

Cross Country Intervarsities 2000 Review

The 2000 Irish Universities Athletics Association Cross Country Championships, hosted by **Cork Institute of Technology**, was held in Carrignavar, Co. Cork on Saturday, February 26th 2000. Record numbers attended, with 58 female and 87 male athletes finishing the “tough but fair” course. The top three male and female athletes on the day were;

Womens: 1. Rosemary Ryan U.L.
 2. Emmanuel Mc Mahon U.C.D.
 3. Orla O’ Mahoney U.C.D.

Mens: 1. Fiachra Lombard U.C.C.
 2. Gearoid O Connor I.T. Tallaght
 3. Conor Mc Gee N.U.I. Galway

UCC men equaled UCG and UCD’s record of five consecutive cross country team titles. UCD women also equaled UCC’s women’s record of four team titles in a row.

Hosting the Championships demands much organisation. Preparation for the event should begin well in advance of the competition. It is advisable to begin organising the course before December, the event is usually hosted in February. C.I.T. organised the competition to take place in Carrignavar and for Carrignavar Athletics Club to mark out the course. The venue for the dinner and presentations of awards was also organised well in advance.

The championships went very smoothly on the day, largely due to the vast amount of officials and helpers who attended. CIT organised for County Athletics Board Officials to officiate at the event and many CIT students turned up to give a helping hand, namely the Recreation and Leisure students.

Although the day was a great success, there was one major drawback - a large loss in earnings. CIT made a substantial loss on the meal tickets, due to colleges overbooking the tickets. On the night, over £500 was lost when tickets which were ordered in advance by different colleges were not required on the night.

This situation could have been avoided if tickets were paid for as they were ordered by colleges, before the event took place. Future shortfalls could be avoided if this were to become the case.

The other main costs involved were as follows:

- * Intercom System
- * Hire of tents
- * Video made of the day
- * Bus hire - buses taking athletes to the event, and from the city to the meal venue
- * Programmes - these were sponsored and sold at £1 each
- * T-shirts - bought and sold at cost price
- * Meal tickets - major loss as stated above