



KENT CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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Dear Gordon

I know one of our shareholders raised this issue at the EBU AGM but the KCBA Committee has asked me to write to you to ask the Board to consider the matter.

The background is that over recent years the KCBA Committee has put lots of effort into increasing attendances at County events including the Kent Congress which has traditionally been held on the last weekend in October.

In 2017 at the 58th Congress there were 34 pairs on the Saturday and 21 teams on the Sunday. In 2018 at the 59th Congress there were 42 pairs and only 15 teams on the Sunday and two of these were put together at the last minute on the Saturday. We believe a significant factor in the reduction in the teams entering the Congress was the clash with the Premier League. There were 11 Kent players in the Premier League this year plus some others from other Counties who have played in the Congress before.

At the time of the 58th Congress we decided to apply to the EBU for an extra Green-pointed event for the teams at the 60th Congress in 2019. We followed the rules in starting the process two years in advance. However, having been granted this additional event we find less than one year ahead that the Premier League will again clash with the Congress,

We believe that the Premier League has become a successful addition to the annual calendar and it needs to be scheduled two years in advance in the way that other EBU events are, which would allow counties to make their plans confidently that far in advance. The argument that such advance dates for the Premier League could be upset by changes to WBF or EBL events has some validity with regard to the First Division, less so for Divisions 2 and 3. This is not something which will happen every year or indeed every time the EBL or WBF has an event scheduled. If it does it may only be necessary to reschedule the First Division but even if it goes further everybody will know the reason and in most years it will not be necessary.

So in our view it is better to schedule the Premier League in advance the same as other EBU events with the risk that say once every five years there might be disruption caused by the need to change it rather than to always schedule it with less than a year's notice ensuring that there will almost always be disruption to the established schedule.

We therefore ask that the Board put in place arrangements for the Premier League so that this advance scheduling can take place.

Yours sincerely

Sharon
Sharon Bayne
KCBA Secretary

Founded 1937 [Affiliated to the English Bridge Union](#)

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