

Report of the Honorary Secretary 2003/2004

We have enjoyed a fabulous year of athletics. The year began with the Road Relays and once again this was flawlessly operated by NUI Maynooth and for that we thank them. Sixteen women's teams lined up, a massive improvement on the previous few years including a jump from 11 last year. Seven colleges were represented up from five in the previous year. As the standards in many branches of athletics continue to plummet, it is refreshing to see times improve in the women's event. May this trend continue again this year. Again, standards were maintained in the men's race.

This year there was a return to the old days as the Indoors were held in February. This proved to be a contentious issue for many athletes. February was chosen to facilitate the need to compete in Indoor events in Indoor season ie. January, February. Although in season, it was felt that many of the best athletes were lost to the AAAs. It was also suggested that many colleges had lost the motivation of new 'fresher' athletes who had nothing to train for immediately after the Road Relays. The event was very successful although numbers in attendance were down and following discussion at the Track & Field it will be held in December once more this year.

The cross-country was hosted by IT Carlow. This was a fabulous event, expertly organized and executed. On behalf of the IUAA, I would like to reiterate our thanks to all involved in particular Carmel Lynch. The course was excellent, the refreshments were extremely welcome (and tasty) and a great competition was had by all. Every eventuality was catered for, including changing facilities in case of inclement weather. DCU took all 3 titles available setting a standard to which all colleges will aspire.

The 14th World University Cross Country Championship was held in Turin, Italy on March 28th. Ian O'Neill and Louise Cavanagh were appointed team managers and coach early in 2003. Procedures for selection were in place many months before the event, demonstrating the superb organisational skills of the pair and their dedication to their roles. Despite the fact that some athletes chose to not travel, results were maximized with very credible performances by the teams.

The Track & Field was hosted by UCC and held on the new Mardyke track. Everyone seemed to have a very enjoyable weekend despite the weather. Well done to all those involved in organizing it. It should be noted that despite the provision of an excellent sports facility on the track-side, changing facilities were very inadequate considering that there was upwards of 200 athletes competing over the weekend in poor weather conditions. It was also disappointing that yet again, competition had to split over two venues due to the inability of the Mardyke to accommodate the javelin and the pole-vault. Of course, this was completely outside the control of the organizers.

The Antrim International was held as usual in the Antrim Forum in June. IUAA women won and the men were narrowly beaten by the Northern Ireland U23. It is disappointing to note that this event has become an IUAA vs. NIU23 with no representation by Scotland. Despite this a good event was enjoyed by all.

However, the event was marred by the behaviour of certain athletes later that night. Although celebration is to be expected and encouraged, this should not disrupt the sleep of those not involved in the event. It is disappointing that this blatant ignorance and disregard for others occurred. This has embarrassed the IUAA and tarnished its reputation in Northern Ireland. It is hoped that this will not become an issue in the future.

In conclusion a fabulous year of university athletics was had. I look forward to my role in 2004/2005 and I wish everyone the very best for the forthcoming year.

Yours in sport

Rebecca Haworth
Honorary Secretary 2003-2005

Report proposed by

Report seconded by

Table 1: Attendance record for the 2003-2004 IUAA executive committee, at IUAA Championships and Events, General Meetings and Executive Meetings.

Name	Position	Road Relay Executive Meeting	Road Relay Championships	Road Relay General Meeting	Indoor T&F Executive Meeting	Indoor T&F Championships	Cross Country Executive Meeting	Cross Country Championships	Cross Country General Meeting	T&F Championships	T&F General Meeting	Antrim T&F	Summer Executive Meeting	Percentage Attendance
Stephen Lipson	President	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	100
Eric Brady	Past President	Absent	Absent	Absent	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	58
Cyril Smyth	Vice President	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	83
Michael Hillery	Vice President	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent	Present	Present	Absent	Present	50
Gavin McBride	Treasurer	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	75
Rebecca Haworth	Secretary	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	75
Ian O'Sullivan	Competitions Secretary.	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	75
	PRO	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	-
Enda Fitzpatrick	Committee 1	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	58
Kieran Lambe	Committee 2	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	50

■ Present
 ■ Absent
 ■ Resigned
 ■ Vacant Positions