

TWRUFC v WESTCOMBE PARK RFC 2ND XV



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Thanet RFC
Wanderers



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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Senior rugby book ended last weekend with the Vets performing under floodlights on the Friday night and the Ladies finishing off the weekend on Sunday afternoon and what a winning weekend for Thanet's senior sides.

The Vets beat Sittingbourne 26-19 in a thrilling match that was played in the true spirit of rugby, with both teams having "festival" support, it was a hard, fast and entertaining game. This was a semi-final which sees Wanderers into the final of the Spitfire Gold Plate competition to be held on Sunday 13th April at Maidstone against Park House or Beckenham.

The 2nd XV beat Bromley 2's, 24-21, in the Kent Shield in what again was a closely contested match between two very good sides who provided some excellent entertainment for the spectators. Thank you to referee Richard Ebanks for his quality performance and congratulations to Ben Turner, Thanet's number eight who was voted to be Wanderers' player of the match by the opposition players.

The 3rd XV defeated Leigh RUFC 39-17 in what was again an entertaining match and congratulations to the team on a good win and great respect to those Vets who played on Friday evening and in this fixture. Two wins in 24 hours, and some surprise guest appearances of forwards playing in the No 10 and No 12 shirt!

The Ladies finished off the winning run with a defeat over Gravesend 102-0

A patient build-up of 30 phases culminated in Lia Armstrong crossing the line for the opening try. Yes, that was 30 phases. This was a phenomenal display from Thanet Wanderers Ladies, sticking to their game plan and playing a blinder. Their clinical finishing, teamwork, and relentless attacking play ensured a remarkable away victory.

Today we welcome Westcombe Park 2nd XV to St Peter's for this Counties 2 Kent (London & SE Division) game. Our away fixture back in November gave Thanet Wanderers a 14-35 win and a bonus point.

Despite our recent run of losses in 2025, Thanet still remain in 2nd position in the League, with Westcombe Park mid table in 7th position with 9 wins from 18 matches. With both Teams having lost their last 2 fixtures, both teams will be keen to reverse their recent misfortunes.

I would like to extend a happy 70th Birthday to Ron Connell (24th Feb). Ron has been a true stalwart of the Club as a player and a coach, playing first team for many seasons then coaching Junior sides and then the 1st Team as Mike Ponds assistant. He was a keen Tourist (Le Touquet, The Channel Islands, Benidorm, Majorca, & the Isle of Wight), all places that Thanet Wanderers cannot return to! After having his passport defaced with eyebrows and a moustache drawn on by a fellow tourist, Rons answer was to do the same to his own face with French Boarder Control happy to let him through.

Happy Birthday to Ron the Dog, never grow up.

Good luck to all sides playing this weekend and we extend a warm welcome to all of today's officials without your valuable input none of us would be able to play or watch.

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

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FROM THE HEAD COACH

This week we welcome Westcombe Park 2XV to our club. Our last fixture against them was a great game. Playing away is always a challenge for us, but the boys performed well and we won 35-14.

Our last performance against Aylesford Bulls was disappointing, but we have reflected and are working hard to put right some of the points raised into practice. Our week on week off of fixtures is taking its toll and with this in mind our players are making sure they keep their game time ticking over by playing in our 2XV and 3XV.

Last week's 2XV fixture against Bromley was a great reflection of how we are progressing as a club and a team.

Today is going to be a real test of character for us. We want to bounce back after 3 losses on the bounce. We need to keep pushing for second place. Please help the boys today by being our 16th man on the balcony. Celebrate it all; every try, every scrum, every tackle. Your support will always help us.

ELLIOT BLACKMORE
Head Coach



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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
26	OLD ALLEYNIA NS 2NDS	AWAY

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 ALLEYNIA NS	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

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We all wish Thanet Wanderers a great season and look forwards to a long and successful future.

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	18	17	0	1	690	180	.510.	16	1	85	
THANET WANDERERS	18	12	1	5	359	297	62	8	2	61	
OLD ALLENYIANS 2ND XV	18	11	0	7	550	466	84	12	4	60	
GILLINGHAM ANCHORIANS	18	11	0	7	498	336	162	10	3	57	
SIDCUP 2ND XV	18	11	0	7	461	411	50	8	1	53	
FOLKESTONE	18	10	0	8	451	397	54	9	2	51	
WESTCOMBE PARK 2ND XV	18	9	0	9	485	448	37	10	1	47	
MEDWAY 2ND XV	18	9	0	9	386	456	-70	8	2	46	
AYLESFORD BULLS	18	8	0	10	478	403	75	7	6	45	
MAIDSTONE	18	5	0	13	306	574	-258	5	2	27	
VIGO	18	3	0	15	282	580	-298	5	3	20	
DARTFORD VALLEY	18	1	1	16	259	657	-398	6	2	9	-5

KENT COUNTIES LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

Saturday 1st March

Dartford Valley v Aylesford Bulls

Medway 2nd XV v Old Alleynians 2nd XV

Gillingham Anchorians v Sidcup 2nd XV

THANET WANDERERS v Westcombe Park 2nd XV

Maidstone v Folkestone

Vigo v Old Elthamians

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MATCH REPORT

AYLESFORD RFC 31 – 7 THANET WANDERERS RUFC

Wanderers' downturn continues at Aylesford.

Danny Clement returned to the Thanet front row, replacing Noah Dann, who was unavailable. Charlie Bailey started at eight in place of Ben Cannon, who widened his rugby experience at inside centre. Leon Doody was in for his brother Callum who was imminently due to become a father, at scrum-half. Second Team captain, Tom Stevens again answered the call up and was on one wing and it was good to see Harrison Quittenden back on the other. Aylesford started the match in ninth place and remained there despite today's win and Wanderers cling on to second place by one point with Old Alleynians 2s hot on their heels.

It was a chilly and grey afternoon but there was no warm welcome for the Wanderers travelling faithful who, with other non-lunchers, were excluded from the clubhouse prior to the match.

Wanderers kicked off and there was good handling from both sides in the opening minutes. Quittenden's tackle stopped one Bulls' attack near the line but after ten minutes the hosts were playing with a penalty advantage near Thanet's 22. A speculative chip through was not dealt with and Wanderers paid the price, 5-0 to the hosts as the conversion was dragged left. Lenny Brown joined from the bench due to Clement's blood injury and the Bulls were called back for a forward pass as they touched down. However, their second try was not long coming and again a well-judged chip was gathered for a touchdown wide right. An excellent conversion from near the touchline followed to make it 12-0 after 22 minutes. A good tackle from Andrew Dolan halted a promising attack for the Bulls. Doody made a sharp break before being swallowed up and Thanet were looking promising. An attack broke down and a lone Bull was sharp to make a turnover and aim for Wanderers try line from his own 22. He was almost there but Cannon tracked back at speed to make a try saving

tackle and ensure there was no change in the score at halftime two minutes later.

Words from the Coaches had the desired result and there was a clear improvement from Thanet at the beginning of the second period. Finley Hickmott was soon joined by Lenny Brown and Mike Whitehead as the bench was emptied. A series of attacks on our left with Andy Letts prominent promised much but were halted by good home defence before with eight minutes of the half the team recovered well from a poor line-out. An excellent break by James Crompton took him almost to the line before being brought down and a long pass then took defenders out and gave Hickmott a clear run to touch down. Quittenden made a fine conversion from near touch and Wanderers were back in the game at 12-7. They continued to press and were attacking in midfield near the opposition's 22 when Aylesford intercepted and were off to the line. Quittenden closed before the line was reached but a lobbed pass brought a try under the posts and seven points to regain a twelve-point lead. There was a good battle for the next important score before it went to the home side. Wanderers were again undone by a chip through with a neat pick-up and a touch down under the posts. 26-7 and a try bonus point for the Bulls. A fifth try came five minutes later after a Bull stepped inside a couple of tackles to score a fifth try that was not converted. Around ten minutes remained and Thanet returned to the attack. A potential try was deemed to have been held up and they could find no way through during a prolonged attack on Aylesford's right flank. The hosts were happy to find touch and end proceedings at the end of a satisfying and deserved win for them. Wanderers will be disappointed not to have played to their full potential and to leave pointless.

One Wanderer who did play to his usual high standards was back-row forward, James Crompton who will depart shortly for a holiday in Australia. James has played in all of the first-

team games this season bar one when absent due to injury. He graduated in economics with a first-class honours degree from Loughborough University last year and will commence a

career with one of the leading banks on his return from travelling.

COLIN WHITELEY



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
AYLESFORD BULLS LADIES	9	9	0	0	518	33	485	0	0	45	
THANET WANDERERS WOMEN	10	9	0	1	474	78	396	0	0	45	
ASHFORD LADIES	9	4	0	5	159	234	-75	0	0	30	
LORDSWOOD VALKYRIES LADIES	10	3	1	6	116	323	-207	0	0	29	
BECCEHAMIAN LADIES	9	3	0	6	132	264	-132	0	0	26	
BECKENHAM LADIES 2ND XV	8	2	0	6	116	231	-115	0	0	21	
GRAVESEND LADIES	8	1	1	6	147	499	-352	0	0	21	

WOMEN'S NC2 SOUTH EAST (EAST) LEAGUE RESULTS

Sunday 9th February 2025

Aylesford Bulls Ladies 76-0 Lordswood Valkyries Ladies

Beccehamian Ladies 22-17 Ashford Ladies

THANET WANDERERS Women 35-5 Beckenham Ladies 2nd XV

Sunday 16th February 2025

THANET WANDERERS Women 22-10 Ashford Ladies

Sunday 23rd February 2025

Beckenham Ladies 2nd XV P-P Aylesford Bulls Ladies

Gravesend Ladies 0-102 THANET WANDERERS Women

Lordswood Valkyries Ladies 10-5

Beccehamian Ladies

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MATCH REPORT

Gravesend Ladies vs Thanet Wanderers Ladies Women's NC 2 South East (East) – 23rd February

Hat-Tricks of Hat-Tricks as Thanet Dominate at Gravesend

Thanet Wanderers Ladies travelled to Gravesend for their latest league fixture, facing windy weather conditions on an uneven pitch that made for an interesting challenge. However, the visitors adapted quickly, displaying outstanding teamwork and attacking flair to secure a commanding victory.

From the outset, Thanet asserted control. Receiving the kick-off, the forwards worked the ball through quick hands to Chloe Siddall, who found a gap in the defence. Good link-up play between Georgia Elks and Hollie Callaghan saw the team gain ground, before a patient build-up of 30 phases culminated in Lia Armstrong crossing the line for the opening try. Despite the missed conversion, Thanet set the tone for the match.

Thanet's dominance continued, with Georgia Elks making a strong run before Alexandra White finished off a well-worked move in the corner. Again, the conversion was missed, but the momentum was fully with Thanet. The team showcased excellent handling and intelligent play, with Neave Evans weaving through tackles to score the third try, followed by another from Rachael Austerberry after relentless attacking phases. Alexandra White slotted the conversion, giving Thanet a strong lead.

The visitors were relentless, adding further tries from Lia Armstrong and Neave Evans before halftime. Great support play and quick recycling of possession saw Tabs Raymonde add another, rounding off a dominant first half with Thanet leading 46-0.

Second Half: Thanet Continue the Onslaught

With the slope advantage slightly shifting in the second half, Thanet showed no signs of slowing down. Alexandra White opened the half with a well-taken try under the posts, converting her

own effort. Rachael Austerberry continued her try-scoring form, crossing twice more, with White maintaining her kicking accuracy.

Thanet's captain, Gee Cordell, delivered a spectacular solo effort, running from halfway, shrugging off tackles to score under the posts, with White adding the extras. The floodgates were well and truly open as Neave Evans completed her hat-trick with a barnstorming run, and Cordell followed suit with another impressive solo score. White remained clinical with the boot, converting both.

Izzy Lodge then added her name to the scoreboard, showcasing brilliant footwork to score near the posts. Holly Thurman-Newell rounded off the performance with a final try, converted by White, before the match was called early at 70 minutes, with Thanet sealing a 102-0 victory.

Player Awards:

Forward of the Match: Neave Evans – A powerhouse performance, scoring a hat-trick and breaking tackles all game.

Back of the Match: Kat Stuart – Controlled the game brilliantly, keeping Thanet organised and executing the game plan to perfection.

A phenomenal display from Thanet Wanderers Ladies, sticking to their game plan and playing a blinder. Their clinical finishing, teamwork, and relentless attacking play ensured a remarkable away victory.

Next up, Thanet will look to carry this momentum into their next fixture as they continue their strong league campaign.

Final Score: Gravesend Ladies 0 – 102 Thanet Wanderers Ladies

Starting XV – Emily Williams, Hollie Callaghan, Holly Thurman-Newell, Vicky Flower, Rebecca Hewitt, Neave Evans, Gee Cordell (Captain), Georgia Elks, Kat Stuart, Alexandra White, Lia Armstrong, Izzy Lodge, Rachael Austerberry, Amy Fowler, Chloe Siddall. Finishers – Tabs Raymonde, Carley Powderham, Brioni Reah

CLAIRE TURNER



PHOTOS BY: ANNEMARIE CARFOOT



TO HIRE THE CLUBHOUSE

CONTACT

KELLY SMITH

07881 956997

OR

GERRY DOYLE

07943 500197

MATCH REPORT

GRAVESEND COLTS 7-5 THANET COLTS

A chilly wet winter day saw Thanet Colts travel to Gravesend, playing on the first-team pitch, which offered a flat and decent surface in front of a good home crowd. Thanet were looking to bounce back, after a disappointing result last week. The match however started tentatively for Thanet, with Gravesend showing strong rucking and jacking skills frustrating the Thanet attack. Unfortunately, Thanet's penalty count again quickly spiralled like last week, with too many mistakes and a lack of communication between players. Their discipline was letting them down, as they repeatedly conceded penalties, failing to give the required 10-meter distance, which gave Gravesend an upper hand, without them having to play any better rugby.

Things took a turn for the worse when Will Gedge was yellow carded for accumulating too many penalties, leaving Thanet down to 14 men. Despite this, Thanet's backs began to show some good cohesion, with some nice passes beginning to develop promising moves. However, their discipline continued to be an issue, with more silly penalties allowing Gravesend to regain momentum. Soft tackling on a tap penalty led to a try for Gravesend under the posts (7-0).

The try seemed to spark Thanet into action, as players like Harrison Taylor, Carl Gordan-

Durrant, and the Finleys began carrying the ball well. Ollie Davies, who had been solid in defence, made a lovely pass to James Murdock, who controlled the game well from fly-half. A smooth pass from Murdock, through Tom Gough on the loop put Jem Harris free, cutting through the middle in a try reminiscent of the Daley England try from the day before. Unfortunately, the conversion was missed (7-5).

The Thanet supporters expected this would open the flood gates but this was the final score of the match. Although Thanet showed some good moves and gained ground, they couldn't capitalize on their chances to score more points. There were missed opportunities that, in hindsight, could have turned the game around. The result was a frustrating one for Thanet, who should/could have secured a win in this friendly game away. Noah Bull sustained a broken nose and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Man of the Match was Zac Oliver Hendy, who stood out with an exceptional tackle count and powerful driving runs through the centre. His efforts were crucial in keeping Thanet competitive throughout the match.

SIMON HARRIS



THANET WANDERERS

HOME TEAM COLOURS: blue, black and gold hoops

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ALEX SADDINGTON

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Team Manager

MICHELLE MCLEAN

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10 NICK HERBERT

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Postition sponsored by: Andy Bull

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Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover

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Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond

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11 TOM GAMBLE

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15 BEN HANNAH

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Director of Rugby

NOT SUPPLIED

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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	17	13	3	1	552	206	346	0	0	62	
EDENBRIDGE	17	12	1	4	455	201	254	0	2	57	
THANET WANDERERS 2ND XV	16	11	0	5	436	294	142	0	2	51	
TUNBRIDGE WELLS 3RD XV	15	9	1	5	358	240	118	0	3	47	
DOVER 2ND XV	15	8	1	6	395	299	96	0	1	42	
AYLESFORD BULLS 2ND XV	16	6	1	9	332	452	-120	0	2	37	
WEAVING WARRIORS	16	5	3	8	329	398	-69	0	1	34	
ASH	15	4	1	10	235	374	-139	0	2	31	
MEDWAY 4TH XV	14	4	1	9	341	462	-121	0	0	28	
CRANBROOK 2ND XV	14	4	0	10	168	345	-177	0	1	25	
FOLKESTONE 2ND XV	17	4	0	13	236	566	-330	0	0	24	

KENT RURAL A LEAGUE RESULTS

Saturday 1st February 2025

Dover 2nd XV 17-27 Edenbridge

Folkestone 2nd XV 5-45 Snowdown CW

Medway 4th XV 29-58 Weaving Warriors

Tunbridge Wells 3rd XV 12-13 THANET WANDERERS 2nd XV

Saturday 8th February 2025

Dover 2nd XV 17-52 Folkestone 2nd XV

Snowdown CW 40-0 Tunbridge Wells 3rd XV

Weaving Warriors 22-33 THANET WANDERERS 2nd XV

Saturday 15th February 2025

Aylesford Bulls 2nd XV 31-24 THANET WANDERERS 2nd XV

Cranbrook 2nd XV AWO Folkestone 2nd XV

Medway 4th XV 26-38 Dover 2nd XV

Snowdown CW 22-10 Edenbridge

Weaving Warriors 0-0 Tunbridge Wells 3rd XV

Saturday 22nd February 2025

Aylesford Bulls 2ND XV 22-22 Snowdown CW

Medway 4th XV 45-5 Ash

Tunbridge Wells 3rd XV v Cranbrook 2nd XV

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MATCH REPORT

THANET WANDERERS WOMEN 47-0 CANVEY ISLAND LADIES

Dominant performance sees Wanderers secure emphatic victory

Thanet Wanderers 2XV travelled to Medway expecting an Inner Warrior League triangular fixture with the hosts and Canvey Valkyries. However, with Medway only able to field six players, these were split between Thanet and Canvey, turning the game into a 13-a-side fixture played across three 20-minute thirds.

First Third

Thanet kicked off, and Canvey launched an early attack, but solid defensive work and a strong scrum win quickly shifted momentum. A brilliant break from Lia saw her score under the posts, though the conversion struck the bar.

Minutes later, Thanet's communication and width were effective, with Rebecca breaking through seven tackles before being brought down. Lia made good ground, supported by strong scrums and well-executed lineouts, with Sian carrying powerfully into contact. Thanet's dominance continued as Tabitha dipped and weaved through four defenders, scoring under the posts.

The defensive work remained strong, with solid tackles and well-organised scrums helping Thanet to regain possession. Quick hands from the backs created space out wide, allowing Thaseem—formerly of Thanet—to finish a flowing attack on the wing, with Tabitha adding the conversion.

Thanet finished the first period 22-0 ahead, showing a strong balance of attack and defence.

Second Third

After a quick break Thanet took to the field with renewed energy. With fresh legs coming on, the team looked to maintain their dominance. Canvey kicked off the second third, but a knock-on led to a scrum. Thanet's pack put in a strong drive, contesting well, but the ball came out quickly for Canvey. A powerful hit from Tabitha halted their momentum, and moments later, Lia put in a key tackle to force a knock-on, handing possession back to Thanet.

From the scrum, Thanet secured clean ball and moved it quickly through the hands. A well-placed kick from Tabitha sent the ball deep into Canvey's territory, bouncing perfectly for Lia, who timed her run superbly to sprint through the defence and ground the ball under the posts.

The restart was scrappy, but Thanet reacted quickly, regaining possession through strong work at the breakdown. The forwards provided a solid platform, with Helen making key tackles and carrying powerfully, consistently driving the team forward. Thanet's dominance in the scrum and at the rucks allowed the backs to keep the momentum going, and Lia capitalised again, breaking through the defensive line to touch down for her second try of the third.

With Thanet in full control, the forwards kept up their relentless work, contesting every breakdown and forcing turnovers. Vicky powered over in the corner after a well-structured attacking phase, rewarding the pack's efforts. Thanet continued to pile on the pressure, and with the defence stretched, Tabitha spotted a gap, darting through to claim her third try of the game. As the whistle blew for the final third, Thanet held a commanding 42-0 lead, with both the forwards and backs combining brilliantly to keep the team on the front foot.

Final Third

With further changes made, Thanet maintained their dominance, showing no signs of slowing down. The forwards continued to work tirelessly, securing possession and keeping the pressure on Canvey. Helen put in a relentless shift, consistently getting onto the ball, making powerful carries, and putting in crucial tackles to disrupt Canvey's attack. The defensive line held strong, with well-timed tackles and aggressive counter-rucking preventing the opposition from gaining any real ground.

Rebecca, who had been a standout throughout the game, was constantly in the right place

at the right time, working across the pitch and driving play forward. After a period of sustained pressure and quick recycling from the breakdown, Thanet were awarded a penalty. A quick tap-and-go saw the ball passed to Rebecca, who powered through the defensive line to score Thanet's final try, sealing a dominant performance.

Canvey fought to respond, but Thanet's defensive structure remained solid, forcing handling errors and turnovers. The backs worked well to clear danger, with quick hands and intelligent kicking keeping Canvey pinned in their own half. As the final whistle blew, Thanet celebrated a 47-0 victory—an emphatic display of teamwork, determination, and attacking flair.

Post-Match Reactions

Captain Vicky and the coaches praised the team's work ethic, confidence, and attacking play. The referee called it "the most impressive display of running rugby" he had seen.

- Forward of the Match: Helen – for her powerful tackling and ball-carrying
- Back of the Match: Tabitha – for her excellent game control

With teamwork and determination on full display, Thanet will take plenty of positives into their next Inner Warrior fixture.

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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	15	113	0	2	465	182	283	0	1	55	
GRAVESEND 3RD XV	14	10	2	2	431	205	226	0	0	48	
THANET WANDERERS 3RD XV	13	8	0	5	340	231	109	0	1	37	
MAIDSTONE MUSTANGS 2ND XV	14	7	0	7	294	298	-4	0	0	35	
SITTINGBOURNE 2ND XV	12	6	1	5	361	233	128	0	1	33	
DEAL & BETTESHANGER 2ND XV	12	6	1	5	348	249	99	0	1	33	
CANTERBURY 4TH XV DEACONS	16	5	1	10	315	524	-209	0	0	31	
LEIGH (KENT)	13	5	1	7	298	319	-21	0	0	28	
VIGO 2ND XV	13	2	1	10	169	423	-254	0	1	18	
SHEPPEY 2ND XV	14	2	1	11	124	481	-357	0	1	18	

RESULTS FROM KENT RURAL B LEAGUE

Saturday 1st February 2025

Ashford Barbarians 21-0 Maidstone Mustangs 2nd XV

Canterbury 4th XV Deacons 10-34 THANET WANDERERS 3rd XV

Sheppey 2nd XV AWO Gravesend 3rd XV

Saturday 8th February 2025

Canterbury 4th XV Deacons 0-0 Vigo 2nd XV

Leigh (Kent) 23-20 Ashford Barbarians

Maidstone Mustangs 2nd XV 24-12 Sittingbourne 2nd XV

Saturday 15th February 2025

Leigh (Kent) 7-7 Gravesend 3rd XV

Maidstone Mustangs 2nd XV 42-10 Deal & Betteshanger 2nd XV

Sittingbourne 2nd XV 40-0 Canterbury 4th XV Deacons

THANET WANDERERS 3rd XV 10-12 Ashford Barbarians

Saturday 22nd February 2025

Maidstone Mustangs 2nd XV 12-22 THANET WANDERERS 3rd XV 39-17 Leigh (Kent)



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MATCH REPORT

THANET WANDERERS 24 – 43 OLD ALLEYNIAN

Wanderers late comeback cannot prevent an Alleynians' victory

Thanet's Charlie Bailey was unwell and Finn White is no longer available but otherwise, most Wanderers supporters will have been happy with the selectors' choice. The away fixture ended in a win by one point for Wanderers so a good game was in prospect.

It was a very pleasant afternoon for rugby with sunshine and a gentle breeze up the slope. OAs were quickly on the attack in Wanderers' half and the hosts appeared to have contained the threat before a single missed tackle allowed OAs an easy trip to the posts. 7-0 to the visitors with barely two minutes played. A penalty for a high tackle set Wanderers 15 metres out but the attack fizzled out against strong defending. A further penalty didn't reach touch near the clubhouse and OAs, smartly passed their way to an overlap on their left and again there was an untroubled run in under the posts. 14-0 to the visitors with 11 minutes played. A well-worked line-out followed Adam Harrison's long penalty and Nick Herbert was away before handing on to Lewis Downer who also made good ground before being hauled down close to the line. Ben Cannon picked up at the breakdown and powered over in the corner. The powerful Number 8 has been in Thailand since early December and his return was a welcome bonus for Wanderers. So was Downer's fine conversion from the left touch line with Thanet now 14-7 down. OAs continued to press and Mirams' big clearance brought welcome relief but moments later a penalty about 30 metres out was slotted by OAs to extend their lead. Harrison's big tackle slowed an attack from a big runner in OAs backline but with half-time near an individual try further extended their lead. In the final play of the half, some uncertain Wanderers' defence allowed OAs to burst through the line to touch down close to the posts. The conversion made the halftime score 29-7 to the visitors.

Finley Hickmott was on for the second half where he was joined by Marius Thompson who

had been a reluctant spectator with injury and surgery for sixteen months. Right wing Andrew Dolan thought he was clear after an interception only to be recalled when the referee blew for an earlier infringement. The opening 19 minutes of the second half were competitive but without score, until the visitors broke the deadlock with two converted tries in the space of five minutes to lead 43-7. With pride and perhaps a try bonus point to play for, Wanderers soon scored with a try for Dolan after a series of wide passes following a turnover from the pack. No Conversion but with ten minutes to play, a bonus point was the target. The third try came from Cannon on halfway who caught a goal line drop out and was near to touching down when tackled. Finally, the ball was spun right and Downer touched down. He was unable to convert with a drop kick but with minutes remaining a fourth try was possible. It came from a good build-up initiated by Thompson who took play into OAs half before the ball was hurried along the line to Cannon on the left near the opposition ten metre line. He made straight for the line before going for the posts, once in the in-goal area. Downer converted leaving the final score at 43 -24 to Alleynians.

The Dulwich-based side is the backup XV for the first XV who now play in Regional One. Today's half-back pairing played for the Club in their match against London Welsh in early January. Certainly, some of the handling in this game was of a consistently higher standard than any other side has produced this year at St Peters. They were worthy winners today and the win moves them up to fourth place in Kent 2 with a game in hand so they will clearly be a factor in the run-in to the season's end. There is no game for Wanderers next Saturday: they return to action on the 15th of February with an away match against Aylesford when kick-off time will again be 2 PM. Only five league fixtures remain, please support the team during their five-match run-in.

COLIN WHITELEY



PHOTOS BY: ANDY MAIR (UMPIRE CAM).

RESULTS GRID COUNTIES 2 KENT LEAGUE

AWAY TEAM ▶	AYLESFORD BULLS	DARTFORD VALLEY	FOLKESTONE	GILLINGHAM ANCHORS	MAIDSTONE	MEDWAY 2s	OLD ALLEYNANS 2s	OLD ELTHAMIAN	SIDCUP 2s	TWRUFC	VIGO	WESTCOMBE PARK 2s
HOME TEAM ▼												
AYLESFORD BULLS		65-0	43-28	15-25	53-6		17-18	14-57		7-25	25-12	25-29
DARTFORD VALLEY				12-61	12-47	24-32	27-34	31-50	7-12	12-12	31-7	17-64
FOLKESTONE	27-20	29-0		15-22	34-22		38-31	5-27	19-13		40-0	61-26
GILLINGHAM ANCHORS	36-21	25-5	26-42		22-3	32-5	48-33	17-27				38-5
MAIDSTONE	12-15	34-24				36-12	14-44	0-48	10-72	7-12	30-25	0-43
MEDWAY 2s	10-6	33-15	26-19	10-27	22-5			19-68	37-15	13-7	40-22	
OLD ALLEYNANS 2s		63-28	33-36	25-21	46-17	34-27		0-35	19-21	24-25	34-18	46-31
OLD ELTHAMIAN	31-12		34-14	31-10		43-14	36-5		36-0	33-3		
SIDCUP 2s	28-24	50-7	25-14	35-34	36-26	32-29		7-31		5-18	39-12	63-6
TWRUFC	34-27	HWO	5-8	12-6	37-12	30-20	24-43		21-8		48-8	
VIGO	27-29	39-7	18-10	7-41		10-32				26-29		27-19
WESTCOMBE PARK 2s	17-36		26-12	33-7	17-26	31-5		18-12	62-0	14-35	34-21	

RESULTS FROM KENT COUNTIES LEAGUE 2

Saturday 1st February 2025

Dartford Valley 24-32 Medway 2nd XV

Gillingham Anchorians 26-42 Folkestone

Maidstone 12-15 Aylesford Bulls

Old Elthamians 36-0 Sidcup 2nd XV

THANET WANDERERS 24-43 Old Alleynians 2nd XV

Vigo 27-19 Westcombe Park 2nd XV

Saturday 8th February 2025

Old Elthamians 17-11 Westcombe Park 2nd XV

Vigo 3-18 Old Alleynians 2nd XV

Saturday 15th February 2025

Aylesford Bulls 31-7 THANET WANDERERS

Folkestone 40-0 Vigo

Old Alleynians 63-28 Dartford Valley

Old Elthamians 31-10 Gillingham Anchorians

Sidcup 2nd XV 32-29 Medway 2nd XV

Westcombe Park 2nd XV 17-26 Maidstone



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MATCH REPORT

Thanet Wanderers Women's 1st XV vs Ashford – Last Home Game of the Season. 16th February

This was a highly anticipated match, with Thanet sitting second in the league and Ashford close behind in third. With a large crowd gathered, the Thanet Under 10s created a fantastic atmosphere, forming a guard of honour to welcome the teams onto the pitch with claps and cheers. The weather was biting — cold, with the temperature dropping further as the game went on, the ground was firm, offering a faster-paced game than the recent muddy conditions.

The players were riled up and ready to give everything.

First Half:

Ashford kicked off and immediately put Thanet under pressure with a strong attacking drive. After a scrum to Ashford, Thanet's Captain Gee Cordell, made an excellent tackle to stop the initial break, but Ashford retained possession, working the ball wide and breaking through tackles. They looked certain to score, but a dropped ball over the try line gave Thanet a lifeline with a defensive scrum. Thanet won the ball, and drove forward well, but a penalty to Ashford gave them the advantage. Taking it quickly, Ashford surged forward and dove over the line just five minutes in. The conversion was missed, putting the visitors ahead 0-5.

Thanet restarted, regathered possession, and began to build their own pressure. Gee Cordell broke through tackles before Ashford turned the ball over, only for it to be stolen back by Thanet. The ball moved swiftly through hands to Georgia Elks, who made good ground before Thanet won a penalty. A quick pass to the forwards saw them drive toward the try line, but the ball was held up.

Thanet kept the pressure on, winning the lineout and pushing forward. A strong team move saw the ball go through every Thanet hand, creating an overlap on the right. The ball found its way to Holly Thurman-Newell, who dived over in the corner for Thanet's first try.

The conversion went just wide, levelling the score at 5-5.

Ashford restarted, but their kick failed to go 10 metres, giving Thanet a scrum on halfway. Thanet moved the ball well, with Chloe Siddall kicking ahead, forcing Ashford to regroup with a lineout. Thanet's defensive pressure forced a turnover, and after 20 minutes of sustained attack deep in Ashford's half, Gee Cordell broke through to score under the posts, putting Thanet ahead for the first time. Alexandra White stepped up and slotted the conversion, making it 12-5.

The remainder of the half saw both teams battle fiercely, with Thanet holding off Ashford's counterattacks through solid tackling and ruck work. Despite numerous close calls, Thanet maintained their defensive wall until the halftime whistle.

Halftime Score: Thanet 12 - Ashford 5

No changes were made at halftime, with Thanet knowing they had to "put this game to bed."

Second Half:

Thanet restarted, but Ashford came out firing, with a sustained attack that eventually broke the gain line. A dropped pass, however, gave Thanet a scrum, allowing them to clear their lines.

The game became scrappy, with turnovers from both sides. Ashford kicked deep into Thanet's try area, and instead of grounding the ball for a 22m dropout, Thanet kicked it out, allowing Ashford to capitalise. With momentum on their side, Ashford picked up the loose ball and continued their attack, eventually scoring in the corner. The conversion was missed, but Ashford had closed the gap to 12-10.

Thanet restarted, quickly applying pressure. After a scrum, Thanet regained possession and worked the ball well through hands, with Izzy Lodge breaking through to score a fantastic try, stretching the lead to 17-10.

As the clock ticked on, Thanet knew they needed one more score to seal the win. Ashford's defence was relentless, but Thanet's forward pack took control, dominating the rucks and scrums. A quick ball out to Rachael Austerberry

saw her sprint half the length of the pitch, only to be forced into touch just short of the line.

From the resulting lineout, Thanet moved the ball back across the field. Holly Thurman-Newell once again found herself with space, driving through tackles to score her second try of the match in the corner. The conversion was missed, but Thanet now led 22-10 with little time left on the clock.

Ashford threw everything they had at Thanet in the dying minutes, but the defensive line held firm. The forwards were exceptional, with strong rucking and intelligent play around the breakdowns, securing a well-earned victory.

Final Score: Thanet 22 - Ashford 10

It was a tough game, but Thanet showed grit and determination to come out on top. Every time these two sides meet, the scoreline gets closer and closer, and this match was no exception. Thanet had to work hard for the win, and the scoreline didn't fully reflect how tight the contest was.

Forward of the Match: Hollie Callaghan — for her outstanding work at every breakdown and consistent improvement week after week. She was unlucky not to get a try herself.

Back of the Match: Lia Armstrong — a true star player who just gets on with her job and consistently shines on the field.

Thanet Women's 1XV last home game of the season ended with a statement win against third placed Ashford, setting up an exciting finish to the campaign!

Starting XV – Emily Williams, Neave Evans, Holly Thurman-Newell, Rebecca Hewitt, Hollie Callaghan, Sorchia Maddison, Gee Cordell (Captain), Georgia Elks, Maria Castellina, Alexandra White, Lia Armstrong, Izzy Lodge, Rachael Austerberry, Kat Stuart, Chloe Siddall. Finishers – Vicky Flower, Helen Hollinsworth, Sian Boyce, Brioni Reah, Sophie West, Justine Mackintosh.

CLAIRE TURNER



PHOTOS BY: ADE DAVIES

MATCH REPORT

THANET WANDERERS LADIES 1ST XV VS BECKENHAM LADIES 2ND XV

League Match Sunday 9th February 2025.
Final Score: 35-5

A crisp day at Thanet saw the Ladies 1st XV take on Beckenham Ladies 2nd XV in front of an enthusiastic crowd. The home side, donning their pink away kit, were welcomed onto the field by a guard of honour from the Under-11s, whose cheers set the tone for a spirited encounter. Despite the claggy conditions, which led to a few handling errors, Thanet delivered a dominant performance built on teamwork, resilience, and relentless pressure.

Beckenham kicked off and immediately looked to attack, but Thanet's defence set the tone early, with Lia Armstrong putting in a strong tackle to halt their progress. A penalty in Thanet's favour allowed Jess Anderson to collect the kick on the wing, and from there, the home side-built momentum. Lia Armstrong and Georgia Elks both made crucial tackles as Beckenham tried to cut back inside, but it was Thanet who gained the upper hand when Captain Gee Cordell broke through and made significant ground.

A high tackle penalty saw Thanet pushing forward again. Holly Thurman-Newell powered through multiple tackles before offloading to the backs, where Jess Anderson linked up with Lia Armstrong, who in turn passed to Rachael Austerberry. Weaving through defenders, she touched down in the corner for the opening try. The conversion was missed, but Thanet were up 5-0.

Beckenham restarted, and Louise Rubens collected well before passing to Georgia Elks who carried strongly through the midfield. From there, it was moved swiftly through the backs, with Izzy Lodge taking it into contact before Gee Cordell broke a tackle and attacked down the blindside.

Rachael Austerberry was next to strike for Thanet, finishing a well-worked move on the wing after great interplay between the backs and forwards. Despite another missed

conversion, the home side extended their lead to 10-0.

With the home side dominating possession, the next try came from Jess Anderson. After quick ball from the forwards, the backs linked up beautifully, she stepped inside a defender before sprinting down the wing to score. The missed conversion kept the score at 15-0.

The fourth try of the half was all about power. The forwards worked through multiple phases before Louise Rubens crashed over the line from short range, showcasing her strength. Another conversion drifted wide, but Thanet stretched their lead to 20-0.

Just before the break, Thanet struck again. After persistent infringements, the referee finally showed a yellow card to a Beckenham player, giving Thanet a penalty just outside the 22. Rachael Austerberry took a quick tap-and-go, linking up with Rebecca Hewitt, who powered through the defensive line before offloading to Neave Evans, who sealed an excellent first half with the fifth try. The conversion was missed, but Thanet held a commanding 25-0 lead at halftime.

Thanet made changes at the break, but their intensity remained high. Beckenham started with intent, earning an early penalty and kicking to touch. Their lineout was clean, and after a series of pick-and-go phases, they finally breached Thanet's defence, scoring their only try of the match. The conversion was missed, but it was a small glimmer of hope at 25-5.

Thanet quickly responded. After winning their own lineout, the ball was worked through the hands to Kat Stuart, who recycled quickly. Georgia Elks and Izzy Lodge made good ground, and when Gee Cordell found herself in space, she stormed through the defence to touch down in the corner. The conversion was again unsuccessful, but Thanet stretched their lead to 30-5.

As the game progressed, Thanet's defensive structure remained solid. Rebecca Hewitt and Vicky Flower put in crucial tackles, and despite

Beckenham's persistent high tackles, Thanet remained composed.

With time running down, Thanet continued to push forward. A convincing run from Amy Fowler allowed the backs to realign, with the ball then being flicked through the hands to Jess Anderson, who sidestepped through the defensive line to seal the victory with Thanet's final try.

The final whistle confirmed a 35-5 triumph—another impressive display from Thanet, who showcased strong team cohesion and determination despite the muddy conditions.

Players of the Match

- Forward of the Day: Neave Evans – A powerhouse in the pack, dominating the breakdown and carrying strongly.

- Back of the Day: Rachael Austerberry – Stepped up in a different position and controlled the game brilliantly.

A well-earned win for Thanet, who continue to build momentum heading into their next fixture.

Team: Starting XV – Emily Williams, Neave Evans, Holly Thurman-Newell, Louise Rubens, Hollie Callaghan, Sorchia Maddison, Gee Cordell (Captain), Georgia Elks, Maria Castellina, Rachael Austerberry, Lia Armstrong, Izzy Lodge, Tabs Raymonde, Amy Flower, Jess Anderson.
Finishers – Rebecca Hewitt, Vicky Flower, Helen Hollinsworth, Kat Stuart, Megan Bish.

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PHOTOS BY: ADE DAVIES

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