

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: 295

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;



D.A.S. Cranstoun and Ann Foster.

- 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.

The Society has continued to support projects for a second year such as 'Malting Quality Analysis in Winter Barley Mixtures', and new projects such as 'Indicated Nitrogen Investigation in a Potato Crop.' These projects, together with the award of travel grants to enable Institute members of staff to attend conferences and seminars overseas to discuss their research, promotes both the Institute and the Society.



Potatoes in Practice, 1999.

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 balanced approach of the Society to Genetic modification and transgenic crops was continued at the AGM in May when Ann Foster, the Director, Public and Government Affairs, UK of Monsanto PLC Agricultural Sector, took as her topic, 'Where do we go from here?'

The Society Soft Fruit Walk continues to bring forward new products in research, and their presentation to growers, processors and journalists challenges staff

and participants alike. 'Potatoes in Practice', the Society Potato event, held in conjunction with the British Potato Council, the Scottish Agricultural College, and the Institute, was hard work for those involved in the organisation but their efforts were favourably received and this event is rapidly becoming a focus for the industry.

The Crop Sub-Committees held occasional meetings, which are considered a useful opportunity for discussions between the scientific staff, growers, processors, and retailers. The Management Committee met twice during the year, in May and November, and were pleased to have the guidance of the Trustees for these meetings. The Director, Professor Hillman, is restored to health and thanked the Society for its best wishes for his recovery.

Society membership regrettably continues to decline along with the decline in farming numbers. This will become more apparent in 2000. Overseas membership has almost disappeared.

The Management Committee welcomes suggestions for research topics and comment from members and others and urges them to contribute to the Society by becoming a member if not already one, and thereafter possibly joining one of the Crop Sub-Committees or indeed the Management Committee.

The 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.