



International Braille Chess Association
Executive Board meeting
Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 14:00 UTC

Report concerning Braille chess development in Africa

Report concerning Braille chess development in Africa,
Audience: The IBCA executive board
Date: Saturday 14 December 2024

On Thursday 26 September 3 of our South African Braille chess players presented at the MiniChess Business Symposium, at their MiniChess head Office in Pretoria.

The CEO and founder, Mrs. Marisa van der Merwe introduced us to her team with the explanation of the business opportunity MiniChess will have when focusing on visually impaired learners and the pilot project that is planned next year for South Africa and then followed by expanding to other African countries.

Mr. Willem Joubert shared his journey from sighted to Braille player,

Mr. Johannes Grib explained a little about the Braille chess structures, communities, schools, challenges and solutions.

Mrs. Jessica Grib shared the value of chess to deaf-blind people.

We all shared contact details and I met with people from Lesotho and Botswana who promised to assist me in making contact with fellow Braille chess players in their respective countries.

Further development are dependent on acquiring Braille chess sets and investigations on importing 100 sets from

AICFB - All India Chess Federation for the Blind are ongoing.

Cost at 15 Euro per set excluding shipping.

Braille chess sets are exempted from paying import tax in South Africa.

Several fundraising efforts are still in various stages and still have to Hield positive results.

The South African Braille Chess Association have shortlisted 8 players for selection to our 2025 national team for the Olympiad but again fundraising will determine if we will be able to send a full squad to Serbia.

We are watching the December tournament that AICFB is hosting on Tornelo where a Braille chess player, assisted by a sighted person will play out for the India 2025 national team. This concept will solve many problems visually impaired persons face when having to take part in over-the-board tournaments.

Many of our Braille chess players are now taking part in online tournaments and friendly games using their mobile phones to access Lichess.

Yours in chess

Johannes Grib

Africa Representative (IBCA)

=Africa Representative (IBCA)