

Kent Contract Bridge Association
Committee Meeting 3rd October 2026
New Blue-pointed Pairs Event

After the last Committee meeting, you were polled on the idea of establishing a new Kent County blue-pointed event to run in parallel in three clubs across the county. The aim was to involve the Kent clubs more directly, provide a geographic spread that enabled members to play more locally than Tunbridge Wells and in the process attract more members to play in county events. The response was generally positive. An initial proposal was circulated for comment at the beginning of September. There was only a limited number of responses but those received were also positive. The purpose of this paper is to seek the approval of the Committee to proceed with the development of a final proposal that is fully costed and addresses the issues that it was not possible to address in the initial, high-level proposal.

The proposal is as follows:

- **Competition:** Blue-pointed, face-to-face run in parallel in three clubs geographically positioned across the county
- **Venues:** Our preferred option is Farnborough (West), Maidstone (Central) and Canterbury (East)
- **Format:** 36 boards (the minimum necessary to be blue-pointed) starting at 1pm
- **Catering:** A half-hour mid-point break for coffee/tea and possibly sandwiches and cake
- **Size:** Our target would be around 10 tables per venue but this could probably be flexed depending on demand and the size of the venues, parking restrictions and so on
- **Tournament Directors:** We are happy for either a non-playing TD or a player also directing with a free entry
- **Prizes:** There would be cash prizes but we have yet to determine how many and the extent to which we would award them by venue versus the consolidated result
- **Timing:** The target date is Sunday 13th June
- **Cost:** Although the full cost of holding the event has yet to be calculated, our aim is help it get off the ground by keeping the entry fee as low as possible to the extent that we would be prepared for the County to subsidise it to a reasonable degree, at least in its first year.

The three clubs above have been contacted for their comments and to gather initial information about venue availability and cost. Farnborough has reacted very enthusiastically. They have been planning to introduce their own blue-pointed event next year but would be happy for this to take its place. Maidstone is positive but the venue is an issue (see below). Canterbury is also positive but would like to know more about costs before fully committing.

In selecting a date we need to fit it in the overall timetable for national and county events whilst allowing for the availability of the venues in all three locations. Sunday 13th June 2027 looks to be the first date that meets our criteria. This date works for both Farnborough and Canterbury, who have provisionally booked their venues for this date. It is difficult for Maidstone to commit to any dates at the moment because of their ongoing court case regarding the CSSC. This is a significant issue which we will need to address quickly. Hartlip may be a possibility, for example.

The Committee is requested to consider this proposal and approve its development into a fully defined and costed event for final approval and scheduling at the January meeting.

Jonathan Wittmann

KCBA Chairman

24th September 2026

Stephen Brown

KCBA Competitions Secretary