

Douglas Bomford Trust Secretary Alan Plom reflects on the range of events attended by Trustees and the part that recipients of sponsorship from the Trust over the years are now playing.

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

The Trust has been represented at a wide range of events over the past few months by Trustees and the Secretary, but it is always rewarding to see many recipients of support from the Trust over the years playing an important part in meetings too. These have included:

At the end of July, our Chair **Nick August** and Trustee **Paul Miller** attended the **AHDB's Open Day** held at **Sonning Farm, Reading University**, for a demonstration of their robot sprayer. **Nikolaos Koukiasas** described his research (co-funded by DBT) on the biological interface between systems to apply single droplets of herbicides to weeds. He recently successfully completed his PhD for his part in this project.

HAU's Graduation and Prize Giving Day was held on 20th September, when Trustee **Paul Miller** presented the DBT Award for the Best Foundation Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering to **James Paton**. James worked on developing an autonomous harvester and we hope he will find his way into the industry.



Several ex-DBT scholars were also 'on parade' at HAU, either receiving prizes or presenting them. Not least multiple recipient **Alex Skittery** (MEng Agricultural Engineering at HAU in 2014), who presented the JCB Trophy. Now a Project Manager at JCB Research, Alex has clearly enjoyed his latest assignment - developing JCB's Land Speed Record tractor. Achieving over 103mph, this was featured recently on Channel 4, driven by the inimitable bike racer and speed-freak Guy Martin.

In the afternoon, some of 'our' students also received their degrees, including **Dr Anthony Millington**, who was awarded his Doctorate for his research on 'X-ray tomography to investigate soil properties' - the second of HAU's ongoing series of (DBT co-funded) 'Tillage and Traction' projects.



Two visits to the East of England Showground followed. Firstly for the (part DBT-sponsored) **IAgrE Landwards Conference on Big Data** which we expect will lead to some smart applications for funding. A week later it was back to Peterborough for the **Agri-Food Charities Partnership (AFCP) AGM and Annual Forum**, jointly organised with the East of England Agricultural Society. The theme of '*Education - the essential farming and food chain input*'. Both of these events attracted a number of DBT-sponsored researchers who appreciated the discussions and useful networking. On 30th October it was down to London for the **Arkwright**

Engineering Scholarships Awards Ceremony, held at the prestigious Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), and where I met our two new DBT-funded A-level students and their proud parents. We will sponsor their membership of IAgRE [as with all students on relevant courses], provide a mentor and aim to find opportunities for them to experience various aspects of the industry, which we hope will encourage them to seek further education and a career in agricultural engineering.



Finding opportunities for our young entrants to experience the industry was **Paul Miller's** objective when he spoke to the **AEA's Outdoor Powered Equipment Council (OPEC)** recently too. This followed our previous presentations to the AEA's Education and Training Committee and Farm Equipment Council.

MEET A TRUSTEE: MARK MOORE

Mark has been a Trustee since 2013 and is now our Vice Chair. He brings valuable industry and international perspectives, having worked for AGCO (and originally, Massey Ferguson) for over 3 decades. Currently AGCO's Business Process & Agricultural Development Manager for Africa and the Middle East, his various roles have taken

him to many other parts of the world too, including North & South America, Eastern Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

He has worked in marketing, led on technical training (throughout the world), product development and research - developing advanced technology as well as sustainable systems, working

with innovative farmers, external companies and research institutions on a global basis, funded by industry and government.

Mark was involved in early research on precision farming and completed his PhD (sponsored by MF) in Agricultural & Bio-Systems Engineering at Cranfield in 1998, building on his BSc

(Hons) in Agricultural Technology & Management (Silsoe 1990) and Agricultural Engineering HND (Rycotewood 1987). His academic background, wide range of industry experiences and a business ethic make him well-suited to assess requests for funding and mentoring research students.

