3rd Student Conference on Operational Research

SCOR 2012, April 20–22, 2012, Nottingham, UK

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Preface

We are delighted to present the proceedings of the 3rd Student Conference on Operational Research (SCOR 2012). The aim of SCOR is to provide PhD students in the early stages of their OR careers with an excellent opportunity to meet other researchers with similar interests and to present their work in a relaxed and friendly environment. In its third edition the event was bigger and more international than ever before.

The conference took place from the 20–22 April 2012 at the University of Nottingham and welcomed PhD students, mainly from European Universities, studying Operational Research, Management Science or a related field. Research areas included: Data Mining, Decision Support, Forecasting, Graphs and Networks, Healthcare, Heuristics and Metaheuristics, Inventory, Mathematical Programming, Multicriteria Decision Analysis, Neural Networks and Machine Learning, Optimisation, Reliability and Risk Assessment, Scheduling and Timetabling, Stochastic Modelling, Supply Chain Management, Simulation and System Dynamics and Transport.

Some statistics from the event are as follows: there were 88 participants from 18 countries who provided 72 talks in up to 4 parallel streams over 3 days. There were 4 plenary talks given by Gavin Blackett (The OR Society), David Buxton (DSE Consulting Ltd.), Tony O'Connor (GORS) and Vincent Knight (Cardiff University) together with Louise Orpin (The OR Society). These talks were extremely beneficial as they were aimed at giving delegates a feel for what could be next in their OR careers outside of academia.

In total there were 6 sponsors and we are extremely grateful for the sponsorship obtained, especially from The OR Society and from the ASAP research group at the University of Nottingham, which made this event possible.

As far as we are aware, this was the first time that a Smartphone app was used at an OR event. This complemented the programme and book of abstracts. The main advantage of this app was that participants were able to personalise their own schedule for the event.

The review process was based on the presentation, quality and originality of the research and there were at least two referees assigned to each paper. In total 21 submissions were received with 11 papers successfully accepted. These were from 6 different countries including Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Serbia and the United Kingdom demonstrating the international presence at the event.

We would like to give a special thanks to all authors who submitted a paper for review, to the Committee for their continued support and to all who contributed to the success of SCOR 2012 and the proceedings.

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Penny Holborn

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