

TWRUFC v MEDWAY RFC 2ND XV



OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME



Thanet RFC
Wanderers



SAT 19 OCT 2024 | KO 15:00

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Today Thanet Wanderers are blessed to be supported by the family of Colin Brown as we host a commemorative lunch in the name of the Big Man. We also welcome Medway 2nds for there first fixture against Thanet Wanderers for many years.

Colin was a big figure in and around the Club playing for the first team in the 1981-82 season and then onwards throughout the 80's and 90's and then was part of the coaching set up when the U17's won the National Plate and the following year the National Cup. I have some very personal memories of Colin, one of which involves a Rugby Tour to Magaluf involving my Stag do in 1997 – enough said! Colin, who was a pseudo-Scotsman, lit up the room when he entered it and was always a great conversationalist and always looking for the fun in everything. A successful businessman, this acumen is embodied in his legacy that his boys have continued through the family business. In fact, it was Colin who persuaded me to take out my first pension. As I approach 60 this year, I understand the benefit of that discussion over a beer, his influence on my life will continue through my retirement.

Sadly Colin passed away from cancer after a battle that he approached head on with a real positive mental attitude and it is today that we raise money in support of Prostrate Cancer.

Just imagine if 10 people who read this, set up a monthly payment of £5 to Prostrate Cancer research, over 10 years we could raise £6000, and add in the tax incentive this could be £7,200, if 20 people did it, £14,400 !!!! . C'mon.

No one is immune, two players of the winning 1997 Twickenham team have had Prostate Cancer, so it doesn't matter if you're fit or have a healthy lifestyle, cancer is arbitrary, please dig deep and support this Charity.

This afternoon we extend a welcome to Medway 2nds who have won 3 of their 5 games this season with a season average of 20.8 points for and 20.8 scored against, and sit 3 position below Thanet who are second in the League with 5 unbeaten games, I hope you enjoy the afternoon and our hospitality and experience some attractive rugby. At the time of writing this address the weather looks dry and sunny, and I hope we can witness some open running rugby.

Today's match official is Mark Shaw, who we welcome back after officiating our home game against Maidstone. We welcome you to St Peters and hope for a clean, fast paced game evenly competed and without Injury.

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

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FROM THE HEAD COACH

Today we welcome Medway RFC to our home in what will be a ding dong of a game. Medway sit 5th in the league after some good results against both Maidstone and Vigo. Today is Colin Brown's Memorial Day, a man close to my own heart. I'm sure he would have been proud of some of the team's recent performances.

We return after last week's game with a fair bit to work on, but the boys have worked hard in training to make sure we learn from some of our mistakes from our last game. We are now the only team left in the league that is unbeaten. We intend to defend that title today, "It's not over until we say it's over".

Our game against Dartford saw Charlie Bailey make his debut and what a debut it was! Also settling well into the team are Dom Springer and Finn Hickmott. Adding our youth into the mix has shown our depth and this is a good thing for the future of our club.

This league is full of ups and downs, but it's consistency that's important and we seem to be settling well, in Counties 2 Kent League.

Managing success can be difficult, but it's important to remain confident and not to tip over to arrogance and the boys will be focussed on implementing this.

So as always I finish with a request, can you be our 16th man today? Your help is so valuable.

"Young people need models, not critics"
John Wooden."

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

DARTFORD VALLEY RFC 12 – 12 THANET WANDERERS RFC

Wanderers' defence secures a draw after a patchy display on the 3G pitch at Dartford Valley.

There were six changes to the Thanet side that had played well in their last game against Sidcup. Andy Letts returned to the second row where he was partnered by debutant Charlie Bailey. Tom O'Callaghan travelled to return at scrum-half but after Cam Beck was injured at training on Thursday the backs were reshuffled with Louis Marshall playing outside centre. Vice-Captain, Henry Mirams, was working and Callum Doody again proved his versatility by stepping in at full-back. Harrison Quittenden returned to the starting XV and it was good to see fellow speedster, Andrew Dolan back on the other wing for his first game since January.

Wanderers were quick to follow up their kick-off and put pressure on the catcher. Two penalties against the hosts saw the pressure maintained and a further penalty set a good attacking position. Joint Vice-Captain, Adam Harrison, passed up an easy three points and took the tap penalty before passing over the top and opened up the defence for Louis Marshall to power over for the opening try after ten minutes. The wind was strengthening and caused Lewis Downer's conversion attempt to fall just short but Thanet led, 5-0. Wanderers number 6, James Crompton was an early casualty with a shoulder injury and was replaced by Finley Hickmott.

Penalty numbers continued to mount for both sides, and Harrison made good use to clear Wanderers' lines. A terrific tackle from open-side, Sam Taylor, caused a loose ball around 20 metres out which loose-head, Ben Cannon seized and brushed off attempted tackles before touching down close to the posts. Lewis Downer added the extras and opened up a 12-0 lead for the Wanderers. They had dominated the opening quarter of the game but now good pressure from the home side and a smart switch of the point of attack brought them a try. No conversion made it 12-5. Wanderers' influential open-side Sam Taylor now had to leave the pitch with the

recurrence of an injury to a knee. Dom Springer replaced him in a much-reshuffled pack. On the cusp of half-time, Ben Cannon, who appeared to be as much sinned against as a sinner, found himself the sole recipient of a yellow card after a sudden flurry of handbags.

Rain had set in towards the end of the first half and conditions were miserable at best. Playing with fourteen men, Wanderers' defence was busy, but up to the task. Andy Letts became the second Wanderer to be shown yellow shortly before Cannon's return. Six minutes later strong Dartford pressure brought them a second try, which was converted, to level the scores at 12 all. Wanderers' captain, Warren Riddell-Bloomfield, was playing at hooker today, rather than in his usual back-row berth, but in another excellent defensive display he excelled and led his team by fine example. Callum Doody who was also out of his usual scrum half role to play at full-back used his boot well as he sought to ease the continuing home pressure. Teenager, Charlie Bailey had played with growing confidence on his debut but now became the third Wanderer to enter the referee's notebook. Sam Taylor returned despite clearly still struggling with injury. Four minutes later, sadly Andrew Dolan was forced to withdraw from the struggle with injury and Leon Doody replaced him. With about ten minutes remaining, Thanet were finally back to full numbers in the second half and mounted some promising attacks but the final whistle sounded with the scores still level at 12-12.

Wanderers' defence was again outstanding with another top performance from Number Eight, Brett Scott. Tighthead, Michael Whitehead put in an excellent full shift and Ben Cannon goes from strength to strength on the other side of the front row. Lewis Downer defended brilliantly at inside centre and was a regular threat with the ball in hand; he was the Coaches' choice as Thanet's man of the match.

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	5	4	0	1	171	75	.96.	4	1	21	
THANET WANDERERS	5	4	1	0	111	64	47	2	0	20	
SIDCUP 2ND XV	5	4	0	1	196	74	122	3	0	19	
GILLINGHAM ANCHORIANS	5	4	0	1	131	75	56	2	1	19	
MEDWAY 2ND XV	5	3	0	2	104	104	0	2	0	14	
OLD ALLEYNANS 2ND XV	5	2	0	3	144	170	-26	4	1	13	
FOLKESTONE	5	2	0	3	160	151	9	3	1	12	
AYLESFORD BULLS	5	2	0	3	130	129	1	3	1	12	
MAIDSTONE	5	2	0	3	91	180	-89	2	0	10	
DARTFORD VALLEY	5	1	1	3	103	128	-25	3	0	9	
WESTCOMBE PARK 2NDS	5	1	0	4	97	218	-121	2	0	6	
VIGO	5	0	0	5	86	156	-70	1	2	3	

KENT COUNTIES LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

Saturday 19th October 2024

Dartford Valley v Sidcup 2nd XV

Gillingham Anchorians v Westcombe Park
2nd XV

Maidstone v Old Alleynians 2nd XV

Old Elthamians v Folkestone

THANET WANDERERS v Medway 2nd XV

Vigo v Aylesford Bulls

MATCH REPORT

THANET WANDERERS RFC LADIES 61 LORDSWOOD VALKYRIES 7

Thanet Wanderers Ladies returned to St Peter's after a month for a top of the table clash with Lordswood Valkyries with both sides boasting a 20 player squad. Thanet won the toss and skipper Gee Cordell chose to play down the slope to try and put pressure on the Lordswood defence.

Pack leaders Holly Thurman-Newell and Georgia Elks, both playing with a new lease of life were making inroads into the Lordswood defence who were under pressure in the early exchanges.

Having moved defenders around, fly half Alex White scanned and spotted a gap in the left corner and scampered in from 15 metres out for an early 5-0 lead.

That lead was added to shortly afterwards with centre Izzy Lodge dominating the midfield and feeding centre partner Rachael Austerberry and then Tabs Raymonde for two quick tries. White converted one and Thanet raced out to a 17-0 lead with 20 minutes on the clock.

Shortly after scrum half, Sophie West had to leave the field with a rib injury making room for Kat Stuart to play her first game at scrum half. She controlled her forward pack as if it was her fiftieth game and having moved Lordswood defenders where she wanted them, spun the ball out for Austerberry to hit a gap and race in for her second.

Lordswood are a determined side and spent long periods at the end of the first half in the Thanet 22, but some dominant turnover work from hooker Louise Rubens led to winger Lia Armstrong scooping up the loose ball and

running in from 80 yards. The try was converted by White for a 29-0 half time lead.

Half time saw some regrouping from both sides with Rebecca Hewitt joining the front row and Rebecca Dixon making her Thanet debut at blindside flanker.

But it was to be Lordswood who made the first score after White's pass was intercepted by Lordswood centre Malissa Burniston to go 80 metres and reduce the lead to 29-7.

The Thanet ladies didn't seem phased by this, saw it as a blip and set about putting their structured rugby back together. Soon after Austerberry completed her hat-trick and skipper, Cordell went 60 metres to get her name on the scoresheet.

Gaps were appearing in a tiring Lordswood defence and Austerberry used her experience to claim her fourth, fifth and sixth tries before feeding Armstrong for her second. One final conversion by White saw Wanderers stretch out to a 61-7 victory.

Thanet Ladies travel to Beckenham next Sunday in the league before hosting Lordswood on Sunday 27th October in the second round of the Junior Cup.

If you are interested in trying out ladies rugby, training takes place on Tuesday and Thursday between 6.30-8pm and details are on the website at www.thanetwanderers.co.uk.

IAN LODGE

Ladies Head Coach



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	3	3	0	0	145	12	133	0	0	14	
ASHFORD LADIES	2	1	0	1	56	43	13	0	0	7	
LORDSWOOD VALKYRIES LADIES	2	1	0	1	40	66	-26	0	0	6	
GRAVESEND LADIES	2	1	0	1	59	88	-29	0	0	6	
AYLESFORD BULLS LADIES	1	1	0	0	43	0	43	0	0	5	
BECCEHAMIAN LADIES	2	0	0	2	0	103	-103	0	0	4	
BECKENHAM LADIES 2ND XV	2	0	0	2	42	73	-31	0	0	3	

WOMEN'S NC2 SOUTH EAST (EAST) LEAGUE RESULTS

Sunday 13th October 2024

Gravesend Ladies 40-37 Beckenham Ladies 2nd XV

THANET WANDERERS Women 61-7 Lordswood Valkyries Ladies

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MATCH REPORT

DEAL WANDERERS COLTS 10 - THANET WANDERERS COLTS 33

Thanet Wanderers secured a comprehensive 33-10 victory over Deal Wanderers in a hard-fought and physical match on a windy but sunny day in Deal. This marks Thanet's fifth win of the season, continuing their strong start. Both teams showed resilience, but Thanet's clinical execution and dominance in key moments were decisive.

The game began with both sides feeling each other out, but Thanet eventually made the first breakthrough after sustained pressure. A well-orchestrated move saw the ball move from the left flank after two phases with strong carries from the front row combination of the two Finns. A slick pass from Alex Dyer set up Jem Harris, who sliced through the defense to score under the posts. Fly-half Callum Duffy adding the conversion to give Thanet a 7-0 lead.

Deal Wanderers responded with pressure on Thanet's try line. However, a crucial interception from Callum halted their attack, allowing him to sprint the length of the pitch. Making a smart decision under pressure to go for the corner, he grounded the ball and then audaciously slotted the conversion, pushing the score to 14-0.

Thanet's open-side flanker, Charlie Page, was everywhere on the field, producing brilliant turnovers to regain possession and was continually disrupting Deal's attack. Though Deal mounted a comeback, on putting their winger into clear space, a try-saving head on tackle by Full back Jem Harris temporarily held them at bay. However, in the next phase Deal found a gap on the right wing, where their centre stepped through to score, reducing the deficit to 14-7.

In the Second Half, Thanet struck again with a dynamic run through the middle by Noah Bull, who displayed lovely footwork. Although a knock-on denied him a try, the ensuing attack led to a lineout. Dillon Shelley safely secured the ball, and after a driving maul, a well-timed pass allowed Harrison Taylor to power over

under the posts. Callum added the conversion, extending the lead to 21-7.

Deal responded with a penalty, opting to kick for points, bringing the score to 21-10.

Thanet soon regained control through a strong turnover by Vinnie Jones and quick ball from Kai Redmond set up Will Gedge for a line break, and after another rapid phase, Harrison Taylor again bulldozed over the line for his second try of the match. Thanet were now comfortably ahead at 28-10.

In the final moments, Thanet's defense continued to be strong. A standout moment came when Carl Gordan-Durrant hoisted a Deal player in the air before Charlie Page stripped him of the ball. Taking advantage, the ball was swiftly moved down the blind side, allowing Harry Harrison to skillfully finish off the move and seal the 33-10 win for Thanet.

The coaches praised the team's physicality and discipline throughout the game, highlighting the competitive environment in the squad. Charlie Page was particularly commended for his exemplary tackle count and multiple turnovers and named Man of the Match. The strong squad depth is creating competition for starting positions, which is set to further strengthen the team moving forward.

Thanet Wanderers Colts now sit with 5 wins and 1 loss this season, looking ahead to the upcoming cup match and continuing their impressive form.

Thanet Lineup: 1 Will Escombe-Gedge / Archie Hussey/Jude Rigden, 2 Finn Grounds, 3 Finn Twyman/ Ollie Parker /Zac Ragunel, 4 Owen Long, 5 Harrison Taylor / Carl Gordan-Durrant, 6 Tom Weller, 7 Charlie Page, 8 Dillion Shelly, 9 Oli Davies/ Cai Redmond, 10 Callum Duffy, 11 Finn Wilmans / Zac O'hendy, 12 Tom Gough/ James Murdoch, 13 Alex Dyer/ Harry Harrison. 14 Vinnie Jones, 15 Jem Harris/Noah Bull

SIMON HARRIS



THANET WANDERERS

HOME TEAM COLOURS: blue, black and gold hoops

1 MICHAEL WHITEHEAD

Postition sponsored by: Peter Hawkins

2 WARREN RIDDELL-BROOMFIELD (C)

Postition sponsored by: Mike Beaumont

3 DOM SPRINGER

Postition sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore

4 ANDREW LETTS

Postition sponsored by: Mark O' Riordan

5 DENNIS DAVIES

Postition sponsored by: Dave Brown

6 FINLAY HICKMOTT

Postition sponsored by: Michelle McClean

7 BRETT SCOTT

Postition sponsored by: Chris Marson

8 BEN CANNON

Postition sponsored by: Terry Tutte

9 TOM O' CALLAGHAN

Postition sponsored by: Jeremy Ward

10 ADAM HARRISON

Postition sponsored by: Ray Roby/Peter Tierney

11 HARRISON QUITTENDEN

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12 LEWIS DOWNER

Postition sponsored by: Bill Hurley

13 HENRY MIRAMS

Postition sponsored by: Andy Bull

14 LOUIS MARSHALL

Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover

15 CALLUM DOODY

Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond

Replacements:

16 LENNY BROWN

17 ANDREW DOLAN

18 CHARLIE PANTELI

Head Coach

ELLIOT BLACKMORE

Postition sponsored by: Colin Whiteley

Assistant Coach

KIERAN HOPPER

Postition sponsored by:

Team Manager

MICHELLE MCLEAN

Postition sponsored by: Carmen Glover

Referee

MARK SHAW

Touch Judge

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3 DYLAN PRICE

4 JAMIE THOMPSON

5 LOUIS REGNIER

6 ADAM SHAW

7 OLLIE BARNES

8 MALCOLM CAMERON

9 HARRY JOHNSON

10 STAN ORRIS

11 MIGESH

12 SAM SHARPE

13 BEN JONES

14 KYLE WILSON

15 LIAM KIERAN

Replacements:

16 JAKE CURTIS

17 TONY GERDES-HANSON

18 ANDY CONNELL

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MATCH REPORT

THANET WANDERERS RUFC 21 – 8 SIDCUP RFC

Wanderers remain unbeaten and replace Sidcup in second place in the league.

Ben Cannon and Sam Taylor were back in Thanet's pack but Andy Letts was playing in Kent's "Wooden Spoon" team and hooker Finn White was on duty. Captain, Warren Riddell-Bloomfield moved from the back row to replace him and Lenny Brown was restored to the second row. Callum Doody was injured, and his brother, Leon proved to be a very able deputy at scrum half. Adam Harrison returned at Ten and there was a debut for Charlie Stainton on the left wing.

Wanderers kicked off on a lovely afternoon for rugby and a nervous response to their first attack drew a penalty that Lewis Downer safely despatched to give Wanderers an early lead, 3-0. This was short-lived as Sidcup attacked from the restart and a penalty set them close to the Thanet line. Good defence kept the line intact initially but a well-judged crosskick produced a fine opening score for Sidcup that could not be converted but gave them the lead, 5-3. A Wanderers' penalty did not reach touch and Sidcup returned to the attack. After fifteen minutes, Downer, playing at inside centre, made a scything break to set a good field position and a stretched defence was guilty of not releasing. Downer confidently slotted his second penalty to put Wanderers ahead 6-5. Thanet continued to attack and another penalty opportunity, four minutes later, a little further out saw Downer convert and Thanet led, 9-5. James Crompton playing at blindside, broke clear but was dragged down. Play swung from one half to the other and both defences stood strong. There was danger for the visitors every time Henry Mirams and Adam Harrison counter-attacked and it was a good game to watch. Wanderers were penalised for a high tackle and Sidcup narrowed Thanet's lead to a point from 30 metres out. There was a determination about Wanderers today and they continued to press for the line.

Forward after forward aimed for the line and the finish finally came from Ben Cannon who claimed a well-deserved first try for the first XV. There was no conversion but Wanderers led 14-8, which was the half-time score a few minutes later.

Wanderers had played well in a very satisfactory first half and coaches will have asked for more of the same for the second half. Mike Whitehead took a break and Luke Browning was back in the front row for the second period. Harrison Quittenden replaced Stainton after his satisfactory debut. A knock-on from the restart gave Sidcup good field position but Wanderers withstood the resulting attack and a brilliant breakout from Harrison switched play from near the Wanderers' line to close at the other end. The hosts' intensity appeared to have dipped early in the second half and they lost a good opportunity when they were deemed to have offended after a minor altercation on the visitors' line. A pair of penalties took Sidcup close to Wanderers' line whose defence was sound. Louis Marshall was on his way to the line but was recalled for an offside. Probing attacks from both sides were met with resolute defence and there was no change to the score after an hour's play. Taylor took a break after another valuable contribution and Finley Hickmott replaced him from the bench. Wanderers' defence was hitting hard and low enough for any purist but when a Wanderer disputed a decision of today's excellent referee, Alan Whittingham, they found themselves marched back ten metres. A crucial steal from Brown put the Wanderers back on the front foot and the initiative was with the Wanderers. A concerted attack took them close before Hickmott broke well and handed on to Harrison to touch down. Downer's conversion was good for a 21-8 lead. Sidcup contested hard in the closing minutes looking for a losing bonus point but there was no further score and the well deserved victory was with the Wanderers.

Wanderers Head Coach, Elliott Blackmore was delighted with his team's progress. He and Fellow Coaches, Kieran Hopper and Alex Saddington will be delighted with the steel that is present in the squad. It was a day for confident defenders and all Wanderers would be included in that number today. Brett Scott at Eight and

Dennis Davies in the second row were excellent as was the centre pairing of Cam Beck and Lewis Downer. Downer has battled through many setbacks and his fine all-round performance today earned him the coaches' man of the match award.

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	5	5	0	0	152	61	91	0	0	20	
EDENBRIDGE 1ST XV	5	3	0	2	123	82	41	0	1	15	
DOVER 2ND XV	4	3	0	1	161	51	110	0	0	13	
SNOWDOWN CW	4	3	0	1	152	84	68	0	0	13	
AYLESFORD BULLS 2ND XV	5	3	0	2	116	165	-49	0	0	13	
ASH	5	2	0	3	118	121	-3	0	0	11	
MEDWAY 4TH XV	4	1	0	3	89	101	-12	0	0	7	
WEAVING WARRIORS	3	1	0	2	88	84	4	0	0	6	
THANET WANDERERS 2ND XV	2	1	0	1	31	52	-21	0	0	5	
FOLKESTONE 2ND XV	5	1	0	4	61	188	-127	0	0	5	
CRANBROOK 2ND XV	4	0	0	4	28	130	-102	0	1	4	

KENT RURAL LEAGUE A RESULTS

Saturday 28th September 2024

Ash HWO Folkestone 2nd XV

Aylesford Bulls 2nd XV 28-27 Edenbridge

Dover 2nd XV 45-5 THANET WANDERERS 2nd XV

Medway 4th XV HWO Cranbrook 2nd XV

Tunbridge Wells 3rd XV 45-20 Snowdown CW

Saturday 5th October 2024

Ash 17-31 Tunbridge Wells 3rd XV

Aylesford Bulls 2nd XV 12-52 Dover 2nd XV

Edenbridge 29-14 Weaving Warriors

Folkestone 2nd XV 34-24 Medway 4th XV

Saturday 12th October 2024

Cranbrook 2nd XV 14-17 Tunbridge Wells 3rd XV

Edenbridge 34-8 Ash

Folkestone 2nd XV AWO Dover 2nd XV

Snowdown CW HWO Aylesford Bulls 2nd XV

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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**

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
ASHFORD BARBARIANS	5	4	0	1	148	58	90	0	0	17	
GRAVESEND 3RD XV	4	3	0	1	103	65	38	0	0	13	
SITTINGBOURNE 2ND XV	5	2	0	3	121	135	-14	0	0	11	
THANET WANDERERS 3RD XV	4	2	0	2	102	88	14	0	0	10	
MAIDSTONE MUSTANGS 2ND XV	4	2	0	2	90	135	-45	0	0	10	
DEAL & BETTESHANGER 2ND XV	3	2	0	1	108	56	52	0	0	9	
CANTERBURY 4TH XV DEACONS	4	2	0	2	106	150	-44	0	0	8	
VIGO 2ND XV	4	1	0	3	104	114	-10	0	1	8	
LEIGH (KENT)	3	1	0	2	90	91	-1	0	0	6	
SHEPPEY 2ND XV	3	1	0	2	40	80	-40	0	0	5	
DOVER 3RD XV	3	1	0	2	40	80	-40	0	0	4	

KENT RURAL B LEAGUE RESULTS

Saturday 28th September 2024

Ashford Barbarians 31-17 Leigh (Kent)

Canterbury 4th XV Deacons 36-22

Gravesend 3rd XV

Deal & Betteshanger 2nd XV HWO Sheppey 2nd XV

Dover 3rd XV v THANET WANDERERS 3rd XV

Sittingbourne 2nd XV 26-36 Maidstone

Mustangs 2nd XV

Saturday 5th October 2024

Ashford Barbarians HWO Dover 3rd XV

Deal & Betteshanger 2nd XV 54-24

Canterbury 4th XV Deacons

Gravesend 3rd XV 21-10 THANET WANDERERS 3rd XV

Leigh (Kent) 39-14 Sittingbourne 2nd XV

Maidstone Mustangs 2nd XV 28-27 Vigo 2nd XV

Saturday 12th October 2024

Gravesend 3rd XV 27-5 Ashford Barbarians

Sheppey 2nd XV HWO Dover 3rd XV

THANET WANDERERS 3rd XV 7-24 Sittingbourne 2nd XV

Vigo 2nd XV HWO Canterbury 4th XV Deacons

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1ST XV's MATCH

KICK OFF 7.00PM

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MATCH REPORT

THANET WANDERERS U15S v OLD ELTHAMIANS U15S

The first competitive match for the U15s squad this season came last Sunday when a visiting side from Old Elthamians arrived at the Rec. One of the best sides in Kent, we knew it would be a tough match having played them last season when they toured down here and a very competitive match finished with them the victors.

As always, we found ourselves the much smaller side. Not sure what they put in the water up there, but some of their players would not have been out of place playing in the 1st XV fixture the previous day.

Their kit of blue and yellow stripes was too much of a match to ours and so out came the Thanet pink alternative kit and the boys looked resplendent in its first outing of the season.

A good size crowd had gathered left over from the morning's training and the match started with a competitive first 10 minutes. A good interception by Jack Sperryn from the opposition scrum got Thanet to the halfway line. Quick hands returned OE's to close to our line and from the ensuing scrum Finlay Smith kicked for safety. The strong OE's number 15 caught the ball and then slipped a few too many tackles for this coaches liking and touched down in the corner.

A strong kick chase from the kick off put OE's on the back foot and good runs from Isaac Rowland-Day and Nye Potter mounted the pressure on the OE's defence. A penalty allowed a quick tap and go, and Milo Whitehead looked to be over when he was pulled back for the penalty not being taken from the correct place. Calmer heads prevailed and finally Smith kicked the penalty for a scoreline at the end of the first quarter of 5-3 to OE's.

The restart for the 2nd quarter resulted in a knock on by OE's and from the scrum Thanet ran their Ramsgate ball to the blindside, and it was only a last-ditch tackle from the OE's 15 that prevented a try. From another penalty tap and

go a disappointing knock on was the result and from the resulting scrum OE's broke away from the halfway and touched down for their second try. The conversion was a good one and Thanet found themselves 12-3 down from what had been a very promising position at the other end of the park.

There followed a 10-minute session of play that Thanet would want to forget. OE's pressure at the scrum was a lot for Thanet to handle and another 2 tries were run in giving the visitors a lead of 26-3 at the half time break.

Some Thanet substitutions were made and there was a slightly concerned feeling about how the game could possibly go in the second half. That concern soon faded as the 3rd quarter saw a different Thanet take to the pitch. Some big tackles going in from the centre pairing of Andrew Bull and Milo Whitehead put OE's on the back foot and a strong run from Gab Petrauskas ended in a penalty for a high tackle. From the resultant penalty, a quick tap and go saw the Thanet No 8 George Saunders burst over the line.

The tide was certainly changing, and a rather worried OE's coach commented to me that he could see a definite change of momentum. The increased tempo and drive now being shown by Thanet resulted in two more tries, one from Milo Whitehead, who had an immense game, and Nye Potter who doesn't seem to go a game without having a huge influence.

The never say die attitude suddenly had Thanet only two points behind at 24 - 26 and the victory was certainly on as the momentum was definitely with them.

From the OE's kick off Noah Manga, a new addition to the pack, took the ball at pace, driving the OE's defence back. Noah has recently moved from the backs and the promise he showed in this game has the coaches very excited for the sort of impact he will have for the rest of the season.

Unfortunately, and against the run of play, a slight lapse in concentration saw some great hands from the OE's backs and they touched down in the corner to take the wind out of the Thanet sails. Another late try right on the whistle gave OE's a winning score of 24-40, a margin of victory that didn't quite reflect the game.

Lots of work to do for Thanet, but Pete Macaulay was on the sideline assessing the performance and the coaches are looking forward to working with him to find areas for

improvement. The pleasing thing was that the team fought back from a deficit of 26-3 and through some great rugby and a renewed spirit fought back to 26-24.

The team now have some training time followed by a development game against Whitstable in the middle of October, so plenty of time to iron out the creases in time for their first League game against Dover on October 20th.

ANDY BULL



RESULTS GRID COUNTIES 2 KENT LEAGUE

AWAY TEAM ▶	AYLESFORD BULLS	DARTFORD VALLEY	FOLKESTONE	GILLINGHAM ANCHORS	MAIDSTONE	MEDWAY 2s	OLD ALLEYNIAN 2s	OLD ELTHAMIAN 2s	SIDCUP 2s	TWRUFC	VIGO	WESTCOMBE PARK 2s
HOME TEAM ▼												
AYLESFORD BULLS			43-28	15-25								
DARTFORD VALLEY								31-50		12-12	31-7	
FOLKESTONE							38-31					61-26
GILLINGHAM ANCHORS		25-5					48-33					
MAIDSTONE		34-24							10-72		30-25	
MEDWAY 2s			26-19	10-27	22-5							
OLD ALLEYNIAN 2s								0-35			34-18	46-31
OLD ELTHAMIAN 2s	31-12					43-14						
SIDCUP 2s	28-24		25-14									63-6
TWRUFC				12-6	37-12				21-8			
VIGO						10-32				26-29		
WESTCOMBE PARK 2s	17-36							18-12				

KENT COUNTIES LEAGUE 2 RESULTS

Saturday 28th September 2024

Folkestone 61-26 Westcombe Park 2nds

Gillingham Anchorians 48-33 Old Alleynians 2nds

Maidstone 34-24 Dartford Valley

Old Elthamians 31-12 Aylesford Bulls

THANET WANDERERS 21-8 Sidcup 2nds

Vigo 10-32 Medway 2nds

Saturday 12th October 2024

Aylesford Bulls 15-25 Gillingham Anchorians

Dartford Valley 12-12 THANET WANDERERS

Medway 2nd XV 22-5 Maidstone

Old Alleynians 2nd XV 34-18 Vigo

Sidcup 2nd XV 25-14 Folkestone

Westcombe Park 2nd XV 18-12 Old Elthamians



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MATCH REPORT

THANET LADIES WIN THEIR FIRST ROUND PAPA JOHN'S JUNIOR CUP TIE

Thanet Ladies entered the first round of the Papa John's Cup away to Ashford Ladies anticipating a stiff challenge after the previous week's encounter between the two teams, in their NC2 League game, that had been a tough contest with Thanet coming out on top.

The game began with Thanet's fly-half, Alex White, kicking to Ashford Ladies followed by a chase from Thanet and then the battle for physical superiority began. Georgia Elks came in with strength and power and dominated Ashford in a ruck which led to a turn-over that gave Thanet's backs an opportunity to show off their handling skills. An opportunity is all Rachel Austerberry needs, and she broke through Ashford's defensive line to be met by their fullback, who probably regretted the attempt to stop her after Rachel was able to recover from the tackle and off-load to Tabitha Raymonde which led to an early Thanet try. Tabitha has been a very much welcomed addition to the squad. Whilst this was only her 4th ever game of rugby, this was not reflected in her game-play and we look forward to seeing her progress throughout the season.

With the hosts a try down, Ashford's forward-heavy style of play increased the physicality of the game. One half of the bish-bash duo, Megan Bish, covered the wings with great tenacity and she can be forgiven her high tackle which resulted in a yellow card. With a player down, Thanet became involved in a battle five yards from their try line and despite the efforts of Louise Rubens to hold up the ball and prevent a score, observed by everyone except the referee, a try was awarded to Ashford making the score 5-5. Unfamiliar with such scores, Thanet Ladies stepped up their game. A knock-on by Ashford resulted in a scrum in their 22 and a well-directed call from Alex White saw Georgia take the ball in and making light work of seeing off the challenges of two Ashford players she scored a try.

As the game progressed with the score at 5-10 in Thanet's favour, Ashford weren't easing up and continued to put pressure on Thanet Ladies. Despite Rebecca Hewitt and Emily Williams giving Ashford a hard time with their strong carries, a line-out inside Thanet's 22 saw a pick-up and go from one of Ashford's players, leading to a try which was converted. This left the score at half-time as 12-10 to Ashford.

Ian Lodge offered the Ladies his pearls of wisdom during the half time team talk. What he said seemed to work. The second half saw Lia Armstrong embark on an incredible, yet seemingly effortless, 75 metre run to the try line. With Ashford simply unable to keep up with her pace she was able to place the ball past the try line between the middle of the posts. This set Alex White up perfectly for the conversion. The pulses of all Thanet's supporters returned to normal pace as the score now stood at 12-17 to Thanet. The game continued with Fleur Moat executing a draw and pass to Megan who used quick hands to pass to Tabitha. Tabitha made a break, ran 40 metres and managed to dummy step three players on her route to the try line. This score from Thanet converted by White meant it was now 24-12 in their favour. A final try of the game by Ashford gave a final score of 24-17.

A win for the Wanderers may not come as a surprise, but the squad is now heavily relying on new and inexperienced players stepping up to play first-team rugby. As a team, we are grateful for all the players putting their bodies on the line week in and week-out to ensure the squad progresses as a team and keeps on earning wins for the club.

Thanet Ladies take on Lordswood at home in the second round of the Junior Cup on 27th October. We would like to see as many supporters as possible!

KEIRA-LEIGH GALLUP



PHOTOS: KEN MATCHAM



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