

**Introduction**

The Kent Hopper Cup team-speaking competition was devised by Fay Andrews when in Maidstone ASC and now of West Kent ASC in 2000. The main idea for the competition was to give Kent ASC clubs an opportunity to compete against a set time on a style and manner outside the normal rules associated with ASC speeches and competitions. The purpose of the Kent Hopper Cup contest is to celebrate the speaking and presentation skills of the contestants.

**Kent Hopper Cup Rules (2011)**

The Kent Hopper Cup is an annual team speaking contest between clubs established within the Association of Speakers Clubs (ASC) in the Kent Area. Each club in the area is entitled to enter one team. The contest takes place in June or July on a date agreed by the Kent Area President.

The hosting and organisation of the contest rotates between clubs as follows: West Kent, Chaucer and Thanet, and any additional clubs in the order of their becoming chartered members of the ASC.

The contest is chaired by the current Kent Area president, or by someone appointed by the president.

Each contesting club provides a judge. The Kent Area Executive committee may invite a notable member of the ASC or a suitable non ASC person to chair the judging panel. The chief judge should be fully briefed on the rules and objectives of the competition. The judges' marking scheme is appended to the rules.

Each club is entitled to enter one proposed title for the speeches to be offered at the subsequent contest. One is chosen by a popular vote among those present, conducted by the chairman.

Each team consists of a chairman and three speakers. Competing members can be at any level within their club, new, intermediate or experienced speakers.

The team chairman's role is to give an introduction, link the three speeches, sum up and keep the team and individual speakers to time.

The objective of each team is to impress the judging panel with their ability to deliver a coherent series of 3 speeches and chairmanship within the time framework of 20 minutes. The intention is for the team to put together a connected theme for their presentation, not individual speeches vaguely connected.

Coherence requires that the team's performance is well planned, so that it is clear and sensible and all its parts go well with each other.

The speeches and chairmanship should demonstrate a wide range of speaking and presentation skills.

Teams may be as imaginative as they like in choosing any style which helps the team to meet their purpose in addressing the specific theme of the contest.

The use of role play, dressing up, visual aids and props will be assessed on the extent to which they help the team to meet their purpose in addressing the specific theme of the contest.

At the start of the contest, a draw is conducted by the chairman to establish the order of speaking.

Each team will be given time to rearrange seating, lecterns, timing devices etc and position any visual aids immediately prior to the start of their presentation.

The total time available to each team, including the chairman, is 20 minutes. Deviations of more than 3 minutes either way incur the penalty points listed below. There is no fixed time for individual speeches.

Speakers may use a watch or other timer on the lectern or other suitable position. A clock is made available to the team to be placed in any suitable position, as their chairman sees fit.

A timekeeper operates a system of 'traffic lights' to guide the teams in accordance with the table below. The timekeeper notes the length of each team's performance and passes them to the chairman of the judging panel at the end of the contest.

Light	On	Off
Green	17.00	19.00
Amber	19.00	21.00
Red	21.00	23.00

At 24 minutes, the timekeeper strikes the gavel, and the team must stop speaking.

Total time	Penalty points
16.00 - 16.30	40
16.31 - 17.00	20
17.01 - 23.00	Nil
23.01 - 23.30	20
23.31 - 23.59	40

Year	Host club	Theme	Winner
2000	West Kent	Kent 2020	Thanet
2001	Thanet	The garden of England	Chaucer
2002	Chaucer	The long, the short and the tall	Thanet
2003	Thanet	Wish you were here	Maidstone
2004	Weald	The good, the bad and the ugly	West Kent
2005	Maidstone	Stop the world, I want to...	Thanet
2006	Ashford	Heroes and Villains	Thanet
2007	West Kent	Oh, to be in England	West Kent
2008	Chaucer	Change	West Kent
2009	Thanet	Everyone should have a bucket list	Chaucer
2010	West Kent	A moment in time	West Kent
2011	Chaucer	If only I had the time...	Chaucer
2012	Thanet	Flying the Flag	

