The Institution of

Agricultural Engineers

Founded 1938 – Incorporated 1960

## Branch Meritorious Award 2018

## Rupert Caplat

CEng MIAgrE

Rupert Caplat started his agricultural engineering career with a firm educational footing at Harper Adams College in Shropshire studying for a BEng (hons). This included a secondment to Autoguide in Wiltshire where the die was cast regarding his future involvement in hydraulics.

After graduating from Harper Adams, Rupert worked for 8 years as a development engineer at compact products, JCB. His work schedules included familiar equipment names such as the 1CX and 2CX. Rupert referred to an incident where Joseph Cyril Bamford and a colleague where heading towards the building where Rupert was working.
Unfortunately the test rig exceeded its maximum operating pressure, and in a time before the necessary safety systems where included in the design, the pipework decided to dump its oil unceremoniously on the floor.

Rupert ducked from sight and avoided any embarrassment from Mr JCB himself.

Rupert moved onto a role with Linde material handling for one year, before moving to the hydraulics division. Currently in his 14th year with the Linde Hydraulics UK sector, his responsibilities cover Engineering Management for technical sales. More recently Rupert has promoted the sales of Black Bruin products through the Linde Hydraulics business. These are applied in powered drive systems for running gear on agricultural harvesting equipment, a concept which is generating significant interest in the battle against soil compaction and erosion. Rupert’s experiences has included all elements of construction machinery; noise emissions, cab design, and endurance testing. To add realism to the product development, climatic testing has been undertaken in Spain and Finland.

With regards to the Western branch, Rupert has maintained the enthusiasm of the group through his commitment for engaging visits and speakers. These include both core engineering topics and also industry related subjects which have attracted non-member visitors. The committee members fully support the Branch Meritorious Award to Rupert Caplat in recognition of his contribution.