

For Landwards Summer 2017

## **Douglas Bomford Trust** – an update. (Header as per previous issues)

### **Trustees Board meeting held in April**

A Board meeting of Trustees was held at the IAgRE/DBT offices on the Cranfield University campus on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and was attended by six trustees, an observer and two administrative staff – see photograph. At this meeting, Trustees:

- Reviewed the financial position of The Trust with respect to the actual and expected future income from investments together with current and future planned expenditure;
- Considered revised and new applications for funding support: it was agreed to support a PhD at Nottingham University concerned with the use of image analysis techniques to monitor dairy cows during calving, a PhD at Cranfield University concerned with the variable rate application of plant protection products and project work concerned with UV light radiation and absorption by plants at Lincoln University: outline support for a continuation of the work at Harper Adams University concerned with controlled traffic, low ground pressure vehicles and tillage options was also agreed;
- Reviewed progress with funded projects including the appointment to the lectureship post at The Royal Agricultural University.



**Trustees at the Board meeting held on April 19<sup>th</sup>. From left to right: Peter Redman (trustee), Jonathon Bomford (trustee), Alan Plom(observer – to be new secretary wef Nov 2017),Malcolm Crabtree (Chairman), Nick August(vice Chairman), John Fox (Emeritus trustee), Mark Moore (trustee), Mark Kibblewhite (trustee), Paul Miller (technical secretary) and Elizabeth Stephens (Finance/administrative officer). David White (trustee) joined the meeting by skype link. Apologies for absence from: Geoffrey Davis and Keith Hawken.**

## **The Trust continues to support the Arkwright Scholarship scheme.**

The Trust has continued its support for The Arkwright Scholarship Scheme with a total of four students now being sponsored – two per year with each student sponsored for two years. Well as providing a financial contribution, a proportion of which is paid directly to the students, sponsors are strongly encouraged to engage with their students and provide some insight to engineering activities that they are engaged with. One of our students who began his sponsorship in autumn 2016 (George Hammond) asked The Trust to arrange a visit to John Deere Ltd and so two students, an accompanying dad and the technical secretary of The Trust visited the company on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April. The Trust is very grateful to Jonathan Henry and Richard Halsall from John Deere for their hospitality relating to the visit and for the time that they both spent with our two sponsored students – both students recognised the visit as very valuable experience.



**Arkwright scholars at John Deere Ltd. (Left to Right) - Paul Miller (Technical secretary of The Trust), Alex Williams (2<sup>nd</sup> Year Arkwright scholar), George Hammond (1<sup>st</sup> Year Arkwright scholar) and Richard Halsall (Training Centre Manager, John Deere Ltd).**

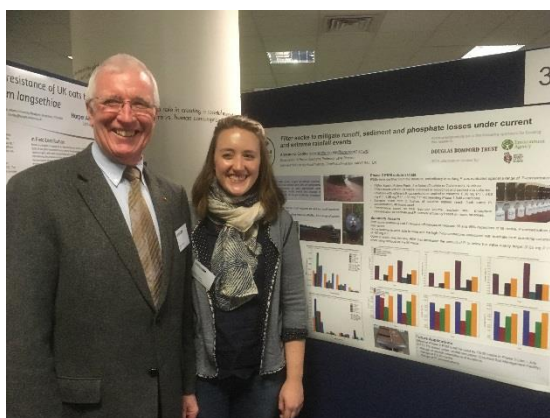
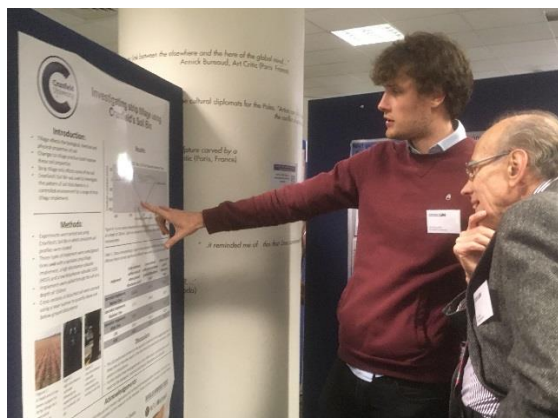
As a result of this successful visit, The Trust will be aiming to work with the Agricultural Engineers Association to establish future visits of this kind for our sponsored Arkwright scholars.

## **Trust sponsored students participate in the AFCP Student Forum held at The University of Hertfordshire on 5<sup>th</sup> April.**

Three Douglas Bomford sponsored students and the sponsored lecturer from The Royal Agricultural University took part in The AgriFood Charities Partnership (AFCP) Student Forum event hosted at The University of Hertfordshire on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – see table below.

Student	University	Role	Subject of PhD/presentation
Alexandra Cooke	Cranfield University	PhD student	Compost filter socks to control sediment and phosphorus losses from arable land associated with extreme rainfall events
Nikos Koukiasas	University of Reading	PhD student	Accuracy and efficacy of a herbicide ejector for plant specific weed control by an autonomous robot for field vegetables
Karen Rial-Lovera	The Royal Agricultural University	Lecturer	Soil cultivation influences on wheat performance in a changing climate
Iain Dummett	Cranfield University	PhD student	Can strip tillage improve the economic profitability of oilseed rape cultivation whilst reducing off farm environmental costs of agrochemical runoff and leachate

Our sponsored participants were among twelve who, having reached the third year of their PhD or recently completed it, gave a ten-minute oral presentation as well as presenting a poster. Those participants at earlier stages of their project work presented a poster only. All the participants had received some sponsorship from AFCP member charities and in his closing remarks, Lord Curry of Kirkhale praised the work that all the students had presented and emphasised the importance of research in addressing the needs of future agricultural systems to keep it competitive and sustainable. The day generated some lively discussions and provided a good environment for the students to exchange experiences with others working in related fields.



**Good discussions at the AFCP event: (Left) Iain Dummett explains features of his soil bin work to Paul Miller; (Right) Peter Redman (DBT trustee and AFCP Director) with Alex Cooke at her poster. (Pictures from Alan Plom who was shadowing Paul Miller at the event so as to get a feel for the role of Technical Secretary to The Trust).**

