

Professional:

The Douglas Bomford Trust



50 years young

The Douglas Bomford Trust's Secretary Alan Plom looks back over the past few months and looks forward to the Trust's 50th Anniversary:

Golden Jubilee

Throughout 2022, we will be reflecting on achievements over the past five decades since the Trust was set up in memory of Douglas Bomford. Our focal point will be an event on 7 September at the

Springhill Conference and Function Centre, at Pershore in Worcestershire, kindly provided by Jonathan Bomford, the Bomford family's representative on the Board. Numbers are limited and personal invitations will be sent out shortly, mainly to those who we have worked

with and sponsored. This event will be used to highlight some achievements and wider impact as well as looking to the future. If you would like to share how the Trust helped you, please send your written 'testimonial' or ideally, a short video 'selfie', to;



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enquiries@dbt.org.uk asap, so that we can collate these to show during the event. Watch this space and follow **@BomfordTrust** on Twitter and LinkedIn for further announcements.

New Outlook - We will also be announcing our new strategy to identify and allocate funds to projects on 'priority' topics. This is being developed from our ongoing 'horizon scanning' project, initiated three years ago by a group of MSc

students working together at Cranfield University.

New Input - We welcomed two new Trustees to the Board at our (virtual) AGM in November, but all Trustees should be able to meet face-to-face for the first time in more than 2½ years on 5 April 2022. This is being held at the Lincoln Institute of AgriFood Technology (LIAT), 'home' of one of our new Trustees, Professor Simon Pearson.

New Projects - The Board meeting will be considering the latest applications for financial support for projects (over £5,000) but this will also be an opportunity for our Trustees to see LIAT's cutting edge Agri-Robotics research centre and also meet some students and staff involved in this work.

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Professor Simon Pearson

Simon is director of the Lincoln Institute for Agri-Food Technology (LIAT). He is the son of a South Lincolnshire farmer and was CEO of a large UK farming company. He previously worked for Marks and Spencer plc in a technical role, and as a scientist at the University of Reading.

Simon's academic role involves developing and running cross-disciplinary research projects, with a large focus on the use and deployment of agri-food robotic systems, including robotic crop harvesting and food processing systems, use of autonomous and electric vehicles in the agri-food sector, and the application of actuators within agri-food robotic systems.

His diverse research interests extend to applications of AI, machine learning and robotics in agriculture, the role and development of digital technologies in the agri-food system and whole system approaches to sustainable farm production. All these sit squarely within the Trust's broad scope, so Simon's perspectives will be invaluable.

New Trustees



Rebecca Geraghty

Rebecca brings to the Board a broad understanding of the industry as well as knowledge of the fast developing field of data capture and analysis, critical to enable environmental, technical and financial data to drive development and transformation within businesses.

Rebecca joined Agrimetrics executive management team as Chief Commercial Officer last year, after 20 years at the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), formerly the Home-Grown Cereals Authority (HGCA). As the AHDB's Chief Technical Officer she led its research and knowledge exchange teams, and technical products and services across the six agri-food sectors. She was previously Sector Director for Cereals and Oilseeds. She also lives on a small beef farm, which helps give her a practical and economic perspective too.

In her current role, Rebecca is responsible for ensuring Agrimetrics* products are 'customer-centric and value-creating'. The goal 'to help create a more sustainable and resilient agri-food sector, powered by data by enabling next-generation solutions as quickly and affordably as possible', also aligns with that of the Trust.

**Agrimetrics is one of four centres for agricultural innovation, founded with an initial investment from Innovate UK, along with partners NIAB, SRUC, Rothamsted and The University of Reading.*

Agri-Food Charities Partnership (AFCP) Forum



Several of our Trustees attended the AFCP's* National Forum (and AGM) held at Hartpury University near Gloucester in November. It was a great opportunity to meet some of our sponsored students for the first time face-to-face. We also enjoyed a brief tour of the livestock technology research facilities at Hartpury.

**Check out the other 65 charities listed on AFCP's website:*

www.afcp.org.uk for alternative sources of funding.

Credit: The AgriFood Charities Partnership

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For further information see our website

www.dbt.org.uk

or contact the Trust via

enquiries@dbt.org.uk

or phone

07951 527051



STOP PRESS - Celebrating Success:

We are pleased to report that Silvia Arpano, a final year PhD student at Cranfield (co-sponsored and mentored by the Trust), won the IAgRE South East Midlands Branch annual Student Presentation Competition on 8 February, for her engaging and factually well-presented short lecture on 'Optimizing Polyacrylamide (PAM) spray application to mitigate soil splash and capping'.



NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Seventy-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Institution will be held on Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 11am at CLAAS UK Ltd, Saxham, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP28 6QZ

Agenda

1. To receive and consider the minutes of the seventy-fourth and seventy-fifth AGMs held on 27th April 2021
2. To propose as an Ordinary Resolution: "That the Annual General Meeting authorises the Trustees of the Institution to review members' subscriptions and to make such adjustment, if any, as may be required with effect from 1st January 2023".
3. To receive and consider the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2021.
4. To receive and consider the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021.
5. To announce nominations for election to Council for the 2022/23 Session.
6. To re-appoint Landers Accountants Ltd, registered auditors, as reporting accountants and to authorise the Executive to fix their remuneration

By Order of the Trustees

Charles Nicklin, Chief Executive and Secretary
10th February 2022

NB: ALL PAPERS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE IAGRE WEBSITE

