

Institution of Agricultural Engineers

Contribution to the Land Based Sector 2013

THOMAS HORSLEY ROBINSON

MIAgrE

Tom has been an enormous influence on spray operators, the agrochemical industry and on the development of nozzle technology over the last 20 years (or more).

Through his contribution to the organisation and running of Sprays and Sprayers each year, he has done a tremendous amount to promote all machinery and equipment manufacturers related to crop protection.

The annual Farm Spray Operator of the Year competition, which he has led for many years, has been hugely important in promoting and raising awareness of best practice amongst spray operators as well as recognising and rewarding those who have the highest level of training, understanding and operation.

His support of research projects (through Syngenta Crop Protection) has resulted in significant improvements in knowledge about a wide range of research areas relating to agricultural engineering, including precision agriculture and pesticide application.

His work over the last 10 years to develop new nozzles has resulted in new application techniques, and raised awareness about the importance of matching application technique to crop and product.

His influence is difficult to quantify – but it is unusual to come across a spray operator who hasn't heard of Tom Robinson; other Agrochemical companies have shifted their views on application as a result of Syngenta's success; nozzle manufacturers are also attempting to copy his approach and so his influence has gone well beyond Syngenta, and well beyond the UK.