

## Staff Association

### Jane Fairlie

The Scottish Crop Research Institute continues to have a very active Staff Association with approximately 240 members. The Association is now in its 7th year, and its primary aim remains that of raising money for charity through raffles, prize draws, functions and donations from companies.

The charity is chosen each year by members at an Annual General Meeting and, in 1999, the chosen charity was Cystic Fibrosis Trust. The disease can be carried by 1 in 20 people in Scotland, which has the highest incidence in the UK, and about £300K is raised in Scotland annually. The Trust provides support for families through physiotherapy and nursing care, and is linked to the British Heart foundation and the main Cancer charities. Mrs Sandra Stevenson, the Regional Fund Raising manager for the Trust, was presented with a cheque for £1147 in March 2000.

The Staff Association organises a number of outings including: golf competitions, angling competitions, surfing, white-water rafting, paint-balling and shopping trips. There is a weekly aerobics class, as well as netball, volleyball, softball, badminton and football teams, who are provided with equipment and strips from Association funds. In June, the Association hosts a Summer BBQ for the families of staff, and a Christmas Ceilidh, Disco, and children's Christmas Party are held annually.

Each month, a draw takes place to win cinema tickets and a meal for two, and there are periodic Prize Draws to win a pair of theatre tickets with dinner, which are

generously donated by local restaurants and theatres. Staff discount schemes are also organised by the Staff Association and these include local shops, hairdressing salons, purchase of seeds and plants, as well as Corporate Sports membership at Dundee University Sports Union. Staff also benefit from the Association's Corporate Membership of the National Trust for Scotland which provides five membership cards for their



Jane Fairlie (l) presents a cheque to Mrs Stevenson.

use. 'Which' magazine is also provided for the SCRI library. Membership of the Staff Association is £1.50 per month, and the office bearers and committee are elected annually at the AGM. The charity chosen for the year 2000 is Roxburghe House, in Dundee.