

TWRUFC v SIDCUP RFC 2ND XV



OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME



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Wanderers



SAT 28 SEP 2024 | KO 15:00

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The season has started with a Bang! with wins, wins & wins and any baggage from last season seems to have been safely deposited where it belongs.

I am pleased to say that all the senior teams remain unbeaten so far this season

This week we welcome Sidcup 2nd XV who finished mid table last season but have won their 3 opening games with some high scores against Westcombe Park 2nd and Maidstone. Today's game is a true East v West with Sidcup travelling the 70 miles to the Kent coast to make this fixture.

I can't remember the last time that Thanet Wanderers hosted Sidcup at the St Peters Ground, but the two sides may have last met as far back as 2001, when Thanet Wanderers won the Kent Cup.

Thanet Wanderers had previously won the Kent Cup back in 1891 v Royal Naval College, Greenwich, (a game that saw Peter Hawkins make his debut for TWRUFC.)

Sidcup 2nd XV are positioned 2nd in the League with Thanet Wanderers right behind them in 3rd, equal on 14pts, with Sidcup's massive points difference giving them the advantage, so today's game could be a tight one.

Despite being at opposite ends of the County the two Clubs share some similarities.

Sidcup Football Club (as it was known) started in 1882, but it was not until 1884-85 that a full fixture list was played. Thanet Wanderers was founded one year later in 1886 and both Clubs currently field 3 Senior sides.

We look forward to a good, flowing, injury free game this afternoon, a game that reflects the competitive nature of the sport and upholds the true values of the game. I would also like to welcome today's Match Official Alan Whittingham, who I believe may be making his first visit to St Peter's Rec. He has a difficult job with new laws evolving and the habits of players who have played for years having to adjust, sometimes against their subconscious to change and adapt to a new playing style.

We thank you for your time and without you, 30 referees and 1 player wouldn't get a game, or have I got that the wrong way round ?

In the words of Colin Whiteley our former President...

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Club President





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FROM THE HEAD COACH

Welcome to our 4th game of the season against Sidcup 2s, one of my old clubs. Sidcup 2s sit one place above us in the league, so I'm sure this will be a ding dong of a match. This will be a great test for the players, especially as we are back to almost full strength.

Last weeks game was a good one and I am proud of how hard the squad is working at training and we are starting to realise our potential. The feeling in the squad is positive, having Warren leading the team gives a fresh feeling and this is also thanks to the vice-captains Adam and Henry who are helping to lead the team on and off the field.

But we can do more. Performances are more positive, we are seeing that over the last three games. Those who travelled to Dover for our only preseason friendly can see the difference. There is a positive learning environment developing, but we always need your help as the 16th man on the balcony and on the sidelines. This is vital and you shouldn't underestimate how important it is.

This is still a season where we are learning and our aim is to maintain a consistent squad where completion is strong. Whilst we are on this journey, please come with us. Rebuilding after a season like the last one is never easy, but your support is so valuable.

I look forward to you all enjoying the game and having something to smile about again. Being part of our family is so important.

"Don't measure yourself by what you have accomplished, but by what you should have accomplished with your ability".

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 37 – 12 MAIDSTONE RFC

Six sparkling tries from Wanderers as they shine in the sun.

Ben Cannon, Sam Taylor and Adam Harrison, who had all made good starts for the Wanderers in their opening two fixtures, were unavailable for this game. Lenny Brown stepped into the loosehead berth, and Brett Scott was a starter at number eight. Callum Doody moved from scrum half to take the ten shirt and there was a debut in senior rugby for Tom O'Callaghan. at nine. Maidstone had won one of their opening two fixtures, and Wanderers aimed to extend their unbeaten start.

Maidstone kicked off up the slope but Wanderers were soon on the attack and when the visitors infringed after five minutes, Lewis Downer slotted the penalty for an early 3-0 lead to the hosts. Doody's penalty found a long touch to take Thanet well inside the opposition's 22. Thanet's backs combined well and took the Wanderers close. O'Callaghan drew some of the defenders as he went right before Wanderers' hooker, Finn White showed great awareness and speed to ghost down the blindside of a ruck for a try that was not converted but Thanet led 8-0. Both sides will rue the number of penalties they conceded that halted promising situations for them. The visitors missed a very kickable penalty whilst for Wanderers Scott and Jake Whittlesea combined well before Maidstone lost ground when called back for taking the ball back in. Back surged Wanderers and established themselves in the visitors' 22. Two penalties in quick succession kept Thanet close to the line and a big effort saw the pack cross and Mike Whitehead emerge as the scorer. Downer converted for a 15-0 lead to the Wanderers. Minutes later Wanderers were penalised for being in front of the kicker and found themselves back on the defence. A nicely executed catch and drive from the visitors' pack brought them a touch down for an unconverted try, The 15-5 scoreline remained a few minutes later when the half-time whistle sounded.

Whitehead took a break with Dominick Springer replacing him for the start of the second half. Maidstone pushed to take advantage of the slope but Wanderers defence stood firm. Another penalty attempt for the visitors slid wide and it was clear Thanet had moved up a gear. Louis Marshall had been a bundle of energy on the touchline waiting for some action and he replaced Jake Whittlesea early in the second half. Around the hour mark, strong Thanet pressure brought a penalty for Wanderers and a yellow card for Maidstone's Number seven Reggie Lampey. Marshall now combined with skipper Warren Riddell-Bloomfield and open-side James Crompton down the right and at the subsequent breakdown, Lenny Brown completed the trio of scorers from Wanderers' front row today. Downer's conversion attempt rebounded from an upright and Wanderers' were ahead 20-5. More top handling followed four minutes later after Andy Letts strode through defenders down the left. Doody's long pass set Marshall free and he then extracted himself from the breakdown to pick up and scorch over, low to the ground. Downer's conversion attempt went across the face but the try bonus point was secured. Five minutes later a fifth try followed a lung bursting build up. A misplaced clearance was gathered by Mirams who evaded a couple of chasers before chipping ahead when the ball was moved across the field from Dennis Davies to Crompton and Brown and on to Downer who finished strongly. No conversion but at 30-5, the selectors gave their captain a break giving ten minutes to Finley Hickmott who had time to remind them of his talent whilst Brown also signed off after a good shift with Whitehead back. Maidstone had no intention of going quietly and, playing some good rugby, they were alert to a loose ball and scored a well-converted try. To Wanderers went the final word. Mirams again broke from deep, Marshall received at the breakdown near Wanderers' ten-metre line and was near the

opposition line when challenged. Downer's chip kept the move alive and Marshall doubled around to pass to White who handed on to Downer to touch down and then convert his own try for a 37-12 final score.

Head Coach, Elliot Blackmore is quietly satisfied with his team's performance and praised the debut of Tom O'Callaghan who will now go to University in Cardiff after an excellent

first game in senior rugby. A player who is at the other end of the experience scale is back-row forward Brett Scott. Playing at number eight today he showed that he is fully recovered from the injury sustained in a pre-season fixture and displayed all his many skills and will to win today to be chosen as the Thanet Coaches' 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	3	3	0	0	128	45	.83.	3	0	15	
SIDCUP 2NDS	3	3	0	0	163	39	124	2	0	14	
THANET WANDERERS	3	3	0	0	78	44	34	2	0	14	
AYLESFORD BULLS	3	2	0	1	103	73	30	3	1	12	
GILLINGHAM ANCHORIANS	3	2	0	1	58	27	31	1	1	10	
FOLKESTONE	3	1	0	2	85	100	-15	2	1	7	
OLD ALLEYNANS 2NDS	3	1	0	2	77	104	-27	2	1	7	
DARTFORD VALLEY	3	1	0	2	67	82	-15	2	0	6	
MEDWAY 2NDS	3	1	0	2	50	89	-39	1	0	5	
MAIDSTONE	3	1	0	2	52	134	-82	1	0	5	
VIGO	3	0	0	3	58	90	-32	1	2	3	
WESTCOMBE PARK 2NDS	3	0	0	3	53	145	-92	1	0	1	

KENT COUNTIES LEAGUE 2 RESULTS

Saturday 21st September 2024

Aylesford Bulls 43-28 Folkestone

Old Alleynians 2nds 0-35 Old Elthamians

Dartford Valley 31-7 Vigo

Sidcup 2nds 63-6 Westcombe Park 2nds

Medway 2nds 10-27 Gillingham Anchorians

THANET WANDERERS 31-12 Maidstone

MATCH REPORT

ASHFORD LADIES V THANET LADIES

Thanet Ladies second game of the season started with a kick-off from their flyhalf Alex White which landed beautifully in Ashford's twenty two. Emily Williams, returning to the side after a head injury, picked up from a ruck following a strong chase from the ladies and this led to a turn-over with Ashford now on the back foot. Hollie O'Collaghan played her role well, drawing in the defenders to give a quick off-load to Rachel Austerberry who was then able to do what she does best; break through the defensive line, pass several players on route and score a try in the corner.

History tells us that an early try for Thanet Ladies usually leads to a win for them. Ashford, having played Thanet twice the previous season, must have been aware of this and ramped up their defence; a forward-heavy game-play meaning Thanet struggled to make any breaks, but Lia Armstrong and Katerina Stuart held their ground on the wings, seeking and creating opportunities that enabled Chloe Sidd to score a try which was converted by Wanderers kicking pro Alex White.

Knock-ons from both sides saw the first half dominated by scrums, but the forwards, led by Holly Thurman-Newell and Georgia Elks, held their own. Both of these players put in strong-carries, which is typical of their play. Neave Evans and Brioni Reah, debuting as flankers, put in ankle-grabbing tackles and strong

ruck-support, making it difficult for Ashford's backs. However, an opportunity presented itself that saw Ashford ladies make a break, narrowly avoiding Thanet's full-back's attempt to cover and a try resulted making the score 12-5. Following a defensive scrum in Ashford's 5 yard area, skipper Gee Cordell put pressure on Ashford's number 8, which led to Thanet gaining possession and White was able to score her first try of the season.

The physicality of the game continued to put pressure on both teams, but an ambitious chip and kick from Chloe Sidd led to a two on one battle on the try line, with Chloe coming out on top and scoring her second try. With another conversion from White, (naturally) the final score was 24-5 to Thanet Ladies. We thank Ashford for their sportsmanship and hospitality, and look forward to their hosting of our re-match next week for the first round of the Papa Johns Cup on the 29th September. Last year saw Wanderers place 8th in this national competition, but this season we're setting our sights a little higher.

We always welcome ladies with any level of experience of rugby to attend our Tuesday evening training sessions at Thanet Wanderers between 6:30 – 8:00pm

KEIRA GALLUP



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	2	2	0	0	84	5	79	0	0	10	
ASHFORD LADIES	2	1	0	1	56	43	13	0	0	7	
AYLESFORD BULLS LADIES	1	1	0	0	43	0	43	0	0	5	
LORDSWOOD VALKYRIES LADIES	1	1	0	0	33	5	28	0	0	5	
BECCEHAMIAN LADIES	2	0	0	2	0	103	-103	0	0	4	
BECKENHAM LADIES	1	0	0	1	5	33	-28	0	0	2	
GRAVESEND LADIES	1	0	0	1	19	51	-32	0	0	2	

WOMEN'S NC2 SOUTH EAST (EAST) LEAGUE RESULTS

Sunday 22nd September 2024

Ashford Ladies 5-24 THANET WANDERERS Ladies

Beccehamian Ladies 0-43 Aylesford Bulls Ladies

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THE MIZEN FOUNDATION: INSPIRING FORGIVENESS, PEACE AND HOPE

The Mizen Foundation was established in 2008 after the tragic and unprovoked murder of 16-year-old Jimmy Mizen in Southeast London. Despite the heartbreak and devastation, they faced, Jimmy's parents, Barry and Margaret Mizen, were determined to ensure that something positive would come from their son's death. They vowed to honour Jimmy's memory by spreading messages of forgiveness, peace and hope, with the mission of preventing violence and creating safer communities for all.

Our Mission

At the heart of The Mizen Foundation is the belief that positive change starts from within our communities. We aim to inspire young people across the UK to become agents of change, encouraging them to build peaceful, inclusive environments where everyone feels valued and respected. By sharing Jimmy's story, we hope to promote forgiveness, peace and hope, ultimately breaking the cycle of anger and violence that affects so many lives.

What They Do

1. Talks for Change: Barry and Margaret Mizen travel to schools, youth groups, prisons, churches, and workplaces, sharing Jimmy's story to engage with young people and adults. These powerful talks focus on issues such as the consequences of anger, the impact of violence, and the importance of forgiveness and personal responsibility. By using Jimmy's life as an example, they inspire others to reflect on their actions and make positive choices.
2. Walking for Jimmy: This annual fundraising event was started in 2013 on what would have been Jimmy's 21st birthday. The walk covers 24 miles across 21 of London's bridges, symbolising the journey of resilience and unity. It has grown each year, bringing together people from all walks of life to celebrate Jimmy's legacy and raise funds for the foundation's work in promoting peace and community engagement.

3. Rugby for Change: As a tribute to Jimmy's love for rugby, this program uses sport as a platform to engage young people and teach them valuable life skills. Through the values of teamwork, discipline, and respect that rugby fosters, participants learn about leadership, personal responsibility, and the importance of making positive choices.
4. The Sparkle Award: The Mizen Foundation recognises young people who exhibit qualities that Jimmy himself demonstrated, such as kindness, compassion, and a willingness to help others. This award, presented in schools, celebrates those who make a positive impact in their communities, encouraging more young people to follow in Jimmy's footsteps.

Impact

Over the years, The Mizen Foundation has reached tens of thousands of people across the UK. By sharing Jimmy's story and the values he embodied, they have inspired countless individuals to take a stand against violence and build stronger, more compassionate communities. Through their talks, workshops, and community events, they encourage young people to take responsibility for their actions, understand the consequences of anger, and become advocates for forgiveness, peace and hope. www.mizenfoundation.org



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3 MICHAEL WHITEHEAD

Postition sponsored by: Ernie Blakemore

4 LENNY BROWN

Postition sponsored by: Mark O'Riordan

5 DENNIS DAVIES

Postition sponsored by: Dave Brown

6 JAMES CROMPTON

Postition sponsored by: Michelle McClean

7 SAM TAYLOR

Postition sponsored by: Chris Marson

8 BRETT SCOTT

Postition sponsored by: Terry Tutte

9 LEON DOODY

Postition sponsored by: Jeremy Ward

Head Coach

ELLIOT BLACKMORE

Postition sponsored by: Colin Whiteley

Assistant Coach

KIERAN HOPPER

Postition sponsored by:

Team Manager

MICHELLE MCLEAN

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10 ADAM HARRISON

Postition sponsored by: Ray Roby/Peter Tierney

11 CHARLIE STANTON

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12 LEWIS DOWNER

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13 CAMERON BECK

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14 LOUIS MARSHALL

Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover

15 HENRY MIRAMS

Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond

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16 LUKE BROWNING

17 FINLAY HICKMOTT

18 HARRISON QUITTENDEN

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ALAN WHITTINGHAM

Touch Judge

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SIDCUP RFC

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2 JOSH BURTON

3 MURAT YESILGOZ

4 LIAM RANKIN

5 DAN WAKEFIELD

6 TOM EPPS

7 JOE MARRON

8 ALEX TOMKINS

9 AIDAN COULDRIDGE

10 TOM SHEA

11 LUCA KEMBLE-SMITH

12 ALEX URE

14 GEORGE BIRD

15 CHARLIE POOLEY

16 TIM HANRAHAN

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THANET WANDERERS RUFC LTD CONTACTS

PRESIDENT

Clive Lewis
os.lewis@virgin.net
07753-441512

CHAIRMAN

Chris Panteli
chris.panteli@thanetwanderers.co.uk
07368-136839

SECRETARY

Peter Hawkins
peter.hawkins@thanetwanderers.co.uk
07967-086232

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Kelly Smith
kelly.smith@thanetwanderers.co.uk
07368-969558

CLUB DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Andy Bull
andy.bull@thanetwanderers.co.uk
07710-456225

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Vicky Flower
vicky.flower@thanetwanderers.co.uk
07751-821651

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY (juniors)

Tony Boyce
tony.boyce@theclancygroup.co.uk
07711-348396

HEAD OF FACILITIES

Gerry Doyle
gerry.doyle@thanetwanderers.co.uk
07943-500197

HEAD OF SPONSORSHIP

Peter Ruranski
peter.ruranski@thanetwanderers.co.uk
07740-274163

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Annemarie Carfoot
annemarie.carfoot@thanetwanderers.co.uk
07968-541302

FIXTURE SECRETARY

Peter Hawkins
peter.hawkins@thanetwanderers.co.uk
07967-086232

MEN'S HEAD COACH

Elliot Blackmore
elliotblackmore@gmail.com
07909-965585

WOMEN'S HEAD COACH

Ian Lodge
ian.lodge@broadbiz.uk
07890-426685

1ST TEAM MANAGER (MEN)

Michelle McClean
michellefmclean@yahoo.co.uk
07890-663168

MATCH REPORT

WANSTEAD COLTS 14 – 19 THANET WANDERERS COLTS

Thanet Wanderers Colts faced a long journey to North London for their clash with Wanstead, marking the first time I believe, any Thanet team had visited the club. Wanstead offered a warm welcome, showcasing very impressive facilities and a lush, rain-soaked pitch; perfect conditions for a gritty rugby contest.

The game unfolded over four tightly contested quarters. The first two quarters saw both teams battling hard, with nothing to separate them. Despite solid play, neither side could find the breakthrough and the half-time score remained 0-0. Both teams making minor errors but also defending resolutely, keeping the game finely balanced.

In the second half, Wanstead came out with renewed purpose. A missed tackle from Thanet opened the door for Wanstead's talented fly-half to score the first converted try, giving them a 7-0 lead. Moments later, another lapse in Thanet's defense allowed Wanstead to exploit space inside, doubling their advantage with a second converted try to make it 14-0. Thanet's heads had dropped, and it seemed like Wanstead might run away with the game.

However, the game turned dramatically on a key moment. Jem stripping the ball from Wanstead's winger after an attack in Thanet's half. Turing into space, he stepped inside the covering defense and embarked on an exhilarating foot race to the line. Despite a last-ditch tackle attempt from Wanstead's winger, he powered through to score under the posts. The conversion was good, bringing the score to 14-7 and revitalizing Thanet's belief in themselves.

With momentum on their side, Thanet pressed forward. Fin G really growing in his hooker role, delivered a spectacular solo effort, breaking through Wanstead's defensive line with a powerful run to touch down, narrowing the gap to only two points (14-12).

Thanet's scrum had been impressive, with the welcome return of Will Gedge in the scrum

with Finn T and a strong performance from Harrison making a significant difference. A crucial moment came when the Wanderers won a scrum against the head. Solid No. 8 Charlie B picked up from the base and powered over the line for a decisive try, giving Thanet a 19-14 lead following the conversion.

In the closing stages with eight minutes to go, Wanstead pushed hard to try to snatch victory. They had a try controversially disallowed for double movement after having dropped another scoring opportunity on the line previously in the half. Thanet's defense held firm, with outstanding last-ditch tackles preserving their slim advantage. Before Callum hoofed the ball into touch, on the final play of the game.

Despite a tense ending, this was a memorable and hard-fought win for Thanet Wanderers Colts. Showing true grit and determination to turn around a 14-0 deficit.

Special mention goes to the back five of Charlie P, Ellis, Owen, Hubert and Dillon, who's tackling was instrumental in securing the victory. The backs combination of Cai, Oli, Tom, James, Vinnie and Alex (playing out of position but still putting in a good shift on the wing). Good to see Finn W back to increase the number of Finns in the team to the max and to further bolster the squad.

Coaches' man of the Match went to Jem Harris for his try and tenacious last ditch try saving tackling.

1 Will Escombe-Gedge, 2 Finn Grounds, 3 Finn Twyman, 4 Owen Long, 5 Dillion Shelly, 6 Ellis Plumridge, 7 Charlie Page, 8 Charlie Bailey, 9 Cai Redmond, 10 Callum Duffy, 11 Alex Dyer, 12 Tom Gough, 13 James Murdoch, 14 Vinnie Jones, 15 Jem Harris

Finishers: 16 Hubert D, 17 Harrison Taylor, 18 Tom Weller, 19 Oli Davies, 20 Noah Bull, 21 Finn Wilmans

SIMON HARRIS



KENT RURAL A LEAGUE 2024-25

TEAM	P	W	D	L	P/F	P/A	P/D	T/B	L/B	PTS	ADJ
SNOWDOWN CW 1ST XV	2	2	0	0	92	39	53	0	0	8	
TUNBRIDGE WELLS 3RD XV	2	2	0	0	59	10	49	0	0	8	
AYLESFORD BULLS 2ND XV	2	2	0	0	76	46	30	0	0	8	
WEAVING WARRIORS	2	1	0	1	74	55	19	0	0	5	
EDENBRIDGE 1ST XV	2	1	0	1	33	32	1	0	0	5	
ASH	2	1	0	1	53	56	-3	0	0	5	
THANET WANDERERS 2ND XV	1	0	0	1	26	7	19	0	0	4	
MEDWAY 4TH XV	2	0	0	2	25	67	-42	0	0	2	
CRANBROOK 2ND XV	2	0	0	2	14	73	-59	0	0	2	
DOVER 2ND XV	1	0	0	1	24	34	-10	0	0	1	
FOLKESTONE 2ND XV	2	0	0	2	27	84	-57	0	0	1	
FOLKESTONE 2ND XV	1	0	0	1	0	40	-40	0	0	0	

KENT RURAL LEAGUE A FIXTURES

Saturday 21st September 2024

Cranbrook 2nd XV 7-47 Weaving Warriors

Dover 2nd XV 24-34 Ash

Edenbridge 10-19 Tunbridge Wells 3rd XV

Folkestone 2nd XV 27-44 Aylesford Bulls 2nd XV

Snowdown CW 44-12 Medway 4th 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
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Fixtures in BLOCK TYPE are KENT & EAST SUSSEX RURAL DIVISION A LEAGUE matches



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Pub Of The Year
Runner Up
2023

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	2	2	0	0	72	14	58	0	0	8	
THANET WANDERERS 3RD XV	2	2	0	0	85	43	42	0	0	8	
SITTINGBOURNE 2ND XV	2	1	0	1	57	53	4	0	0	5	
DOVER 3RD XV	1	1	0	0	40	0	40	0	0	4	
GRAVESEND 3RD XV	1	1	0	0	33	14	19	0	0	4	
CANTERBURY 4TH XV DEACONS	1	1	0	0	46	34	12	0	0	4	
VIGO 2ND XV	2	0	0	2	37	86	-49	0	0	2	
MAIDSTONE MUSTANGS 2ND XV	2	0	0	2	26	82	-56	0	0	2	
LEIGH (KENT)	1	0	0	1	34	46	-12	0	0	1	
DEAL & BETTESHANGER 2NDS	1	0	0	1	14	32	-18	0	0	1	
SHEPPEY 2ND XV	1	0	0	1	0	40	-40	0	0	1	

KENT RURAL B LEAGUE RESULTS

Saturday 21st September 2024

Leigh (Kent) 34-46 Canterbury 4th XV Deacons

Sheppey 2nd XV 0-40 Ashford Barbarians

THANET WANDERERS 3rd XV 42-26 Maidstone 2nd XV Mustangs

Vigo 2nd XV 20-43 Sittingbourne 2nd XV

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A LOOK BACK AT LAST SEASON

The mighty Thanet Wanderers Veterans won the Spitfire Gold County Shield on Sunday at Maidstone RFC, completing an impressive 33-7 win against Tunbridge Wells.

The Wanderers' first try came from the evergreen Stuart Plumridge who was on hand to crash over. Paul Moat also showed his strength bursting through to score on the left-hand side after slick passing. Not long after, a rampaging run from Chris Gregory, straight through the heart of the Tunbridge Wells defence, set up an attack. After the ensuing ruck, deft hands, particularly from Simon 'Engelbert' Harris, put Elliot Stokes into space down the right wing. Thanet's very own Flying Pig used all his years of experience to make the right-hand corner for a cracking try. Chris Gregory powered over after close-quarter drives from the Forwards, who provided a great platform for the backs to attack from. Chris Williamson, James Whowell and Andy Bourton all had their hands full in the front row and showed their grit under pressure. In particular, Chris Dengate's steadying presence solidified the scrum, which, like most of the shirts and waistbands on the pitch, looked under significant pressure. Chris Marson and Paul Dickinson's relentless tackling and turnovers provided repeated opportunities to turn defence into attack, with Tom Longdon's

probing kicks repeatedly putting the opponents on the back foot.

Tunbridge Wells were held up no less than four times over the Thanet try-line through outstanding teamwork and the Thanet Veterans' physicality. This took its toll on the opponents' morale, and Kev Etheridge and Tom Harvey repeatedly carried strongly into overtiring Wells' bodies.

Perhaps the game's best try came from Man of the Match, Tim Williams, who broke down the right-hand side from in his 22 and after outpacing all but one of the defenders, he passed inside before deft hands carried the ball to Jonty Stevens who scored under the posts.

William Wallace deservedly lifted the Spitfire Gold Shield to great applause. Peter Macaulay, the duty manager for the old folks day out said: "It was a harder win than the score suggests and I'm very proud of their commitment and how they came together to make another great Wanderers day!"

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COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

8th of September 2024

There was much to entertain and inform at this year's Community Day on the 8th of September at Thanet Wanderers. A small army of volunteers helped the many visitors learn more about the club and find information about many of the other parts of the Thanet Community.

On the small field, there were two bouncy castles and the Coaches of the youngest teams, Mario and Caroline, were getting a soaking from their young charges as they slipped and slid before doing battle with wet sponges. Older youngsters were demonstrating their prowess at touch rugby and everyone was having a good time. The First XV pitch was ringed by a wide variety of stalls and public service vehicles.

A circuit of the pitch started for me at the Clubhouse where, under the balcony, there were stalls for Wanderers' very own SEND project and "Tasty Planters" part of Broadstairs Town Team, where three jolly ladies were offering free seeds and explaining how to grow them. Club Chairman Chris Panteli, was at the Broadstairs Town Council stand in conversation with the Deputy Mayor of Broadstairs, Councillor Joanne Bright, and Town Councillor Alan Munns. Kent Fire Service Tender was on standby for a call but thankfully none came and crew members had an attentive audience. My granddaughter enjoyed a visit to a stall laden with sweets which was next door to the Gap Project stand. This local initiative is based at the Baptist Church and does so much within the community, particularly to help the homeless. MKR recovery service had an impressive display of their vehicles and explained their services. They were next door to the Cow Shed Bar and Grill proprietors from Birchington who offered a welcome (and very tasty) sample of their wares. Wanderers' very own Life Guard, Tom Walton, was in charge of the Coastguard display. The Bike Shed stand was on hand with safety tips or to explain where to buy their products in Westbrook.

Watkins Plumbing, have just renewed their sponsorship of Wanderers' Junior Section for

a two-year term and their director of Group Services, Marc Harris, was manning their stall where he was offering a free water bottle to junior members of the Wanderers. Thanet Wanderers club shop was doing a brisk business selling items from the new range of merchandise from Akuma. The Hive Project is based at Forelands Fields School in Ramsgate and at their stand one learned of the project which aims to provide a lifelong hub for those with special educational needs. Rainbow Sand Art Parties had more goodies for sale and gave details of something different for those children's parties. There was a large selection of necklaces and earrings available next door and adjoining was a stall with some Go Energy melts that looked delicious. The Cake stall was very busy with a tempting array of their wares and the youngsters could work off the extra calories with a finishing session on two more bouncy castles.

Meanwhile, in the centre of the main pitch, youngsters had been introduced to the joys of Tug of War which was always a staple of Rugby Open Days. Inter-section contests had been enthusiastically contested with Michael Whitehead expertly commenting and Ian Lodge with help from a contingent of volunteers was valiantly battling to establish order in the men versus ladies games. All looked to be more good fun and then I repaired to a very busy clubhouse for refreshment.

Thanks to St Peter's School for the use of their car park and to the legion of volunteers who helped make the day go smoothly. It was great to see the members of our local town council present and thanks also to Mark Harris from Watkins for joining us. Thanks too to the members of our public services, it was great to see you. The staff in the clubhouse worked hard to keep everyone fed and watered, thank you. Finally thank you to Wanderers' Director for Community Affairs, Vicky Flower and the Development Director, Andy Bull, for their organisation of this enjoyable and successful morning.



RESULTS GRID COUNTIES 2 KENT LEAGUE

AWAY TEAM ▶	AYLESFORD BULLS	DARTFORD VALLEY	FOLKESTONE	GILLINGHAM ANCHORS	MAIDSTONE	MEDWAY 2s	OLD ALLEYNIA NS 2s	OLD ELTHAMIA NS	SIDCUP 2s	TWRUFC	VIGO	WESTCOMBE PARK 2s
HOME TEAM ▼												
AYLESFORD BULLS			43-28									
DARTFORD VALLEY								31-50			31-7	
FOLKESTONE							38-31					
GILLINGHAM ANCHORS		25-5										
MAIDSTONE									10-72		30-25	
MEDWAY 2s			26-19	10-27								
OLD ALLEYNIA NS 2s								0-35				46-31
OLD ELTHAMIA NS						43-14						
SIDCUP 2s	28-24											63-6
TWRUFC				12-6	37-12							
VIGO									26-29			
WESTCOMBE PARK 2s												

KENT COUNTIES LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

Saturday 28th September 2024

Folkestone v Westcombe Park 2nds

Old Elthamians v Aylesford Bulls

Gillingham Anchorians v Old Alleynians 2nds

THANET WANDERERS v Sidcup 2nds

Maidstone v Dartford Valley

Vigo v Medway 2nds



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