



# Report for 2013 IUAA Outdoor Track & Field and Combined Event Championships

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2013

**Hosts:** University College Cork

**Venue:** Sonia O'Sullivan Track, Mardyke Grounds; Cork  
Institute of Technology Athletics Stadium

**Organisers:**

Liam O'Brien, Donie Walsh, Raymond Shanahan, Kieran James, Shane Maher, Ciara Cronin, Siobhan Heylin, Jacqueline Hughes, Chris Mintern, Edmond O'Halloran, Clare Fitzgerald, George Boyle, Caoimhe Casey, Freda Davoren, Steve Fleming, Eamon Flanagan, Brian Hayes, Christine O'Donovan, Ian O'Sullivan.

**Venue:**

The 2-day event was held in the newly refurbished and renamed Sonia O'Sullivan Track at the Mardyke, Cork; with the pole-vault and javelin events being held at the auxiliary venue of CIT Athletics Stadium. The use of a second venue was necessary on the Friday, as the pole-vault and javelin facilities were unfortunately deemed inappropriate for a competition of this size. Thanks to CIT for allowing the use of their facilities. A very efficient shuttle bus system between the 2 venues was used to ferry athletes over the course of the first day, with thanks to Enda Fitzpatrick for arranging the DCU bus to do so.

At both locations, the facilities were first-class, particularly at the Mardyke Track and Pavilion, which had undergone large-scale redevelopment in the previous year. The second day of the Championships also saw the official opening and renaming of the track to the Sonia O'Sullivan track by the former Irish international.

**Sponsorship:**

Our committee worked extremely hard to secure sponsorship for the event this year. This was rewarded in the provision of financial support to the sum of €1,000 by LAYA Healthcare, in addition to the financial support provided by the UCC Clubs Executive and the IUAA.

### **Goodie Bags:**

Free 'goodie bags' were provided for each competing athlete, containing free items provided by LAYA Healthcare, Flahavans (Courtesy of John Noonan, Flahavans) , Lucozade and Optimum Nutrition (with thanks to Claire McGlynn for the latter).

With regards to obtaining sponsorship, there were initial attempts made to contact multiple retailers, sports brands and food companies via email or phone with little or no success. We secured most our sponsorship thanks to contacts and friends of people on the organising committee. We would recommend to future intervarsity organising committees to put their energy into pursuing this method of approach rather than sending somewhat anonymous emails to companies seeking sponsorship.

### **Programmes:**

Programmes were available for free from the registration area in the Mardyke Pavilion, and contained the Championships' event timetable, information on the venue, club, dinner and messages from the event sponsors. These were collected from a printer on Washington Street, Cork the morning of the event. It is highly recommended that varsity event organisers give plenty of notice to the printers they are using (especially should they wish to request t-shirts)

### **Athlete Registration and Results:**

Athlete registration was held in the Mardyke Pavilion overlooking the track, with 'goodie bags' distributed here. Result recording and the event HQ were also located here.

## **Communication:**

In early April, the host website <http://trackandfield.uccathletics.com/> was launched, providing information on the event, venue, accommodation options and the banquet, as well as contact info (email, club website, Facebook and Twitter) for the event hosts. The primary method of contact with other colleges was via the email address provided by the IUAA for the event ([ucc2013@iuaa.org](mailto:ucc2013@iuaa.org)). The Facebook event page and Twitter accounts in particular were used in the immediate run-up to the Championships to generate interest in the event, as well as posting updates over the course of the 2 days, and the unofficial results and competition videos at the end of each day.

With thanks to Colm Moore, Cork's 96fm also provided some media coverage in the weeks coming up to the Championships, as well as news from the events themselves over the course of the two days.

In terms of communication on the ground over the course of the Championships, the Mardyke Pavilion PA system was used to make major announcements, with the MC (UCC athlete Rob O'Neill) playing music in the intervals between announcements. A number of runners helped to deliver important messages and results between the centre of operations in the Pavilion and the officials track side. Results from CIT on the Friday were communicated via runners on the shuttle bus.

## **Event Video Streaming:**

With thanks to Jonathan Twomey of UCC Filmsoc, all major track events at the Mardyke during the Championships were recorded, and the videos uploaded to the Facebook event page and Youtube account that evening.

## **First Aid:**

First Aid cover on Friday and Saturday was provided by St. John's ambulance and UCC medical students. No serious incidents or injuries were reported.

**Banquet:**

The banquet was held on the Saturday night at the Silversprings Moran Hotel, Cork, with tickets priced at €26pp. Tickets were paid for in advance, at the captains' meeting on the Saturday evening. There were no major reports of antisocial behaviour.

**Catering:**

Kylemore provided sandwiches, teas and coffee for all IUAA and UCC officials over the course of the two days, as well as the catering for the official track re-opening ceremony on Saturday.

**Electronic Timing:**

This year, a new option was chosen in terms of the electronic timing hire. In previous years, Timing Ireland had been used to provide electronic track timing for the Championships. However, this year following the recommendation of the meet director Liam O'Brien, Sport Systems, a UK-based company (<http://www.sportssystem.co.uk>), were contacted and hired to provide the service for the event. They were found to be extremely easy to work with, professional and efficient, and charged a far lower fee than that quoted by Timing Ireland (including expenses for travel from the UK and accommodation in Cork). A saving of over €1,100 was made by choosing to work with Sport Systems. It would be highly recommendable for any future hosts to work with them again.

### **Captain's Meeting:**

Two captain's meetings took place over the course of the two days, in the Mardyke Pavilion. The first was held before the first events on Friday, when information on the running of the events over the two days was provided. The second was held after the final event on Saturday. Here, the colleges were thanked for their participation and help and the banquet meal tickets were distributed.

### **Officials:**

The IUAA, as always, provided excellent officials over the course of the Championships. This came in the form of Stephen Lipson, who handled all results data, as well as Cyril Smith, Eric Brady, Paul Butler and Enda Fitzpatrick among others, who ensured the smooth running of the championships.

A large number of local officials were also present for various duties, many of which from Leevale AC and other Cork athletics clubs. Liam O'Brien acted as meet director, and excelled in organising the entire operation over the course of the two days.

## Competition Round-Up:

330 individual athletes competed at the Championships this year, up from 314 the previous year, and with the highest ever numbers at the event. 4 new championship records were set over the course of the two days (the Men's and Women's 4X100m Relays, and the Women's Pole Vault and Shot Putt). The main team competition winners and runners-up are listed below.

- **Overall Points:**

Place	College	Male	Female	Total
1 <sup>st</sup>	DCU	135	132.5	267.5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	UCD	86	46	132
3 <sup>rd</sup>	UCC	36	93	129

- **Men's Championship:**

Place	College	Total
1 <sup>st</sup>	DCU	135
2 <sup>nd</sup>	UCD	86
3 <sup>rd</sup>	UU	42

- **Women's Championship:**

Place	College	Total
1 <sup>st</sup>	DCU	132.5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	UCC	93
3 <sup>rd</sup>	TCD	58

- **Middle Distance Trophy:**

Place	College	Total
1 <sup>st</sup>	DCU	53
2 <sup>nd</sup>	TCD	44
3 <sup>rd</sup>	UCD	22

- **Sprints Trophy:**

Place	College	Total
1 <sup>st</sup>	DCU	102
2 <sup>nd</sup>	UCD	51
3 <sup>rd</sup>	UCC	37

- **Throws Trophy:**

Place	College	Total
1 <sup>st</sup>	UCC	58
2 <sup>nd</sup>	DCU	42
3 <sup>rd</sup>	UCD	41

- **Jumps Trophy:**

Place	College	Total
1 <sup>st</sup>	DCU	44.5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	UU	23
3 <sup>rd</sup>	WIT	22.5

**Finances:**

**Income**

LAYA Healthcare sponsorship	1000
UCC Clubs Executive	550
Varsity Ball 26 x 300	7800

**Expenditure**

400 Booklets	160
Varsity Ball 23 x 300	6900
Ambulance	250
CIT track rental	250
Catering for guests	40
Timing (including timer accommodation)	1900
Video recording	100

## **Thank You:**

We first and foremost wish to thank those bodies directly involved in the organising of the 2013 IUAA Outdoor T&F Championships at UCC; the IUAA, UCC Clubs Executive and our generous sponsors LAYA Healthcare. We would then like to thank all those individuals that made this memorable event possible. From the IUAA, we thank Stephen Lipson, Eric Brady, Paul Butler, Cyril Smith, Damian Walsh, Enda Fitzpatrick, Garret Dunne, Dermot McDermott, Clair McGlynn and Barry Upton. Thanks to all those from UCC and Cork County who volunteered over the course of the two days to assist with the running of the events, including: Liam O'Brien, Raymond Shanahan, Donie Walsh, John Sheehan, Freda Davoren, Steve Fleming, Eamon Flanagan, Brian Hayes, Donal Murnane, Ina Killeen, Mary and John Meagher, Alister Wilson, Dave Murray, John Cronin, Chris Regan, John and Linda Cronin, George Boyle, Niamh Moore and everyone else involved. Thanks to Jonathon Twomey of UCC Filmsoc for recording the Championships; and to Rob O'Neill for acting as meet MC, banquet DJ and 3,000m walk bronze medallist. Thanks to all those in the UCC Department of Physical Education and Sport for all their support, namely acting Director Christine O'Donovan and her team, as well as the sports facility grounds-keeping staff Willie and Ken. Thanks to Ian O'Sullivan and CIT for the use of their facilities on the Friday. Finally, thank you to all the colleges who attended and made these championships a great success.

## **Further questions:**

For any extra information or advice on hosting the IUAA Outdoor T&F, contact UCC Athletics Club- [athletics@uccclubs.ie](mailto:athletics@uccclubs.ie)

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