipers RFC, North Carolina. Ian tragically died in a White Water accident in 1990.

I was fortunate enough to guest for Raleigh Vipers RFC in 1994, and I learnt two things. One, the ground is like concrete in North Carolina and two, never be ungrateful if asked to collect the corner flags at the end of a game as back then they had to put the posts up and take them down at the end of each game, both home and away. ah! Also, a local derby away game for Vipers might mean leaving on a Friday night and taking a flight, so don't think travelling to Dartford will be a chore this season !

Good luck to everyone involved in today's match; players and match officials. We are all part of the Rugby family and wherever that may take you, is up to YOU.

**CLIVE LEWIS**

Club President



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# FROM THE HEAD COACH

Well, what an interesting start to the season this has been 😊. Last weeks game against Vigo was an interesting one. We controlled most of the game, but we took our foot off the gas for the second half and let them back into the match. However, even with two yellow cards we managed to hold them out and win the game. I think this is a testament to the defence work of the team and what Kieran has implemented. I want to say how proud I am of the players, not only are they working really hard in training and during games, they are starting to challenge each other and the coaches and also become strong leaders. This is one of our targets to develop within our team. What I am also proud of is the culture that we have built through the last two seasons and this has continued

into this one. The players are responsible for cleaning the changing rooms, putting all pitch side equipment away and supplying the half time sweets. I am very proud of what they are achieving.

Today we welcome Maidstone to our home, I have no doubt this will be a great game full of strong contests and a fair bit of running rugby. The weather for Saturday is looking perfect for releasing our backs and letting them play a bit. We are aiming for a win.


So please get behind our boys, enjoy the September sun and we will make the balcony jump, we just need you to be our 16th Man again.

**ELLIOT BLACKMORE**



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# FIRST XV. COUNTIES 2 KENT LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR THE 2024 -25

## 2024

### September

7	GILLINGHAM ANCHORIANS	HOME
14	VIGO	AWAY
21	MAIDSTONE	HOME
28	SIDCUP 2NDS	HOME

### October

12	DARTFORD VALLEY	AWAY
19	MEDWAY 2NDS	HOME

### November

9	AYLESFORD BULLS	HOME
16	WESTCOMBE PARK 2NDS	AWAY
23	FOLKESTONE	HOME

### December

7	OLD ELTHAMIANS	AWAY
14	VIGO	HOME
21	MAIDSTONE	AWAY

## 2025

### January

4	SIDCUP 2NDS	AWAY
11	DARTFORD VALLEY	HOME
18	MEDWAY 2NDS	AWAY

### February

1	OLD ALLENYNIANS	HOME
15	AYLESFORD BULLS	AWAY

### March

1	WESTCOMBE PARK 2NDS	HOME
8	FOLKESTONE	AWAY
22	OLD ELTHAMIANS	HOME

### April

5	GILLINGHAM ANCHORIANS	AWAY
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Fixtures in BLOCK TYPE are COUNTIES 2 KENT LEAGUE matches

# MATCH REPORT

## THANET WANDERERS RUFC 12 – 6 GILLINGHAM ANCHORIANS RFC

Hard-fought win for the Wanderers in their first League fixture of the season.

Relegation at the end of last season meant that Thanet are now playing in Counties 2 Kent and if anyone thought the challenge would somehow be easier, this fixture would have opened their eyes.

Injury meant that stalwarts from key positions in last season's team like Brett Scott, Gully Goodall and Tom Walton were not available and Nick Herbert will have limited availability this season but there was a debut for a potential powerhouse playing his first game in the front row, Ben Cannon.

Anchorians kicked off down the slope with a gentle breeze behind them and set a good field position. Wanderers were soon attacking but back came Anchorians who thought they had opened the scoring but referee Steve Matthews indicated a penalty for not releasing and Adam Harrison cleared long. Charlie Panteli's penalty attempt rebounded off the crossbar but a score would not come. The visitors were perhaps fortunate when a series of penalties did not bring a yellow card but the contest was close and it was a good competitive first half to watch. Veterans, hooker Danny Clement and Lock, Andy Letts, more than earned their places for just "One more Season". The back-row of new skipper Warren Riddell-Bloomfield at six, James Crompton, now permanently resident in Thanet after a successful three years at Loughborough University at open-side and last year's skipper Sam Taylor, who moved to number eight, had had a thorough examination of their defensive credentials and passed with flying colours and helped to keep the line intact during a scoreless first half.

Kurt Pearson replaced Clement at hooker at the start of the second half and the stalemate continued until the fourteenth minute of the half when a superb penalty from Harrison took the Wanderers to five metres from Anchorian's line. A well-executed catch and drive was augmented

by a back or two before Pearson touched down for Thanet's first try of the season. Panteli made an excellent conversion and opened up a 7-0 lead. Eight minutes later Wanderers infringed in front of their posts and the visitors' kicker made it 7-3. Around a quarter of the game remained and the result was anything but certain as Wanderers' remaining replacements, Luke Browning and Chris Gregory were called up to add their support. Opportunities for both sides went begging as both sides pushed for another score. When the visitors were penalised for crossing Thanet were one minute away from the close of normal time and some distance from the opposition line. Callum Doody chose to go blind and left winger Lewis Downer made great ground down his wing before handing back to Doody to make the touchdown. Panteli's conversion attempt went left of the posts but Wanderers led 12-3 with just a couple of minutes remaining. Anchorians pushed for a score to achieve their bonus point and a last-play penalty earned the three points that brought the losing bonus point. This was a good sporting contest between two well-matched sides that needed a touch of blindside brilliance to secure the win. We wish Anchorians a successful season until we meet again in the final match of the season on the 5th of April.

Head Coach, Elliot Blackmore, was delighted with the win to start the new campaign but emphasised the need to maintain fitness and attend both of the week's training sessions. Michael Whitehead has made great efforts to regain his match fitness and put in a great shift at tight-head. The three quarter play was not consistently fluent and wingers Louis Marshall and Lewis Downer were denied many opportunities to show their attacking prowess but with Vice-Captain Henry Mirams eminently secure at fullback their line was kept intact. His fellow vice captain, Adam Harrison, had a top game at inside centre and combined well with centre partner Cam Beck.

This was Charlie Panteli's final match before leaving to go to a rugby hotbed, Cardiff Met University. A popular player, he will be much missed, on and off the field, and we wish him well on this progression in his life. Another young player who has made great strides since joining the first XV at the beginning of

last season is Dennis Davies. The young lock's mature and significant contribution today earned him the well deserved Man of the Match award from the coaching team.

**COLIN WHITELEY**





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## KENT COUNTIES LEAGUE 2 2024-25

TEAM	P	W	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS	ADJ
OLD ELTHAMIANS	2	2	0	0	93	45	48	2	0	10	
SIDCUP 2NDS	2	2	0	0	100	34	66	1	1	9	
THANET WANDERERS	2	2	0	0	41	32	9	1	1	9	
AYLESFORD BULLS	2	1	0	1	60	45	15	2	3	7	
OLD ALLEYNANS 2NDS	2	1	0	1	77	69	8	2	1	7	
GILLINGHAM ANCHORIANS	2	1	0	1	31	17	14	1	3	6	
FOLKESTONE	2	1	0	1	57	57	0	1	6	6	
MEDWAY 2NDS	2	1	0	1	40	62	-22	1	3	5	
MAIDSTONE	2	1	0	1	40	97	-57	1	2	5	
VIGO	2	0	0	2	51	59	-8	1	3	3	
WESTCOMBE PARK 2NDS	2	0	0	2	48	82	-34	1	4	1	
DARTFORD VALLEY	2	0	0	2	36	75	-39	1	3	1	

## KENT COUNTIES LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

Saturday 21st September 2024

Aylesford Bulls v Folkestone

Old Alleynians 2nds v Old Elthamians

Dartford Valley v Vigo

Sidcup 2nds v Westcombe Park

Medway 2nds v Gillingham Anchorians

THANET WANDERERS v Maidstone

# MATCH REPORT

## THANET WANDERERS RUFC LADIES 60 BECCEHAMIAN RFC LADIES 0

Thanet Wanderers Ladies kicked off their 2024/25 campaign with a resounding 60-0 victory against Beccehamian Ladies at St. Peter's Rec.

With a rejig of the NC2 leagues this was the first meeting between the two sides, both sides having finished second in their respective leagues last year.

Beccs started with the ball and ran through 10 phases before being pushed back by a stern Thanet defence. Then after less than 5 minutes and a turnover, the ball found its way to Keira Leigh-Gallup who went over in the corner from 40 metres out.

New joint pack leaders Holly Thurman-Newell and Georgia Elks were making inroads into the defence and some quick ball saw the new centre pairing of Rachael Austerberry and Tabs Raymonde run riot.

Raymonde on her league debut went in for a double before last year's NC2 top tryscorer Austerberry also got a brace of tries before half time. Fly half Alex White marshalled attack and defence and added two conversions for a 31-0 half time lead.

The second half saw two debutants enter the contest with Rebecca Hewitt in the front row and Daisy Osborn on the wing. The squad is

growing nicely with more and more players stepping up to fill gaps left by last year's leavers.

In a period of the game where Thanet should have been turning the screw some sloppy attack, forcing offloads when they probably weren't on and some white line fever allowed Beccs some possession and back in the game.

Defence was strong the whole 80 minutes though and even after they camped on the Thanet line, tough defence eventually saw a turnover ball and a chance to clear their lines.

The final 30 minutes saw a flurry of tries with Austerberry grabbing another 4 tries and a Lia Armstrong, another league debutant get on the scoresheet. Two further conversions from White and the game ended up at 60-0.

Thanet 1st XV now hit the road with back to back fixtures at Ashford RFC; the first in an early top of the table league clash followed by the first round of the RFU National Junior Cup. Thanet got to the quarter finals last year and are looking to go even better.

The squad are always looking to grow so if you want to try women's rugby, training takes place Tuesday and Thursday at 6.30pm at St. Peter's Rec.

Regards,  
IAN LODGE



PHOTOS: ADE DAVIES



# WOMEN'S NC2 SOUTH EAST (EAST) LEAGUE 2024-25

TEAM	P	W	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS	ADJ
THANET WANDERERS WOMEN	1	1	0	0	60	0	60	0	0	4	
ASHFORD LADIES	1	1	0	0	51	19	32	0	0	4	
LORDSWOOD VALKYRIES LADIES	1	1	0	0	33	5	28	0	0	4	
BECKENHAM LADIES 2NDS	1	0	0	1	5	33	-28	0	0	1	
GRAVESEND LADIES	1	0	0	1	19	51	-32	0	0	1	
BECCEHAMIAN LADIES	1	0	0	1	0	60	-60	0	0	1	
AYULESFORD BULLS LADIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

# WOMEN'S NC2 SOUTH EAST (EAST) LEAGUE RESULTS

Beckenham Ladies 2nd XV 5-33 Lordswood  
Valkyries Ladies

THANET WANDERERS Women 60-0  
Beccehamian Ladies

Gravesend Ladies 29-51 Ashford Ladies

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Half of the money received is paid out in prizes with the remaining half going to support major projects within the Club helping to maintain and improve facilities. What a great way to help the Club for a modest outlay each month and the chance to win £££s. The prize structure is based on the number of members. Should the membership exceed 450 then the prize structure will be increased accordingly. A schedule of prizes in operation at any one time is available from the promoter.

Membership is not restricted to members of Thanet Wanderers Rugby Union Football Club and supporters are welcome to participate. Members will be notified by email of the winning numbers each month and monies won will be paid directly into the winners bank accounts.

Please contact either Andy Bull (07710-456225) or Kelly Smith at the clubhouse if you need further details or fill in a direct debit form available either at the clubhouse or from Kelly.

If you are already a member of the 450 Club why not double up and have twice the chance of winning!!! Now there's a thought.

The prize draws carry on throughout the year so there's always the possibility of a rugby surprise even in the cricket season.

So go on give it a go, your support could be well rewarded!!!

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## CODES OF CONDUCT

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

Play for fun • Be a good sport • Improve your skills • Never give up • Be fair  
Do not be selfish • Do not show off • Control your temper

*Do not argue with the referee • Do not use non-prescribed controlled drugs*

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

Get the right equipment and facilities • Be reasonable • Avoid mismatches • Be generous with praise

Do not favour your best players • Being a coach should be fun too • Never condemn  
Give your voice a rest • Good coaching-running with the ball • Doctor/Physio knows best  
*It's the players who matter most not their won/lost record*

### PARENT'S AND SPECTATORS CODE:

**Never** force a child to play rugby especially if he/she feels unwell

**Always** remember children play rugby for their enjoyment **not yours**

**Encourage** your child to play by the Rules and Laws of the Game

**Teach** your child that victory isn't everything • **Never** yell at a player for making a mistake


**Encourage** your child to improve his/her skills through coaching

**Applaud** good play by either team • **Stay off the pitch!**

**DO NOT ABUSE ANYONE (ESPECIALLY THE REFEREE)**

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


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# THANET WANDERERS

HOME TEAM COLOURS: blue, black and gold hoops

## 1 LENNY BROWN

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Postition sponsored by: Mike Beaumont

## 3 MICHAEL WHITEHEAD

Postition sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore

## 4 ANDREW LETTS

Postition sponsored by: Mark O' Riordan

## 5 DENNIS DAVIES

Postition sponsored by: Dave Brown

## 6 WARREN RIDDELL-BROOMFIELD (C)

Postition sponsored by: Michelle McClean

## 7 JAMES CROMPTON

Postition sponsored by: Chris Marson

## 8 BRETT SCOTT

Postition sponsored by: Terry Tutte

Head Coach

## ELLIOT BLACKMORE

Postition sponsored by: Colin Whiteley

Assistant Coach

## KIERAN HOPPER

Postition sponsored by:

Team Manager

## MICHELLE MCLEAN

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## 9 TOM O' CALLAGHAN

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## 14 HARRISON QUITTENDEN

Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover

## 15 HENRY MIRAMS

Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond

Replacements:

## 16 DOM SPRINGER

## 17 FINLAY HICKMOTT

## 18 LOUIS MARSHALL

Referee

## MARK SHAW

Touch Judge

## TBC

# MAIDSTONE RFC

AWAY TEAM COLOURS:

## 1 BEN VERRELL

## 2 JUDE PEARSON

## 3 WILL FOX (CAPT)

## 4 IAN LEE

## 5 MATT FAIRWAY

## 6 RYAN SPRINGETT

## 7 REGGIE LAMPEY

## 8 MATT MASSETT

## 9 SAM GALE

## 10 JOSH WILTON

## 11 JOSH PHILPOTT

## 12 ANDREA BANDA

## 13 ETHAN YATES

## 14 ADAM PHILLIPS

## 15 SAM COWDRY

Replacements:

## 16 SAM CROWTHER

## 17 JOSH MCKENZIE

## 18 DAVE CHARLTON

D.O.R.

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# MATCH REPORT

## VIGO RFC 26 – 29 THANET WANDERERS RFC

Wanderers withstand a late onslaught to take five League points

Thanet made four changes to the side that defeated Anchorians last week. Finlay White made his first-team debut at hooker in an otherwise unchanged pack. In the backs, Adam Harrison moved to outside half with Lewis Downer moving from the wing to centre. Callum Doody continued at scrum half and brother, Leon Doody was back on the right wing. Jake Whittlesea was on the left, after a long absence due to military duties.

For many of the Wanderers and their supporters, it was a first visit to Vigo's picturesque ground, situated in the heart of the Kent countryside. Conditions were perfect on a late summer afternoon with a gentle breeze at the back of the visitors as Vigo kicked off. Their early attack was ended with the award of a penalty to Wanderers and although touch was not found, Thanet were soon back in possession and a good kick and chase ended in a touchdown for Cam Beck. Harrison's conversion sailed over and Thanet led 7-0 after seven minutes. There was an immediate reply from Vigo with an unconverted try three minutes later but the Wanderers quickly responded with a trademark try from Sam Taylor whose great form of last season continues. No conversion, but the Wanderers led 12-5 and continued to look dangerous. White made good metres as he broke away from a line-out and a good tackle from Dennis Davies kept Wanderers on the attack. On the half-hour, Vice Captain Harrison received near half way and tracked an elusive path all the way to the posts for Downer to convert and open up a 19-5 lead. Vigo pressed hard for a further score and a great tackle from skipper, Warren Riddell-Bloomfield, prevented a near-certain score and Wanderers defence held firm. Halftime was near as Vigo again closed on the Wanderers, line. Joint Vice Captain for Thanet, full back, Henry Mirams, was typically alert to grab an interception near to his own

line and outpaced all pursuers on his way to the opposition line to touch down for the try bonus point. Whittlesea was now shown a yellow card for being offside at a ruck and the hosts were quick to cross for their second try, which was converted, for a half-time score of 24-12 to Thanet.

It was great to see Brett Scott back in Thanet ranks. He had come on towards the end of the first half and James Crompton, who had enjoyed a good first half, took a break. Mike Whitehead had also delivered a good shift at tighthead, he now made way for the debut of Dominic Springer in the first XV. Another recent recruit to the Wanderers front row, Ben Cannon, started the second half in great style with a typically aggressive carry. Play became a little ragged and opportunities went begging for both sides and the game was in its final quarter before there was another score and it was the Wanderers who extended their lead. A lovely interchange of passes between Wanderers' backs, as they attacked down their left wing was fittingly touched down by winger Whittlesea to take the score to 29-12 to Wanderers. Back came Vigo and strong pressure brought them a third try that was converted for 29-19. Harrison took Wanderers close with a penalty but the line-out was adjudged to be not straight and Vigo were once more on the attack. White was now shown yellow and Beck's clear break was called back. Cannon was also shown yellow and after a top defensive display bolstered by the defensive strength of replacement, Lenny Brown, but down to thirteen players, Wanderers finally conceded a fourth try that was converted. Full time was sounded and a good, sporting contest brought Wanderers five points whilst Vigo had both a try and a losing bonus point. Well done to both sides for producing a very watchable, entertaining match.

Head Coach Elliot Blackmore praised his side's performance and mentioned Andy Letts as a shining example of his fitness ethic and

seemingly tireless efforts on the pitch. The coaches' Man of the Match was another of Wanderers' young guns, Hooker, Finlay White. Proud Dad, John was at Vigo to see his son

nominated for his mobility which was backed by some quality throwing and great tackles.

**COLIN WHITELEY**





# KENT RURAL A LEAGUE 2024-25

TEAM	P	W	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS	ADJ
TUNBRIDGE WELLS 3RD XV	1	1	0	0	40	0	40	0	0	4	
SNOWDOWN CW 1ST XV	1	1	0	0	48	27	21	0	0	4	
THANET WANDERERS 2ND XV	1	1	0	0	26	7	19	0	0	4	
AYLESFORD BULLS 2ND XV	1	1	0	0	32	19	13	0	0	4	
EDENBRIDGE 1ST XV	1	1	0	0	23	13	10	0	0	4	
MEDWAY 4TH XV	1	0	0	1	13	23	-10	0	0	1	
ASH	1	0	0	1	19	32	-13	0	0	1	
CRANBROOK 2ND XV	1	0	0	1	7	26	-19	0	0	1	
WEAVING WARRIORS	1	0	0	1	27	48	-21	0	0	1	
DOVER 2ND XV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TBA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FOLKESTONE 2ND XV	1	0	0	1	0	40	-40	0	0	0	

# KENT COUNTIES LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

Saturday 14th September 2024

Aylesford Bulls 2nds 32-19 Ash

Tunbridge Wells 3rds HWO Folkestone 2nds

Medway 4ths 13-23 Edenbridge

Weaving Warriors 27-48 Snowdown CW

THANET WANDERERS 2NDS 26-7 Cranbrook 2nds

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# A XV (SECOND XV) KENT & EAST SUSSEX RURAL DIVISION A LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR 2024-2025

## 2024

### September

14	CRANBROOK 2nds	HOME
28	DOVER 2nds	AWAY

### October

5	SNOWDOWN CW	AWAY
12	WEAVERING	HOME
19	MEDWAY 4ths	AWAY
26	TUNBRIDGE WELLS 3rds	HOME

### November

9	AYLESFORD 2nds	AWAY
16	ASH 1st	HOME
23	FOLKESTONE 2nds	AWAY

### December

7	EDENBRIDGE 1st	HOME
14	CRANBROOK 2nds	AWAY

## 2025

### January

4	DOVER 2nds	HOME
11	WEAVERING	AWAY
18	MEDWAY 4ths	HOME

### February

1	TUNBRIDGE WELLS 3rds	AWAY
15	AYLESFORD 2nds	HOME

### March

1	ASH 1st	AWAY
8	FOLKESTONE 2nds	HOME
22	EDENBRIDGE	AWAY

### April

5	SNOWDOWN CW 1sts	HOME
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Fixtures in BLOCK TYPE are KENT & EAST SUSSEX RURAL DIVISION A LEAGUE matches



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## KENT RURAL B LEAGUE 2024-25

TEAM	P	W	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS	ADJ
DOVER 3RD XV	1	1	0	0	40	0	40	0	0	4	
THANET WANDERERS 3RD XV	1	1	0	0	43	17	26	0	0	4	
GRAVESEND 3RD XV	1	1	0	0	33	14	19	0	0	4	
ASHFORD BARBARIANS	1	1	0	0	32	14	18	0	0	4	
DEAL & BETTESHANGER 2ND XV	1	0	0	1	14	32	-18	0	0	1	
SITTINGBOURNE 2ND XV	1	0	0	1	14	33	-19	0	0	1	
VIGO 2ND XV	1	0	0	1	17	43	-26	0	0	1	
MAIDSTONE MUSTANGS 2ND XV	1	0	0	1	0	40	-40	0	0	1	
CANTERBURY 4TH XV DEACONS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
LEIGH (KENT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SHEPPEY 2ND XV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TBA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

## RESULTS FROM KENT RURAL B LEAGUE

Saturday 14th September 2024

Ashford Barbarians 32-14 Deal & Betteshanger 2nds

Dover 3rds 40-0 Maidstone 2nds Mustangs

Gravesend 3rds 33-14 Sittingbourne 2nds

Vigo 2nds 17-43 THANET WANDERERS 3rd XV

Weavering Warriors 27-48 Snowdown CW



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# MATCH REPORT

## THANET WANDERERS 28-20 DEAL AND BETTESHANGER

The new rugby season kicked off with an engaging friendly fixture between Thanet Wanderers and Deal Wanderers at the Recreation Ground. The match served as a prelude to the first XV game against Gillingham Anchorians, and it was clear from the outset that both sides were eager to make a strong start.

Thanet, fielding a good mixed squad of U18's and U17's, faced a formidable challenge as the younger side had never previously secured a victory against Deal. The game was divided into four quarters due to the sweltering heat, which allowed for refreshments and substitutions. Deal brought a squad of 25 players, while Thanet managed with just 20 due to some disappointing late dropouts.

The match's early momentum shifted decisively in Thanet's favour when Tom Gough broke through Deal's defence on a worked move. His impressive inside run back against the line of defence saw him score under the posts and convert his own try, giving Thanet a 7-0 lead.

Thanet's forwards, particularly the Finns and Charlie Bailey, contributed significantly, allowing fluid play in the backs. Ollie playing with more confidence linked up well with flyhalf Reese, who passed to Zac (playing impressively at centre this week), who then fed Jem Harris on the wing. Jem's incisive outside run and subsequent pass to Noah allowed him to slice through Deal's defence and score a swan dive under the posts. Tom Gough converted once again, putting Thanet 14-0 up.

Deal managed to claw back with a penalty, but Thanet's backs remained sharp. Noah Bull scored his second try of the match, again showing his pace and line running onto the ball, bringing the score to 21-3. This was again initiated through strong forward rucking providing quick go forward ball. Despite Deal's efforts, including a well-worked try by their

scrumhalf, Thanet continued to dominate. In the third quarter, Jem Harris showcased his pace again, running round his wing on the halfway line before stepping inside the covering fullback and sprinting 50m to the line for an unopposed try, converted by Callum Duffy, making it 28-8.

As the game progressed into the final quarter under the hot sun, fatigue set in, leading to scrappier play on both sides. Deal managed to score twice more, with a try from their scrumhalf and another as they exploited a gap in Thanet's defence when miscommunication meant the guards weren't in place. The final score ended 28-20 with Thanet missing a final open opportunity on the Deal line.

Thanet's performance was commendable, though they will rue missed opportunities and have areas for improvement in scrums, lineouts, and some handling skills. Fitness may also be a factor and a lack of substitutes also a factor as all players, had they turned up, would have got game time. The Colts win, kick started a clean sweep as the firsts and seconds also recorded wins at home on the day.

Overall, it was a strong start to the season for a new Colts team and captain Owen Long, with players still getting used to each other. The team will look to build on this performance as they prepare for their match against Canterbury next week.

Special thanks to TWRUFC legend Peter Macaulay for stepping in to referee the game.

Thanet Lineup: 1. Finn T /Ollie P, 2. Finn G, 3. Jude R, 4. Carl D /Harrison, 5. Owen L, 6. Hubert D/Joseph KM, 7. Charlie P/Zac R, 8. Charlie B, 9. Oli D, 10. Reece M /Callum D, 11. Jem H, 12. Zac OH, 13. Tom G, 14. Vinnie J, 15. Noah B

**SIMON HARRIS**



## RESULTS GRID COUNTIES 2 KENT LEAGUE

AWAY TEAM ▶	AYLESFORD BULLS	DARTFORD VALLEY	FOLKESTONE	GILLINGHAM ANCHORS	MAIDSTONE	MEDWAY 2s	OLD ALLEYNANS 2s	OLD ELTHAMIANS	SIDCUP 2s	TWRUFC	VIGO	WESTCOMBE PARK 2s
HOME TEAM ▼												
AYLESFORD BULLS												
DARTFORD VALLEY												
FOLKESTONE								31-50				
GILLINGHAM ANCHORS							38-31					
MAIDSTONE		25-5										
MEDWAY 2s									10-72		30-25	
OLD ALLEYNANS 2s			26-19									
OLD ELTHAMIANS												46-31
SIDCUP 2s						43-14						
TWRUFC	28-24											
VIGO				12-6								
WESTCOMBE PARK 2s	17-36									26-29		

## RESULTS FROM KENT COUNTIES LEAGUE 2

Saturday 7th September 2024

Dartford Valley 31-50 Old Elthamians

Maidstone 30-25 Vigo

Medway 2nds 26-19 Folkestone

Old Alleynians 2nds 46-31 Westcombe Park 2nds

Sidcup 2nds 28-24 Aylesford Bulls

THANET WANDERERS 12-6 Gillingham Anchors

Saturday 14th September 2024-09-13

Folkestone 38-31 Old Alleynians 2nds

Gillingham Anchorians 25-5 Dartford Valley

Maidstone 10-72 Sidcup 2nds

Old Elthamians 43-14 Medway 2nds

Vigo 26-29 THANET WANDERERS

Westcombe Park 2nds 17-36 Aylesford Bulls



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