

Football Grounds in Kent Update



Football Grounds in Kent

a visual history by **Nick Fleete**



In 1995 I published my first book covering grounds in Kent. I thought I'd been to every ground but I soon found there were grounds I knew nothing about and so research continued. I finally committed to putting the images, maps and information into a book and published *Football Grounds in Kent* in 2020. Of course, within weeks even more information came to hand, too late to be included! Five years on I've found that my online store allows me to share pdfs so have put all this new information together in this document. No doubt further images and discoveries will continue to be found so updates will be made so they can immediately be shared.

The main new source has been the historical layer to be found on Google Earth Pro. Each newly-found vertical aerial has been hyperlinked so when clicked you should be taken to the online resource. Where appropriate I have added annotation, with other items of interest I leave you to explore the years available and see what has happened to the grounds. Other aerials are from *Britain From Above*.

Ramsgate

One aerial view that I missed when compiling the book shows the stand seen on page 105. The image is found in the Britain from Above archive, image code EAW009021, taken in 1947.



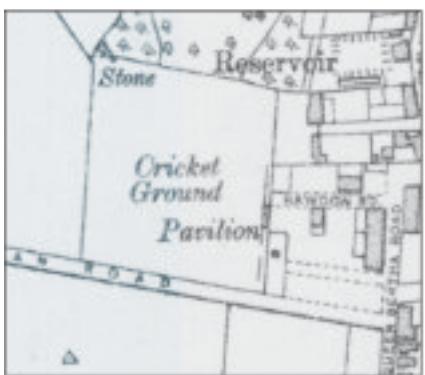
Britain From Above

A vertical aerial photo from Google Earth also shows the stand. We can now see that it had the angled ends as did other grounds in East Kent.



Looking again at maps on the National Library of Scotland website, which has Ordnance Survey maps from the whole of the UK, I now see that one corner was sold for housing. This explains the former use of the buildings at the entrance as pavilions. Luckily I took a photo of them a number of years ago.

1905



1946



I do not intend to write a complete history of grounds in Ramsgate here but feel it is important to expand on the two meagre pages in the book now that online resources can be linked and properly credited. Previously images for print had to be paid for with some reproduction fees being £35 or more.

Thanet Advertiser - Saturday 31 December 1898

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forwards.

RAMSGATE TOWN v. MARGATE TOWN.

The meeting of these clubs at Chatham House ground on Saturday afternoon produced an interesting contest. A large crowd of spectators was present. Margate had, playing for them at back, C. J. M. Fox, the old Kent cricketer, who rendered his team yeoman service. There was some good combination on both sides, Shine and Moulder working particularly well in the home front line. Margate scored early in the game, through Dixon, and before half-time added a second goal. Shine scored for the home team, and at the interval the game stood: Margate 2, Ramsgate 1.

There was much exciting play in the second



Ramsgate Town were noted as playing at Chatham House, a local Grammar School, from 1897 to 1899. Cuttings are from [The British Newspaper Archive](#). Even buying a month's subscription, as I did for this research, allows so much to be explored and discovered.

Although not yet available, Screen Archive South East has a film of a game at Chatham House [click here](#).

Ramsgate Town asked to use what is now Boundary Park. To add to later confusion the map notes it as being St. Lukes rec.



East Kent Times and Mail - Wednesday 21 May 1898

secretary, Mr. Jackson, did his work and the letter was referred to the next meeting, the Clerk to find out in the meantime what the arrangements were with Mr. Dixon. A letter was read from Mr. J. A. Waldron, hon. secretary to the

RAMSGATE TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB.

He asked for the use of the Boundary-road Recreation Ground for the next football season. The ground was, in the eyes of his committee, admirably suited for the purpose. There would be no charge for admission, but if many spectators were present the club would like permission to make a collection. Councillor Barnett moved that the letter be referred to the General Purposes Committee. Councillor Gwyn pointed out that at first the letter should go to the Works

discovered—with what success we do not know.
Democrats are trying for the Justice Gang, and will also make nominations for the House League. They have a new open slate book for the League, and, Sunday after my interview with St. John's Guild on the League Farm ground.

There will be a joint session this afternoon and evening at the University of Louisville and the working model.

I am glad to hear the grand stand at Lexington will be open to spectators and not to be ready for use on the occasion of the first match.

I have been asked to consider my opinion that the new grand stand is inferior to the old grand stand, only in its estimated price of \$10,000 and ordinary construction methods, admitting the possibility of the new stand being, in my opinion, the best in the country. W. H. Wright, Birmingham, and C. S. Thomas, the law man, are at the Belmont Advertiser office.

Thesut Advertising - Saturday 10 April 1999

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Around the same time a stand was being built at Southwood.

An auction was advertised at Dumpton Football Ground in 1916. Looking at what was being sold it would seem like the club facilities and stand had been taken apart.

After The Great War there is no further mention of the ground staging football.

East Kent Times and Mail - Wednesday 22 May 1920

Image © Year 6 PLC. Image created using a 2008 Microsoft Word Add-in.



WEAR

influence to obtain adequate facilities for exhibition.

The meeting of the "Renaissance" Greenville (the champions of the Thonet Junior League) and Sandwich Town (the runner-up), at Chatham House Ground on Saturday, attracted about 500 spectators, who witnessed an evenly-contested game, fought out in the best sporting spirit, the Greenville continually winning by two goals to one. From the time Alphonso J. W. Chapman (the Greenville president) kicked off until the final whistle blow, there was never much to choose between the teams. Only one goal was scored during the first half, that falling to Sandwich Town, who then led at the interval by 1-0. Immediately the game was restarted the Greenville equalised, Hallinan scoring with a good

East Kent Times and Mail - Wednesday 08 October 2009

Issue-C Final P.L.C. (unanimous) and DRAFT P.L.C. (unanimous)

SPORT AND PLAY.
JOTTINGS OF INTEREST.

The Nottingham Grange Football Club spent their mid-week programme at Amsteg on Saturday, before a very hot speaking of spectators, their opponents being the Guardsmen of the Great War (Amsteg branch). The result of a hard-fought encounter, also commanded by the referee (Mr. A. E. Fisher), was a win for the Grangemen by two goals to one. The Grangemen were represented by J. Walker, G. Stirrup, C. Todd, J. Hobson, R. Compton, C. Todd, P. H. Morris, W. Ellis, A. J. Hargrave, H. Chandler and F. W. Day.

Football was soon being played at Chatham House again as well as at Southwood, the history of which is well documented elsewhere.

There is confusion over three grounds found in the Dumpton Park area in the late 1920s and 1930s. The grounds are seen on pages 104 and 105 and in the photo, right, taken in 1940.

The problems have arisen because the name Dumpton Stadium seems to have been used for both the football ground and the greyhound stadium, separated by a couple of roads.

The greyhound stadium opened in the early summer of 1928.

There was a suggestion of it being used for Senior football but I found no further mention before WW2.



Evening News (London) - Monday 21 May 1928

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FOCUS THANET'S NEW DOG BEER RACE TRACK.

ARMED WITH A HORN THAT IS NOT A DEVICE OF ELECTRICAL HORSES

ONE LEFT.

From the New Correspondent, Ramsgate, Monday.

There is to be a **genuine** dog racing, a well-phased track in **new** condition at **Dumpton Park**, which is easily accessible from Margate and Broadstairs.

The track is a **clean** one from the start, and is **fully** accommodated for **small** people.

There is one in progress under the **horses**, who are not **interested**.

Evening News (London) - Friday 25 May 1928

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WE WOULD believe it was actually started in Margate, and would have been a track at Margate then had the ground at the Dumpton Park been available.

Having seen Dumpton Park I am in no doubt in regard that it is the most pleasant, as well as one of the best equipped, tracks in the country. The manager, Mr. J. H. Lupton, whom we saw yesterday in having out in a search party for a missing child, has been working hard to ensure perfect racing when the track opens.

My boy told me that it is the intention in the winter to organize a meeting and Association, both in the town and elsewhere. Thomas Hulme, who, it is believed, will be a considerable feature.

There will be a meeting of the Winter Meeting track on West Monday afternoon, commencing at 3.

Thanet Advertiser - Friday 25 May 1928



The new stadium clearly impressed one local resident who also mentioned a derelict football ground, presumably the old Dumpton ground.



IV star LADIES
for Ramsgate

AN element of women's football's international calendar at Ramsgate Greyhound Stadium, described there on Sunday, 20 August, where the U.K. team will play the world stars. The match will be a special testimonial match.

The IV side - the "International outfit" - will be composed of several national teams and individual international stars. However, no individual names were available when we went to press.

Admission is £10.00 and a half-hour of fun with a mixed atmosphere.

The last time a women's team was here, the score was 10-0, of which Miss Bell had the 10th.

The only mention in local newspapers of football being played at the greyhound stadium were for 'Ladies football' and a TV Allstar match.

I visited in the late 1990s with the stand glassed in but found a great turnstile.



ATHLETIC STADIUM**NEW GROUND AT RAMSGATE**

The Amersham & Eton is able to confirm today some interesting particulars of the new athletic ground at the back of Ramsgate. It is said that, if our sources are correct, this will make Ramsgate the spot of sporting excellence in East Kent.

The new ground, which is to be known as the "Grenville" and "Bastier" Grounds, is to be used for the trials and trials of the Ramsgate Athletic Club. Although it is already known in Ramsgate it will be used and by the Ramsgate Press Wanderers, the old club and also the other clubs.

A reporter from *East Kent* No. 12, who has been there, said his information about the future of the ground. It has been purchased by Mr. Bastier solely for the purpose of athletics.

In addition to athletic matches, the

The ground dedicated to football opened in 1932 and was home to Press Wanderers. By 1945 the stands were long gone.



present field during 1932-33

STADIUM GRANDSTAND.

Subject to an agreement being entered into with Broadstairs Council for the payment of an annual acknowledgement of £10, Ramsgate Town Council have granted permission to Messrs. Harrison and Sons to construct the drainage of a grandstand and lavatories proposed to be erected at the Press Wanderers' football ground at Ramsgate. The stadium is to be completed in time for the Corporation's new year in January.

HOCKEY FESTIVAL THANKS.

Mr. J. H. Broadbent, of the Ramsgate

Wednesday 22 March 1939

LIBRARY SERVICES

RAMSGATE AND DISTRICT LIBRARIES**GRENVILLE'S ENTERPRISE.****A New Home for the Press.**

Since the *Greenville Press* Club was unable to continue its old home at Broadstairs owing to the demands of the Ramsgate educational authority, it has been under the necessity of finding a new location at the Warre Recreation Ground. Although much has been done to make Ramsgate's new home as comfortable as possible in these surroundings, many more have been completed since the old office was this week made a very bold move.

Thanks to the co-operation of the owners, the club will have their own ground for meet and fixture purposes, having obtained a tenancy of *Greenville* Ground, the former home of the Ramsgate Press.

It is understood that this step has been taken by the club after very careful consideration of the whole position, and the committee feel that at last their loyal supporters will be able to enjoy these amenities which are not possible under present circumstances.

The large covered stand will be put in order, and will of course, prove a most valuable asset, from the spectators' point of view.



Yet another ground was Warre Rec, with some details noted on a later page.

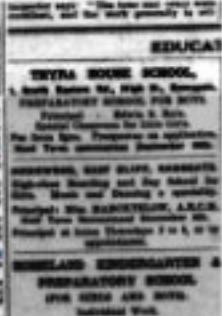
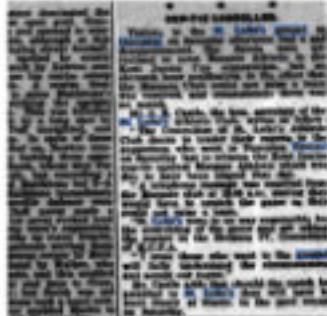
GOOD PROGRESS**RAMSGATE ATHLETIC CLUB FORMED**

The Ramsgate Athletic Club was officially formed at a special meeting held at Ramsgate on Tuesday. Mr. Norman A. H. C. Kempe took the chair and was supported by Mr. G. J. T. G. (Chairman) and Mr. G. J. Jenkins (Secretary).

Mr. Kempe spoke of the good progress already made by the club, and it was decided that the first meeting should be held on Saturday. An order had been made with respect to Diamond Matchless and it was decided that a race would be in the offing to be held at the Diamond Matchless on the 10th October.

The committee consisted, and were

GOALS FOR THE SCHOOLS**GOALS FOR THE SCHOOLS**



Thanet Advertiser - Tuesday 21 August 1945

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East Kent Times and Mail - Wednesday 25 January 2000

↳ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8840000/>

Sidelights on Sayings Doings & Personalities

IMPROVEMENTS AT THE WARREN

I am given to understand that certain football enthusiasts are very hopeful of improvements being effected at the Warre Hammett Ground, this year the home of the Gresley F.C.

The suggestion has been made that a disused ~~bandstand~~ situated in another part of the town should be transported to it. Lawrence with the object of giving the Ramegate club's playing field a more professional appearance—so my brother of additional comfort for spectators.

Of course, whether this proposal will be put into effect is entirely in the laps of the gods—or whoever else it is who decides these things.

It's interesting to read of how the ground could have been developed had Greenville not been able to move into the old Press Wanderers ground.

Warre Rec has hosted football since it opened around the turn of the 20th century. Maps show a pavilion, a term which was often used to note a stand. The aerial photo shows an actual pavilion to have been in use.



It's interesting to see the images of the Garrison Ground, above in 1940 and above right in 1960. The story I was told about the stand being removed was clearly true. Pages 96/7.

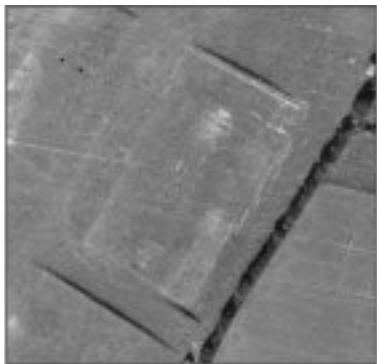
A distant view of the Garrison Ground. Pages 96/7.





The Royal Navy Barracks. Page 98.





The stand marked on a map in 1939 at Borstal is not there in the photo. Page 95.



Britain From Above

Shorts Sports. Page 94.
Above 1939, below 1940.





Rochester and Borstal briefly used Rochester Greyhound Stadium.
Page 95.



Original buildings at Chatham Town. Pages 92/3.

Chatham Town in 1936 from Facebook, Kent Non-League Football.





The stand at Milton Barracks would appear to have had a pitched roof. Page 71.



Change dates to locate the old APCM ground within the Ebbsfleet development. Page 71.

Gravesend United, Central Avenue. Pages 64/5.





Thameside Amateurs had been mentioned in earlier books but not the most recent due to lack of either a map or photo. At last the location and pitch alignment can be seen. I was told that the turnstile at Crockenhill came from this ground and had previously been at Gravesend United and likely to originally have been at Rosherville Gardens.



Imperial Paper Mills was a ground I didn't visit but should have as the pavilion is said to still be part of the rugby club facilities. Page 71.

Harmsworth Athletic had a stand shown in the map extract on page 71 but this is the only known photo.



Cray Wanderers had more grounds featured in the book than any other club and again there is more of interest and new discoveries to be shared.

The Topham archive have many interesting photos [click here...](#)



The precise location of the Footscray Amateurs / Cray Wanderers ground was always a topic myself and the late Ian Fordyce could not agree on. My photographic evidence, as seen in the book, did not convince him as he had passed the ground so many times on the bus. The vertical photo proves where the pitch was beyond doubt, also that there was no stand and the players most likely changed in the club opposite. Page 184.

Cray Wanderers - St Mary Cray
Rec. The changing room block
pre-dates WW2. Page 184.



Cray Wanderers had a short-lived ground beside the River Cray at Tothills. By the time of the photo in 1960 a church had been built over part of the ground but it is interesting to see what looks like the foundations of the small stand. This can be seen in the photo taken from the Cray 150 book. Page 185.



Cray Wanderers played at Grassmeade, seen top left, for a number of years but the ground was well-established by the time it became their regular home ground. Pages 186-189.





Perhaps the most important evidence provided by these images is that the precise location of Cray Wanderers' one-year Northfield ground has only now been proven. Previously it had been thought that the ground was to the west of Grassmeade but the image above shows the houses already built. The actual location was at the Trotting track on the east side of the ground. The track is clear to see so it is now assumed the pitch was inside the track.

Pages 186/7. A Pathé film shows the track.



© BRITISH PATHÉ



© BRITISH PATHÉ



Cray Wanderers had to quickly find a ground when they lost the use of Grassmeade. This photo shows that a pitch had been long-established at their new Oxford Road home but that there were no other facilities. Pages 190/191.

Finally, the location of Cray Wanderers new ground at Flamingo Park and Sangley Sports playing Kent Police at Flamingo Park.





The aerial view confirms that the current Crabble football ground was built and in use with a stand in the 1930s. The post-war aerial from Britain from above is also of great interest. Pages 49-54



Britain From Above

During my research I unexpectedly came across a ground to the north of The Crabble in Dover. Research showed it to be the the works ground of a company called Stanlee's. A stand was shown on the map but this is the only photo I know of showing the stand.

Page 48.





Hythe Town's ground before being used for Senior football was completely undeveloped. Pages 72/73

The stand at Shornecliffe Barracks seems to have a barrel roof in the aerial from the book but does the photo above show a pitched roof? Page 61.





Tunbridge Wells Rangers' pre-war ground is one of Kent's most elusive lost venues. Quite why such a well-developed ground was lost remains a mystery, as it still seemed to have goalmouths worn in 1960 (right).

Pages 133/6.

Tunbridge Wells' then-Chairman Peter Wager took me round the various grounds in town in the mid 1990s and had been to matches at the pitch diagonally south east of the pre-war pitch. Facilities were clearly limited so maybe the old changing rooms were used? Pages 133/6.

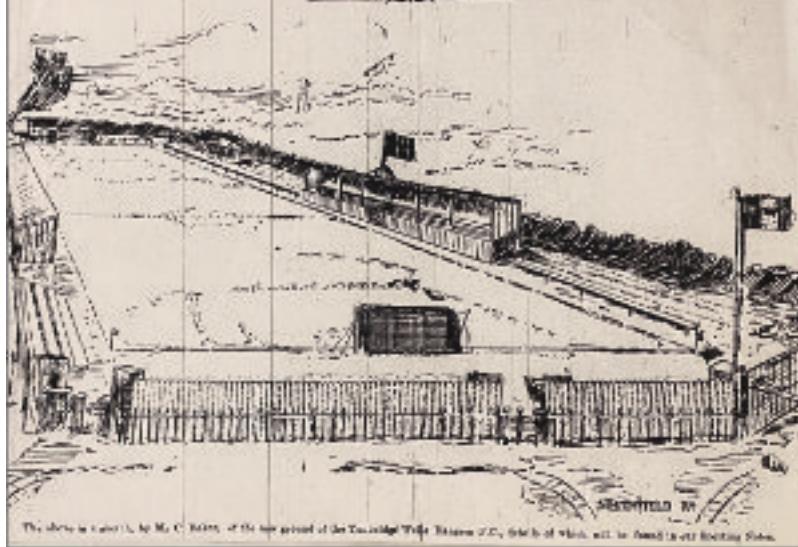




Tunbridge Wells' Eridge Road ground also seemed to have few photos showing facilities until I came across a film on the Screen Archive South East website ([click to link here...](#)). showing an Agricultural Show. This top aerial confirms the position of the pitch and the two stands both used for spectators. Tunbridge Wells historian Roger Bassett provided the photo above and says players changed in the smaller stand and made their way to the pitch between the two stands. Pages 133/7.



TUNBRIDGE WELLS RANGERS' NEW FOOTBALL GROUND.



The above is copied by Mr C. Bassett, of the new ground of the Tunbridge Wells Rangers F.C., sketch of which will be found in our locality sheet.

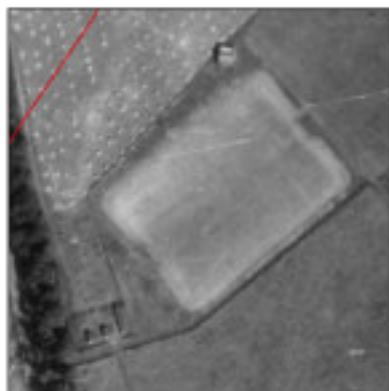
Another image from Roger Bassett showing the Tunbridge Wells Rangers ground from 1906-09 known as Combley Park. The girls grammar school was built on the ground. Page 133.

Down Farm, again from the Facebook group Kent Non-League Football.





The pavilion at Chislet CW which was only recently demolished was always the main facility. Page 47.



A small pavilion but no stand or cover were in place at Tilmanstone CW. Page 47.

Betteleshanger Welfare's stand is clearly seen but it was not known that one end was sharply angle in. Pages 39-41





The cover at Deal RM had been assumed to be from the 1930s but it would seem that an earlier pitched roof stand was in use before WW2. Page 36.

Deal Town's Mill Road ground could have become an excellent venue with that bank! Page 36.





The Sheerness Steel / current Sheppey Utd ground on the left and the earlier reformed Sheppey United ground on the right. Page 110.

Callender's Athletic, of interest to locate within modern redevelopment. Page 200.





The alignment of the pitch at Holmesdale FC is now confirmed.
Page 161.



London Paper Mills Pages 31-33

The expansion of the cemetery at Swanscombe is interesting to follow in the timeline. The entrance block on 158 is clearly seen.
Pages 157/8





Thames Poly's stand dates back to before WW2. Page 204.



Greenwich Borough. Page 206

Lewisham Borough did not feature in the recent book and was a basic athletic track in the past.





By the end of WW2 the ground at Bostall Heath 1945 was unused and without the old stand and changing rooms. Page 172.



Bexleyheath Town also had a cover on the far side pre-WW2. Pages 166-170.

In an update to the update the ground John Heath tells me the ground was used by Phoenix Sports and junior club Upton Athletic between the end of the war and the establishment of Bexleyheath & Welling in 1951. I'm then reminded that I recall reading that as well as Welling United applying to lease the ground in the late 1970s three other clubs were also interested.

These were Alma Swanley, Penhill Standard (both reasonably locally-based) but also Corinthian Casuals. How would they have fitted in at Welling? *Play Up lads??!*

Danson (Bexley Boro) must have become a football ground when the adjacent Youth Club opened. Pages 204/5.





VCD Athletic featured in Football Grounds Frenzy Kent and do not appear to have had anything other than the pavilion which lasted until early Kent League days.



Phoenix Sports was also a cricket ground until the early 2000s.
Again, in Football Grounds Frenzy Kent.

Another local club were Bakers' Sports, a works team from Crayford. Now home to Crayford Arrows, this is how the ground looked when Crocks played there.





Slade Green's ground had been
in use pre-WW2. Page 197.



RASRA feature in my South East
London book.

Darenth Training Colony.
Page 30.





Britain From Above

Woolwich Garrison Stadium Top 1940, above 1947.
Page 202

Not included in the recent book, Bexley FC appear to have had some form of cover pre-WW2.



In my time with Crockenhill I found they had often played a team called Brentstonians, previously Brent School Old Boys, from Dartford. I'd be told they played near an old hospital and this pitch is nearby so could have been their ground.



Crockenhill United had played at Wested Meadow before WW2 with the goalmouths of the pitch, smaller than currently used, just visible.
Pages 144-150.

Swanley Athletic / Town / Alma Swanley all used Swanley Recreation ground for their home matches. I knew of a pre-war pavilion in the southern corner but until seeing this photo the actual pitch used was not known. When the new facilities were built the clubs used the pitch nearer the road to the north east. Pages 154/155,





The rarely-seen cover opposite the main stand at Sittingbourne, from Kent Non-League Football on Facebook. Page 113.



Britain From Above

Sittingbourne has numerous aerial photos taken over the years, these being too good not to share. Page 113.



Britain From Above

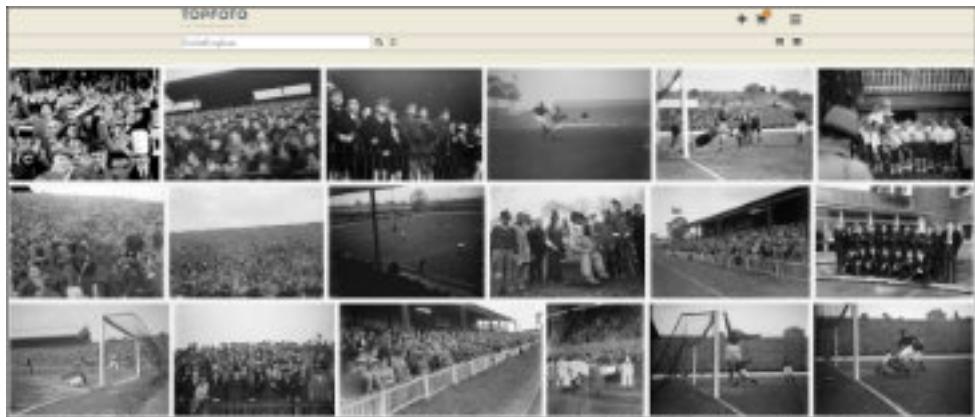
The alignment of the pitch at New Town Rangers, Ashford is confirmed by this image. Page 9.



The location of the stand at Canterbury Waverley is confirmed in this image.
Page 15.

Brett's Sports / Canterbury City - just a nice view of a great lost ground! Pages 16/17.



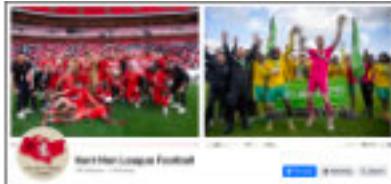


In the 1930s a keen photographer took action photos in the Sidcup and Dartford area, also at Millwall and Charlton Athletic. His company have an amazing archive, the image above links to a search of his football photos. Hours can be spent browsing! I included a number in the book, not cheap to use but amazing.

Photos listed in the Topfoto archive as being taken in Sidcup show a Cossack display in front of a stand.

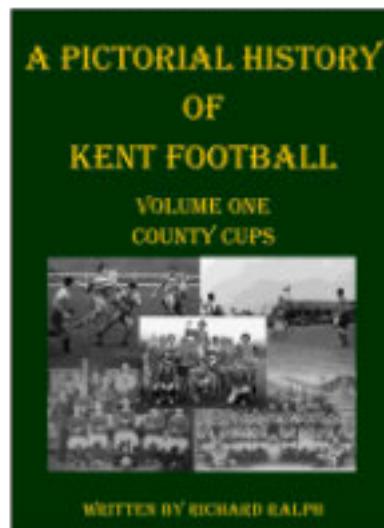
The actual location has never been established despite the efforts best brains of Kentish football history but I'd suggest that it is at Sidcup RFC.





The Facebook page Kent non-League Football includes some excellent archive images, such as this showing a pre-war stand at Chatham Town included earlier. The old photos are to be found in a separate History folder, ([click here](#))

Richard Ralph has a great interest in results and League tables. He has published this massive column which includes a large number of archive photos and is highly recommended for anyone interested in football in Kent





Two films from the Pathé archive show Charlton Athletic's Valley ground both with a crowd and also the undeveloped bank which clearly shows the old quarry sides.

Charlton Athletic briefly played in Catford. The pitch was levelled with the banks and position of the pitch possibly visible here. It's not clear where the small stand had been though.



I'm pleased to say that another photo of the stand on page 6 appeared on Facebook confirming my identification was correct. The Unofficial Maidstone United History page on Facebook found the image below, right and confirmed my suggestion that my card showed the stand at Postley Fields, home of Maidstone Church Institute FC.



FOOTBALL FIELD ALLOTMENTS

The two acres of pasture land at ~~Foot~~ Fields, at one time the Church Institute Football Club's pitch, taken over by the Town Council as ~~allotments~~ has been staked out in ten-acre plots. Within a few hours of this work being taken in hand some of the allottees were busy laying out their plots as a preliminary to the business of trenching in the turf. A considerable area of the enclosure had already been ploughed, and to those to whom this has been ~~allotted~~ a different problem has been presented. The snowfall of Sunday night has suspended operations on the land for the next few days at least.

In 1918 the Church Institute ground was turned over to allotments. Although the vertical aerials show allotments further south I suggest that the playing fields of South Borough school are the old ground and that the allotments only lasted until the school was built. Maybe some on Maidstone could check this out?

Maidstone Telegraph - Friday 04 May 1945

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FILLING THE DITCH
T. HILLIER: the arrangement has only to be stated to show its absurdity. In any case that land was presumably allocated for that neighbourhood.

FILLING THE DITCH
As to (1) it is suggested that the anti-tank ditch and alluvium have rendered the land unsuitable for its original purpose. The site was originally used as a cricket pitch at the ~~Foot~~ **Foot** and **Foot** rugby pitch at the opposite end.

An inspection of the site shows that neither of these are affected by the anti-tank ditch which, when filled in, would be part of the surface for cricket, and outside the rugby playing area. Both cricket pitches could be restored to the ground now used for ~~rugby~~ means.

And why should the anti-tank ditch take years to fill in? If the arrangements were properly made the military authorities are surely liable to restore the land to its original condition, and to suggest that with modern machinery it

The 1940 vertical aerials actually confuse matters due to incorrect alignment, an anti-tank ditch being aligned with a road. The image below has been amended to show the area correctly.

The cutting suggests this area was used for the Church Institute rugby and cricket teams, no football being played by the club after WW1.



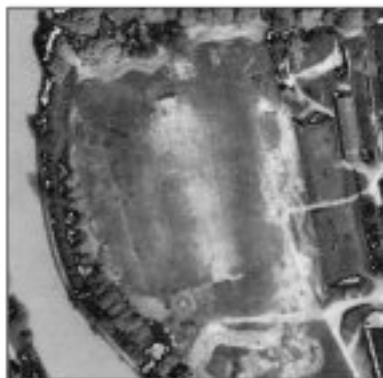


Maidstone Utd's London Road ground was previously shared with cricket. The pitch used by the reformed club had been the north east corner of the ground. Page 74.



Maidstone Utd's London Road ground is again seen, this time in a film in which it was not identified on the Screen Archive South East website ([click to link here...](#)). Mixed with films from Canterbury the vertical aerial below shows the tree behind the cover. I've also not seen this cover with a roof gable before. Page 74.





Maidstone Utd's current ground
had always been a pitch as part of
the barracks but without facilities.
Page 79.

While around the Maidstone area it's interesting to look in at the Kent Police ground.



Although I didn't include any photos or mention of Metrogas FC in the recent book it did feature in the earlier Football Grounds of South East London and also in Football Grounds Frenzy Kent, with a map of the ground by the Blackwall Tunnel and the then-current ground in New Eltham. I

knew that the club had also played at a ground off the Old Kent Road but was only prompted to look by a post on Twitter by Kent Non League Attendances, whose

screenshot of a report from 1921/2 mentions a crowd of 5,000 attending a game. The aerial photo below is from Britain from Above, which was not online when I published the SE London book. What a ground!

AMATEUR CUP—Third Round.

Metrogas v Clifton Colliery.

At the Kent Road, before 1,000 spectators, Metrogas a powerful team, and the first to score, Pilkett showed well, and the Clifton goal was a flying shot. After football, Metrogas, per se, possess a host of another brilliant game, the ~~Metrogas~~ ~~Metrogas~~ shot just wide when close in front of the ~~Metrogas~~ goal. From a corner kick Metrogas headed out of the Clifton goal already.

Jones, after a clever display, went in a full line, while Laddie scored with difficulty, after being off the ball, repeated. From a corner kick Metrogas scored for Metrogas after 22 minutes, a clever shot, the ball was serviceable, but the ball was off the ball. The Metrogas outplayed and a few last in safety, but lost. ~~Metrogas~~ were shortly handles the Clifton defence. Intensity.

Metrogas 4 Clifton Colliery 0. Right from the outset Metrogas an open goal for the visitors, but twenty minutes later ~~Metrogas~~ scored. ~~Metrogas~~ headed strongly in the goal, the ball was serviceable, but did not score open. Metrogas 1 Clifton Colliery 0.



The earlier ground is now part of the car park for the O2, and by 1945 had been covered over as part of the gasworks site which heavily polluted the area prior to the work undertaken to create the Dome.

