



International Braille Chess Association

Congress

Hotel “Rzeszow” (**) J. Pilsudskiego 44, Rzeszow, Poland**

August 23, 2025, 10:00

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

This report occasionally covers similar topics to those I addressed in the presentation about the Executive Board's work and our plans for re-election. However, in this report, I place a greater emphasis on the changes we have made to our working methods compared to previous boards.

Leveraging Our Rich Resources

The Presidential Board

Our presidential board consists of myself (the President), First and Second Vice Presidents (Piotr Dukaczewski and Nikos Kalesis), the Secretary General (Olivier Deville), and the Treasurer (Thorsten Müller). We have increased the frequency of meetings and other forms of dialogue within the board. In addition to more frequent formal meetings, I have created a WhatsApp group to ensure that board members are better prepared for when we make formal decisions.

The Executive Board

The Executive Board has consisted of the members of the Presidential Board along with seven other individuals. The continental representatives have been Johannes Grib (Africa), Fernando Daza (America), James Infuesto (Asia), and Vlad Kolpakov (Europe). Additionally, there have been three unspecified board members: Marilyn Bland, Harisson Nyaga, and Nomin Erdenebat. I have applied the same approach to the Executive Board as I did with the Presidential Board.

Cultivating Creative Environments

I am impressed by the dedication and creativity that the board members have shown. The agenda items have been formulated to stimulate brainstorming. Thanks to the competence of the board members, this way of working has resulted in many new ideas, which are always tempered with the realism that comes from many years of experience.

Connecting People

In addition to the work within the boards, I have established numerous WhatsApp groups to connect people. This has provided me with a lot of ideas and a comprehensive overview that has helped me connect individuals who, until now, have been working without knowing each other. Beyond using my specific expertise in areas such as chess and assistive technology, my role has often been to encourage and support people who have contributed to the promotion of chess for the visually impaired for many years, but who have too often done so outside of the core of IBCA. An example

of this is online chess, which has now become far more integrated than it was before. This relatively flat structure, combined with the plans outlined in the document "proposed executive board.docx," has resulted in a growing and stronger IBCA. I would be happy to continue working as the "spider in the web" for another four years.