

IUAA Cross-Country Championships 2006 Report

Hosted by

Trinity College Dublin

Saturday 4th March 2006

Santry Playing Fields

Organising Committee

Name	Role	Telephone	E-mail
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List of participating Universities / Colleges

Cork IT	TCD
DCU	UCC
IT Sligo	UCD
IT Tralee	UL
Limerick IT	UU
NUI Galway	Waterford IT
QUB	

Winners and Runners-Up

Men's

<u>Individual</u>		<u>Teams</u>	
1.	Mark Christie	29:48	UCD 67
2.	Joe Sweeney	29:58	DCU 73
3.	Michael Clohissey	30:14	QUB 149

Women's

<u>Individual</u>		<u>Teams</u>	
1.	Fionnuala Britton	12:55	DCU 11
2.	Linda Byrne	13:25	UCD 60
3.	Azmera Gebrezgi	13:29	UCC 70

Combined Teams

1.	DCU	49.933
2.	UCD	95.733
3.	UCC	156.33

Graduates Race

<u>Men</u>		<u>Women</u>	
1.	Bernard Row DCU	Helen Murphy	TCD
2.	Ian Morrison TCD	Lesley O'Connor	TCD
3.	Pat Donovan TCD	Norah Daly	TCD

The full results were posted on the IUAA website (www.iuaa.org) within hours of the last race

Course Planning

The first task of the Organising Committee was to agree a suitable race venue. After considering Ardgillan Castle, Santry Park, Phoenix Park, and Grangegorman, the Organising Committee decided to return the event to the Santry Playing Fields, Trinity College's own grounds, which hosted the event in December 1995. Two members of the Organising Committee meet with the Head Grounds man, David Hackett and the DUHAC President, Cyril Smyth in August 2005 to plan and measure the course. A number of options were discussed and all parties agreed on the final design of the course. It was left to the Grounds man and his staff to carry out the necessary work on the course over the coming months, this work was to include clearing a path through wooded areas of the course, chopping down fully grown trees, building up hills and adding a log jump. The changing rooms of the Santry grounds were also renovated over the summer months.

Communication

All Colleges received a letter from the IUAA six weeks in advance of the event, detailing how to enter teams and the associated information regarding the official dinner in the Hilton. There was an email address tcd2006@iuaa.org advertised in this official communication and on the local host website through www.iuaa.org. All captains were contacted on several occasions by the email that they registered in the official contact list with IUAA and also received text messages from the OC secretary again through the registered mobile number in the official IUAA site. Captains were also free to call and to text the secretary on the number that was used to send them messages and the secretary was in contact with a number of teams both in the run up to and on the day by phone.

Any changes to the arrangements for the day that were necessary due to the DCU and ISSA circumstances were relayed to all captains via the website, emails and text messages.

First Aid

First Aid was provided by the Order of Malta, contact was made at the beginning of January and all details were reconfirmed two weeks before the event. An Ambulance with two personnel was at the course for the duration of the Championship. There were no serious incidents, only one case where an athlete who had accidentally spiked themselves, required assistance after the race.

Sponsorship

Early on we decided to have a goody bag for each competitor, our aim was to contact various companies for products that could be included in these. The products that we managed to obtain were;

- 200 Seven Seas Active Sport
- 400 Pharmaton Activit G samples
- 400 Sona Multiplus samples
- 480 Bottles of Club Energise
- 200 Nivea Shower Gel samples
- 200 Nivea Q10 Face Cream samples
- 200 Nivea Q10 Firming Cream samples
- 250 Irish Times
- 250 Irish Times Bags
- 300 Bottles of Ballygowan
- 12 Bottles of Wine from Molloy's Liquorstore
- 2 Nivea Hampers
- 150 Maximuscle samples
- A mix of Permanent TSB keyrings, jellies, pens etc

Each competitor was handed a bottle of Ballygowan in the finishing chute, they were then directed over to a Marquee for their Goody Bag. In order to prevent people taking more than one bag, each competitor's race number was marked with a permanent marker upon receiving their bag.

The Irish Times Newspapers were left beside check-in for anyone that wanted to take one.

The Bottles of Wine were used later on at the Dinner. We attached raffle tickets to the underside of a chair on each table before people arrived, at the end of the meal the DJ announced that anyone with a raffle ticket on their chair had won a bottle of wine and could collect it at the end of the night.

The dress code for the dinner was 1920's to 1950's fancy dress and we awarded the best dressed Man and Woman a Nivea Hamper, the winners were chosen by a member of the catering staff.

We also wanted to have a free packaged sandwich and race T-Shirt for each goody bag but in order to finance these a significant amount of sponsorship needed to be raised. Many companies were approached and all members of DUHAC were asked to approach personal contacts. One such personal contact that appeared early on was ACC bank, we were asked to prepare a PowerPoint presentation for the Board and we were hopeful of securing at least €1500. Unfortunately ACC bank could only give us €500 so we were left to find other sponsors. Other sponsorship came from Bradley's Pharmacy, McNamara Ltd., NPP Ltd., Astellas Ltd., Bank of Ireland and six one page ads in the race program. We also received a very generous donation from the DUHAC President. In total we managed to raise €2000 in sponsorship and this combined with the IUAA and College grants of €500 and €250 respectively allowed us to provide each competitor with a sandwich, Race T-shirt and subsidised meal ticket.

Programme

A programme was produced for the competition, this included past results, interviews with the previous years winners, captains predictions and advertisements

Publicity

Publicity of the Championship began when DUHAC was chosen to host the event back in 2003, at this point it was displayed on the IUAA website that we where to host the 2006 Championships. This was reconfirmed at AGMs and Captains Meetings. In January 2006, flyers were handed out at Business Houses Athletic Association races advertising the Graduates Race that was to be held on the day of the event. Around this time information was also posted on an online athletics message board and the notice boards of many athletics clubs.

Further publicity of the event came via the official Championship website and the IUAA website.

A web page was set up specifically for the Championship

<http://www.tcd2006.iuaa.org>

Captains' Meeting

The Captains meeting was held after the final race at 4:15pm in a vacant changing room. Captains, the IUAA Executive and the Organising Committee (OC) attended, in total there were 25 people in attendance.

Various topics were discussed including the Championship itself and the upcoming IUAA Track and Field Championship. A brief update of the IUAA's integration with the Athletic Association of Ireland (AAI) was also given by the President of the IUAA. The Co-Chair of the Organising Committee read out a statement, informing those in attendance of the events that had occurred in the run up to the Championship.

Entertainment

For entertainment a number of items were included at the Presentation Dinner.

1. A team of photographers took pictures of athletes during their races and a slide show of these was displayed on a projector screen during the dinner.
2. The dress code for the evening was 1920's to 1950's fancy dress and prizes were awarded for the best dressed Man and Woman.
3. Raffle tickets were placed under a chair at each table and ticket holders were awarded a bottle of wine at the end of the night
4. Once the dinner and presentations had finished, a DJ setup beside the dance floor and played until 1:30am.

Presentation Dinner

Venue: Hilton Dublin,
Charlemont Place,
Dublin 2

Special Guests: Terry McAuley – Director of Sport Trinity College Dublin
Geraldine McAuley – Senior Executive Officer of Dublin University Central Athletics Club
Jim Davis – National Endurance Coach, Head Selector and Team Manager for the World Student Cross Country
Michelle Bennett the Physical Recreation Officer and the David Hackett the Head Grounds man were also invited but unfortunately they were unable to attend.

Awards: Men's and Women's individual medals were presented after the meal by The Director of Sport, along with team medals and team trophies (The Green Fox and The Cheetahs) and the Combined Trophy (The Badger)

Other details: A number of Hotels were contacted in July 2005 before we decided on the Hilton. Various quotes were obtained with the average price per person being €42 - €44, the only exception to this was ALSAA at €32 per person. ALSAA was initially the most attractive venue but the distance from the city centre was a major concern for the OC and as a result we investigated the cost of hiring buses to take people to and from the venue. Dublin Bus provided us with the cheapest quote at €1200 for three double decker buses, bringing the total cost per person to €38. It was later discovered that our Men's Track and Field Captain had a contact in the Hilton Hotel group and on the back of this he managed to obtain a reduced quote of €37 per person for the Hilton in Charlemont Place. This made it the cheapest and most convenient option available to us and a deposit was paid almost immediately.

Finance

Source of Income (to include sponsorship, fees, university contribution, etc.)	euro €	Expenditure	euro €
IUAA Grant	500	Electronic Timing	502.15
Dublin University Central Athletic Club	250	First Aid	190
ACC Bank	500	PA System	150
Bradley's Pharmacies	500	Refreshments	440
McNamara Ltd.	250	T-Shirts	650
NPP Ltd.	200	Dinner Function	6520
Astellas Ltd.	150	Misc. Expenses (Course Materials, Pins, Graduates race medals etc.)	156
Bank of Ireland	100		
Program adverts (6x50)	300		
Grad race entries	65		
Donation from DUHAC President	500		
Colleges meal tickets	5425		
TOTAL	8740	TOTAL	8608.15

Report Compiled by Karl Fahy (Co-Chair Organising Committee)