

Report of the Honorary Competition Secretary 2004/2005

Once again the association's championships proved to be a huge success in terms of both organization and level of competition.

The IUAA is one of the few athletics bodies in which the interest in team competition perhaps surpasses that of individual competition. As in 2003/04 four different colleges shared the twelve team titles on offer and the following table reflects the rivalry amongst the big '6'

Road Relays	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Men	DCU	UCD	DCU
Women	DCU	UCD	DCU
Indoor T&F	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Men	UCD	UL	TCD
Women	UU	UL	UCC
Outdoor T&F	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Men	UCD	UL	DCU
Women	UL	DCU	UCD
Overall	UL	UCD	DCU
Cross Country	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Men	DCU	TCD	UCD
Women	DCU	UCD	TCD
Overall	DCU	UCD	TCD
Combined Events	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Overall	UCD		
Middle Distance	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Overall	DCU	UCD	TCD

While DCU have been dominant in distance running events over the last number of years it is interesting to note that their teams are now creeping into the top three at the track and field events also. It is very positive that the hierarchy in DCU has realized the importance of attracting high quality athletes to their institution. It is very important in the future that the IUAA and the AAI endeavor to change the mindset of the other third level institutions and help them realize the importance of having a good proportion of high quality sports men and women on their registers.

If other colleges do not follow the DCU example we could end up in a situation where (1) colleges feel that they have no hope of winning team titles and (2) DCU's athletes may feel that the competition provided at IUAA championships is not at a sufficient level. In short, things could get quite boring!!!!

This table also highlights the fact that despite the fact that the IUAA has a membership of 25, most members do not, realistically have the opportunity to challenge for team honours. The IUAA needs to provide provincial championships.

The men's XC produced some worrying statistics with only 67 athletes and 4 teams completing the course. Hopefully this statistic is an outlier and normal service will resume next March.

As in last years report the format of the main body of this document will fall under the following headings (i) athlete registration (ii) organization of officials and helpers (iii) ensuring that facilities at proposed venues are adequate (iv) ensuring that event timetables are sensible and operable (v) organization of Antrim International match teams and finally (vi) ensuring that colleges represent themselves in races with appropriate college colours.

I will now address each of these areas in turn with specific reference to my experience this year

(i) Last year registration details and ID scans were obtained from athletes at some of the events throughout the year. Not all athletes were checked and as a result it was not possible to ensure that all athletes competing at our championships were in fact eligible to compete. All athletes should fill out an online registration form and supply their College ID for inspection at least once throughout the year. Athletes who do not have ID at a particular race should be allowed to compete but they should not receive team/individual medals until such time as their eligibility is confirmed.

In a slightly related matter it was sad to see this year that Ian O' Neill (UU and IUAA exec) felt it necessary to resign his position as coach to the WSG track and field team, in order to highlight his feelings about CUSAI's selection and eligibility criteria. It may be the case that every other country under the FISU umbrella flaunt the rules but this does not necessarily mean that the Irish should follow suit. The IUAA must endeavor to work closely with CUSAI to ensure that future interpretations of FISU eligibility rules are to everybody's satisfaction.

(ii) The provision of officials and helpers is an issue which arises mainly at the track and field championships. Usually organizing colleges supply competent event officials and the IUAA designates 'helping duties' to colleges. Colleges have responded well over the last number of years to this system and as a result our championships have managed to run on time on a consistent basis. This year however some problems arose at the IUAA organized indoor track and field championships due to the fact that very few of the executive members were available for the first day of the championships due to work commitments. It is proposed that this year the indoor championships be held on a Saturday and Sunday to ensure that the problems of last year do not resurface.

(iii) It is essential that organizing colleges provide adequate changing and showering facilities at events especially the cross country. All of the championships this year were held at venues with sufficient changing and showering facilities.

(iv) Both the indoor and the outdoor timetables have been in operation with a number of years and seem to operate with sufficient time between events. The indoor time

table was adjusted last year to account for the fact that both high jump competitions cannot be held in parallel due to a lack of mats.

(v) This year once again the task of organizing teams for Antrim fell to the Association President, who did a splendid job mustering up two teams that represented the association admirably on the track and in the field. The guarantee of an IUAA singlet ensures that athletes are very keen to represent the association when called upon. The men were victorious with the women finishing a close second to the NI team. The IUAA team were victorious in the overall competition.

(vi) This year thankfully all colleges competed at IUAA championships in consistent attire.

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Report proposed by

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