

## Staff Association

D. Guy

The Scottish Crop Research Institute has a very active Staff Association, with approximately 230 members. The primary aim of the Association is to raise money for a chosen charity, and this is achieved through raffles, functions, prize draws and donations from companies.

The chosen charity for 1998 was The Mackinnon Centre, a purpose-built 12 bed respite unit, set in its own grounds at Broughty Ferry, to the east of Dundee. The Centre's Physical Disability Resource team provide a service as part of the Social Work Department's community care provision in Dundee. They help local people, aged between 16 and 65, who have a physical disability or a progressive illness. A cheque for £909 was presented to Mr Dave Mackenzie and Mrs Mary Anderson from the Centre.

Staff Association members also support other causes. SCRI scientists scaled new heights in their efforts to help provide water supplies for people in some of the world's poorest communities. Alastair Stewart, Chairman of the "WaterAid Munro+ Challenge '98" Steering Committee visited SCRI to collect a cheque from the 17 scientists who between them reached the top of six Munros lying between Blair Athol and Skye - namely Beinn a 'Ghlo, Sgurr nan Eag, Sgurr Dubh Mor, Beinn Bhrotain, An Sgarsoch, Sgurr Alasdair - and who raised nearly £800 in sponsorship in the process.

The Staff Association organises a number of outings, including: golf competitions; go-karting; windsurfing;



David Guy, Chairman of the Staff Association (r) and Jane Fairlie (l), Secretary, hand over a cheque to Dave Mackenzie and Mrs Mary Anderson from The Mackinnon Centre, the chosen charity in 1998.

gorge walking, and hillwalking. It also runs a weekly aerobics class, and provides the strips for the Institute's football and netball teams.



David Guy and Rhonda Meyer present a cheque to Alastair Stewart, with members of SCRI staff.

For the families of Staff, it hosts an annual Summer BBQ, a Christmas Ceilidh and Disco, and an annual Childrens' Christmas Party.

There is a monthly draw for cinema tickets and a meal for two, as well as periodic Prize Draws. Two popular prize draws during the year included tickets to Murrayfield, generously donated by the Scottish Rugby Union, and Les Miserables.

The Staff Association organises a number of discounted deals for its members, including Corporate Sports membership at a reduced price at Dundee University Sports Union, and purchase of seeds and plants. The Association also holds Corporate Membership of the National Trust for Scotland, which provides five membership cards that are available for use by Staff, and provides Which Magazine for the SCRI Library.

Membership of the Staff Association is £1.50 per month, and an AGM is held annually, at which time office bearers and the committee are elected, and the charity of the year is chosen. The charity chosen for 1999 is Cystic Fibrosis.

