

Engineering & Utilisation Section

Update: Summer 2008

17th Triennial Conference, Brasov, Romania, 6-10 July

Sorin Chiru (*below, left*) and his team organised a highly successful Triennial Conference in Brasov, Romania (*top*) in July of this year. Over 340 delegates from over 40 countries were welcomed by our hosts and made more than 70 oral presentations and presented over 140 posters. Visits included field trials, storage and cultural destinations such as Sibiu (*bottom*). Our Section Meeting was held on Tuesday 8th July and notes on the meeting appear on page 2.





Events: 2008/9

10-11 September 2008: *Potato Europe*, Villers St Christophe, France

This is the 5th “journées internationales de la pomme de terre”, now part of the annual *Potato Europe* event held in rotation in Belgium, Germany, France and Netherlands. Over 8000 visitors are expected and will see the latest guidelines from research in France for topics across the whole potato industry through:

- an exhibition site of more than **40 ha** designed to keep different centres of interest close to each other
- **200 exhibitors** (20% more than in 2004) will be showing a wide range of new developments for the potato sector
- working exhibitions on **harvesting** (13 machines), **grading** (6 lines) and, as a world first, **optical quality grading** (4 lines)
- technical presentation on the main topics of **agronomy** (compaction, solutions against water streaming...), **breeding** (new varieties, trends for markets, genomics...), **agrochemical advances** (seed treatment, haulm killing, late blight and irrigation DSS ...), **economical and environmental aspects** (production costs, energy use ...)

To receive your free ticket simply register at www.pommedeterre2008.com

30 October 2008: Potato Council *Seed Industry* Conference, Crieff, Perth, UK.

www.potato.org.uk/events

30 November – 2 December 2008: Interpom Potato Trade Fair, Kortrijk, Belgium.

www.interpom.be

8-10 September 2009: *Potato Europe*: Emmeloord, The Netherlands.

www.europoint-bv.com

25-26 November 2009: *British Potato 2009*, Harrogate, Yorkshire, UK.

www.potato.org.uk/events

Journal

The revised, externally-managed *Potato Research* is now back on schedule and the Council repeated their requests for as many members as possible to submit papers. Please access the *Potato Research* website at www.springer.com/life+sci/plant+sciences/journal/11540 for further information.

Brasov meeting of the Section

Notes on the meeting of the Engineering & Utilisation Section of the EAPR held at the ARO Palace, Brasov, Romania on 8 July 2008 at 18.30 hrs.

Present: Adrian Cunnington, UK (Chair); Adrian Briddon, UK; Jaroslav Čepl, Czech Republic; Marc Goeminne, Belgium; Norbert Haase, Germany (Council Member, EAPR); Kazunori Hironaka, Japan; Martin Keijbets, The Netherlands; Michel Martin, France; Rolf Peters, Germany; Mike Storey, UK (Vice-President, EAPR); Romke Wustman, The Netherlands (Treasurer, EAPR);

Apologies for absence: There were none

Report on the meeting held at the 16th Triennial Conference in Bilbao, July 2005:

Adrian Cunnington gave a brief report on the previous meeting, which had been dominated by the merger of the Engineering and Utilisation sections into a single section with EAPR. Other issues discussed had included linkage with the PAA and proposals for a section meeting in 2007.

Section activity 2005-2008

Adrian Cunnington reported on the main activity of the section between the triennial conferences, which had been the section meeting held in January 2007 at Grantham in the UK.

The meeting was run in conjunction with the British Potato Council's Potato Storage 2007 Conference and the 4th EAPR/FNK/UEITP Potato Processing Conference. 68 delegates attended the EAPR/FNK/UEITP Conference at which there were 13 oral presentations in total. The event had been run with support from the BPC and FNK/UEITP which was very much appreciated.

The introduction of an occasional Newsletter had also taken place and Adrian Cunnington was thanked by Mike Storey for this initiative which had raised the profile of the Section within the EAPR as a whole.

Adrian Cunnington thanked Martin Keijbets for his assistance and guidance on utilisation issues following the merger of the two sections and for his help in organising the links with FNK/UEITP.

Issues from Council

Adrian Cunnington updated members who were not present at the General Meeting in Brasov on the following matters:

- Membership – lists have been purged, but this may mean some members have not been contacted. Lists will be sent by Romke Wustman on behalf of Council to Section Chairmen and Country Representatives to ensure members are not 'lost' and potential new members can be identified.
- Secretariat – this will move from Europoint to ISHS in the coming months
- Networking – more country representatives are being appointed to help with networking and section chairmen will also be points of contact in this process.
- PAA linkage – Council are continuing to explore opportunities for joint activities
- *Potato Research*: a request for papers was repeated and attendees were asked to indicate on the attendance sheet if they were prepared to act as referees for the journal.

Election of Chair for period to 2011

There being no volunteers to take over as Chair, Adrian Cunnington was asked to stay on for a second term. He agreed to do so and thanked the Section membership for its support. However, he also indicated that early identification of a potential successor, perhaps at the mid-Conference section meeting, would be useful to ensure a smooth handover at the next Triennial Conference in Finland.

Section Meeting

Adrian Cunnington reported that he had been approached by representatives of Europoint, through Anton Haverkort (Secretary of EAPR), to see if the Section was willing to organise an E&U Meeting as part of a Congress planned for the *Potato Europe* event at Emmeloord in the Netherlands in September 2009. Discussions had yet to be progressed to a further stage and the Chairman asked for feedback from Section members on the proposal.

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Whilst there was general support for continuing to associate Section Meetings with other major potato events to maximise attendance and minimise costs, there were a few reservations. Romke Wustman, Rolf Peters and others expressed some concern about the commercial nature of Europoint's activities and suggested that a close look would need to be taken at any deal they propose. Adrian Cunnington asked Romke Wustman if he would be willing to attend when he arranges a meeting with Mr Anne Mast of Europoint in the coming months and he agreed to do so. Adrian Cunnington will communicate details and proposals for a mutually convenient venue.

Should the Europoint deal not be satisfactory, other alternatives were suggested including linkage with the Crier Media organised Potato Storage and Potato Processing Conferences, held in Warsaw recently (June 2008).

Norbert Haase suggested the Section might look at trying to co-ordinate a joint meeting with the PAA for a future occasion. Rolf Peters agreed this would be a good idea, especially if the meeting could be organised in the winter months to reduce the cost of travel. Dr Haase said that, if such a meeting was organised, a lot of notice would be needed to give delegates time to arrange funding to attend. He also suggested that linkage with another Section for a meeting was another option that might still be worth exploring in relation to the Emmeloord event.

Some discussion also took place around proposed topics for inclusion on the programme. The theme of 'Sustainability in potato production, storage and processing' had been proposed by Anton Haverkort to cover topic areas such as:

- 'Cutting edge' innovations in engineering
(topics discussed included GPS/precision farming; sensor technology; decision support systems for storage)
- Water
- Energy use
- Supply chain issues

There being insufficient time to hold a full discussion, it was agreed that **Adrian Cunnington would ask for detailed suggestions by e-mail.**

Mike Storey made a request for the issue of lower rates for young researchers and students, discussed by Council, to be included in planning the Meeting. This was noted.

Any other business There was none

Adrian Cunnington thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 19:16.

e-mail request...

Please submit suggestions in relation to topics for the Section Meeting, as detailed above in bold text. Also, as ever, please submit your comments and contributions to make Members aware of potato related events and developments. I also urge you to put forward any suggestions on how we can improve the output of the Section. I hope to issue a further update early in the New Year.

With best wishes,
Adrian Cunnington
Section Chair

