

Scottish Society for Crop Research

W.H. Macfarlane Smith

Trustees:- Mr A G M Forbes
Professor J R Hillman
Mr I E Ivory
Mr A Logan
Chairman:- Mr J S Whitehead
Committee of Management:-
Mr A Logan
Mr L M Porter
Mr A Redpath
Mr G Rennie
Dr S Wale
Secretary:- Dr W H Macfarlane Smith
Treasurer:- Dr N Hattersley
Registered Office:- c/o Scottish Crop Research
Institute, Invergowrie, Dundee, DD2 5DA
Membership Numbers:-236

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



Fruit walk 2003

- 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 mixtures and has just agreed support for an extension of work on a soft fruit pathogen database. 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 9th July 2003 after which a presentation was given by Professor Wayne Powell, Deputy Director of SCRI, about the creation of a Product Innovation Centre for potatoes, soft fruit and grains at the Institute.

The Soft Fruit Walk was held on 18th July 2003, and again attracted a lot of interest from growers and processors who were keen to see the latest advanced selections of raspberries, strawberries, blackcurrants and other soft fruits.



Potatoes in Practice

'Potatoes in Practice', the potato event supported by the Society, the British Potato Council, the Scottish Agricultural College, the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency and the Institute was again held in August. The event was well attended by over 200 people, most of whom were advisers with a particular interest in SCRI's work on potato blight and the early results of the blight survey project.

The Crop Sub-Committees held several meetings during the year to exchange information and to prioritize

proposed research for approval and funding by the Committee of Management.

The decline in Society membership has continued but is now slowing. It is anticipated that membership will rise during the coming year. As a means of boosting membership, additional activities are being planned and life membership at £100 will be available from 2005 onwards.

The Committee of Management is keen to encourage growers and processors to join the Society and to participate not just in the various meetings but also in the

management of the Society and its various Sub-Committees.

Plans are in place for the re-introduction of the Society Newsletter and it is hoped that the first of the new issues will appear in December 2004 or early January 2005.

The Society Honorary Secretary, Mr Ian Kelly, has resigned and been succeeded by Dr Bill Macfarlane Smith, a former member of staff and now Honorary Research Fellow of the Institute.