

CROQUET ASSOCIATION OF
QUEENSLAND

ESTABLISHED 1922 · TERM
2026

THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION FOR THE TERM

Steering Document

The direction we must take. The four ideals will guide where we go, and bring everyone together.

— John van Barneveld, President —

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Direction We Must Take

When I became CAQ President I realised a clear and straight course to improve croquet's future is needed.

Croquet's most urgent need is for more members at all levels. From club players to national champions. More people mean more volunteers to help share the work of maintaining our clubs.

The club days, the competition days and the administration of our game is all due to people giving up their own time to help.

Croquet needs to respect and value our volunteers more, co-operate and get good things done for the game.

This is how we are going to do this.



— A MORNING ON THE LAWN —

THE CENTRE OF EVERYTHING

The Four Ideals

When we agree to hold these four ideals as the basis for our actions and decisions, it makes it easy to improve croquet.

IDEAL ONE

Enjoy croquet

Whatever you're doing as a player, volunteer, coach or referee, enjoy it with enthusiasm.

IDEAL TWO

Keep it simple

Outcomes over complexity. Do less admin and play more croquet.

IDEAL THREE

Hit our aims

Purposeful decisions. What positive outcome will this bring? Do things that advance croquet.

IDEAL FOUR

Cooperate for croquet

Tolerance is expected. Not all people get along, but well mannered people can cope with that. We are here to enjoy croquet.

I think through things using the four ideals, and my decisions are clearer. What is good for croquet becomes more obvious.

THE IDEALS AS A TEST

Choosing What To Do

CAQ will now run every decision we make through four questions. If the answer is no to any of them, we do not need to do it. We are never short of good ideas but we are short of resources, so my role is to lead the management committee to choose a few things that matter and have them done.

Q. Does it help people enjoy croquet?

Enjoyment is the point of the game. If a decision makes croquet less enjoyable, it is working against us.

Q. Does it make things simpler?

We do less admin and play more croquet. Complexity is a cost we cannot afford.

Q. Does it hit our aims?

Every action should advance at least one of our six aims. If it advances none of them, it can wait.

Q. Are we cooperating?

Good things get done when we work together. Tolerance is expected of everyone.

HOW THE WORK IS ORGANISED

The Six Aims

One of the four ideals is to hit our aims. These are the aims. Every project we take on, and every decision we make, needs to serve at least one of them to be worth doing.

NO.	AIM	WHAT IT DRIVES
1	STRENGTHEN ADMIN AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS	Run the association simply and reliably, so clubs and volunteers can trust the basics.
2	PROMOTE CROQUET EXTERNALLY	Put croquet in front of new people right across Queensland.
3	GROW AND ENGAGE MEMBERS	Bring new players to the game, and keep the ones we already have.
4	SUPPORT CLUBS	Take weight off clubs and help them thrive.
5	DEVELOP SKILLED PLAY	Help players improve, from their first hoop to the national stage.
6	ENCOURAGE INNOVATIVE IDEAS	Try new things that move the game forward.



If a project or a decision serves none of these aims, it is not worth doing. That is what hitting our aims means in practice.

WHERE WE PUT OUR WEIGHT

What CAQ Are Concentrating On

Three things have our focus this term.

PRIORITY ONE

Improving communication

First we build a reliable way to reach all 1,500 members, through the news site, the members' newsletter and a new frontpage. It is hard to organise when we can't talk to each other.

PRIORITY TWO

Making it easier to run the game

We lift the weight of admin off CAQ helpers and off clubs. We simplify the ways things are done. Volunteers are getting harder to find, so the work itself has to get more simple. People are here to play croquet, not do admin.

PRIORITY THREE

Getting new members

We bring new people to club gates through Come and Try and advertising, and help clubs turn them into members. More members means more money, more hands around the club, more people to enjoy croquet with, and a few more future stars to beat New South Wales.



— LINING UP THE NEXT SHOT —

LOOKING AHEAD

More On The Ideals To Come

The four ideals are the most important thing I will introduce.

Over the coming weeks I will write more about each of them, and about how these ideals can help croquet organise itself, not just for this year, but for the next hundred years.



IN THE END

We are all here because we have signed up to a game that is meant to be enjoyed, but managing a membership of 1,500 players across 41 clubs does not happen magically, or easily. We are all volunteers, and everyone can contribute, even little things count. Enjoy the game, keep things simple, and, especially, cooperate to make croquet more enjoyable for everyone.

— JOHN VAN BARNEVELD, CAQ PRESIDENT —