

Report from the IUAA Cross Country Championships.
8 March 2008
Loughrae, Galway.

Hosting:

This years Cross Country Event was held in Loughrae Galway in conjunction with the Irish Schools Athletics Association. This venue was chosen by the I.S.A.A. venue after the course in Athlone was withdrawn due to construction activities. This move meant that if the championships were to be held jointly a University Host would be required. At short notice NUI Galway accepted the hosting duties even though the location for the event was some distance from Galway and their preferred course is in Dangan. At this point it would be appropriate to mention that University of Limerick were extremely helpful in allowing NUIG to be hosts as they had been pencilled in to host this year.

Races:

As the event was initially organised by the I.S.A.A. they had taken care of many issues including:-

- course layout,
- first aid,
- starting,
- Event booklet
- facilities.

The course layout was set so that the I.U.A.A. event could be run on 2k laps and was scheduled so that the women's event was run in the middle of the schools events and the men's was run at the end of the days schedule.

The presence of the extra crowds helped add an atmosphere to the event and would definitely be an added advantage in future years. The I.S.A.A. allowed for several pages in their booklet for I.U.A.A. material.

Rain on the day however turned the field very muddy and the facilities were not really set up for so many competitors. This lead to many complaints about both the course, facilities and the proximity of the event to the accommodation. At the captains meeting afterwards it was suggested that in future if the joint hosting was to occur then an I.U.A.A. approved venue would be a must have, this was agree to by everyone present.

Results:

Women's Race:

- 1st Fionnuala Britton
- 2nd Linda Byrne
- 3rd Aileen Morison

Women's Team Event:

- 1st DCU
- 2nd TCD
- 3rd UCC

Men's Race:

- 1st Colin Turner
- 2nd Diarmuid Grant
- 3rd Dan Mulhare

Men's Team Event:

- 1st DCU
- 2nd WIT
- 3rd UCD

After Event:

NUI Galway hosted the after event in a local hotel and the event went well. Special mention should go to Tony Reilly and Kevin Duggan of NUIG.