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Barley Away Days

February 18th – 19th 2026



SEFARI 

Wednesday February 18th	
9:30 – 10:00 – Coffee and registration	
10: 00 – 10:10	Welcome – Robbie Waugh
Session 1 – Chair Micha Bayer	
10:10 – 10:25	Gwendolyn Kirschner – Cytokinin regulates the root angle in barley and wheat
10:25 – 10: 40	David Ashworth – Barley Can Utilise Algal Fertiliser to Maintain Yield and Malt Quality Compared to Mineral Fertilise
10: 40 – 10:55	Maxwell Asiedu – Root angle variations in OzBarley is driven by genetic variation in key EXPANSIN genes
10:55 – 11:20	Anna Backhaus – Mystical crop wild relatives and where to find them
11:20 – 12:05	Quiz
12:05 –13:15 Lunch	
Session 2 – Chair Jennifer Shoesmith	
13:15 – 13:30	Ruth Hamilton – R-evolve: rapid evolution of wild barley
13:30 –13:45	George Terry Epaku – Uganda's barley value chain; challenges, opportunities, and strategic solutions
13:45 – 14:00	Katie Arnton – Message in a Bottle: A synthetic community approach to decipher the genetic basis of plant-microbiota interactions in the rhizosphere
14:00 – 14:15	Jane Millar – From Grain to Glass – Importance of cereal to Distillery operations
14:15 – 14:50 Coffee	
Session 3 – Chair Yunqing Yu	
14:50 – 15:05	Sidsel Birkelund Schmidt – Prevention of manganese deficiency in cereals through a targeted choice of cover crops
15:05 – 15:20	Qurat Ul Ain Ali Hira – Barley-legumes companion cropping for continuous grain and soil health
15:20 – 15:35	Klara Knutsson – Subcrown internode elongation in barley
15:35 – 15:50 Flash talks	Samantha Kitchen – Sustainable Agriculture and Mycotoxins in Barley Arpana Mallik – Cover Cropping for Soil Health Hope Hodgson – Genetic control of skinning in a changing climate Eloise Clarkson – Landscape Genomics and Climate Prediction using AI Amir Yousefi – Developing AI-Driven Information Systems Patricia ORIordan – Investigating the modulation of flowering time to improve yield performance in barley Dan Jones – Potential for circular soil and crop enhancements through whisky distillery by-product generated Biochar
15:50 – 16:15	Special Guest
16: 15 – 17: 30 Hotel check-in	
17: 30 Whisky tasting – sponsored by SWA	
18: 30 Dinner – sponsored by Diageo	

Thursday February 19th	
Session 4 – Chair Chaira Campoli	
9:15 – 9:30	Karol Kukula – Assessing Nitrogen Use Efficiency Components in a Controlled Environment: A Comparison of Landrace and Elite Malting Barley
9:30 – 9:45	Alanna McCutcheon – Barley Surviving the Stress - Understanding Stress-Induced Developmental Plasticity in Barley
9:45 – 10:00	Benjamin Potts – Future-proofing barley for a high CO ₂ world
10:00 – 10:25	Hannah Schneider – Integrated root anatomical traits for drought tolerance
10:25 – 11:10 Coffee	
Session 5 – Chair Paul Shaw	
11: 10 – 11:25	Riccardo Fusi – The auxin efflux carrier PIN1a regulates vascular patterning in barley and other cereal roots.
11:25 – 11:40	Zoe Marshall – Utilising Bere barley landraces to improve crop manganese use efficiency and establish short value chains
11:40 – 11:55	Heather Gulbrandsen – Too Hot to Yield? Barley in a Warming Climate
11:55 – 12:10	Ella Southin – Characterising male sterile two-row barley for a hybrid system
12: 10- 13: 15 Lunch	
Session 6 – Chair Laurence Ducreux	
13:15 – 13:30	Le-Ann Kaseese – Using genetics to improve straw digestibility and reduce the carbon footprint of whisky production
13:30 – 13:45	Manuel Feser – Tools for FAIR Research Data Management
13:45 – 14:00	Ryan Douglas – Barley productivity and nitrogen losses under climate change in Scotland
14:00 – 14:25	Darren Wells – Phenotyping the Hidden Half of Plants - Roots and Soil
14:25 – 14:35	Quiz prize
14:35 – 14:40	Closing remarks – Tim George