

Scottish Society for Crop Research

D.L. Hood

Trustees: - Mr A G M Forbes
Mr G B R Gray OBE (Resigned)
Mr I E Ivory
Mr A Pattullo

Chairman: - Dr D A S Cranstoun

Vice Chairman: - Mr J M Drysdale (Resigned)

Members of Committee of Management: -
Mr J Arbuckle (Resigned)
Mr D Craib (Resigned)
Mr T D Gray
Mr A Logan
Mr L M Porter
Mr G Rennie
Dr S Wale
Mr J S Whitehead

Secretary and Treasurer: - Mr D L Hood

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

Membership Numbers: - 266

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.

The Society continued to support projects initiated in previous years. Farm scale trials for 'Malting Quality Analysis in Winter Barley Mixtures' have been planted.

The Soft Fruit industry has suffered severe setbacks and the Society has prepared itself to be a catalyst in

attracting further essential funding from public and private sources. The alternative is that work extending for some 40 years may come to an end.

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. Reports from those awarded travel grants are summarised in the Newsletter.

Mr Michael Gibson, Scottish Board Member of the Food Standards Agency, who took as his topic 'Food for Thought', addressed the Society Annual General Meeting in July.

The numbers attending the Society's Soft Fruit Walk fell, reflecting the decline in the industry. The growing of soft fruit has contracted considerably in recent years, with fewer and fewer farmers continuing production. Of those remaining in the industry, a good proportion continue to support this event, which gives the growers a chance to see the main areas of soft fruit research, though commercial confidentiality precludes some of SCRI's research work from being shown.

'Potatoes in Practice', the Society Potato event, organised in conjunction with the British Potato Council, the Scottish Agricultural College, and the Institute, took place in August. Exhibitors of machinery and traders combined to continue the impetus from previous years and make this the largest event of its kind in Scotland.

The Crop Sub-Committees, including Cereals, met diligently and informed the Management Committee of their approved projects for the coming season.

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 Society mirrors the age of the population, with the resignation of two long serving Management Committee members, Mr Arbuckle and Mr Craib. Mr G B R Gray OBE also resigned during the year and was presented with a Certificate of Honorary Membership. Mr Gray was a member of the Scottish Society for Research in Plant Breeding, one of the constituent founding Societies, and was elected a



Dr David Cranstoun presents George Gray with Honorary Membership of the Society.

Trustee of the Scottish Society for Crop Research on its inauguration in 1982.

Society membership continues its decline as farming communities shrink. Fortunately the Society's activities are not dependent on subscription income. Farming controversies such as GM crops, BSE, and now Foot and Mouth in the Spring of 2001, are likely to hasten the departure of good agriculturists through no fault of theirs.

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.

Contributed articles, together with photographs of interest, are welcomed for the Society Newsletter, and should be forwarded for the attention of the Secretary and Treasurer.