

# The Scottish Society for Crop Research

## **Bill Macfarlane Smith**

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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:** 300

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 currently supports research on the effect of poor water distribution under irrigated crops of raspber-

ries, on the effects of adverse weather conditions on distilling quality in cereals, on the analysis of fifty years of meteorological data produced at the Scottish Crop Research Institute and on the further development of the Soft Fruit Gateway, a data resource on the diseases and other problems of soft fruit. Ongoing support is being provided for the consortium producing new varieties of raspberry, one of which, Glen Doll, is now available to growers. Financial support continues to be provided for a speaker at the Crop Protection Northern Britain Conference.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 29th May 2007, and was followed by the Invited SSCR Lecture which was given by Mr Tony Pexton, OBE, NSch, FRAGs, Chairman of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, entitled "What do I, as a Farmer, expect from you as a Researcher".

SSCR has been reviewing its organisation to ensure compliance with the requirements of OSCAR and other such organisations, as well as taking account of the changing nature of research and the manner in which it is commissioned. One immediate consequence of this has been the broadening of the remit of the various Crop Sub-Committees, and in the case of the Cereal Committee, the change of name to the Cereal and Combinable Crops Sub-Committee, to allow it to embrace an interest in other crops such as oilseed rape.

The Society continues its major interest in Knowledge Transfer, which it achieves through the sponsorship and organisation of 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 11th July 2007 and attracted 64 visitors, a further increase on the



SSCR Cereals Solutions.

2006 numbers. Among the demonstrations were plots of the Recommended List varieties of barley and wheat, current work on cereal genetics leading to improved varieties for brewing and distilling, work to reduce energy use and emissions of nitrogen in wheat production, low input trials of barley varieties grown as monocultures and blends including varieties old and new, genetic markers, research into *Rhynchosporium* and research on the genetics of barley and wheat to identify genes associated with mutation.

The 'Fruit for the Future' event held on 19th July 2007, attracted 90 breeders, growers, end-users and processors, again an increase on the previous year's excellent attendance. The latest research on raspberries, strawberries, blackcurrants, gooseberries and other soft fruits was displayed. Prospective new varieties of raspberry and strawberry were available for tasting assessment, with particular interest being shown in the new raspberry variety, Glen Doll, and other prospective varieties still in the course of development.

'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 9th August 2007. The event again attracted a large number of visitors, so confirming its position as the largest outdoor display of potato cultivars, potato agronomy and related research on pests and diseases of the crop. The event featured a new, enlarged marquee with many more displays, and an enlarged outdoor display of potato crop machinery. Particular interest was shown in the new SCRI variety, Mayan Gold, which is being marketed by Greenvale AP.

The Potato and Soft Fruit Crop Sub-Committees held other half day meetings during the year to provide information to their relevant industries and to prioritise research for funding.

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.