

The Scottish Society for Crop Research

Bill Macfarlane Smith

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Professor J.R. Hillman
Mr I.E. Ivory
Mr A. Logan
Mr J.S. Whitehead

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Professor J.R. Hillman
Mr I.E. Ivory
Mr A. Logan
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Mr J.S. Whitehead

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Treasurer: Dr N. Hattersley

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

Membership Numbers: 240

The Society provides a link between SCRI 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
- 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 production of a soft fruit pathogen database. Work on a

quantitative detection method for potato cyst nematode is being funded and financial support was 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 30th May 2006, after which the SSCR Lecture was given jointly by Professor Steve Parry of Unilever, entitled 'Sustainable Agriculture – A Food Manufacturer's Approach from Field to Fork', and Dr Keith Dawson of SAC, entitled 'Scottish Arable Farming – Is There a Future?'.



The Society has a particular interest in Knowledge Transfer, which it achieves through crop events, which are open to the general public as well as members, and half day technical meetings.

Of the former, 'Cereal Solutions', was held on 7th July 2006 and attracted 49 visitors to a further expanded range of demonstrations, including genetic markers, cereal mixtures and potential varieties of wheat for use by the distilling industry. A demonstration of quality factors in whisky was provided by Dr James Brosnan of the SWRI.



The Fruit for the Future event was held on 20th July 2006, and attracted 84 breeders, growers, end-users and processors, so more than doubling the previous year's attendance. The latest research on raspberries, strawberries, blackcurrants and other soft fruits was displayed. Prospective new varieties of raspberry and strawberry were available for tasting assessment, with special interest in the former, showing their potential when grown in polythene tunnels.

'Potatoes in Practice', the potato event supported by the Society, the British Potato Council, the Scottish Agricultural College, CSC Crop Protection Ltd., and SCRI, was held on 10th August 2006. The event attracted 530 visitors, again a considerable increase on the previous year's attendance. A wide range of demonstrations included new varieties, the history of the potato and new machinery. It is now recognised as the predominant outdoor potato event in the UK.

The occasion was also taken to present the Peter Massalski Prize. This very generous award was provided by Professor T B and the late Mrs Massalski in memory of their son Peter. It is awarded every second year to the outstanding scientist under the age of 36 working at SCRI, and is administered by the Society. The 2006 award was made to Dr Alison Lees for her work on the development of methods for detecting potato pathogens and for improving understanding of the epidemiology of potato diseases. The presentation was made by Dr Stuart Wale, Chairman of the Society.

The Society continues to grow in size, with a number now taking advantage of the new category of Life Membership at a cost of £100. 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.