

## 2020 Message from the SABJ editor: Prof Robin Crewe

The last issue of the first full volume of the SABJ for 2020 has been prepared and published by the new editorial team.

It has been a valuable experience and we hope that interesting topics have been covered. The capensis issue (Vol 92, No 2) will hopefully be seen as a useful guide to the natural history and treatment of the capensis social parasite that can be used by all beekeepers as a valuable guide to managing their colonies, and by those who provide training to beekeepers in the future as a source of reliable information.



This issue was produced in collaboration with DALRRD and represents a significant collaboration between a regulator and the industry that is subject to this regulation.

The SABIO AGM was held on Saturday 5 December at Eddy Lear's small holding south of Johannesburg and was marked by a good attendance in person by various members of the organisation. Although it was a hybrid meeting with a mixture of those physically present and those attending remotely, those physically present gained most from the occasion. Not only was it a chance to hear a report from the Chair in person and to vote for the new members of the committee, there was also a chance to visit the honey and mead show, admire the diversity of honeys and meads being exhibited, have discussions with judges, and congratulate the winners in the various categories. More about both these topics will be discussed in this issue.

We addressed three other important topics. The first is a report of a fascinating recent study that has explored the way in which honey bees feed on sugar. Their mouthparts are carefully constructed in order to ensure that they are able to harvest sugar for their diet very effectively. The way in which they handle sugar in solution (nectar) and also granules of sugar will give us new insights into feeding bees. The second topic deals with analysing for adulterated honey. This is an on-going threat to the integrity of the honey industry and requires much more focused attention and regulation. The third topic deals with the use of neonicotinoid insecticides in South Africa and their effects on honey bees. Members of this class of insecticide have been banned in Europe largely as a result of their effects on honey bees. However, no such ban is being considered locally at the moment.

Finally, the success of the South African Bee Journal rests on the flow of material that is offered to the journal for publication. We are keen to hear from beekeeping authors who wish to offer material to the journal to be considered for publication. In wishing all of our readers well over the Christmas period, we hope that you will use the holiday period to produce an article for consideration in the New Year.

Robin M Crewe