

# TWRUFC v OLD ALLENYNIANS 2ND XV



OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME



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Wanderers



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# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Happy New Year to all our playing members, Vice Presidents and Supporters including the parents that bring their children along on a Sunday. We extend a warm East Kent welcome to Old Alleynians RFC and we hope you initially enjoy the afternoon and our hospitality and then experience some attractive rugby. A Cracking end to the year and the beginning of a New Year, as both the men's senior teams opened with a win, the 1st XV against Sidcup 2nds (away) and the 2nds against Dover (home) Regrettably our next game was cancelled by the opposition (Dartford Valley RFC) who couldn't manage to field a team, which is always a shame. I hope it's not terminal, and of course we had another regrettable situation, losing to Medway last week.

Today our Counties 2 Kent League game sees Old Alleynians placed in 6th position in the League with 8 wins from 15 starts this season. They have an interesting statistic in that they score on average 28 points per game and concede 27 points, so today could be a high scoring competitive match.

The last three 1st team games have been played in very poor, heavy conditions. At Maidstone, the last game of December was played under what racing pundits would consider "heavy going" while the previous week at Sidcup the conditions were described as "sticky" so the pitch at St Peters may serve in Thanet's favour this week as a home advantage.

The heavy going may suit some players and Maidstone nominated Finley "Finbar" White as our Man of the Match. He scored early on and then beavered away for the rest of the game. The previous week he scored two tries, but regrettably he will not be available for the rest of the season as he has returned to active duty. Another of his Marine comrades, Sonny Teall, made a brief appearance in the Sidcup game before tweaking his hamstring. Both of these players will be missed as they have returned to serve King & Country. Gil Smith made his 1st XV debut against Sidcup replacing his polar opposite in age Danny Clements. This was also true of Lettsy who was replaced by Dennis Davies.

What needs to be said here is that all the above mentioned new talent has been home grown and has come up through the ranks of our minis and junior sections and they show the hard work put in by junior coaches and parents. The players are starting to pay dividends for all that earlier effort. When players are asked to "Dig Deep" and show strength of character, all of which was required in both the Maidstone and Sidcup games, I believe, it's a "state of mind" that home grown players show that brings out the best in them over 80 minutes. Much the same was true of the 1997 Thanet winning team at Twickenham in the inaugural Intermediate Cup. In both their semi-final and quarter-final in that competition Thanet were losing right up into the last quarter of the game, but they showed true grit to win both matches in extra time! This is where the saying "It's not over till we say its over!" comes from and this mantra is now written in large letters in the corridor adjacent to the last quarter of the game, but they showed true grit to win both matches in extra time! This is where the saying "It's not over till we say its over!" comes from and this mantra is now written in large letters in the corridor adjacent to the 1st XV changing room.

Since I recently watched the 2nd Team, I have to say the same goes for this side, especially the backs who must have had an average age of 19. This was increased marginally in the second half when the evergreen Pete Macaulay came on at fly-half.

Some sad news! A stalwart of the Committee and enthusiastic fund raiser, Annmarie Carfoot has sadly lost her father, Don recently. We send her, and her husband, Stephen and her two sons, Shaun and Patrick our condolences and we wish them all courage and peace during this difficult period.

We also welcome our Sponsors and VP's to a lunch today. It's our opportunity to showcase the club to our wonderful Sponsors, and of course celebrate the end of DRY JANUARY!

Every home game costs £165 for the pitch hire (TDC) and the referee (Kent RFU) and this is before we factor in the cost of kit, a physio, match balls, post protectors, etc; the list goes on. Today you will see the 1st team in action, but the Club fields 3 senior men's teams, a veterans team, 2 senior ladies teams and a full suite of

*Continued over*



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teams from under 9's through to under 18's and of course there's the Minis, the Rug Rats and the Special Educational Needs Squad. Your donations go a long way to help us and we are grateful for your support. Finally, I apologise for my absence today.

Please respect today's referee, Oliver Smith and I hope you enjoy a competitive and injury-free match.  
**TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT**  
**DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP**  
**CLIVE LEWIS**  
 Club President

## FROM THE HEAD COACH

Welcome back to what is shaping up to be an exciting second half of the season.

Today we welcome Old Alleynians to our club. The last time we played them was at the beginning of the season on a very wet Saturday afternoon in an interesting, close game of running rugby and we came away with the victory.

In our last game we had a very challenging match against a very strong Medway 2s side. We too fielded a strong and young side which also included our two highly experienced players (Pugs and Lettys). Experience and leadership is developing for all our players and with these two, along with Warren, Brett, Adam, James C and Henry, leadership is strong. Our younger players are learning from them, particularly Dom Springer, Charlie Bailey and Finn Hickmott and this is what this game is all about.

What I am particularly proud of is the atmosphere and support some of our senior players are developing and this will enable our younger players to grow in a supportive environment, because ultimately they are the future.

This week, I want the guys to set a marker. We can be consistent, but in our last game we let Medway get into our heads. For this

game Ben Cannon is back after his travels to warmer climates and hopefully this will help make a difference.

All our players are home grown, something we should be very proud of, as a club.

I am very proud of all the players, especially those who are recently back from university and also those that are currently at uni. We have a real mix of talent and leadership within the first team squad and selection is getting harder each week. That is a good thing as it will strengthen our club as a whole.

So, can I ask you to do one thing for us? Be our 16th man on the balcony and the sidelines. Celebrate every achievement, celebrate every big hit, celebrate every point we score.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers, especially our Team Manager Michelle, who gives up her time week in week out. We wouldn't survive without her and I know all the players and all the coaching staff appreciate everything she does for us.

Lastly, here is a little quote: "The four most powerful words are: I believe in you." Billy Walsh.

**ELLIOT BLACKMORE**  
 Head Coach



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

## 2024

### September

7	GILLINGHAM ANCHORIANS	<b>HOME</b>
14	VIGO	AWAY
21	MAIDSTONE	<b>HOME</b>
28	SIDCUP 2NDS	<b>HOME</b>

### October

12	DARTFORD VALLEY	AWAY
19	MEDWAY 2NDS	<b>HOME</b>
26	OLD ALLEYNANS 2NDS	AWAY

### November

9	AYLESFORD BULLS	<b>HOME</b>
16	WESTCOMBE PARK 2NDS	AWAY
23	FOLKESTONE	<b>HOME</b>

### December

7	OLD ELTHAMIANS	AWAY
14	VIGO	<b>HOME</b>
21	MAIDSTONE	AWAY

## 2025

### January

4	SIDCUP 2NDS	AWAY
11	DARTFORD VALLEY	<b>HOME</b>
18	MEDWAY 2NDS	AWAY

### February

1	OLD ALLEYNANS	<b>HOME</b>
15	AYLESFORD BULLS	AWAY

### March

1	WESTCOMBE PARK 2NDS	<b>HOME</b>
8	FOLKESTONE	AWAY
22	OLD ELTHAMIANS	<b>HOME</b>

### April

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

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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	15	14	0	1	606	159	.447.	14	1	71	
THANET WANDERERS	16	12	1	3	328	223	105	7	2	60	
GILLINGHAM ANCHORIANS	16	11	0	5	462	263	199	9	3	56	
SIDCUP 2ND XV	16	10	0	6	429	346	83	7	1	48	
WESTCOMBE PARK 2ND XV	15	9	0	6	438	378	60	10	0	46	
OLD ALLEYNANS 2ND XV	15	8	0	7	426	411	15	10	4	46	
FOLKESTONE	16	8	0	8	369	371	-2	7	2	41	
MEDWAY 2ND XV	16	8	0	8	325	400	-75	6	1	39	
AYLESFORD BULLS	16	6	0	10	432	384	48	6	6	36	
MAIDSTONE	16	4	0	12	268	542	-274	5	1	22	
VIGO	15	2	0	13	252	503	-251	4	3	15	
DARTFORD VALLEY	16	1	1	14	207	562	-355	4	2	7	-5

## KENT COUNTIES LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

Saturday 1st February 2025

Dartford Valley v Medway 2nd XV

Old Elthamians v Sidcup 2nd XV

Gillingham Anchorians v Folkestone

THANET WANDERERS v Old Alleynians 2nd XV

Maidstone v Aylesford Bulls

Vigo v Westcombe Park 2nd XV

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# COLTS CHRISTMAS GAME TOURNAMENT AT SIMON LANGTON

22nd DECEMBER 2024

The Colts Christmas Rugby Game Tournament was held on the 3G pitch at Simon Langton, featuring two Canterbury sides, a Thanet Wanderers team, and a Deal side. Unfortunately, Deal pulled out of the tournament mid-week, it maybe being slightly optimistic to see all sides come together just before Christmas?

Thanet Wanderers had a tough start, with only 14 players making it on time for their first match. To make up the numbers, they borrowed a Canterbury player, but the team still played admirably well. Some notable performances came from Ellis Plumridge and Tom Gough, with Tom scoring a couple of tries. A standout moment was an excellent interception try by Alex Dyer.

The games were meant to be fun and relaxed, but the competition remained intense. The first game ended in a 3-3 try draw, with both sides showing great skill and teamwork. Canterbury

then played against themselves in a tight contest, with the side that had just played suffering a narrow defeat.

The final game saw Canterbury's stronger side facing off against Thanet. Despite some nerves, Thanet played exceptionally well. The match concluded with a brilliant try from Jude RIGden, who finished off a great move by bulldozing over the fullback and crossing the try line under the posts. He narrowly missed the conversion, but the overall performance was a fitting end to the day albeit with a narrow loss.

While the tournament had a few challenges, it was a great display of spirit and sportsmanship from all the teams involved. Big shout out, to all the players who made the effort especially those who had been intensely celebrating Christmas on the Saturday night before the game.

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# MATCH REPORT

## MEDWAY RFC 2S 13 – 7 THANET WANDERERS RFC

A few regular faces were missing from Thanet's squad with Charlie Bailey moving to number eight in the absence of both Finn White and Ben Cannon. Leon Doody was at scrum half with brother Callum not available. Second team captain, Tom Stevens stepped up to the senior side for the first time this season and Ewan Maclean was on the other wing. Thirty-eight players have now represented Wanderers this season in the fifteen league matches played. Thanet remained in second place after this defeat and Medway are in eighth.

It was a grey, windless, cold afternoon as Wanderers kicked off against a Medway side who were clearly up for a contest. Two early penalties for high tackles put them on the front foot but Wanderers withstood the early onslaught before a penalty from Adam Harrison cleared the danger. Medway opened the scoring after nine minutes when a penalty opportunity from in front and 30 metres out was converted for a 3-0 lead. Thanet quickly responded with a promising attack that broke down after a knock-on but penalties to both sides made for a stop-start encounter. On sixteen minutes played Wanderers' ten, Adam Harrison surged through a gap and was stopped just short of the line but reset the attack left. Thanet's second row, Andy Letts received and executed a lovely dummy, that would please any three-quarter, before touching down unchallenged. Lewis Downer added the extras and Wanderers led 7-3 after twenty minutes. Eight minutes later a long and deep penalty from Medway's kicker set them on Wanderers 22. The visitors did not defend well against a bustling driving attack that grew from a line out on Thanet's 22, leading to a Medway try ten metres left of Wanderers' posts. The conversion opened up a 10-7 lead. Wanderers had the opportunity to level things up a minute later but Downer's kick slipped by the left post. Play went from end

to end but neither side could break through, Maclean made an important tackle as Medway looked likely to score but play was fragmented. Wanderers were warned for too many high tackles and it was the hosts who looked the more likely to score in the run-up to halftime.

Thanet's coaches will have been concerned with the number of first-up tackles missed in the first half and would certainly have been hoping for more urgency from the side in the second half. A powerful carry from James Crompton set the right tone and Leon Doody's testing kick led to a spilt ball and set a good position for the scrum. A penalty set Wanderers close at a line out and a determined drive for the line was held up. A good chance went begging with the line at their mercy and finally Medway were able to clear the danger. During a brief excursion into Wanderers' half, Medway took the points when Thanet offended to extend their lead to 13-7. With half an hour remaining Wanderers rang the changes from the bench with Maclean taking a break to be replaced by Finley Hickmott with Mike Whitehead and Lenny Brown also taking to the field in place of Andy Letts and Danny Clement. Brown was quick to make his presence felt with a charge down that deserved a better outcome. Thanet were now in control with dominance of territory and possession but the hosts remained firmly in control of their line. Opportunities for points from the kicking tee were passed over in favour of moves to cross the white line but the home side repelled every attempt on their line. Congratulations to Medway on a great defensive effort that made for compelling and entertaining viewing. Wanderers played much better in the second half but their usual cohesion and invention were absent today and the hosts were deserving winners of a sporting contest.

**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	8	8	0	0	442	33	409	0	0	39	
THANET WANDERERS WOMEN	7	6	0	1	315	63	252	0	0	30	
ASHFORD LADIES	7	4	0	3	132	190	-58	0	0	25	
LORDSWOOD VALKYRIES LADIES	8	2	1	5	106	242	-136	0	0	22	
BECCEHAMIAN LADIES	7	2	0	5	105	237	-132	0	0	20	
GRAVESEND LADIES	8	1	1	6	147	397	-250	0	0	19	
BECKENHAM LADIES 2ND XV	7	2	0	5	111	196	-85	0	0	18	

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

Sunday 19th January

Ashford Ladies 0-53 Aylesford Bulls Ladies

Beckenham Ladies 2nd XV 50-10 Gravesend Ladies

Lordswood Valkyries Ladies 17-31 THANET WANDERERS Women

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# THANET WANDERERS

HOME TEAM COLOURS: blue, black and gold hoops

**1 NOAH DANN**

*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 BRETT SCOTT**

*Postition sponsored by: Michelle McClean*

**7 JAMES CROMPTON**

*Postition sponsored by: Chris Marson*

**8 BEN CANNON**

*Postition sponsored by: Terry Tutte*

*Head Coach*

**ELLIOT BLACKMORE**

*Postition sponsored by: Colin Whiteley*

*Defence Coach*

**KIERAN HOPPER**

*Postition sponsored by:*

*Defence Coach*

**ALEX SADDINGTON**

*Postition sponsored by:*

*Team Manager*

**MICHELLE MCLEAN**

*Postition sponsored by: Carmen Glover*

**9 CALLUM DOODY**

*Postition sponsored by: Jeremy Ward*

**10 ADAM HARRISON (VC)**

*Postition sponsored by: Ray Roby/Peter Tierney*

**11 LOUIS MARSHALL**

*Postition sponsored by: Pegasus Storage Solutions*

**12 LEWIS DOWNER**

*Postition sponsored by: Bill Hurley*

**13 NICK HERBERT**

*Postition sponsored by: Andy Bull*

**14 ANDREW DOLAN**

*Postition sponsored by: Paul Glover*

**15 HENRY MIRAMS (VC)**

*Postition sponsored by: Geoff Redmond*

*Replacements:*

**16 LENNY BROWN**

**17 FINLAY HICKMOT**

**18 MARIUS THOMPSON**

*Referee*

**OLIVER SMITH**

*Touch Judge*

**TBC**

## BALL AND MATCH SPONSOR IS

# OLD ALLEYNANS 2ND XV

AWAY TEAM COLOURS:

**1 TEERAY GRANT**

**2 RED FREEMAN**

**3 ALEX MAGUIRE**

**4 ED CLOTHIER (CC)**

**5 JACK CHAPMAN**

**6 CORMAC MEADE**

**7 NOAH LIENAFI**

**8 HADLEY EAMES**

**9 TRIS HOLDEN**

**10 FRANK PLUMMER**

**11 CHRIS ANNOUS**

**12 LUKE SULLIVAN (CC)**

**13 CHARLIE JEWISS**

**14 MAX MONTGOMERY**

**15 REUBEN SHRESTHA**

*Replacements:*

**16 HUGH WHIDBORNE**

**17 TOBY DUNNE**

**18 JAMES WYNN**

*Director of Rugby*

**NOT SUPPLIED**

*Head Coach*

**NOT SUPPLIED**

*Assistant Coach*

**NOT SUPPLIED**

*Team Manager*

**IAN CROFT**



# MATCH REPORT

## THANET WANDERERS RFC 12- 7 MAIDSTONE RFC

Hard-won victory for the Wanderers in the county town.

In their final match of 2024, Wanderers had to produce another top defensive performance to hang on to an early lead and retain second place in Counties 2 Kent league. Thanet made just one change to the pack that started last week's fixture against Vigo, with Noah Dann in at loosehead. It was almost all change in the backs with only number 12, Lewis Downer lining up in the same position as in last week's defeat of Vigo. Regular scrum-half Callum Doody again moved to ten in the absence of joint vice-captain Adam Harrison with brother Leon in at nine. Andrew Dolan played on the right wing with Finley Hickmott, usually a back-row forward, on the other. Joint vice-captain Henry Mirams moved from full-back to outside centre with Ewan Maclean replacing him at fullback.

Wanderers kicked off with a strong breeze at their back and made a dream start. Dolan broke well and handed on to number eight Finn White who made an assured finish. A quality conversion from Downer meant the visitors led 7-0 with two minutes played. A couple of minutes later Maidstone touched down under the posts, at the other end following a strong attack. 7-7 after five minutes, indicated that an open running game could be on the way but it was not to be. Wanderers' attacks were undermined when penalties were conceded including two for crossing. After 23 minutes Callum Doody, whose kicking from hand was excellent throughout the match, set a good attacking position from a penalty. Wanderers line-out generally functioned well today and

White was soon ghosting through the home defence to initiate some lovely handling along the line that ended with Maclean scoring his maiden first XV try. No conversion, but the Wanderers led 12-7 with an hour remaining. The remainder of the first period was littered with penalties, particularly for not releasing, which led to a stop-start encounter.

Charlie Bailey left the bench for the second half as Dennis Davies took a break from the second row. Maidstone were marched back another ten metres when comment was passed on the decision for the penalty by today's referee who made every effort to explain his decisions to the players. Danny Clement and Michael Whitehead joined from the bench to reinforce the Wanderers' defence which was really tested during the second period. It was not the most inspiring fare for the festive period but the Wanderers' defence again earned plaudits from the limited travelling support. There was no further score and the Wanderers took a hard-earned four points whilst the hosts took a well-earned losing bonus point.

There was a real captain's performance from hooker Warren Riddell-Bloomfield today, Callum Doody's kicking from hand was very valuable Wanderers' and another of Thanet's growing band of talented youngsters, Dom Springer was Wanderers' Coaches man of the match after another excellent performance from the young prop-forward both at scrum-time and in the loose.

**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
EDENBRIDGE	15	11	1	3	418	162	232	0	2	52	
SNOWDOWN CW	13	10	2	1	423	169	254	0	0	47	
TUNBRIDGE WELLS 3RD XV	12	9	0	3	346	187	159	0	0	41	
THANET WANDERERS 2ND XV	13	9	0	4	366	229	137	0	1	41	
DOVER 2ND XV	12	7	1	4	323	194	129	0	1	36	
AYLESFORD BULLS 2ND XV	14	5	0	9	279	406	-127	0	2	30	
ASH	14	4	1	9	230	329	-99	0	2	30	
WEAVING WARRIORS	13	4	2	7	249	336	-87	0	1	26	
CRANBROOK 2ND XV	13	4	0	9	168	305	-137	0	1	25	
MEDWAY 4TH XV	11	3	1	7	241	361	-120	0	0	22	
FOLKESTONE 2ND XV	14	2	0	12	139	504	-365	0	0	15	

# KENT RURAL A LEAGUE RESULTS

## Saturday 11th January 2025

Ash P Edenbridge

Aylesford Bulls 2nd XV P Snowdown CW

Dover 2nd XV P Folkestone 2nd XV

Tunbridge Wells 3rd XV P Cranbrook 2nd XV

Weaving Warriors P THANET WANDERERS 2nd XV

## Saturday 18th January 2025

Cranbrook 2nd XV 48-12 Aylesford Bulls 2nd XV

Edenbridge HWO Folkestone 2nd XV

Snowdown CW 48-11 Ash

THANET WANDERERS 2nd XV 71-31 Medway 4th XV

Weaving Warriors 19-19 Dover 2nd XV

## Saturday 25th January 2025

Ash 0-24 Edenbridge

Snowdown CW 21-15 THANET WANDERERS 2nd XV

Weaving Warriors 17-22 Folkestone 2nd XV

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# MATCH REPORT

## SIDCUP RFC 5-18 THANET WANDERERS RFC

Wanderers make a good start to 2025 in Counties 2 Kent league and remain in second place.

For Thanet, Danny Clement started at loosehead with fellow Vet Andy Letts in the second row. Charlie Bailey partnered him in the engine room with Dom Springer at tight-head. Joint vice-captain Adam Harrison was back at Ten with Louis Marshall at inside centre in place of the injured Lewis Downer. Charlie Panteli, who usually plays at Ten, was at full-back and flank forward Finley Hickmott continued on the left wing in a re-jigged backline. After today's league matches Wanderers hold on to second place but Sidcup slipped a place to fifth but with a game in hand.

The pitch was sticky but playable and the weather was not as fearsome as forecast. Wanderers kicked off on a still afternoon and the hosts were soon scrambling to plug holes in their defence. After four minutes, Wanderers went ahead when Finn White led an onslaught that ended with him scoring under the posts. The conversion attempt was charged down but Thanet led 5-0. The hosts quickly responded and Harrison's long clearance to halfway eased some Sidcup pressure. Five minutes later Harrison again sent a penalty to 22 metres out and the line out that followed ended with a spectacular drive from Wanderers' pack that snaked its way to the line before White again claimed the touchdown. Panteli's conversion was good to make it 12-0 and he added another three points when converting a penalty attempt minutes late for a 15-0 lead. Harrison demonstrated some soccer skills as he led a dribble deep into the opposition half but the move ended with Wanderers conceding a penalty. Charlie Bailey was having a dominant day at the line-outs and was moving well in the loose. Henry Mirams' tackle ended a dangerous break-out and Andy Letts was also soon showing his tackling prowess. Thanet interfered at a line-out allowing the hosts to set good field position and mount an end-of-half attack but Wanderers stood firm. White led another attack to end the siege but Wanderers were again penalised when in a good

attacking position. The hosts put the ball out of play to end a good opening half for the Wanderers.

Gil Smith made a very satisfactory First XV debut after leaving the bench to replace Clement for the second half. Thanet started the second well but were penalised for crossing and Dennis Davies replaced Letts in the second row. After an unsuccessful attempt from near the 10-metre line, just a few minutes later from around 24 metres, Panteli put Wanderers 18-0 ahead. With around a quarter of the game remaining Sidcup made the most of two penalties to set good attacking positions and Wanderers were forced to scramble to touch down in the in-goal area. Captain Warren Riddell-Bloomfield at hooker, with flank forwards James Crompton and Brett Scott needed all their experience in the battle to keep their line intact. The hosts were determined not to leave pointless and showed great resilience as they battered away at Wanderers hard tackling defence and with minutes remaining a little chip through was touched down in the corner. There was no conversion and no further points were added so the final score was a win for Wanderers by 18-5.

Wanderers' Coaches can be happy with this performance with preparation time severely curtailed by the Christmas and New Year break. Callum Doody and Adam Harrison's half-back partnership continues to blossom and it's great to see Andy Dolan returning to good form. Sadly there was only a brief glimpse of Sonny Teall from the bench before he had to withdraw with a tweaked hamstring. Louis Marshall also again sustained injury and had to withdraw early. Skipper Warren Riddell Bloomfield has worked hard on his throwing in to the lineout after moving from the back row to play at hooker. His partnership with young second-row Charlie Bailey is flourishing and paying dividends in terms of possession. Charlie had a top game today and was a popular choice as Wanderers' man of the match after another fine game.

COLIN WHITELEY



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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	12	11	0	1	405	149	256	0	0	45	
GRAVESEND 3RD XV	11	8	1	2	362	186	176	0	0	37	
DEAL & BETTESHANGER 2ND XV	11	6	0	5	338	221	117	0	1	30	
SITTINGBOURNE 2ND XV	10	5	1	4	309	209	100	0	1	28	
THANET WANDERERS 3RD XV	10	6	0	4	252	192	60	0	0	27	
CANTERBURY 4THS DEACONS	13	5	0	8	305	438	-133	0	0	26	
MAIDSTONE MUSTANGS 2ND XV	10	5	0	7	216	233	-17	0	0	25	
LEIGH (KENT)	10	4	0	6	251	253	-2	0	0	20	
SHEPPEY 2ND XV	13	3	0	10	138	441	-303	0	1	19	
VIGO 2ND XV	12	2	0	10	169	423	-254	0	1	15	

## RESULTS FROM KENT RURAL B LEAGUE

### Saturday 11th January 2025

Canterbury 4th XV Deacons P Vigo 2nd XV

Deal & Betteshanger 2nd XV P Leigh (Kent)

Maidstone Mustangs 2nd XV P Gravesend 3rd XV

Sittingbourne 2nd XV P THANET WANDERERS 3rd XV

### Saturday 18th January 2025

Gravesend 3rd XV 46-18 Deal & Betteshanger 2nd XV

Leigh (Kent) 47-7 Sheppey 2nd XV

Maidstone Mustangs 2nd XV 12-30

Canterbury 4th XV Deacons

Vigo 2nd XV 21-61 Ashford Barbarians

### Saturday 25th January 2025

Canterbury 4th XV Deacons 5-34 Ashford Barbarians

Maidstone Mustangs 2nd XV P

Sittingbourne 2nd XV

Sheppey 2nd XV 24-10 Deal & Betteshanger 2nd XV

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# MATCH REPORT

## THANET WANDERERS RUFC 48 – 8 VIGO RFC

Six tries in a sparkling second half put Wanderers back on the winning way.

It was good to see Nick Herbert back at outside centre for his season's debut and Adam Harrison returned at Ten after a week away. Callum Doody reclaimed the Scrum Half jersey from brother Leon. Vigo were bottom of the league as the game kicked off but their only win was against Folkestone who defeated Wanderers in their most recent match at St Peters. No results can be taken as read in the Counties 2 Kent League.

A strong wind was behind Vigo as they kicked off up the slope on a bright cold day. An early penalty set Wanderers deep in Vigo's half and some quality rucking took Wanderers over for a try for Number 8 Finlay White within the first four minutes. Lewis Downer made an excellent conversion and Wanderers led 7-0. Dennis Davies made a good catch and attacked back strongly from the restart but the attack could not be maintained. Gradually Vigo worked their way back into the game and put the Wanderers' defence under continual pressure but, despite conceding penalties, the line remained firm. Referee Mark Shaw showed yellow to full-back Henry Mirams as the team went down to fourteen for ten minutes. With about ten minutes of the half remaining, Vigo wisely went for the posts and were on the board 7-3. A rare Wanderers attack, minutes later, brought a penalty and Downer restored the seven-point margin. Nick Herbert made an important trade mark big saving tackle and the Wanderers would have been happy to reach half-time without conceding again against a team who had looked anything but bottom of the league.

Playing up the slope with the wind behind them in the second half, there was a real transformation about Thanet with no one more fired up than left-winger Louis Marshall. Leading the onslaught he rampaged through the Vigo defence leaving defenders in his wake to touch down under the posts with the half just a

couple of minutes old. Downer added the extras for a 17-3 lead. Five minutes later more insistent pressure from the Wanderers with some top-drawer handling on all fronts was ended by Tom O'Callaghan racing in to touch down. There was no conversion leaving the score at 22-3. The young winger, who more regularly plays at scrum half was again touching down three minutes later. Receiving near the right wing following a wide-ranging attack that had begun near halfway, he picked an elusive line on his way to the posts to secure the try bonus point.

Downer's conversion put Thanet 29-3 ahead. Was that match over? The message hadn't reached Vigo who worked hard as they sought to break the home defensive line and were eventually rewarded with a try wide out near the left corner that could not be converted. Wanderers quickly responded with a restart that found a long touch and was in a good attacking position. With possession regained Wanderers worked their way into midfield and Louis Marshall was again the scorer under the posts making the score, after Downer's conversion, 36-5. With 25 minutes remaining a big score looked likely but the visitors' stubborn defence meant it was seventeen minutes before the next try was registered and that completed Louis Marshall's hat-trick. There was no way to stop him as he finished some lovely flowing rugby to triumphantly touch down. A mislaid kicking tee meant Downer had to rush his attempted conversion and it rebounded from a post. Two minutes later it was required again after Nick Herbert capped a very successful return with a strongly finished try. Downer added the extras making the final score 48-8 to Wanderers.

Great defence in the first half maintained the Wanderers' narrow lead until the break and allowed the Thanet side's fitness and stamina to build a substantial score during the second half against a whole-hearted Vigo team. Good luck to them as they battle to move up the table during the early months of 2025.

Wanderers remain in second place in the league, with the third team, Gillingham Anchorians, hard on their heels and just a point behind them. Next week, Thanet travel to Maidstone, who are in eleventh place in the twelve-team league. However, the Wanderers squad and their coaches will not be complacent. Please support the team if you can.

Head Coach, Elliot Blackmore thanked James Crompton who played at six for another top performance and congratulated second-row young Charlie Bailey on another 'make

a difference 'performance from the bench. Wanderers' stand-in Number Eight, Finn White, has come through the ranks of the club's juniors to give very mature performances in the first XV. He gave an outstanding display against Vigo, standing big in defence and carrying strongly to make many metres. He scored a try and was chosen by the opposition and his own coaches as Wanderers' man of the match.

**COLIN WHITELEY**



# RESULTS GRID COUNTIES 2 KENT LEAGUE

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

# RESULTS FROM KENT COUNTIES LEAGUE 2

## Saturday 11th January 2025

- Folkestone 19-13 Sidcup 2nd XV
- Gillingham Anchorians P Aylesford Bulls
- Maidstone P Medway 2nd XV
- Old Elthamians P Westcombe Park 2nd XV
- THANET WANDERERS HWO Dartford Valley
- Vigo P Old Alleynians 2nd XV

## Saturday 18th January 2025

- Aylesford Bulls 25-12 Vigo
- Folkestone 5-27 Old Elthamians

- Medway 2nd XV 13-7 THANET WANDERERS
- Old Alleynians 2nd XV 46-17 Maidstone
- Sidcup 2nd XV 50-7 Dartford Valley
- Westcombe Park 2nd XV 33-7 Gillingham Anchorians

## Saturday 25th January 2025

- Dartford Valley 17-64 Westcombe Park 2nd XV
- Gillingham Anchorians 36-21 Aylesford Bulls
- Maidstone 36-12 Medway 2nd XV
- Sidcup 2nd XV 39-12 Vigo



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# MATCH REPORT

## RUGBY COUNTY CUP: THANET WANDERERS VS. MAIDSTONE (RESCHEDULED GAME) 81-0

The much-anticipated cup game between Thanet Wanderers and Maidstone was on this week after last week's match was called off due to poor weather conditions.

The increased break meaning too many players hadn't played any rugby in the new year, and excitement was high as everyone returned to the pitch for some post-Christmas rugby action.

Although the pitch at Saint Peter's Recreational Ground wasn't frozen, the cold conditions kept both players and spectators on their toes throughout the match as everyone struggled to stay warm.

From the first whistle, Thanet looked like the stronger team, and they wasted no time asserting their dominance over Maidstone. The opening minutes saw some slick handling and creative attacking play, but a long outrageous pass from Ellis Plumridge just failed to find its mark. However, Freddie Durrant pounced on the loose ball, made a break in open space, rounding his man to score under the posts. James made the easy conversion to give Thanet an early 7-0 lead.

Thanet kept the pressure on, with a poor clearance kick from the Maidstone defense, putting the ball straight into the hands of Tom Gough, who gratefully took the donated try. The conversion was successful by James Murdock, and Thanet led 14-0. James then added a try shortly after, converting once again to make it 21-0.

The tries kept coming as Thanet moved the ball well across the field. A well-executed sequence practiced on Thursday, saw Noah Bull score in the corner, though the conversion was missed, making the score 26-0. Shortly thereafter, Noah Bull cut inside to add another try, taking Thanet to 31-0.

Thanet's attack was relentless, with Will Gedge breaking through the Maidstone defense and Finn Grounds delivering a perfect pass to Tom Gough for his second try. With the

conversion, the score moved to 36-0. From there, Thanet kept the pressure on, and soon Noah scored his hat trick, making it 41-0. A well-placed conversion brought the score to 43-0. The winger not wanting to be left out of the scoring feast, Jem Harris added the final try of the half to make the tally, 48-0.

The second half was a similar blur of attacking brilliance, with Thanet crossing the line several times: After a break from Freddie, Ellis passed to Callum, who finished with ease in the corner. 53-0. An outstanding move involving Carl Hubert and Vinny, saw Alex ended with a score in the corner, making it 58-0.

Thanet were running riot, with Freddie making another break and evading the Maidstone defense for a solo try 65-0. Thanet weren't slowing down or showing any mercy as points may be crucial later in the tournament. A final burst of tries brought the score to an astonishing 79-0, with Callum converting the last try to bring the final score to 81-0.

Thanet's 81-0 victory was a display of rugby dominance. Their attacking play was sharp, fast, and clinical, leaving Maidstone with little to show for their efforts. However, Maidstone never give up throughout the game and even though well behind they still gave it their all and due respect to them for that. As they did show on occasions how well they can play.

With 30 players putting their hands up for selection, Thanet now faces the challenge of managing a squad full of talent as they look ahead to their next matches in the competition. If players aren't training, they won't be getting selected.

With such a strong performance, Thanet looks to be a force to be reckoned with in this cup campaign. Good to see Vinnie Jones back from injury and Tom Weller up watching and walking well again. Man of the Match was Harrison Taylor for his unselfish commitment and tackle rate.

1. Will Escombe-Gedge
2. Finn Grounds
3. Finn Harris
4. Carl Gordan-Durrant
5. Charlie Bailey
6. Harrison Taylor
7. Owen Long
8. Ellis Rees-Plumridge
9. Oli Davies
10. James Murdock
11. Jem Harris
12. Freddie Durrant
13. Thomas Gough

14. Alex Dyer
15. Noah Bull
16. Zachery Oliver-Hendy
17. Vinnie Jones
18. Ronnie Hemmings
19. Ollie Parker
20. Callum Duffy
21. Hubert Derda
22. Jude Rigden
23. Reece Merrifield

### SIMON HARRIS



# MATCH REPORT

## THANET WANDERERS U15s VS ASHFORD U15s MATCH REPORT

Sunday the 19th brought cold, but very playable conditions for Thanet U15s visit to Aylesford Bulls, the 4th league match of this season's campaign. Aylesford came into the match having won 1 and lost two, whilst Thanet were unbeaten at the top of the table having won their first 3 games, with the bonus of only having conceded 14 points across those matches.

Thanet won the toss and decided to kick off. One of Finlay Smith's trademark high kicks was enthusiastically chased by Dexter Sproates and he was unlucky to knock on attempting the catch. An Aylesford scrum followed and some fast line speed from the Thanet centres saw Aylesford fumble and at the resulting ruck Thanet gained possession and the forwards gained vital yards before the ball went along the backs where Robbie Jones made vital yards before being tackled just before the line. Gab Petrauskas was the first forward to the breakdown and Harrison Tickle popped the ball to him to drive over the line for Thanet's first try of the game. The ever-reliable boot of Finlay Smith saw the conversion sail between the posts and Thanet were leading 7-0 within the first 6 minutes of the game.

From the restart an Aylesford high tackle on the halfway line allowed Finlay to kick deep into the Aylesford half. From the resulting line out the ball was on its way along the line when Aylesford intercepted. The ball was regained at the ruck and again two phases of forward play dragged in the Aylesford defence and Finlay made 15 yards before passing to Robbie Jones on the wing who had a relatively easy run in from 10 meters out. Another conversion for Finlay Smith and the Thanet lead increased to 14-0 with 9 minutes gone.

What followed was a period of sustained pressure that saw Thanet camped in Aylesford half. What was evident during this period was the understanding that the players now have together and the game management that the half back pairing of Smith and Tickle are now

starting to impress upon proceedings. No longer are we seeing a rush to take the tap penalty or a player trying to make the impossible pass but a new calmness about play that is bringing a much more mature style of rugby that opposition teams are struggling to compete with.

From open play around the halfway line, the ball makes its way to Gab who managed to find his way through the heart of the Aylesford defence and it was only desperate defence that managed to hold him up over the line. The resulting dropout was miscued and dropped straight into the arms of Jamie Barbara who had the simple task of running the ball in. The conversion was missed and Thanet now led 19-0.

The half time whistle blew, and Thanet had a well-deserved lead of 19-0. With a full bench and a good lead, it was time for changes and all 7 subs came on for the second half. A concerning few minutes for Milo Whitehead who suffered a knock to the head seconds before half time. A suspected concussion and he will be following the return to play protocol. We wish him well.

It took Thanet a good ten minutes to get used to the new line up during which time Aylesford enjoyed a good period of possession and pushed Thanet back into their 22. The pressure was relieved when Finlay Smith spotted a gap and raced through it to reach the halfway line. Good defence play by Aylesford managed to stop the attack, but the ball was spun out to Andrew Bull who taking the ball at pace stepped 3 players from the 22 and scored under the posts. The conversion hit the post and Thanet were now leading 24-0.

What followed was a 10-minute period that was dominated by the referee's whistle with both sides making errors and conceding penalties. Much of this period was played around the halfway line. For a moment the game seemed to stagnate.

A good kick out of defence by Finlay Smith saw the ball reaching the oppositions 22 and good chasing saw Thanet retrieve possession. Again,

the forwards took control for several phases. Space appeared on the Aylesford left, which was quickly spotted, and Jack Sperryn passed to Finlay Smith who popped the ball to Andrew Bull running a tight line from deep which gave him the momentum to drag his tackler over the line for his second try of the game. A successful conversion made the score 31-0.

Play was now permanently in the Aylesford half and from a scrum on their 22 Finlay threw a long double miss pass which Rio Goddard gathered well and rounded his opposite number to put the ball down under the posts. Yet another conversion from Finlay saw the score move to 38-0.

With just 3 minutes to go some scrappy play allows Dexter Sproates to pick up the ball and start a run of 25 yards which was only stopped

by some desperate Aylesford defence. Dexter managed to basketball pass the ball over the defender's head to Finlay Smith who supported well and then ran in under the posts for the final try of the game. Finlay converts yet again and the full-time score rises to 45-0.

The win makes its 4 from 4 for the U15s with the bonus of still only conceding 14 points across the 4 games. The interplay between the forwards and the backs was one of Thanet's strengths throughout the game and their defensive line speed never allowed Aylesford to escape their half for much of the match. Many positives to take to their next league match versus Medway on the 26th January

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