**IBD AFRICA SECTION AGM – CHAIR REPORT**

When I took the reigns from our immediate past Chair, Kate Jones during the 2018 AGM I was excited and at the same time terrified of the challenges ahead. I moved into this position having quite big shoes to fill, looking at the experience of all the other past section chairs. I must admit, things were not as difficult as I initial thought they’d be, all thanks to the support given to me by the committee, especially Alastair.

I stepped into this role after my past Chairs have had to make very difficult decisions of cancelling both the 2016 and 2018 conventions. These conventions had grown over the years to become part of the African brewing industry tradition and cancelling them meant breaking that tradition. My task was thus to ensure continued existence and relevance of the African Section even with all the changes our industry faced.

My first year as Chair has been quite exciting, with a lot of activity and achievements. The biggest achievement has been one of our young member (Zanele Chinyanta) winning both the JS Ford Award for the best student in the world and the Dave Fraser Award for best Student in Africa. This gives me hope that in Africa we have what it takes to produce brewers of the highest caliber able to compete on a global scale. As the section we need to continue to support and nurture these young minds, so they can achieve more.

Some of the activities that took place during the year include:

**Exam preparation session**

The Young Members representatives organized study sessions to assist the candidates prepare for the DIB exams. Invites were sent out to all registered for these exams, and as much as we had hoped for attendance from the wider brewing community, the sessions were mainly attended by candidates from ABInBev breweries with a few from the craft brewing community.

9 candidates attended the DIB 1 and 11 candidates attended the DIB 2 workshops both held at Redrock Brewing Company and facilitated by Andrew Downs of GBS. 14 candidates attended the DBI 3 workshop held at the South African Breweries (SAB) / ABInBev, Rosslyn Brewery and facilitated by Wouter Steyn.

Very positive and encouraging feedback was received from the candidates in attendance at these sessions, and as a section we need to continue supporting our members in this manner.

There are currently sessions being organized by Clive for later this year, which I hope will attract more attendees from the wider brewing community.

**IBD African Beer Awards**

After many months of planning, the 3rd African Beer Awards were finally held in collaboration with food and drink technology Africa. Even though the awards were not held within the normal setup as previous times, Kate Jones (Chairperson of the awards) was able to still organize by far the best beer awards in Africa.

Beer entries were received from 15 countries which was a good representation of the beers produced within the continent. Unfortunately, some of the beers never made it to into the judging and were only released from customs a day after the actual judging. The beers were judges by well experienced tasters on the 4th September, who combined had just over 200 years tasting experience.

Presentation of the awards was on the evening of the 5th September, with the following winners:

 **WINNERS**

**The Grand Champion Trophy**
Mad Giant with Killer Hop Pale Ale

***Sponsored by Ecolab***

**Best Lager lower than 5% ABV**

Redrock Brewing Co. with Rusty Trigger
2nd Place Darling Brew with Slow Beer

**Best Lager 5% ABV and Above**
International Breweries with Hero
2nd Place Castel Group with Castel Lager

**Best Pale Ale**
Mad Giant with Killer Hop

2nd Place The Franschhoek Beer Co. with Liberty American Pale Ale

**Best Dark Beer**

Redrock Brewing Co. with Painted Black
2nd Place The Franschhoek Beer Co. with The Stout

**Best Beer Brewed with less than 50% Malted Barley**
Darling Brew with Bone crusher
2nd Place Guinness Ghana with Odehye3

It was very encouraging to note how the various winners celebrated and appreciated their wins, some creating stickers for their winning beers and some posting the win all over media and social media, there was even a suggestion of selling a mixed case of the winning beers. We have also received queries of when the next competition will be held. I believe the fdt is currently the best vehicle we have at the moment to continue hosting and growing these prestigious awards, with the next awards planned for 2021.

**IBD exhibition at fdt**

We were privileged to have been invited as an exhibitor within the fdt, where were able to showcase what the institutes offers and able to engage with many of the attendees of the tradeshow.

food & drink technology Africa, now in its third edition has well established itself within the African market. 111 exhibitors and around 1,600 participants from 81 countries took part in this international trade fair which took place in Johannesburg, South Africa on September 4–6 2018

I believe that the participation within the fdt went a long way in ensuring that the institute remains relevant within the industry and look forward to our partnership going forward, especially the programme being planned by Clive for this year’s exhibition.

**Gala Dinner**

On the 25th of January, the Africa Section hosted a gala dinner to celebrating the achievements of its members who recently completed the various IBD qualifications.

When invites were first sent out in November last year, we had very slow response and at some point, even considered cancelling the event. Luckily at the end we had a decent turnout of just under 30 people-

It was great to have in attendance representatives from both East and West Africa highlighting that the African Section is striving to be as inclusive as possible of members outside of South Africa. I do believe that as we continue and make this an annual event, we will in time have attendance from our members across the entire continent. Or even better, host events of this nature for our East and West Africa members. We were honored to have a few industry players in attendance including some from the craft brewing community. We also had our partners from fdt Africa and drinktec attend, which was great as we prepare for the fdt Africa event in July.

We had initially invited Dr Jerry Avis, our CEO to be the keynote speaker but unfortunately, he had to cancel. We were fortunate to have Prof Barry Axcell agreeing to fulfill Jerry’s role and giving such a tremendous speech to encourage the young brewers as they begin their journey.

During the evening, we got to honor and celebrate 8 candidates who had completed their Diploma in Brewing and 2 who had completed the Master Brewer qualifications. We also had the privilege of having Zanele Chinyanta from Zambian breweries, the winner of the Dave Fraser Award and the JS Ford Award.

I don’t think there is anyone who attended the dinner who didn’t thoroughly enjoy themselves or the beers kindly sponsored by MadGiant and Redrock brewing companies. This turned out to be a great evening and I do hope that it become the new tradition for us.

Looking back at what we have achieved as the section in the last 12 months, I am confident that we on the right track. I believe the section will continue to thrive for many years to come and continue being the leader in brewing and distilling qualifications within the continent.

Apiwe Nxusani-Mawela

Chairperson