

# Scottish Society for Crop Research

W.H. Macfarlane Smith

Trustees:- Professor J.R. Hillman  
Mr I.E. Ivory  
Mr A. Logan  
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Professor J.R. Hillman  
Mr I.E. Ivory  
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Treasurer:- Dr N. Hattersley

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

Membership Numbers:- 221

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 organizing 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 specialized topics
- by funding research at SCRI which is either 'pump-priming' to initiate new research, or work for minority interests that the large funding bodies would not support

The Society continues to support research work on wheat blends and low input production, and the pro-

duction of a soft fruit pathogen database. Work on a quantitative detection method for potato cyst nematode is being funded and financial support provided for a speaker at the Crop Protection Northern Britain Conference. Ongoing support is being provided for the consortium producing new varieties of raspberry and will continue until 2009.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2005, after which the SSCR Lecture was given by Professor Peter Gregory, Director of SCRI, entitled 'Sustainable Agriculture – Local and International Perspectives'.

The re-incarnation of the old cereal walk, now entitled 'Cereal Solutions', was held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005 and attracted 40 visitors.



The Fruit for the Future event was held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2005, and attracted 30 breeders, growers, end-users and processors who were keen to see the latest research on raspberries, strawberries, blackcurrants and other soft fruits. Prospective new varieties of raspberry and strawberry were available for tasting assessment.

'Potatoes in Practice', the potato event supported by the Society, the British Potato Council, the Scottish Agricultural College, CSC Crop Protection Ltd., and the Scottish Crop Research Institute, was held on 11<sup>th</sup>



August 2005. The event attracted almost 500 visitors, the highest number to attend this event so far. It is now recognized as the predominant outdoor potato event in the UK.

The Crop Sub-Committees held other meetings during the year to provide information to their relevant industries, and to prioritize proposed research for approval and funding by the Committee of Management.

The Society membership has increased by 5% in the last year. As a further means of boosting membership, additional activities, such as visits to processors, are now taking place and life membership at £100 is available.

The Committee of Management is keen to encourage growers and processors to join the Society and to participate not just in the various crop-based meetings but also in the management of the Society and its various Sub-Committees.

A new colour version of the Society Newsletter was produced early in 2005 and was well received. A new Society Website is now on line, and it is hoped that this will be the main conduit for information to Society members in the future. The first part of the Web site is freely available but subsequent sections are password-protected for access by Society members only.