

Croquet England seeks a new Chair of Trustees

Purpose of the Role

- Provide leadership to the Board of Trustees, ensuring effective governance and strategic oversight of Croquet England.

About Croquet England

- Croquet England is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in England & Wales (Charity No. 1202444), with the following charitable purposes:
 - To promote community participation in healthy recreation through the provision of facilities for playing croquet.
 - To advance the amateur sport of croquet for public benefit.
- We are proud of our heritage and excited for our future. Approximately 10,000 players belong to over 200 affiliated clubs, with many thousands more enjoying croquet informally at home. The competitive scene is thriving, from local leagues to national championships and international tournaments.
- Our [strategy](#) to inspire a new generation of players in a safe, inclusive and diverse community focuses on seven key areas: play, safeguarding, coaching, inclusion, wellbeing, funding, and sustainability. We are in the latter stages of defining a strategic action plan that will underpin the delivery of this strategy over the coming years.

Key Responsibilities

- Leadership & Governance
 - Work with the CEO and Secretary to set the agenda for Board meetings.
 - Chair Board meetings, and ensure they are conducted efficiently, inclusively, and in accordance with the organisation's constitution.
 - Facilitate constructive debate and decision-making among Trustees.
 - Ensure all Trustees are properly informed and able to contribute effectively.
 - Promote high standards of governance and compliance with charity law and regulatory requirements, including management of conflicts of interest.
- Strategic Direction
 - Lead the Board in setting and reviewing Croquet England's vision, mission, and strategic objectives.
 - Ensure alignment of organisational activities with charitable purposes and long-term goals.
 - Oversee recruitment of board roles and appointments.

- Executive Liaison
 - Ensure effective communication between the Board and the Executive
 - Act as the primary link between the Board and the Executive, or appoint another trustee to take that role.
 - Support and appraise the Chief Executive (or equivalent) and ensure clarity of delegated authority.
 - Ensure Board decisions are executed and actions implemented.
- Organisational Leadership
 - Represent Croquet England externally, acting as an ambassador for the sport and the organisation.
 - Serve as an official signatory and responsible representative where appropriate.
 - Build relationships with member clubs, federations, sponsors, and other stakeholders.
- Risk & Compliance
 - Oversee risk management processes and ensure financial sustainability.
 - Ensure adherence to governance policies and ethical standards.
- Board Development
 - Lead Trustee recruitment, induction, and development.
 - Foster a culture of accountability, diversity, and inclusion within the Board.

Our [induction guide for trustees](#) contains further information relevant to this role, including a description of the core responsibilities of all Trustees.

Time Commitment

- Attend and chair scheduled Board meetings (typically 8 times a year in evenings or on Saturdays).
- If acting as primary link with the Executive personally, attend Executive meetings (typically 10 times a year on Thursday evenings)
- Participate in key committees and events as required.
- Provide ongoing support to the Executive team between meetings.

Skills & Attributes

- Strong leadership and communication skills.
- Strategic thinking and ability to balance oversight with delegation.
- Understanding of charity governance and financial management.
- Commitment to Croquet England's values and objectives.

Term of office

- Three years, with a maximum of three terms.
- The current chair will conclude their tenure during 2026 and will support a smooth handover. If not already a trustee, the incoming Chair will be invited to join Board meetings as an observer to support this.

Remuneration

- This is a voluntary post. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with policy.

Location

- Remote.
- Meetings typically take place online. Occasional meetings (two in 2025) take place in person, usually on a Saturday in London.
- A Croquet England Microsoft 365 account will be provided, to be used with the chair's own IT hardware.

Our Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

- Croquet England is committed to building a sport and community that welcomes everyone. We actively encourage applications from people of all backgrounds.

Application Process

If you require any further information or an informal chat about the role, please contact:

- [Samir Patel](#), Chair of the Board of Trustees
- [Andy Dalby Welsh](#), CEO
- [Gabrielle Higgins](#), Secretary

To apply, please send a cover letter of up to two pages outlining your suitability for the role as well as a brief CV to Gabrielle Higgins, Secretary (gabrielle.higgins@croquetengland.org.uk) by 1 March 2026.