

SURREY REPORT – JULY 2026

INTERCOUNTIES 2026 AND COUNTY SQUAD

An extremely good year for Surrey. Both our U16 teams (Light and Heavy) won silver, and both our senior teams (Low Grade and High Grade) won gold. These are the best results I have seen for Surrey at the Intercounties since I became involved with the county committee (including serving as squad manager before the lockdowns).

This year, we made a real effort to make becoming Surrey County Champion a bigger achievement. At the Surrey Closed, we introduced the 'Surrey Cup', with points awarded to clubs based on the medals won. I would like to think that this, together with social media promotion and increased club engagement, helped increase the pool of players available for selection.

The county squad sessions continue to prove challenging, and interest seems low. It is difficult to build momentum when different players attend each session. In addition, those attending tend to be very young and inexperienced.

SURREY COMPETITIONS

In 2026, we increased the number of competitions offered from three to four per year. In 2027, we will continue with four competitions. Dates have been submitted:

- 1 February 2026: Two events – a Low Grade Minors competition and a Kyu Grade-only competition. A total of 171 entries were received, making this a good result. Around 60% of the entries came from the Kyu Grade event.
- 26 April 2026: The Surrey Closed. There were 139 entries, representing a good turnout for a closed event.
- 12 July 2026: The Surrey Veterans Open. At the time of producing this report, only 54 entries have been received; however, there are still two weeks remaining until the closing date. This is the first time we have run a Veterans event, so it will be interesting to see how popular it proves to be. I hope the Surrey Veterans Open becomes an annual event, but that will depend on participation numbers.
- 8 November 2026: We have yet to decide what format this event will take.

KATA OPPORTUNITIES

In 2025, we held two kata courses (Katame-no-Kata and Nage-no-Kata). The original plan for 2026 was to arrange two further courses covering different kata. However, following the rollout of the new Dan grade syllabus, we decided to repeat the same kata, as they are requirements for 1st and 2nd Dan and were therefore likely to attract greater interest.

- 17 May 2026 – Katame-no-Kata course at Camberley JC. 14 attendees. Coaches' revalidation event.
- 18 October 2026 – Nage-no-Kata course in Croydon. Coaches' revalidation event.

DAN GRADINGS

In 2026, we increased the number of county-held Dan gradings from two to three. We are also holding three gradings in 2027, and dates have been submitted:

- 10 January 2026 – 34 entries, up to 4th Dan.
- 18 July 2026 – Currently 8 entries, with a few weeks remaining until the closing date.
- 10 October 2026.

COACHES' DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the kata courses, we have arranged a coaches' revalidation masterclass with Luke Preston in December 2025. This is the second year we have organised such masterclass sessions, following Charlie Young's session in 2024.

The plan is to continue this initiative in December 2026, although no decision has yet been made regarding the venue or presenter. As in previous years, the session will be free for Surrey coaches and players to attend.

NEW COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Keith Edwards has joined the Surrey Committee as our Welfare Officer.