

IUAA Track & Field 2004 Report

Hosted by

University College Cork

16th & 17th April

Mardyke Arena

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Organising Committee

Ladies Captain: Jennifer Goggin

Treasurer: Niamh Cremin

Fundraiser: Deirdre Murphy

Programme & T-Shirts Design – Paddy O’ Gorman

Website – Brian Murphy

Championship Winners

Ladies'

Winner: University College Cork
Runner Up: University of Limerick
Third: Trinity College Dublin

Men's

Winner: University of Limerick
Runner Up: University College Dublin
Third: University College Cork

Overall

Winner: University of Limerick
Runner Up: University College Cork
Third: University College Dublin

Multi Events

Winner: University College Limerick
Runner Up: Trinity College Dublin

Communication

The event website www.ucctrackandfield2004.iuaa.org was launched a number of weeks prior to the event. An email address ucc2004@iuaa.org was also set up. These served as the principle communication mediums. On the website information such as accommodation, maps and information about the presentation dinner could be gotten. We also send out packs to colleges in the post with the same information. Also the pack gave information about the entries. Notably that entries opened on the 16th of March and closed on the 7th April at 10pm. The closing date for meal tickets was the 6th April at 10pm. Jennifer Goggin's mobile number was also given and a lot of colleges used this for contact also, especially with regard to meal tickets. As most colleges were very well informed there were only a few queries to deal with. The UCC and IUAA website were invaluable.

First Aid

First Aid for the event was provided by St. John's Ambulance. They were chosen as opposed to the Order of Malta who let down CIT during the Intervarsities 2002. An ambulance was located trackside and there were a number of the members situated around the track. Fortunately there were no accidents or injuries for them to deal with. We also provided athletes with free physiotherapy and this was set up in hall 3 in the Mardyke Arena.

Sponsorship

- Bank of Ireland
- Athletics Union UCC
- Nutri Grain from Jarlaith Jennings, McConnollys Advertising
- Coca Cola provided water and Powerrade.

Companies who purchased advertisements in the programme:

**ISIS
SIGMA – ALDRICH
BIO – SCIENCES
PFH COMPUTERS
Datapac
Reagecon ALKEM
Lyreco Office Supplies
Sarstedt
AGB Scientific Ltd
O'Brien office systems
Crowley Engineering
Jim Murray Mechanical Services Ltd
Cruinn Diagnostics Ltd
Starlab
Greiner bio – one
MSC
ISS Ireland
Unitech
Alpha Technologies
H.A. O'Neil
HETAC**

Programme

The programme was designed, produced and edited by Paddy O' Gorman a member of Leevale AC and a student at CIT. We were very pleased with the design of the programme. The B.I.S Department in UCC generously agreed to the printing of the programme and Jennifer Goggin, Deirdre and Mary Murphy put it all together. The programmes were given out to all athletes on both days of competition. They were very helpful as spectators could identify athletes and athletes could check competitors and start times of their events.

Publicity

Full details of the Championships were made available on the Internet at www.ucctrackandfield2004@iuuaa.org. Press releases were sent to all national, local and regional newspapers 9 days before the event. Red Fm and 96Fm were also notified and the Irish Runner Magazine included the event in their fixture lists. Before Christmas when the fundraising was taking place Olga Cronin of the *Evening Echo* did an Interview with Jennifer Goggin. Posters were put up around college encouraging the students to come down and give support.

Results were given to local and national papers. Reporters were present on both days. Brendan Mooney of the *Irish Examiner* and Der Donovan of the *Evening Echo* published articles about the championships.

The results were also available on the IUAA website three hours after the event.

Website

The beginnings of the intervarsity website was in august 2003, when the UCC athletics site was completely overhauled in an effort to bring it up to date and position UCC athletics as one of the most organised and professional clubs in the college. The UCC site went live after months of hard work in early November 2003. The front page featured a Flash movie on the right of screen advertising the forthcoming Irish Intersvarsity championships, which UCC was hosting.

The UCC webpage would later form the basis of the look and feel of the competition website. The goal of the site was to inform the participants, club members and prospective sponsors about the event, and to do so in a clear and informal fashion. Maps and photos of the facilities were put up and lists of B&B's and hotels in the local were drawn up for the athletes. The pages for results were put up in advance

The competition website went live over a month prior to the championships. It was linked from the UCC athletics page which highlighted it as a news item and from the IUAA website which served as the official competition portal. Whilst the UCC site was designed to inform about the greater competition and social event the IUAA site was purposely built for results and online entries. By accessing the UCC site through the IUAA competition site, the competitors had full access to information regarding; competition rules, entries, start lists, maps and accommodation contacts.

Entries

All entries were done online and the IUAA informed all colleges on how to do it. Each team captain received a password so that only they could make entries or modify team details. Entries closed on the 7th July. The entry system was divided into two steps. First step was a means of collecting names and ID numbers of all athletes likely to be competing in the championships. In Step 1, captains could enter as many athletes as they wished. In Step 2, captains assigned these athletes to events from a drop down menu of their Step 1 entries. This system meant that a captain only had to enter an athlete's name and ID number once, even if they completely rearranged their team numerous times before the final deadline.

Athlete's numbers were put into their college's envelopes. This was a lengthy process as there was over 500 numbers. After the deadline, the entry system data was supposed to be exported to the spreadsheet software used in the results processing. Here was where the trouble started. I (Jennifer Goggin) followed the instructions exactly but it would not work. I tried over and over again but it simply would not download. Tried again using computers in Business Information Systems Department but it still would not work. At this stage it was the eve of competitions so Deirdre Murphy said she would take it home and try again. Unfortunately they had to be done the first morning of competition. Everything worked out okay in the end.

Special Guests

We had invited Gillian O' Sullivan and Rob Heffernan to be guest of honors and to present medals. Unfortunately on the day before the competitions they had to pull out.

In attendance on the night was Kieran Dowd, Director of Physical Education at University College Cork. Members of Cork County Athletics Board and international athletes Freda Davoren and Maura Prendiville.

Post Competition

After the competition all results were checked and made available on the IUAA website within 3 hours. Preliminary results had been made available at the meal on Saturday 17th April.

Captain's Meeting

A captain meeting was arranged before the competition started but because of the delay at the start this was reduced to a quick gathering to inform captains to provide officials for different events.

The second meeting was held after the completion of competition on Saturday. We had a hall booked for this but when it was time for the meeting there was people playing soccer in there. So unfortunately it was held between double doors in the corridor of the Mardyke Arena. Overall everyone was happy with the competition but there were a few comments made with regard to holding the Pole Vault and Javelin in CIT. This was way outside our control and all Colleges were notified about this months in advance. We provided a shuttle bus to and fro to CIT. A vote was made with regard to the holding of the IUAA Indoors before or after Christmas. It was decided to revert back to holding them before Christmas. Meal tickets were given to IUAA Executive Members and to the captains to distribute.

Presentation Dinner

Venue: Jury's Hotel
Western Road
Cork

Date: Saturday 17th April

Special Guests Present

Dr. Kieran Dowd, Director of Physical Education UCC, IUAA Executive Committee.
Members of Cork County Athletics Board. Freda Davoren and Maura Prendiville.

Awards

Medals were presented to the 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 relay teams and the multi events medal winners. Perpetual Trophies were presented to the winners of the Multi – Events Championship, Ladies Championships, Men's and the Overall.

The presentation dinner was a three - course meal including a vegetarian option. This was followed by tea or coffee. A band and then a disco followed the Dinner. Initial contact was made with the Hotel in October 2003 and a meeting was arranged with the organising committee. Menus, times, entertainment and other details were discussed. We gave the Hotel approximate numbers of 300 and gave a €400 deposit. The Hotel looked after the security for a fee. We also paid for a bar extension. No problems were reported were reported and the management were extremely happy with the event and thanked us.

The dress code was semi formal as we were of the opinion that a hall of fame was going to be started. This did not happen but the photos of the night looked really well with everyone dressed up.

Everyone was extremely happy with the night and a lot said it was the best Intervarsity ever. The night made up for the bad start on the Friday.

Finances €

Expenditure

Jury's	8200
Electronic Timing	800
Programme	300
Bus Transfers	450
Raffle Tickets	108.90
Physio	200
First Aid	300
Safety Pins	25
Stop Watches	20
T-Shirts	726

Total **11129.90**

Income

Meal Tickets	8750
Bank of Ireland	2500
Advertising	540
AU Grant	1050

Total **12840.00**

Profit **1710.10**

Other Comments

Meetings were held weekly and at these we followed the IUAA and CUSAI guidelines for hosting an intervarsity event, which were extremely helpful. It was also discussed months in advance with PE Department about what rooms and halls we could use. However on the first day of competition I arrived down at 8.30am to set up only to find out the management of the arena had different ideas and went against what was arranged. There were a few arguments, few tears, few panics but everything was sorted out in the end but we had to have check in inside the door near the track as opposed to initial plans.

Check-in, physio, changing rooms etc were all located as near the tack as possible and everyone was happy with the facilities.

Apart from the drama in the morning and the delay at the start with regard to the spreadsheets, everything went smoothly apart from the weather. The track itself was not even a year old and was hosting its second event. In good weather conditions it is really fast so we were unfortunate with the bad weather. Despite this there were a number of new pbs. The organising committee was delighted with the weekend and winning the Ladies Championships was the icing on the cake.

Gratuities

The Committee would like to thank all the officials who helped out during the weekend especially as they kept going through the desperate weather conditions. Without them the weekend would not have been such a success. Also a big thank you to the IUAA Executive Committee, especially Stephene Lipson for all his help.