

Report on Surrey Representative Events November 2025

Tollemache

The first stage was held over the weekend 8-9th November and Surrey finished a clear first in their group to qualify for the final in at the end of January 2026 winning 12 of their 14 matches. This is the third year running that Surrey have qualified for the final. In the 2025 final Surrey finished second their best performance for many years. I hope I am not tempting fate by saying there is an excellent chance to go one step forward next year as the final looks somewhat weaker than recent years with a number of the perennial contenders failing to qualify including the 2025 winners London, Manchester and Cambs & Hunts.

This year we went with seven pairs in the qualifier. The selectors were hoping that Dan Winter and Oscar Selby would play as a nod to the future but at the last minute it turned out that Dan Winter was unavailable.

The team selected was

Fedrick/Southwell
Osborne/Hinden
Lee/Cox
Granville/Sadie
Chisnall/Swanson
Clennell/Cooke
Norman/Dawson

Setting aside one pair that only played 21 boards Surrey pairs occupied the top three places on the cross-imp and two further pairs were in the top 10.

The selectors will meet shortly having confirmed availability to select a team for the final. This will normally involve a reduction in the number of pairs as seven is too unwieldy at a live event and involves too much sitting around in hotel rooms.

Metropolitan Cup

More publicity was given to this event this year with mixed results. An article was placed in the Surrey newsletter in the early part of the year explaining the selection process but this did not garner any expressions of interest. A couple of months or so before the event a direct invitation was sent to all Surrey players with any NGS of 10 or higher to apply for selection. This widened the net beyond people who would normally play in the C Division which is intended for players ranked Q/J.

We fielded an A team this year which consisted of some Tollemache players and some players just below that standard. For instance Christine Dyer played for the first time in Division A and had a good session in partnership with Robin Clarke, and Gerard Thompson, normally a B team player played with Dominic Cooke. The Team finished 5th out of 8. A somewhat stronger team could have been selected but two Tollemache pairs did not declare their availability until very late and after the team had been already selected.

In the B Division we had lot of interest and had enough pairs for two teams. Indeed I tried to get the organiser to allow Surrey to field a second B team but that depended on there being an odd number of teams entered and sadly there was not. The team fielded was a strong one that has won the B division a couple of times in recent years. The team finished out 3rd out of 8 with Mike Ellis and Paul Mumford having the best set. This level seems to be the sweet spot where there is most interest in this competition.

For the C division we only had one pair put themselves forward for selection. We did follow up work to try and generate more interest but to no avail. For instance Richard did a follow up email for Richmond pairs and subsequent to that approached some pairs but without any positive response, A number of other counties also failed to have a team for this division.

Graham Osborne

Match Secretary