

President report-IBCA Congress 2023

Dear Friends,

It gives me pleasure to present the report of our activities on behalf of IBCA board. Last two years are many ways important and critical for IBCA due to accomplishment of several milestones which will have long term impact on IBCA and it's future. And I feel proud to be part of this transformational journey. I would like to congratulate all the members of IBCA and executive board for these path breaking milestones and express my deepest gratitude to all who has contributed in the accomplishments and success.

Key highlights:

1. We have register IBCA as charitable trust in France. Finally, after 64 years, IBCA is formally got legal status. I would like to thank Olivier for his exceptional contribution to make this happen.
2. We could open bank account on IBCA name. Till now, IBCA account was managed by president and lately by treasurer on their personal account. I would like to thank Natasha and Diana for their help in creating IBCA bank account. Special thanks to Natasha for exceptionally well-handled finance portfolio of IBCA.
3. We have organized all plan IBCA events under the shadow of Covid and post covid barring World junior and woman 2023 supposed to be held in Spain. I would like to thank Nikos for his contribution as Tournament director to organized all these vent with great success.
4. We have formally created arbiter title 'IBCA Arbiter' and IBCA international Arbiter' and awarded the title with IBCA batches to several new arbiter.
5. To effectively manage A tournament, we have created 6 different technical guidelines and adopted them during last two years to conduct IBCA event. I would like to thank entire Arbiter commission for their contribution to create these regulations which will go long way to effectively manage IBCA event. Special thanks for Vadim f for his lead role in creating these documents.
6. We have closely work with FIDE to make their chess platform Tornillo accessible. I would like to thank Fide disable commission and Nikos for their end to end support in this initiative. Special thanks to Jorgen, Diana, Aryan Joshi, Soundarya, Kishan Gangolli from India for testing this platform and identifying the accessibility issues. Only because of everyone's support, we could make this platform accessible so blind chess players can participate online in FIDE events.
7. We are closely working with LI chess to make their services and platform accessible so our blind players can make use of this global platform effectively like any other sighted chess players. Appreciate the contribution of Jorgen in this initiative. Lots of good work is going on in this area, we will see very good improvement in LI chess platform from blind chess players perspective in near future.

8. We have worked with DGT since last 6 years from design to prototype development and testing the speech enable chess clock. DGT has finally launch the product DGT ECO having speech capability. I would like to thank everyone who has worked closely with DGT during design and prototyping phase started 6 years back. I also would like to thank Sergio and Nederland braille chess federation for their exceptional support in testing this clock and helping DGT to come up with very good product for blind chess.
9. Happy to inform you that IBCA has got an agreement with DGT for special rate only for IBCA and it's members for procuring chess clocks. The original cost of the clock is 200 euros, now this clock is available to IBCA and it's members in 60 euros. On behalf of entire IBCA, I would like to thank DGT for their valuable contribution.
10. We had dedicated focus in promoting and introducing braille chess in new countries. On part of this efforts, 7 new countries join IBCA in last couple of years. We welcome all these new members in family of IBCA. I would like to thank Vadim, Diana and Olivier for their hard work in promoting IBCA in new countries. Only because of their contribution, we see more and more new countries joining IBCA now.
11. We had close collaboration with FIDE disable commission for all their disable chess work. We had supported two events conducted by FIDE in last two years. Friends, Nikos is representing us in FIDE disable commission since last few years. His excellent leadership and contribution, we could play important role in all FIDE disable commission activities. On behalf of entire IBCA, I would like to thank him for his contribution.
12. To make chess content available in accessible form. We have initiated dialog with several publishers and god good success. Two publishers has given permission to IBCA to convert their chess books in accessible format and make it available to blind chess players across world. I appreciate the special contribution by Diana to convince publishers to provide their content free so we can make them available in accessible format.
13. Due to Russian Ukraine war, our blind chess players from Ukraine faced lots of challenges. We could generate some support for their participation in 2022 IBCA events. On behalf of board and entire IBCA family, I would like to thank everyone who supported this initiative and contributed in generating funds for Ukraine participation. Thank you to Natasha to maintain utmost transparency in these activities and extending support to our Ukraine teams.
14. We have created several guidelines and governance framework to democratize IBCA functioning and effectively manage IBCAactivities. I would like to thank each and everyone from board for their wholehearted support in transformation program. Without their trust and support, we would have been not able to start the journey of transforming IBCA. I am grateful to each and every board member for their unmatched support. Friends, you can see that everyone has contributed with their best of abilities, it was truly team work and I once again thank the entire board who work together to achieve our larger goal.

Friends, it's gives me immense satisfaction and pride to present board's work to all of you and take this opportunity to thank all the IBCA members, chess players and supporters for their faith and belief in me and IBCA board. We have great history and bright future ahead of us and I am sure we all will work together to take our IBCA and braille chess at new heights.

With warm regards

Dr. Charudatta Jadhav

President