

Scottish Society for Crop Research

D. L. Hood

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Secretary and Treasurer: Mr D L Hood

Registered Office: c/o Scottish Crop Research Institute,
Invergowrie, Dundee DD2 5DA

Membership Numbers: 300

The Scottish Society for Crop Research is a registered Friendly Society, formed in 1981 by the amalgamation of the Scottish Society for Research in Plant Breeding and the Scottish Horticultural Research Association.

The Society provides a link between the Scottish Crop Research Institute and farmers, processors and other interested bodies:

- * by organising field walks and meetings for the exchange of information;
- * by financing science based publications for the benefit of the membership;
- * through the formation of crop based sub committees which maintain contact with members on specialised topics.

In recent years the nature of public funding has changed, so that it now primarily focuses on scientific research that is remote from the farmer and consumer. As a consequence, the Society is directing some of its funds for work to be undertaken which will have a more direct relevance to the farmer.

The Crop Sub Committees of the Society have presented proposals for various works of this nature and approval has been given for one project to commence. Entitled "Malting Quality Analysis in Winter Barley Mixtures", this research is set to generate interest among various sectors of the industry.



D.L. Hood (l), S. Santa Cruz, J.W. Crawford, D.A.S. Cranstoun.

The Peter Massalski Prize, a biennial award for the person(s) under 36 years old who is/are considered to have done the most meritorious research while working at SCRI, was jointly awarded in 1998 to Dr John W Crawford and Dr Simon Santa Cruz. The Society provides administrative support for this Prize, which was established in memory of Dr Peter R Massalski by his parents Professor and Mrs T B Massalski.

Members of the Society and friends will be sorry to read that Mrs Massalski died on the 19th February 1999 after a long illness. As a result of the continuing generosity of Professor Massalski and an additional anonymous donation towards the Massalski funds, the Society Trustees have increased the shareholding whose dividends provide the monies for the Prize.

The Society Soft Fruit Walk continues to provide a focus for the industry. Likewise the Potato Crop Open Day, in conjunction with the British Potato Council,



the Scottish Agricultural College, and the Institute, has seen increased numbers attending and commenting favourably on what has been exhibited. Suggestions for improvements have been incorporated in the forthcoming 1999 presentations.

The Soft Fruit Sub Committee was particularly active during the year, and there were also meetings organised by the Potato and Cereal Sub-Committees.

The Management Committee met twice during this year, in May and November, and were pleased to have the guidance of the Trustees for these meetings. They were concerned to note the ill health of the Director, Professor Hillman, and the Chairman of the Society at the Annual General Meeting in 1999 extended the best wishes of the Society for a speedy recovery to Professor Hillman.

Society membership numbers have declined over the decade in step with the decline in the farming community. Challenges facing the industry as the new

Millennium dawns are considerable, yet Society members are to the forefront in new technology and its applications and welcome the opportunity to present their findings to their fellow members when the occasion arises.

The Society Annual General Meeting has, in the past, provided an opportunity for distinguished academic, media, and governmental representatives to express their views on topics of interest to the agricultural and horticultural membership of the Society.

The Management Committee welcomes suggestions for research topics and comment from members and others, and urges the latter to contribute to the Society by becoming a member, and thereafter possibly joining one of the Crop Sub Committees or indeed the Management Committee.

A Newsletter is distributed to Members and media, and contributed articles, together with photographs of interest, should be forwarded for the attention of the Secretary and Treasurer.