

Institution of Agricultural Engineers

Branch Meritorious Award 2015

R James Hunter

AMIAgrE

James joined the IAgRE in 1980 and has been a member of the SEM Branch Committee since 2003 and Vice Chair since 2008. During that time he has been a staunch supporter of our events, despite living some considerable distance from our normal venues. He has taken the Chair on numerous occasions, including at several AGMs and Student Presentation evenings.

In his time on the Committee he has played an active role in suggesting and organising Branch meetings. Notably he organised a visit to the farm of David Felce, who was winner of the Farmers Weekly Spray Operator of the Year in 2003. This was followed by a very successful and well attended pre-National Conference tour of on-farm renewable energy sites (including his own wind power installations) in 2014. Prior to the tour he gave an excellent presentation at a Branch technical meeting on the challenges of on-farm installation of wind generators. Subsequently, he contributed to a detailed technical article which was the catalyst for the re-launch of IAgRE's eXtra. He has also contributed to other reports for Landwards.

His perspective as a farmer has been invaluable to the Branch Chair and Committee. This, together with his practical knowledge and typically amusing and laconic observations that get to the crux of the matter, has helped in devising a varied and interesting programme of meetings. Despite his busy working life, James will always find time to respond to committee business with a phone call or e-mails that deliver sound practical advice or suggestions.

True to say, James can also always be relied upon to ensure that there is a social side to events, whether this is in providing amusing and topical anecdotes, the suggestion of a bite to eat or the availability of a "pint" at the end of an evening's proceedings. He is a valued and invaluable member of the Branch, contributing at all levels to its continued operation and vibrancy.