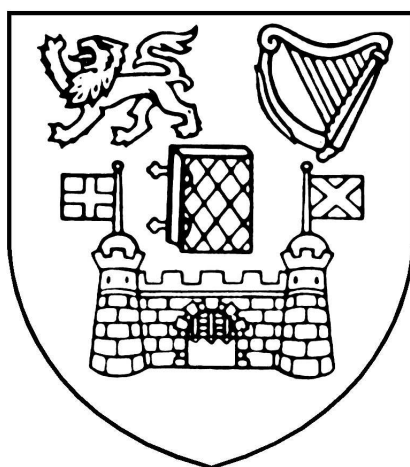


# Dublin University Harriers & Athletics Club



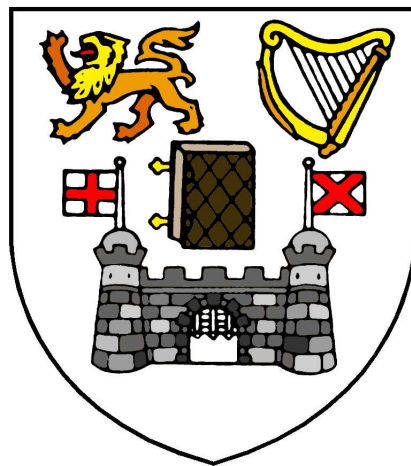
A Centenary

1885–1985



# DUBLIN UNIVERSITY HARRIERS AND ATHLETIC CLUB

## A CENTENARY HISTORY



Copyright: Dublin University Harriers and Athletic Club, 1985.

“The past is a foreign country:  
they do things differently there.”

L. P. Hartley  
— The Go-Between

“It is a very sad thing  
that there is so little  
useless information”

Oscar Wilde (D.U.A.C. member)  
— Maxims for the Instruction of the Over-educated.

# DUBLIN UNIVERSITY HARRIERS AND ATHLETIC CLUB

## A CENTENARY HISTORY, 1885–1985

Editor: Alan Gilsenan  
Editorial Board: Conor Mulcahy  
Michael Ryan  
Contributors: Professor George Dawson  
Charlotte Cantley  
David Guiney  
Leonard Horan  
Joseph Peppard  
Anne Brady  
Conor Mulcahy  
Mary Nolan  
Michael Ryan  
Hugh Cash  
Ray Dooney  
Thomas Cox  
Alan Gilsenan  
J. B. Lawson

The Editor wishes to thank the following:

The Library of Trinity College, Dublin

The National Library

The Trinity Trust

The Royal Dublin Society

Dublin University Central Athletic Committee

The Publications Committee, T.C.D.

D.U.H.A.C. Committee

Dr. Bernard Meehan, Keeper of Manuscripts

The Irish Times

The Centre of Photography, T.C.D.

Our Sponsors

Alan Hewson

Postal address: The Editor,  
“D.U.H.A.C. — A Centenary History”,  
Box No. 55,  
Regent House,  
Trinity College,  
Dublin 2.

Subscription: Ir £5.00

“D.U.H.A.C. — A Centenary History” was set in Times New Roman, designed by Alan Gilsenan and printed by C.R.P. Ltd. (Technical Manual Printers).

# Contents

Table of Contents	6
List of Figures	7
Preface — Professor George Dawson, President, DUHAC	9
Introduction	10
One Fine Morning — Alan Gilsenan	13
Maroon & White — Joseph Peppard	20
Between the Wars — Conor Mulcahy	27
War & Peace — Michael Ryan	38
'A Fair Sex' — Anne Brady, Charlotte Cantley, Mary Nolan	55
Towards 1985 — Dennis Finnerty	68
Reminiscences:	86
The Twenties — T. R. F. Cox . . . . .	87
The Thirties — Leonard Horan . . . . .	90
The Forties — David Guiney . . . . .	92
The Fifties — J. B. Lawson . . . . .	97
The Sixties — Hugh Gash . . . . .	99
The Seventies — Roy Dooney . . . . .	102
Tom Maguire — Leonard Horan . . . . .	104
Club Records	106
Select Bibliography	109

# List of Figures

1	The 1862 Dublin University Foot Races Committee . . . . .	8
2	“So we beat on boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.” . . . . .	12
3	“Jumping — Jive!” in College Park . . . . .	18
4	D.U.H.A.C. Team 1929 . . . . .	29
5	1934 Club Championship Mile . . . . .	34
6	Irish Intervarsity Championships . . . . .	34
7	D.U.H.A.C. Team 1954 . . . . .	41
8	D.U.H.A.C. Team 1957 . . . . .	44
9	World Student Games 1957 . . . . .	46
10	President O’Kelly and Provost McConnell . . . . .	47
11	Colin Shillington . . . . .	49
12	D.U.H.A.C. Team 1961 . . . . .	52
13	Dara Shakespeare . . . . .	54
14	D.U.H.A.C. Ladies 1972 . . . . .	58
15	D.U.H.A.C. Ladies Team . . . . .	65
16	Dara Shakespeare . . . . .	66
17	The Swinging Sixties . . . . .	67
18	John Dillon . . . . .	74
19	D.U.H.A.C. Team 1976 . . . . .	77
20	D.U.H. Team 1938 . . . . .	85
21	D.U.H.A.C. Team 1935 . . . . .	89
22	David Guiney . . . . .	94
23	President deValera and Provost McConnell . . . . .	100



Figure 1: The 1862 Dublin University Foot Races Committee



# Preface

The Harriers and Athletic Club has served well not only college students for 100 years, it has also served athletics well. Until the 1960's, there were two athletic unions in Ireland, we in one and U.C.D. in the other. In 1961, these unions allowed us, as an exceptional measure, to compete and this began the unifying of the unions. It generated the co-operation which led to the Willwood Games, which became the present Tailteann Games. So divisions in athletics were healed and this released a great upsurge of energy for the development of athletics in Ireland.

In the 1961 discussions, the club was represented by its student officers, often meeting more senior members of other clubs. The club has been typical of most Trinity clubs in always being run by students. Even beyond athletic prowess, it has consistently supported the younger. Conspicuously, it accepted in 1962 for its match with U.C.D. a trophy by Edward Delaney. It was the first Irish commission he ever received and was followed by his gaining commissions for the Thomas Davis and Wolfe Tone memorials and far many other major works.

D.U.H.A.C. is one of the longest established of the sports clubs in Trinity. When the college was much smaller, membership of any club or society implied tighter communal loyalties than today. Yet the continuing strength of these loyalties are splendidly demonstrated by the energies that have been given to these centenary celebrations and the production of this book. This is a valuable record of the history of the club and the prowess of many of its members. It is a record which will recall many friendships and of which all members can be deeply proud.

May the club honour its traditions by achieving as much in the future as it has in the past.

Professor George Dawson

President of Dublin University Harriers and Athletic Club.

# Introduction

In writing an account such as this celebratory history of a single small aspect of the university or national whole, one can usually rely on an existing general reference work from which to quarry the foundations, with other sources such as word of mouth, legend and newspaper reports providing the whimsical and or humorous structure. Unfortunately in this case, no such monumental reference work exists.

There are histories of the university certainly but these deal almost exclusively with the academic and ignore, no doubt correctly, sport or other such frivolous pastimes. As for a history of Irish athletics, if not indeed athletics in Ireland, though the subject is large enough, it has not so far attracted an author to attempt it seriously and no reliable text exists. Such texts as there are normally exhibit a bias towards one particular viewpoint, their authors more interested in having a gallop on their favourite hobby horse than in producing anything that resembles history, a not uncommon failing as regards Irish historical writing as a whole.

With such slender sources to draw from, any prospective researcher would naturally then turn to the club's own records and here again encounters problems.

In a series on the early history of sports clubs in the University published in T.C.D. Miscellany during the Michaelmas Term of 1921, the author states:

“The early records of the Club have not been preserved, and the First Secretary whose name I have been unable to find was Mr. R.L. Joynt, now Surgeon to the Meath Hospital, who was Secretary in 1888.”

Thankfully, this is not wholly true as records which appear not to have been known to the author do exist. However, the records as they exist are sporadic, some years being covered in great detail and others not at all, a situation not uncommon with student societies, this fact of course being of absolutely no consolation to the historian. From such sources as these, together with the previously mentioned word of mouth, legend and newspaper reports are the following assembled.

The authors of this history must start with a confession. 1985 is not the centenary year of Dublin University Harriers and Athletic Club, Dublin University Harriers were in fact founded in December 1886 and the origins of Dublin University Athletic Club

go back to 1872. However, the university authorities have always recognised 1885 as the year the club was founded as it was in that year that the club became one of the founding members of the I.A.A.A., a body set up to regulate Irish athletics and more importantly perhaps, keep it out of the hands of the G.A.A.

But more of this later. Based on such scant and various sources, this history is bound to contain some (hopefully not many) inaccuracies. The club would be delighted to put these right and welcomes any corrections or additions. Furthermore, there are many other minute books and other club memorabilia which was not uncovered and perhaps this book will go some way to restoring these to college.

All that remains is to thank the many club members who opened their memories, and in many cases their attics, to us; and to thank all the contributors; our President, Professor George Dawson for his continual support; and finally, the person who has contributed the most in both his time and his sanity — our present captain, Conor Mulcahy.

Lastly, though this is a history of the athletic club of an academic institution, it is not an academic history. All the academic trimmings of history have been copiously avoided. This history, like any other, is merely our interpretation of events. This is simply our story — no more, no less.

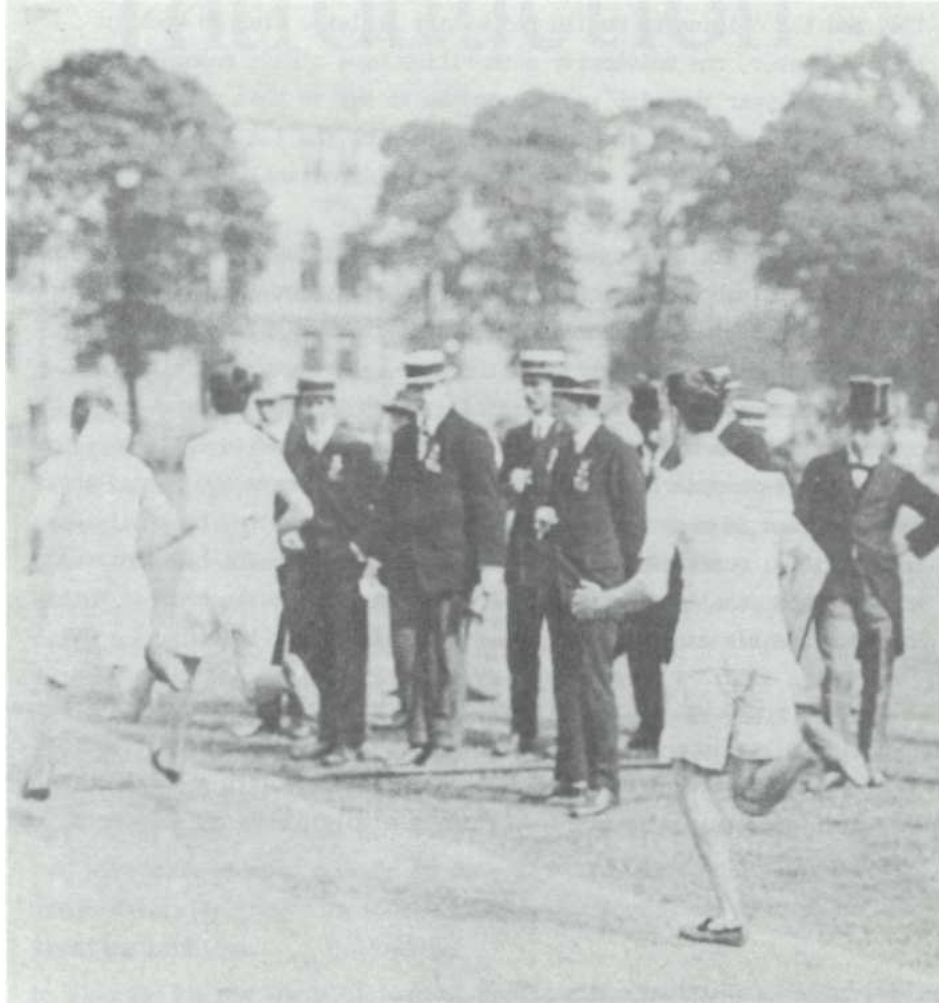


Figure 2: "So we beat on boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past."

# One Fine Morning

“Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgiastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that’s no matter — tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther . . . and one fine morning — So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.”

- F. Scott Fitzgerald, - The Great Gatsby.

“Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is wound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in witnessing violence; in other words, it is war minus the shooting.”

- George Orwell - The Sporting Spirit.

Among our most fundamental desires is the urge to run, to jump, to throw. At a most basic level, it is a simple assertion of life, a physical expression which defies our stars and challenges the fates to battle. Today, these urges are often forced out of us in childhood. One must walk, not run, in this world of sedation — sitting in school, sitting in college, sitting in work. Our childhood vitality is restricted continually until we achieve a maturity where to run down the street, or to leap for joy is the ultimate loss of decorum. In the “civilised” and “developed” society of today, we must cultivate perversions of physical activity to fill the weary void left by the loss of spontaneous motion. It is among these perversions, albeit the most elemental form, that we find the history of athletics. Athletics is not natural, but it is as close as we can come.

But, like our other primitive desires, the desire to run faster which provided a metaphor of life for F. Scott Fitzgerald has a reverse shadow in the darker worlds of George Orwell. While art and sport remain inextricably linked as aspects of our culture which transcend institutionalised politics and economics, they cannot be apolitical in a wider sense. George Orwell’s 1984 is also the 1984 of the Los Angeles Olympics. Athletics is one sport where race, religion, class or colour cannot matter. Yet the last four Olympic Games have been overshadowed by divisiveness at every level and today, instead of defying the Gods, new money Gods are subjugating athletes. Athletic talent

emerges solely from one's body and mind; it cannot be purchased like a racehorse or a Formula One car. But, if one cannot buy oneself in, one can certainly be bought out. In the recently established "Grand Prix" competition, one could see for the first time athletes actually competing for a figure, and not for themselves and those spectating (who encapsulate their dreams in the competitors they watch). While athletes need to be financed like anyone else, the trend is slowly turning to commercial war. The political war continues, leaving in its wake American, Soviet and British athletes (among others) who have been sacrificed for political gain. A race should be a victory without the war — a victory over oneself, not over others but with others.

In this light, it is appropriate that the history of athletics in Ireland is inextricably linked to a university, which in turn is connected to the history of the Irish state. Indeed, Trinity College Dublin's involvement with Irish athletics mirrors its changing relationship with the Irish nation, in both its positive and negative aspects. In athletics, as with most facets of Trinity life, the English had a hand in its development. Trinity followed the legacy of the British universities where some of the earliest modern athletics meetings were held. In 1850, Exeter College, Oxford held a meeting based on amateur regulations which was followed five years later at St. John's College and Emmanuel, Cambridge. It was two years later on the 28th February 1857 that the awkwardly entitled Dublin University Football Club Foot-Races were inaugurated in College Park. There were only five events initially: 150 yards, 440 yards, 3 miles, high-jump and long-jump. These were, by all accounts, a very loosely organised occasion with distances and times being rather arbitrary. However, they proved such a success that it was decided to hold another exactly one month later under the new abbreviated title of the University Foot-Races. The repertoire of events was increased to twelve. But two athletic meetings in such a short time proved too much for the gentlemen of T.C.D., and from then on the Races became an annual event. John Lawrence in the first issue of the "Handbook of Irish Cricket" in 1867 reflected on some of the problems of those initial races:

"Not at all anticipating that their first meeting would bring together any considerable number of spectators, the committee did not conceive it necessary to rope off any running ground for the competitors: this occasioned very considerable inconvenience; the impetuous desire to see every move induced numbers (very considerable) to run with the runners, occasioning almost interminable confusion, and rendering it perfectly impossible for other spectators (especially those of the fair sex) to see the running. Notwithstanding all these disadvantages, the meeting was a great success."

Among the chairmen of the early Foot-Races committee were Issac Butt, James Digges La Touche, Charles Barrington, J. P. Mahaffy and Bram Stoker.

Following this in 1867, H.J. Hurford founded the Civil Service Club, holding its annual sports at the Leinster Cricket Club in Rathmines. In 1869, at their first annual meeting, it was decided that these events would be reserved for the doubtful category, “gentlemen athletes” — the definition of which is given in John Lawrence “Handbook of Irish Cricket” in 1879 as:

“Any person who does not enter into open competition or who has never competed for either a stake, public money or admission money; nor has ever at any period of his life taught or assisted in the pursuit of athletic exercises as a means of livelihood; nor is a mechanic, artisan or labourer.”

It was this final, virtual afterthought of a clause which kept formal athletics solely the pursuit of the elite. Needless to say, informal athletics continued throughout the country. Just before the Christmas of 1872, the Irish Champion Athletic Club was formed with the intention of co-ordinating Irish athletics more efficiently. Also, though it aimed to open their competition to all amateurs, a ten shilling subscription fee again restricted its potential membership. One member was Michael Cusack, who was to reappear later at the formation of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Cusack argued strongly for the inclusion of traditional Irish jumping and throwing events, and also for the removal of all barriers, which prevented the ordinary man from competing. These were all issues which Cusack would raise again with major effect almost ten years later.

In the same year of 1872, Dublin University Athletic Club was born out of University Foot-Races Committee, and for the next ten years took responsibility for the Races.

On May 19th 1873, the first Intervarsity competition was held in Cork although Trinity did not compete. However, three weeks later, Trinity’s A. C. Courtney broke the world record for the 1000 yards in College Park with a time of 2 minutes, 23.2 seconds. The following year, John Lane of Trinity became the first jumper to go beyond the 23 feet, also in College Park. It was at this time that the College Races were at the height of their social importance, as Field Magazine testified to:

“Looked at from the social point of view, the Dublin University Sports have always been par excellence the outdoor gathering of the season, in Ireland. For them, the highest toilettes have been reserved; to them has come the aristocracy not only of Dublin, but the whole of the Emerald Isle. The multitude of spectators has been a thing to be seen to be believed. The gathering at the Oxford and Cambridge sports may equal it in brilliancy and ra but cannot approach it in numbers.”

A number of the events in the College Races of the period would not be found in an orthodox athletic programme today. These included the long-jump with trapeze, a

Siamese race, a three mile walk, and the cricket ball throw. Recollection of what the Races were like is an entertaining mixture of history and legend. Mr. Lawrence, that avid chronicler of Irish sport, again highlights the problem in his rebuke of the club in 1876:

“...if the Hon. Secretary of the leading club in Ireland does not think the records of his club worth preserving in permanent form, we can only say he stands alone in the athletic world.”

The average attendance was 25,000 with seating for around 3,000. Among the prizes given were a gold pin, a love cup, an inkstand, a picnic basket and a walking stick — all very appropriate in their way. Weather, as always with races, proved a constant problem with incessant rain causing problems particularly in 1873 and 1878. In 1872, the committee decided to use a track measuring one third of a mile. This, however, was a disaster and the old course was reverted to the following year. It was this same modest committee which approached Sir Arthur Guinness to change the date of the Dublin Exhibition (to be opened by the Duke of Edinburgh) so as not to clash with the Races.

Around this time also, it is rumoured that a certain Oscar Wilde was publicly rebuked for ignoring his Races duties! Perhaps it was the same Mr. Wilde who cultivated the social nature of athletic endeavour with records of a different kind being broken; eventually leading to the cancellation of the Races of 1879 and 1880 by the College Board. Such were the “heights” achieved by members of the college under the influence of “some cheap claret, beer and stout” that riots ensued and, as a result, the Races (and indeed the drinking) was reduced to a one-day affair on their resumption in 1881. But after 1881, the Races were no longer public property as a social event and became more of an internal college event. In 1882, the Dublin University Athletic Club was disbanded and became part of the Dublin University Athletic Union — a sporting body for the administration of a number of College sports. (Not unlike today’s Central Athletic Committee).

Throughout this period, glorious though it may have been, athletics was still only the province of “gentlemen athletes”. In 1881, the aforementioned Michael Cusack, one of those instrumental in the foundation of the Gaelic Athletic Association, strongly criticised this elitism in a series of articles in “The Irish Sportsman”. It was in this atmosphere that the Gaelic Athletic Association was founded in 1884 for “the preservation and cultivation of the national past-times”. The G.A.A. felt that both the common Irish people and their traditional sports were ignored by the other “formal” sporting organisations, such as the I.C.A.C. The situation was worsened, as has become standard practice in these matters, by the lack of communication and understanding between the G.A.A. and the official Dublin clubs. In early 1885, the Dublin clubs gathered to consider their



position in relation to the G.A.A. Their major contention was with the avowedly political nature of the G.A.A. which Trinity's cycling representative, Macreeedy (who later wrote the "Road Book of Ireland") condemned in particular, stating that the country should unite to "quash the Gaelic Union". The clubs decided to form a representative body entitled the Irish Amateur Athletic Association, (I.A.A.A.). At their first dinner, a member of the I.A.A.A. refuted the G.A.A.'s accusations using the colourful language of deceit, referring to "bare footed athletes from the rugged hills of Tipperary and the wild plains of Connemara coming to Dublin to win prizes at the College Paces". This seems highly questionable as the Board of the College had refused to hold any open races after the commotion of 1878.

Nevertheless, the I.A.A.A.'s fears here not totally unfounded. Both the G.A.A. and I.A.A.A. had grown from the other's weaknesses and there was reciprocal faults and benefits on both sides. The G.A.A., having criticised elitism, reversed the balance of prejudice by proclaiming that "any athlete competing at meetings held under other laws than those of the Gaelic Athletic Association shall be ineligible to compete at meetings held under the G.A.A." This ban was later lifted. Thus, it was at this early stage that the seeds of division, which were to grow into the problems of today, were sown.

At this time, one hundred years ago, the I.A.A.A. held their inaugural championships. Only affiliated clubs were allowed participate. A very strong Trinity team was present and were reported as having represented Dublin University Athletic Union, Dublin University Boat Club and Dublin University Athletic Club — the official body. For example, Dan Bulger reported as representing D.U.A.C. in the 100 yards and D.U.A.U. in the 440 yards. A similar problem occurs today with athletes being variously reported as representatives of Dublin University, Trinity, D.U.H., D.U.H.A.C. and T.C.D. Nonetheless, despite these confusing titles, the Trinity team which represented the D.U.A.U. (the official college sporting body) was the first team affiliated to the governing athletic body of the day. And so, it was on "one fine morning" in 1885 that Trinity athletes competed as a club team for the first time in a recognised meeting. Since that year, Trinity has continued to produce an official college team each year, with the exception of the two World Wars. Therefore, amid some confusion, 1885 marked the somewhat difficult birth of what was to grow into the Dublin University Harriers and Athletics Club of today. This auspicious occasion unfortunately grew out of an arena of divisiveness which was a microcosm of a more fatal bigotry of ignorance which was soon to develop.

It was not all politics fortunately and, as we shall see, Trinity was now entering one of its most successful periods on the athletic field. However, the social element of the sport was not neglected either. Earlier in 1882 when D.U.A.C. was merged into the general body of D.U.A.U., the remaining club funds were left by the members as a legacy to college for the building of a pavilion. Later in 1885, this legacy became a reality with the opening of the pavilion, thereby establishing a social heritage of equal importance



Figure 3: "Jumping — Jive!" in College Park

to anything on the track. Finally, with the club and pavilion both firmly established in one year, Trinity athletes could look towards one hundred years of activity. Few could have imagined what that future held. Fewer still could have envisaged the War.

The War brought a cessation of athletics and perhaps an end to a carefree, romantic past in which the club, and indeed the college, had its origins. It was, to use an over-used phrase, the end of the beginning. Many of Trinity's potential Olympic competitors had died in the War and the excitement and colour that were the College Races (though possibly now viewed through a tinted lens) were lost when the new college entrants arrived after the War — as they are lost to us today. Now, one looks back on the origins of the club as an elusive dream which is among the stars and out of reach, but that's no matter — tomorrow, we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther . . . and one fine morning.

# Maroon & White

Enrolled among our athletes, the pale youth Whose limbs ere while weak,  
and of muscle void, Tottered beneath their puny load, soon gains The bloom  
of health, and issues forth at last Robust and hardy as the mountaineer.

(Athletic & Cycling News, 1886)

Of all the forms of running, cross-country is the most basic, back-to-nature exercise. The track and road are, after all, simply artificial surfaces developed by man, but the grass and mud of cross country really provides the athlete with a tough, challenging and absolutely natural carpet on which to run.

The elements may make the mud heavier, cover the course in deep snow, or leave it bone hard. The hills, ditches and fences provide their own specific challenge. But they will still be there when today's runner has gone: The very grass itself, perhaps churned into mud by hundreds of pairs of feet on the Saturday afternoon, will grow green again when the athletes have packed their kit and left. It is likely that the same ground that athletes of former days trod on, is oft traversed by the latter day runner.

Organised cross country running has its roots in the mid-nineteenth century when it began as a winter pursuit for members of the Thames Rowing Club which met at Roehampton in Surrey. They decided to take runs on the nearby Wimbledon Common to keep fit, and in 1868 began to organise paper-chases. These events involved several runners setting off as 'hares' and laying trails of pieces of paper cut like confetti while the other runner had to follow as 'hounds' and there was a prize for the first 'hound' to reach each 'hare'.

Trinity cannot claim to have been the pioneers in this branch of athletics in Ireland. The City and Suburban Harriers and the County Dublin Harriers fought out the two first cross-country championships in 1881 and 1882. It wasn't until Michaelmas term of 1886 that a Harriers club was formed in College for the purposes of promoting the sport.

On the afternoon of 14th December 1886, a number of Trinity men interested in cross-country running held a meeting in the new pavilion in the College Park. In the absence of that splendid all-round athlete, gallant gentleman and eminent man of science, George

Francis Fitzgerald, who had promised to preside, the chair was taken by Rev. H.B. Kennedy B.A. Out of this meeting, Dublin University Harriers was formed. The moving spirit in the inauguration of D.U.H. was C.W. Mosley, who graduated in 1886.

The meeting elected Professor Fitzgerald as the club president, a position he held until his death in 1901, with A. C. O'Sullivan F.T.C.D. and Professor D. J. Cunningham M.D. as vice-presidents. W.P. Douglas was the club's first captain with Mosley taking the position of vice-captain. Lyster Cole-Baker was elected both the secretary and Treasurer, with the remaining committee members being R.D. Freeman, V. Rutledge R.L. Joynt, D.F. Rambant and W.P. Kennedy.

The large attendance of students present were enrolled as members.

Later that same day, at a general meeting of the Cross-country Association of Ireland, in the committee rooms of 36 North Great Georges Street, D.U.H. proposed by the City of Dublin Harriers and seconded by H.H. was elected a member of the association, bringing total membership of that association to seven.

The opening meet of the club was held on Saturday 15th January 1887 at Dollymount but, due to a term examination, there were only twelve members present. At 3.30pm Mosley and E. Fletcher were started as hares and after seven minutes the pack started in pursuit. The route taken was rounded by Raheny, leaving the junction on the right. After crossing the Great Northern Railway, the pack made for Baldoyle and Sutton, and then straight for home. The race report in the 'Irish Sportsman' described the run home as being very close, the placed men being well together. Cole-Baker was first home followed by Fry, H. R. Jones and Adair, with Rutledge, Joynt, Allen, Davoren, Egerton and Brooking being well up.

The club participated in their first Irish Cross-Country Championships on Saturday March 26th, 1887 in Baldoyle. The individual title was won by C.C. Carp of the City of Dublin Harriers, with the County Dublin Harriers winning the team event scoring thirty-nine points: The D.U.H. team finished fifth, with W. P. Kennedy being the club's first finisher in 17th position. The other scorers were E. W. Grimshaw 34th, J. S. Craig 36th, R. L. Joynt 39th, L. C. Baker 45th and E. Fletcher 52nd.

In 1891, the club had its most successful season so far in Irish athletics. Captained by F.R. Carr, it succeeded in winning both the senior and the junior cross-country championships. In the senior race, Trinity had its entire scoring team of six in the first seventeen, another Trinity man finishing nineteenth.

It wasn't until January 1895 that D.U.H. got its first international runner when the then captain A.A. Seeds was selected on the Irish International Team for a race against England in Baldoyle.

During the first ten years of life, the Harriers contented themselves with home competition, but in February 1897, an Intervarsity match was held for the first time with a competition against Edinburgh University Hare and Hounds. A Trinity team captained

by Tom Stewart, but deprived of more than half of its chosen men by measles, influenza and examinations travelled to Edinburgh. The result was disastrous to the Trinity team.

As a result of the defeat, an anonymous correspondent of 'TCD' launched a sweeping attack on college athletes. "They are," he asserts "in a state of rapid consumption, and must presently become absolutely extinct". He directs criticism against D.U.H., writing that the Executives of the Harriers were guilty of "impardonable error in entrusting the reputation of the university to a team, many members of which were substitutes and some untrained."

The following issue contained a defence, penned by R.J. Rowlette, the Clubs Hon. secretary who admirably put down the correspondents claims.

In the return match the following December, the "unpardonable error" was well retrieved. The race held over the clubs Meadowbrook course saw the entire Trinity team — scorers and non-scorers alike — finish inside the Edinburgh scoring team.

This competition against Edinburgh became an annual fixture right up until the 1950's. For the first few meetings, the clubs won alternatively, the home team always being victorious, until Trinity succeeded in winning in Scotland on December 3rd, 1906 with G. G. Duggan and G. M. Mayberry the first men home. Duggan, who became captain in 1907-8 was a very fine runner, travelling to Paris with the Irish international team in 1908. He later died of wounds at the Dardanelles in 1915.

Trinity has also had a strong association with Oxford University Hare and Hounds. In 1898, the Harriers first met Oxford U.H.&H, for a race over the Meadowbrook course. Dublin won easily, but the race itself provided an exciting dual for the premier position. After a neck-and-neck tussle for the last six hundred yards, Dawson of Oxford beat the Trinity captain R. C. Cree by some eighteen inches.

On March 1st, 1902 London United Hospitals Hare and Hounds became the first visiting 'varsity team to defeat D.U.H. After defeating Edinburgh a month earlier by two points, (17 to 19), D.U.H. were confident even though the victor on that occasion, Horan, was not running. The race, run at Meadowbrook saw L.U.H.&H. finish 1, 2, 3 with Lister, Gibbs and Simmons, with Norton completing the scoring quartet in 6th place. D.U.H. accumulated 25 points with Askins 4th, Hart 5th, Kerr 7th and Fry 9th.

Two years later, on December 10th 1904, this fixture was to be the scene of drama when, on the second lap, H. Scott of the visiting Hospitals team broke his leg in negotiating the water jump. He was removed to Dunns' hospital. For the record, the race was won by Candler of the London side, but Trinity led by Murphy in third place packed well and thus ensured the easiest of victory by a margin of some 14 points.

Athletes representing Trinity in track and field competition participated under the auspices of the Athletic Union, which was the central athletic association, the forerunner of the modern day DUCAC. D.U.H., as the name suggests, confined its interests to cross-country running, although old programmes and reports of meets invariably showed that

athletes representing Trinity ran for D.U.H. and the A.U. at the same meet.

The club did, however, in conjunction with the Bicycle Club, promote the 'Bicycle and Harriers Sports', which was held towards the end of Trinity term. This, for all intents and purposes, was the club championships.

The college races continued to be the highlight of the college track and field season. A report in TCD early in 1906 notes the fall off in student participation in the races, the writer concluding that "it is the duty of every member of the University to support the College Races loyally if they are to be a success." Another report estimated that only approximately 30 of the 1,000 students on the college books took part in the races. Probably as a result of this fall-off, the A.U. agreed in 1908 that interfaculty relays be introduced.

Originally an isolated fixture, the races have been, since 1909, the central event of Trinity week, first held that year. The 'week' usually included a cricket match, a regatta, the finals of the lawn tennis championships, a boxing tournament, a golf championship, a ball and a dinner of the T.C.D. Association.

While this is essentially a review of the beginning of DUHAC, it would not be complete without some mention of the personalities who represented the college in track and field competitions. Although, as we noted, they did not participate as D.U.H., the D.U.A.U. did have members of D.U.H. on its committees and was the driving force behind the foundation of DUHAC in 1921.

In 1908, the college sent a team to the British Intervarsity sports; the meet proved highly successful and the strong Trinity contingent were victorious, beating seven other universities.

The brightest star of the eighties was Dan D. Bulger. Standing over six feet, D. D. Bulger was beautifully proportioned and quickly attracted attention in his student days with D.U.H. He entered college in 1883, and soon he was scratch man, and when he opened his championship record in the 220 yards IAAA in 1885 and 100 yards and 220 yards under the G.A.A. in 1886, he paved the way for a collection of titles any athlete would envy. When he was in his prime, no sprinter or hurdler could approach him in this country. At that time, there was an amiable working agreement between the G.A.A. and the IAAA. Each recognised the others performances and records, with athletes competing on Saturday under IAAA and on Sundays under G.A.A. rules.

Bulger won the Irish 100 yards championship six times and the 220 yards, 120 yards hurdles and long jump four times each. In all, he accumulated 25 Irish championship gold medals. He was also English champion long jumper in 1889, 1891 and 1892, also winning the English 120 yards Hurdles in the latter two years.

The highlight of Bulger's career must undoubtedly be the IAAA championship of August 1892 when, at Ballsbridge, he equalled the then world record for the 120 yards hurdles, winning in  $15\frac{4}{5}$  seconds.

A. Vigne, who was contemporary with Bulger, was Irish 100 yards champion in 1886 and 1887, 220 yards champion in 1887 and 1888 and 440 yards champion in 1888. Vigne and Bulger shared the 100 yards record of  $10\frac{1}{5}$  with D. Murray and N. Morgan until N. J. Cartmell covered the distance in 'even time' in 1909. Vigne also held the Irish 220 yards record of  $22\frac{4}{5}$  seconds until this too was broken by Cartmell in the same year.

C. R. Dickinson was the first Irish man to win a flat race championship of England, which he did by winning the 440 yards in 1892 in a time of  $50\frac{2}{5}$  seconds. This success was followed by J. C. Meredith who won the same English championship in 1896. Dickinson was Irish champion at 220 yards in 1892, and at 440 yards in 1891 and 1892. His brother, Cyril H. Dickinson, also a Trinity man, was Irish champion at 880 yards in 1897 and 1898, and at one mile in 1897.

Meredith was Irish champion at 100, 220 and 440 yards in 1895. He won the Irish 'quarter' for four years and equalled the Irish record of 51 seconds in 1896. The athletic correspondent of 'The Freeman' writing at that time "thinks him probably one of the best men in the world over any distance up to a mile".

Grimshaw was Irish one mile steeplechase title holder in 1894, but much to the dismay of his fellow athletes, he failed to defend his title the following year.

In the early years of the twentieth century, Trinity had two fine track runners: H. Thrift and G. N. Morphy. Thrift who won the Irish 440 yards in 1906 won the scratch 100 yards at the college races for seven years in succession, from 1902, when he was a Junior Freshman, to 1908 when he was the Madden Prizeman. Morphy took the Irish 440 yards in 1908, 1909 and 1910, and the half-mile and mile in 1905, 1906 and 1908. In the college races of 1905, Morphy set what appeared to be an Irish record for the 880 yards, running 1 minute  $57\frac{2}{5}$  seconds. The track, on measurement, proved to be five and half yards short and the record was disallowed. However, a week later at the Bicycle Club Sports, Morphy covered the distance in 1 minute  $56\frac{4}{5}$  seconds, Morphy also won the mile for Ireland against Scotland in 1906.

F. R. S. Shaw was the star of the years immediately before the first world war. He won the Irish 220 yards in 1912, 1913 and 1914, also winning the 100 yards in the two latter years. Running in the 100 yards for Ireland against Scotland in 1913 at Belfast, Shaw won the race and equalled Cartmell's Irish record of 10 seconds. Shaw was also a good cricketer and captained the first eleven in 1914.

For much of this period, Mr. J. H. Askins was the Harriers team trainer. For the purpose of students who wished to participate in the college races, the Athletic Union 'engaged' a coach. For the latter part of the nineteenth century, it was Brierly. Preceding the war, T. Cronin filled that post.

From the club records, it is clear that training didn't amount to much.

Sprinters, jumpers and throwers didn't begin their training until March, although invariably most of them played rugby during the winter months.



A bit of coaching advice which appears in TCD on 28th May 1898 surely has echoes of Arthur Lydiard in it:

“Some of the men are sadly in want of constant training, as I notice that they have an abnormal quantity of adipose tissue distributed over their body, a considerable portion of which must be got rid of before they can call themselves fit. The best way to accomplish this end is not by going intermittent short distances at high speed, but by doing from seven to ten miles at about half speed, and not to attempt sprinting until they have become more hard”.

Although advice given to the Harriers team by the captain prior to the Christmas vacation of 1909 sounds very appealing, “all members of the team must keep in training by taking long walks at least twice a week”!

While a set time for training existed, TCD in its May 17th 1902 issue noted that Brierly would be most willing to attend to any man whose lectures interfere with the ordinary time for training.

The Harriers trained on a Saturday, with a further run often organised on a Wednesday in the College Park.

The Saturday training runs varied in distance from 3–10 miles. The variance in length is also matched by a variety in the type of training. No mention can be found of fartlek or interval running or repetitions of for that matter of any of the technical methods employed now by coaches.

The club seemed to use many different venues for these weekly pack runs. Sometimes they took the 2 o’clock Parkgate Street steam tram for a 3pm run from Chapelizod (‘The Mullingar’). Other times, they ran in Howth, Dollymount, Malahide or Rathfarnham.

By far the most popular form of training was ‘hare and hounds’.

The ‘hares’, who were usually the slower runners, were dispatched with pieces of paper, cut like confetti. After an agreed interval, the other runners, the ‘hounds’ set out after the hares. The hares could take any route they pleased, but they must leave clear indicators of the direction they followed by placing the paper, conveniently located, to indicate their route to their pursuers.

It was on such a run on Saturday 5th February 1898 in Rathfarnham, with the hounds hot on the heels of the hares, that crossing a field, a large ram detached itself from a flock of sheep and charged full at the club captain, J. H. Askins, “butting him below the belt, and nearly bowling him over”.

The 1906–1907 season seems to be full of incidents, especially when Keer was the hare. On a training run on December 8th, the hares, Keer and Shegog, crawled on all fours “through hedges and barbed wire” (reminding the writer in TCD of the “conditions of modern warfare”); Three of the hounds were caught in it and had to be “extricated

by the others". Another exciting incident was an attempt made in a farmyard, by a farmer, to tackle Blackbourne, who escaped over a wall just in time.

On another run, on February 1st, the hares, Keer and Blackbourne found that the hounds were only 30 metres down. Keer at once made for a ploughed field, with Mayberry and Armstrong at his heels. While Blackbourn sped swiftly in the direction of a farmyard, with hare in pursuit, Blackbourne escaped by crossing the roof of an outhouse while hare vainly sought him amount the farmyard roosters. Some twisting and turning in the plough enabled Keer to baffle his pursuers and he and Blackbourne arrived home uncaught.

A more realistic form of Hare and hounds was often employed by the club in the 1980's when they would travel to Tallaght and run with Mr. Godley's beagles. The runners would all set off with a scent and it was up to the beagles to catch them.

Socially, the club was also active during this period. An annual club dinner was held towards the end of Michaelmas term. The myth that distance runners train like animals during the day and drink like heron at night is given some support, for the second mentioned remark only it seems, by the evidence provided in reports about the club dinner. While the original Dublin University Harriers may not have been your average 100 mile a week runners, an advertisement in TCK of November 25th, 1900 promoting the dinner notes that "only drinkers of 'aqua-pura' — it being a harriers dinner — will be allowed to take their 55 seats"!

The club also organised smoking concerts, or "smokers" as they were better known, to raise funds. The attendance would smoke and listen to red songs. Good training for the lungs.

# Between the Wars

With the conclusion of World War 1, sports clubs which had been totally disbanded during the war once more began to play a part in college life. As regards their reorganisation, an obvious need arose for some degree of coordination and to this end, an informed committee was called together in December 1918 by Mr. T. S. Dagg and Mr. J. I. Kelly and upon their proposals, the Board agreed on the 3rd February 1920 to the formation of a central committee to reconstitute the athletic clubs to take charge of the pavilion, and to report to the Board. Thus was born the Dublin University Central Athletic Committee which has since then played such a role in the development of sport in college. The committee made an immediate grant of £100.00 to get College Park in order and it drafted a constitution providing for its own enlargement. Various sports clubs were to have representatives on the committee, the Harriers and the cycling clubs being given two seats between them although at this stage, the Harriers had not yet been reformed.

College Park whose upkeep had been neglected during the War was quickly got back into condition and on Wednesday June 18th, D.U.C.A.C. received the College Races which had not been held for four years. The Races proved a success with a large number of events including several open races being held. The entries were satisfactory and upwards of three thousand spectators attended. Later in the year came the reconstitution of the Harriers although only one member could be found who was in college before the War. A meeting was held in the G.M.B. on Thursday 4th December with Dr. R. J. Rowlette (Vice-President) in the chair, and it was unanimously resolved:

- “1) That this meeting do reconstitute itself D.U.H.
- 2) That the President, Mr. J. W. Fry and the Vice-Presidents of the season 1913/14 do be requested to retain their offices.”

It was decided to carry on the club on the pre-war lines and the chairman gave an account to the meeting of the activities of the Harriers in the past. Cross country runs and paper chases are held weekly in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms and in the summer, handicap flat races are run every Wednesday. Interclub and Intervarsity matches are held throughout the season and senior and junior teams entered for the Irish Cross Country Championships. In the new year, the club was entrusted by D.U.C.A.C. with the control

of the College Races and to mark the extension of its activities on the suggestion of that committee. its name was altered from Dublin University Harriers to Dublin University Harriers and Athletic Club. During this first season, it proved impossible to arrange the customary cross channel matches against Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, London United Hospitals and the Thames Hare and Hounds. However, interclub matches were arranged with the teams best performance being a 3rd place in the Southern Branch of the Cross Country Association Championships.

Despite the enthusiasm of the new committee, the strong tradition of the Harriers and the attractiveness of its fixture list, membership remained low and results poor. Not-only were the Harriers hindered by a general lack of interest in the club on the part of their fellow students and by a lack of talent on the part of those who did participate but they also had their share of misfortune. During February 1921, the cross channel fixtures were revived with D.U.H. travelling to England for a tour which proved less than satisfactory from an athletic viewpoint. The first match was held at Oxford where a little over half-way round the 7.5 mile course, the paper trail led under a railway bridge turning sharply to the right over a hump on the other side. At this stage, the Oxford team had got out of sight of their opponents and on arriving at this point J. S. Glasgow, the leading Trinity man and without doubt the best Harrier of the period, mistook the trail and took a course which had been laid for a steeplechase some time earlier and he was followed by three of his team mates. McKeag who was a good way behind these did not see that they had gone astray and himself took the right course, being the only Trinity man to complete the correct course. Several days later, they fared somewhat better although failing to win against the Thames Hare and Hounds with J. S. Glasgow finishing third. That day wasn't to be without a victory however for in the interval between the run and dinner, they defeated their hosts in a game of skittles which the Irish had never played before. Robinson who Had been forced to retire during the Oxford race was the star performer with "his arm proving stronger than his ankle".

The 1921–22 season saw the visit of Edinburgh University shortly before Christmas and another defeat for D.U.H. who now in their third season since the war had not yet won a race. So seriously disheartened were the small group of Harriers at their performances that early in Trinity term, they held a meeting to discuss their future. After three hours debate, it was unanimously agreed that:

- “1) Unless cross country running received greatly increased support in Trinity, it could not be continued with any prospect of success.
- 2) It was not fair to bring Oxford over to Dublin to meet a team unable to put up a reasonably good show against them.
- 3) It would be deplorable that the oldest cross country club in Ireland should cease to exist but that the meeting felt it their duty to advise the committee of D.U.H.A.C. to suspend the cross country branch of the club until such



Figure 4: D.U.H.A.C. Team, 1928

Back Row (l-r): J. B. Eustace, D. M. Mitchell, V. J. Pike, M. E. Cussen, T. Maguire (coach), F. B. Moynihan, T. G. Mallagh, I. T. Wylie, D. T. MacDermot,

Middle Row (l-r): S. Radcliffe, J. C. Hewat, D. C. Cusack, H. S. Smithwick, T. McD. Stewart, E. I. Johnston, R. B. Pike,

Front Row (l-r): J. W. Cusack, N. S. Price, J. G. Cherry (Captain), T. R. F. Cox, D. A. Wallis.

time as reasonable support should be forthcoming.”

At a subsequent committee meeting of D.U.H.A.C., it was decided to give Oxford the opportunity to withdraw from their fixture but at the request of the other Dublin clubs, it was decided to honour all other fixtures and so the Harriers survived. The 1923–24 season did not prove any more encouraging for the Harriers with a victory still eluding them and they had to wait until the start of their fifth season since the war for their first victory when on December 4th 1924, they defeated Edinburgh University with W.N.C. Steele (D.U.H.) the first man home.

If the cross country scene was less than satisfactory, the opposite was the case with the track team. Trinity’s reputation for producing superb sprinters was well and truly maintained by Denis J. Cussen who in 1921 was instrumental in helping the team to the Irish Intervarsity Championship with a narrow win over U.C.D. by 13.5 points to 12. Cussen won three events, the 100 yards, 220 yards and long jump, Trinity’s other victory coming in the shot from J. V. Druten. 1921 was notable for several other reasons. It saw the holding of the first club championship and the first Trinity Interclub Relays which has proven to be the most enduring and popular of D.U.H.A.C.’s promotions. This event was to prove an annual struggle between the promoting club and the Dublin Metropolitan Garda Club with the laurels being evenly divided until the mid-thirties. The strength of the 1921 team was underlined when they defeated the rest of Leinster in a representative match. Not surprisingly, four members of the team, D. J. Cussen (100/220/long jump), T. S. Broderick (100/220), D. A. Quinlan (high jump/120 yards hurdles) and H. E. Worthington-Eyre (440 yards) gained international honours. The latter had been a member of the British Olympic team at the Antwerp Olympics the previous August.

The club was to regain the Intervarsity title in 1922 and again in 1923. In 1922, they won four of the ten events gaining maximum points in two with Cussen and Woods in the 100 yards and McKeag and Glasgow in the 880 yards coming home first and second respectively. The 1923 championship was a particularly close event with Trinity winning by a single point having five wins and five seconds to U.C.D.’s five wins and four seconds. This win was all the more impressive as D. J. Cussen was unable to compete due to injury. R. R. Woods filled his shoes admirably winning the 100 and 220 yards. The 1922–23 season saw the arrival of Tan Maguire in College Park who was to be the club coach for the next 35 years. 1923 also saw the fusing of the G.A.A. and I.A.A.A. into the N.A.C.A. — a move which was welcomed by D.U.H.A.C. as “providing wider competition for both the club and the individual” and they immediately entered teams in both the Co. Dublin Junior and Senior Leagues which were to involve four matches against the various Dublin clubs.

Despite the near invisibility of the track team over this three year period and their bevy of international athletes, their premier promotion of the year — the College Races

— was struggling to find support from their fellow students or public. After an encouraging start in 1918, the event was again held annually with the single exception of 1921 when due to the unfortunate shooting dead of a woman student in College Park which she was attending an athletic event, it was decided to abandon the Races. The bullet was a stray which came from outside the college grounds. In 1923, when D.U.H.A.C. was at its strongest, so poor was the support for the Races and the events of Trinity week in general that the chairman of D.U.C.A.C. in his report referred to attendances as “nothing short of disgraceful” and went on “It would seem that a large proportion of our undergraduates today are lacking in that zest for athleticism and social events which was characteristic of Trinity some time ago”.

Denis Cussen was undoubtedly the star performer of the time. In addition to his victories as a member of the University team, he was both Irish sprint titleholder in 1921 and showed his great versatility as an athlete by also winning the shot, discus and long jump, thereby taking five titles at the one championship — no mean feat by any standards. In 1922, he regained his national 100 yards and long jump titles. He won his third 100 yards title in 1925 when he clocked even time for the “dah”. He then moved to England and was out of athletics for a while but early in 1928, he ran a ten second 100 at an English meeting and forwarded his entry for the Irish championships where he turned in a marvellous performance to win by four yards in  $9\frac{4}{5}$  seconds, thus being the first Irishman to break ten seconds, and creating a record which was to stand for many years. Later, in 1928, Cussen represented Ireland in the Olympics reaching semi-final stage where he finished third, unfortunately only two qualified for the final.

Although he was somewhat over-shadowed by Cussen, R. R. Woods was also a superb sprinter winning the national 220 yards title in 1922 and both the sprint titles in 1923. 1922 was a tremendous year at the National championships for Trinity — not only did Cussen win the 100 yards and long jump and Woods the 220 yards but the 440 yards and 880 yards also fell to Trinity athletes, R. McKeag and C. B. Mein respectively. Cussen’s departure saw the arrival of G. B. Eustace, another fine sprinter who had been Schools and Colleges Champion in 1925. He produced a major surprise in 1926 by dead-heating Irish Olympian Sean Lavan for the National 100 yards title. He won two more 100 yard titles in 1929 and 1930 and the 220 yards in 1930 and 1932. His 1930 220 was an Irish record of 22.2. Eustace was a colourful character not noted for his dedication to training and yet was probably the only Irish sprinter of the time to gain any international success when in 1932, he defeated the British Champion, Robin Murdoch, over 220 yards.

Thus over the ten year period 1921–30, eight of the ten Irish 100 yard sprint titles fell to Trinity athletes which is testimony to their dominance in this event. Despite this, they were not to win another Intervarsity championship in the twenties after 1923 due to a large degree to their failure to produce field event athletes of any calibre. The exception to this was the long jump where R. J. Cussen and Moynihan both jumped over

22 feet in the late twenties. However, this period is noted for the return to prominence of the Races which once more became a major event in the social calendar and an occasion for exotic fashion among the ladies, morning coats and top hats for the men and strawberries and cream and tea parties all round.

Having survived the depressing state of affairs which existed in the early Twenties, the Harriers began to grow in strength and developed their annual fixture list to include fixtures against the five cross channel clubs which had been the feature of the pre-war days. The Edinburgh match which had provided them with their first victory since the war in December 1924 became the premier event of the season. This fixture and the Glasgow match were considered "two of our hardest fixtures and the two we particularly like to win". Membership in the club began to increase dramatically and during the 1926/27 season, the Harriers which several years previously had struggled to field a single team were able to enter a full "B" team for the Co. Dublin Novice Cross Country while the "A" team were on their Scottish tour which took place every second year and alternated with the London trip. This tour was the most successful since the war. N. S. Price won both races and set a course record.

The team were victorious in Edinburgh and supplied the first four finishers: Price, Thompson, Wallis, Johnston. Despite having four runners in the first six at Glasgow, they were narrowly beaten.

N. S. Price was without doubt the star performer of the period. He filled first place in the matches against Oxford and Edinburgh in 1925, against Edinburgh and Glasgow in 1926 and completed a hat trick of victories against Edinburgh in 1927. He was also club champion in 1926/27/28. Price was succeeded equally successfully by J.W. Craig who also won the Edinburgh race for three years in succession, 1929/30/31. He faced stiff competition from his team mates including his twin brother and R. A. French who deprived him of the club championship in 1931.

During this period, the Harriers as a team also enjoyed a large degree of success. For five seasons, 1928-33, they were to maintain an unbeaten home record and in 1930/31, they were unbeaten in all six matches. The following season started well with a victory over Edinburgh early in the season followed by a first place in the Co. Dublin Novices defeating eleven other teams and a second place in the Co. Dublin Juniors where nine teams competed. No doubt encouraged by their recent successes, it was decided to contest the British Intervarsity Cross Country Championships for the first time which were held at Port Sunlight on the 25th February 1932. Unfortunately for Trinity, the race was spoilt by a badly laid trail which caused the majority of the runners to lose their way and to run eleven instead of the prescribed seven miles. At the six mile stage, the race had developed into a struggle between D.U.H. and London University with J. W. Craig leading the field of over 100 runners. Standards continued to rise and the 1933/34 team was considered at the time to have been the best Harrier team ever.



Although defeated at home by Edinburgh, the race was reckoned “probably one of the best races the club has every been involved in”. Trinity supplied the first man home in M. G. Heuston who broke the course record by 78 seconds. The next five runners were all inside the old record, only one of them however — B. Ball — in fifth place, was from Trinity.

Unfortunately for the Harriers, their attractive fixture list which had been built up over several years was now to be severely upset by circumstances totally beyond their control. The first sign of trouble dated indeed from the start of the 1932/33 season when the Harriers received a letter from Queens declaring their intention of joining a Northern Ireland athletic body if such was formed. Trinity replied asking Queens to ensure that the Intervarsity fixtures would not suffer as a result. In the event they did, and the following summer the N.A.C.A. declined permission for the track team to contest the Londonderry Trophy and all subsequent matches with Queens were ruled out. The N.A.C.A.I. were later suspended by the International Board and all five fixtures outside of the Free State had to be cancelled for the 1934/35 season. The action of the International Board provoked much discussion at committee meetings of the time but the club decided to stand by the N.A.C.A. “as long as that body considered the best interests of the young athletes of the country”. Although good competition was to be found at home, it was inevitable that both the morale and attractiveness of the Harriers would suffer. The five fixtures against English and Scottish clubs had been the backbone of the season and had been the races which generated the keenest interest and competition.

Nevertheless, standards were maintained and with the formation of the A.A.U. and D.U.H.A.C.’s affiliation to that body, the fixtures were renewed. The 1937/38 season saw the first away tour for five years to Scotland. Both races were lost. D. McNeil was the first man home for Trinity in both being second in Glasgow and third in Edinburgh. Any hope of revenge the following year was well and truly dashed. Glasgow arrived in December 1938 being the first cross channel visitors in six years and crushed Trinity with their six runners among the first seven places. They were split by the Trinity campaign H. D. Chomne who was fourth. Edinburgh provided a similar beating the following February. The newly revived cross channel fixtures yet again fell by the wayside the following season with the outbreak of the 2nd World War. This, together with the disruption at home led to a period of inactivity in the Harriers in the early 40’s which ended in December 1942 when the “newly revived” cross country section entered the Leinster Novices. The team quickly improved and several months later were placed fourth in the Irish Juniors. The fixture against Queens was resumed the following season and in December 1945, the cross channel fixtures were once again revived with a narrow win over Glasgow in the Phoenix Park.

The middle and later thirties saw Trinity track and field athletics on the crest of a



Figure 5: The start of the 1934 Club Championship Mile featuring from left to right: Polden, Mumford, McNeill, Walker, Hewson, Doogan, Gwen and Pakenham-Browne.



Figure 6: Irish Intervarsity Championships, 1935 with H. A. Doogan in the lead and S. Polden running here in third place. They were to finish first and third respectively. This was D.U.H.A.C.'s first Inter-Varsity victory for eleven years.

wave. In 1935 they won the Irish Intervarsity championships after a gap of eleven years, beating U.C.D. by eighteen points to nine. They won seven of the events and took maximum points in four of these. The individual honours of the day went to the Trinity captain R. H. Wallace who completed a double by winning the 440 yards flat and 120 yards hurdles. Strange as it may seem, Trinity with such a tradition for producing high quality sprinters failed to gain a single point in the 100 yards and 220 yards although in fairness, both Commiskey and Moran were freshmen. Essentially the same team was to regain the I.V. title in 1936 and 1937 to repeat the hat-trick performed in the early twenties. Only 17 men were to represent Trinity over these three years in the ten events held at the Intervarsity championships. R. H. Wallace was in a class of his own in the hurdles and he along with L. H. Braddell and R. N. Coote were all to win Irish championships in this event. Having won the club 120 yards hurdles championship in 1933 by ten clear yards, Wallace came into the spotlight the following year when he erased the forty-three year old record of Dan Bulger at the College Races clocking  $16\frac{1}{5}$  seconds. Later in 1934, he competed in the British 440 hurdles championships where he rose first to the last hurdle, but hit it hard, fell and recovered to finish second. Although he won a host of Intervarsity titles both over the hurdles and on the flat, the 'athletic war' prevented him from taking any further part in athletic competition outside the country during the next few years and he undoubtedly failed to reach his full potential. On the resumption of International athletics, he returned to the A.A.A. championships and was placed third in 1937 and 1938.

Trinity also had strength in depth in the middle distance in particular H. A. Dougan, R. G. Walker and D. McNeil. The latter had an unusual double in 1937 when in addition to winning the mile, he tied for first place in the high jump. Without a doubt however, the difference between this Trinity team and those of the past which had contained many fine sprinters, jumpers and middle distance runners lay in the events where the coaching of Tom Maguire began to pay handsome dividends. L. N. Horan was the star performer and in addition to his numerous Intervarsity titles in shot and discus, he proved to be the most prolific winner of National titles to be produced by Trinity since Dan Bulger. In all, he won thirteen Irish Championships (1 decathlon, 3 javelin and 9 shot) and also placed third in the British A.A.A. Championships. His best putt of 49'2" compares very favourably with the Olympic qualifying standard which remained at 45 feet until after 1948 and together with R. H. Wallace, he can consider himself to have been deprived of Olympic competition due to the political situation at the time.

One might be forgiven for thinking that 1938 should have been a quiet year for D.U.H.A.C. with their exclusion from the Irish University Championships. Nothing could have been further from the truth. The international recognition gained by the I.A.A.U. saw D.U.H.A.C.'s involvement in several old fixtures once again and the high standards of their athletes ensured them international competition. Early in May, they

entertained Edinburgh University to a track match in College Park and two weeks later, presumably to compensate for the lack of a true Irish Intervarsity contest, they travelled to Whyte City, London for the British Intervarsities where they placed fourth out of twenty-one teams. N. F. DeVere was the star performer winning the 880 yards in one minute fifty-seven and a half seconds and coming second in the 440 yards with a sub fifty second run. Other noteworthy performances came from D. H. McNeil who was second in the mile and G. W. Craigie who was second in the 220 yards. As a result of his fine performance, N. F. DeVere was selected for the British Universities team to tour South Africa.

Before the end of the month, the team travelled to Belfast for the Londonderry Trophy for the first time in four years and succeeded in winning, something they had not done since 1925 — the inaugural year of the event. The Relays held in July saw no D.M.G. team for the first time in the history of the event thus bringing to an end the fierce rivalry that had existed between themselves and the host club since the beginning of the competition. July also saw an Irish University team consisting entirely of Trinity and Queens athletes travelling to Scotland for a match against the Scottish Universities. On the 23rd July 1938, the first Triangular match between Ireland, England and Scotland to be held in Ireland for ten years took place at Lansdowne Road. Trinity provided six members of the Irish team: G. W. Craigie, N. F. DeVere, R. H. Wallace, D. H. McNeil, R. N. Coote and L. N. Horan. The latter was to provide one of Ireland's two victories when he tied for first place in the shot. The above six plus H. Dougan were also selected to represent Ireland in the European championships in September.

Athletics survived during the war years with the various inter-club matches including the Londonderry Trophy being held each year. Trinity was also strongly represented on I.A.A.U. teams which held annual matches against the N.I.A.A.A. and Hermes club. The latter which was formed in the late thirties catered for Irish university graduates and having its headquarters in College Park not surprisingly consisted almost entirely of ex-Trinity men.

It would be impossible to end an account of this period without reference to Tom Maguire who was club coach throughout. Tom first appeared in College Park in 1910 while running for Clonliffe. He was Irish long jump champion and frequently came to the Park to train. He became a P.T. instructor and was with the R.I.C. for some time before the first World War. He gained Olympic trials in the triple jump. His athletic career was interrupted by the war in which he served with distinction winning the Military Medal at Passchendaele. After the war, he returned to the R.I.C. as a drill instructor and when the R.I.C. was disbanded in 1922, he came to College Park to stay and where for the next thirty years he was to be coach, masseur and friend to generations of Trinity athletes. Nor can one omit to mention Dr. R. J. Rowlette whose interest was maintained in the club from his first appearance on the committee of the Dublin University Athletic

Sports in 1896 until his death in 1944 and who was constantly in attendance as a judge at the Races and other athletic events.

Copyright DUHAC 1985-2002

## War & Peace

The war had the effect of increasing the isolation which the club already suffered from in the domestic sphere due to the athletic split. Travel difficulties made it virtually impossible for the club to tour in Britain and for obvious reasons, travel to the continent was impossible at this time. Even if these difficulties had not existed, the demands of the British war effort, with all able bodied young men in some service or another, meant that the university teams which were our normal opponents ceased to function for the duration. Even Queens, situated as it was in a part of the United Kingdom not subject to conscription, occasionally found it impossible to raise teams for the traditional fixtures against us, due to the shortage of manpower as potential athletes volunteered for war service. Indeed, D.U.H.A.C. itself was not immune from this. However, towards the end of the war, some fixtures were arranged with Queens even if the teams involved were somewhat attenuated. But for the greater part of this time, the club had to exist on such domestic competition as was allowed by the exigencies of the 'emergency'.

With the end of the World War in 1945, these cramped horizons suddenly stretched out again and the club could look forward to a resumption of a more normal pattern of competition. Indeed, the mood of optimism engendered by the outbreak of peace was such that an attempt was even made to arrange a fixture with U.C.D. This of course proved abortive as was to happen to many other such attempts in future years but it does point to a feeling of psychological release felt at this time. The first concrete evidence of this normalisation was the revival of the fixture with Glasgow University Hare & Hounds which took place in the Phoenix Park on 15th December 1945 and which D.U.H. won narrowly by 39 points to 41. A regretful note in one of the college periodicals states that it had not been possible for any members of the Harriers to travel to Scotland to take part in a match between the Scottish, English and Irish Universities. This seems a pity and must have meant that the Irish team consisted solely of Queens University athletes.

However, this was in part compensated for when members of the athletic club undertook the first post war tour to Glasgow and Edinburgh at the end of May 1946. During the tour, Edinburgh were defeated by 39 points to 28 but Glasgow were the winners in the other match by 55 points to 46. The process of normalisation reached

the apogee with the visit to Oxford on 9th July. The match in College Park was a close affair decided in the end by the relay which was won by D.U.H.A.C. This victory was undoubtedly the climax of the club's successful process of re-entry to full post war competition. The succeeding years however, were to see competition becoming ever fiercer and for a time, the results reflected this, the win against Oxford was not to be repeated in the match against Cambridge the following year. This is not to say that D.U.H.A.C. failed to maintain its position as the premier club in Dublin on track and field as a succession of wins in the Interclub Relays testified to. There were of course the usual succession of talented individuals to brighten the scene. Club members such as H.E. and R. C. Jephson, D. Lane, G. A. Mitchell, the seemingly everlasting J. H. Hofmeyr and D. C. Gatenby won many A.A.U. titles during this period and certainly performed distinguished service for the team during their careers.

Possibly the most outstanding individual in the immediate post war years was D. Guiney who was picked as Ireland's sole representative at the 1946 European Games in Oslo following his putt of 47'1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " in the Oxford match. He was, of course, to go on to win A.A.A.'s titles and to take part in the 1948 Olympic Games in London but from a club point of view, his was a most valuable contribution in many matches, ranging as it did through events such as shot, discus, javelin and others, in all of which he could be expected to perform well. Incidentally, to those now used to competing in athletic events before a crowd consisting of the proverbial three men and a dog, it might be interesting to note that the relevant newspaper report estimates that upwards of 10,000 people were in College Park to watch the first Clonliffe Invitation Meeting after the War in July 1946.

Throughout the period of relative success in the immediate post war years, followed by those years in which victories, except in the domestic sphere, were hard to come by, one particularly tough opponent proved to be Queens University. Our Belfast rivals produced a succession of very strong teams during these years and in none of our matches since 1942 had we been able to better them. This barren record was finally broken in May 1949 when D.U.H.A.C. defeated Q.U.B.A.C. by 69 points to 52. The rest of that season proved quite successful also and our only loss was in the Londonderry Trophy. 1950 however was not so successful though we did halve the honours on our Scottish tour beating Aberdeen but being beaten by Edinburgh.

An interesting match which took place that year on June 21st in College Park was one in which the combinations of Dublin University and Oxford University competed against Queens University and Cambridge University, though unfortunately the club ended up on the losing side. Notable names from that encounter were P. J. Hildreth, Cambridge's 120 yards hurdler, who later in the year was to take the bronze medal in the European Games, and the winner of the mile, C. Brasher, also of Cambridge, who was to win the gold medal in the 3000 metres steeplechase at the Melbourne Olympics

and also to take part in another particularly famous mile race several years later.

The following season though again not altogether a successful one did see the club participating once more in the Irish Universities Championships. It was not on the whole an auspicious return as we finished second to U.C.D., many of our better athletes performing well below their best, but the fluttering in official doves which our participation caused ensured that it was not to recur the following year or indeed for many years thereafter. Though not a particularly happy one from a team point of view, the year 1951 was one in which we re-emphasised our dominance in domestic competition by winning eight A.A.U. titles. The year also was remarkable in that it saw the emergence of R. D. Miller as a javelin thrower of some considerable note. Having broken the Irish record in the match against Queens and Edinburgh, he later in the season became the first Irishman to throw the javelin over 200 feet.

The Harriers also had a pretty lean time in the later years of the forties. Though never afraid to take on the best available, indeed the club's course record dating from 1949 stood to a certain C. Chataway later to briefly hold the world 5000 metres record and be another participant in the famous mile race previously mentioned, team victories of note were few. Cross country in the Universities has laboured under the handicap that it takes longer for the talented distance runner to develop than is true in some track events. Whereas during the athletic season, the club at this time had no difficulty in holding its own with outside competition, the Harriers were always at a disadvantage in this respect and the only true comparison is with their contemporaries in opposing universities. However, with the emergence of P. N. Ross as a distance runner of note, both on the track and over the country and the arrival of others such as S. Webley in college, the Harriers gradually became a team to be reckoned with. During the 1951-1952 season, victories were recorded over R.A.F. Valley, Bangor, Aberdeen and for the first time in many years, Queens. Ross demonstrated his abilities as the best college distance runner for some time by winning the All-Ireland Junior Championships and placed fifth in the U.A.U. Championships in Birmingham. With the backing of such as Brewster, Glendenning, Ellwood, Fleming, Wood and Murphy, the club had its most successful year over the country for many years. Throughout all though, year in, year out, successful and not so successful, the Harriers continued with their, to most people, rather odd pastime. This is perhaps best summed up in the words of a T.C.D. Miscellany diarist who announced that at 3.00pm the following Saturday "Dublin University Harriers will leave Islandbridge in search of the unattainable".

Meanwhile, the 1952 athletic season started with the accustomed win in the Inter Club Relays but then in quick succession, we lost both the Londonderry Trophy and Blues match to Queens. Subsequently, a team went to England to compete in the U.A.U. championships where Miller won the javelin title. Also on that tour, we took part in a match in Reading in which we beat Reading A.C., Reading University and the R.A.F.



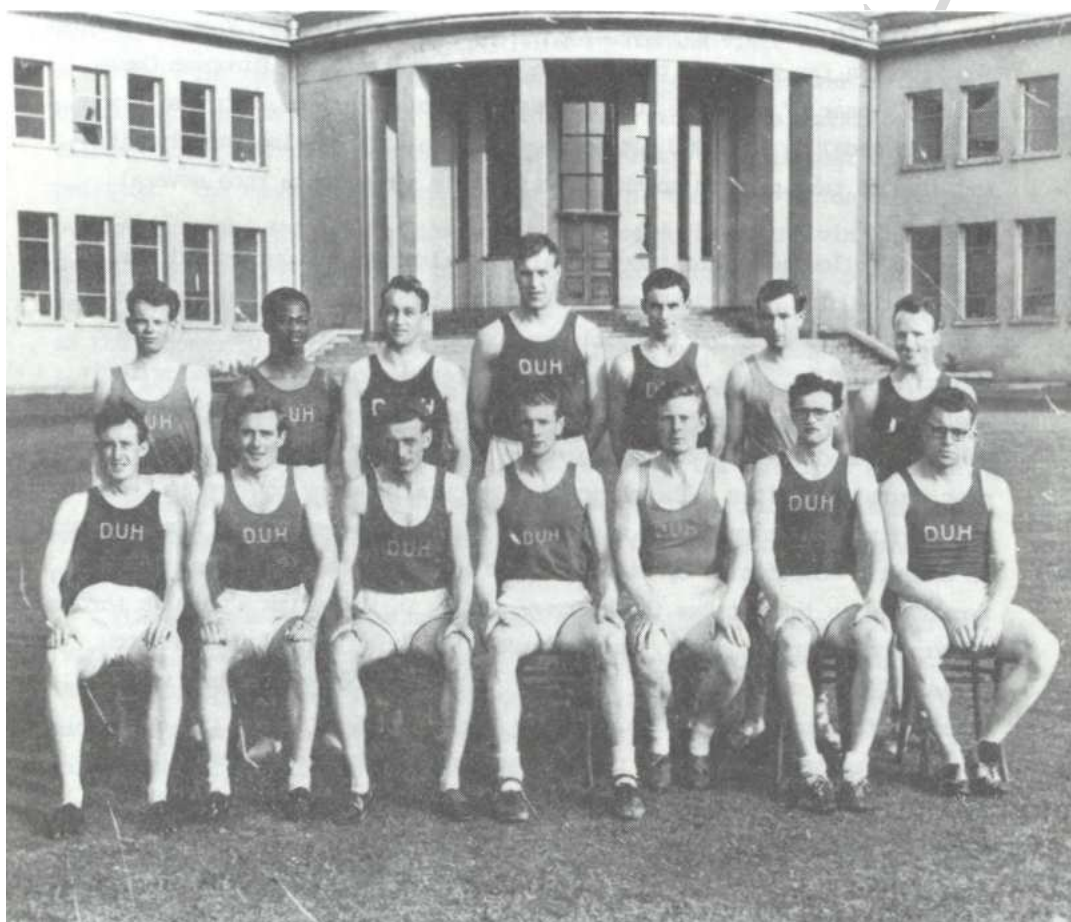


Figure 7: D.U.H.A.C. Team, 1954

Back Row (l-r): S. Webley, J. Oladitan, N. J. White, R. H. Taylor, R. J. Mackay, P. Browne, N. McCrea  
 Front Row (l-r): M. Johnston, J. Hyland, B. S. Brewster, D. W. Forsyth (Captain), R. D. W. Miller,  
 J. B. Lawson, N. J. B. de Wet.

Inter Unit champions, Yatesbury, B. S. Brewster winning the mile in a fast time. College races saw Miller break his javelin record yet again, he was joined in this by Ross who broke the college two mile record to add to his other records at various distances and by the evergreen Hofmeyr who broke the long standing high jump record. The season for most of the club's members then gradually petered out but Miller went on to place second in the A.A.A.'s championships and as a result was picked to compete in the Helsinki Olympic Games for Britain. There, he qualified for the final, a feat equalled by no other Briton or Irishman in the javelin event until David Ottley won the silver medal in the 1984 games.

The 1953 season was to prove a successful one starting with a win over Glasgow and followed by victories over Bangor, Queens and Edinburgh. However, a straw in the wind was our loss of the Inter Club Relays for the first time in many years. The level of talent in the other Dublin clubs was rising due partly to the fact that increasingly the better N.A.C.A. athletes were forswearing politics for competition and joining one of the big open A.A.U. clubs in Dublin. This was a progression which was to be masked for a time by the fact that during the remainder of the fifties and into the sixties, the club itself was to be unusually strong but all the same, its effects were increasingly felt. 1953 was also an important season for various individual club members as two of those who had won A.A.U. titles later equalled or broke college records at College Races. N. de Wet equalled the college 120 yards hurdles and 220 yards records, the former set in 1950 by J. M. Caruana and the latter standing to the credit of D. D. Rippard and dating from the 1919 College Races. R. J. Mackey the surprise winner of the A.A.U. 880 yards title won the mile in a new record time. Also at College Races, Ross broke his own three mile record and the previously held A.A.U. championships had seen J. B. Lawson capture the javelin title and so emerge as a contender for Miller's crown. The following season was one of mixed fortunes for the club but it did see the introduction of athletes who were to become stalwarts of the team in later years, J. O. Oladitan and R. H. Taylor who in his first year broke T. G. Davis's 1949 discus record. 1954 was also notable for the death of Tom Maguire who had served in his capacity as coach, the club and its members faithfully for thirty years and who was in his turn sincerely mourned.

At the start of the 1954-55 season, both the Harriers and Athletic Clubs began to show a much more determined and serious attitude to the business of preparing for competition. The Harriers conscious of the fact that despite having some very talented individuals that it was the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh scorers who won or lost matches, introduced a series of handicap races to try to raise the level of keenness and fitness amongst members, the winner of the series in each year to take a new cup named after its donor, W. R. C. Parke. The Athletic Club started coaching sessions during the winter under Jack Sweeney for the more technical events and a throwing circle and cinder run up for jumping were laid out. The Harriers had mixed luck that year but

the athletic club did recapture the Inter Club Relays title and with a team of five came fourth in the U.A.U. championships, behind London, Oxford and Loughborough. In the process, Taylor won the discus and placed third in the shot, Lawson was second in the javelin, Oladitan third in the long jump and both Mackey in the 880 and P. Gooden in the 440 ran times faster than the existing college records. Mackey's run was especially noteworthy as on the Saturday prior to these championships in the match against Edinburgh, he had run 1.55.4 in the 880 yards on a wet College Park so breaking G. N. Morphy's venerable college record which had stood since 1905.

The club was undefeated in all inter university matches during 1956, Glasgow, Queens and Liverpool being our unlucky opponents. In the U.A.U. championships, we once again finished fourth, Mackey winning the half mile and McGrahan the pole vault title while Taylor finished second in both the discus and shot. However, in both relay competitions, we were unsuccessful. The 1957 season was a bit less straightforward. We started off by losing to Edinburgh though as consolation, Taylor did break the college record for the shot putt in this competition. During the following week, we recaptured the inter club relays title and then set off on tour. This turned out to be something of a marathon and a bad one at that. The first competition was in the U.A.U. championships where despite Oladitan winning the long jump and D. F. Archer coming second in the pole vault, the result for the team as a whole was disappointing. The team then headed for Scotland only to lose the first two matches against Edinburgh and St. Andrews. A little pride was restored, as the week drew to a close, to a by now jaded and injury ridden team in a win over Aberdeen in the third match. But that unfortunately was not the end of the tour as the remnants of the team plus some fresh reinforcements now had to take on Queens and their guests in the Londonderry Trophy on the way home. Not surprisingly, we did not win the Trophy despite the exceptional performances of some of the team, notably Archer who equalled his record in the pole vault. The result, however, had the athletics correspondent of T.C.D. lamenting that with the rules then in operation, he could see no prospect of the club ever winning the Londonderry Trophy. The team finally reached Dublin and after a months recuperation and some gentle competition, emerged towards the end of June to win the G. V. Ryan Trophy, the unofficial team championship of the A.A.U. The gloss on this victory being given added lustre by the fact of Archer setting a new Irish record in the pole vault.

The Harriers had had a fairly disappointing couple of seasons due to the usual problem of not having a team strong enough to support the top two or three runners who must frequently have felt that they were performing in a vacuum. This weakness was itself the result of the club not having a sufficiently large pool of talent to draw from. However, prospects started to improve at the start of the 1957-58 season. Victories were recorded over Crusaders and a visiting Aberdeen team and then in a match against Donore, the strongest cross country club in Dublin at the time, and Civil Service we finished a close



Figure 8: D.U.H.A.C. Team, 1957

Back Row (l-r): G. R. Mason, J. Keyte, J. Leeson, D. Bayne, R. T. Taylor, T. Ryan, M. Reed, B. Roe.  
 Front Row (l-r): B. D. Hannon, G. Reynolds, P. T. Godden, J. O. Oladitan (Captain), P. R. Thomas,  
 D. F. Archer, C. Shillington

joint second. This performance against clubs whom we would normally have expected to beat us easily and the running of a freshman, C. J. Shillington, who finished second and in the process broke the old course record set by A. Wood of Aberdeen in 1953, sent morale soaring for the coming match against Queens. Unfortunately, this optimism was short lived as we lost by two points. The rest of the season then disintegrated in the usual run of illness and injury with the additional blow of one of our leading runners, M. Connolly, having left college and joined an outside club. The following season again saw the club suffer somewhat mixed fortunes, the principal item being an athletically unsuccessful tour of Scotland. However, the 1959–1960 season was more successful encompassing as it did a tour of England and culminating in our first victory over Queens for some eight years. In this race we had the first three across the line: Shillington, B. Roe and S. Whittome. But then, as usual, we had to wait some time for the rest of the team to close in, it was though successfully accomplished as our sixth man finished twelfth.

But to return to the activities of the athletic club, the 1958 season had started with a warm-up match against Clonliffe which we won easily followed by the Inter Club Relays which we successfully retained. Later in the month, it was off to the U.A.U. championships again and though we won no titles, Oladitan came second in the long jump, T.T. Lunde was second in the high jump and pole vault and Shillington also runner-up in the 880. Oladitan had an additional reason for celebration as he was informed that he was to represent Nigeria in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games. Shillington was also to compete in Cardiff though he was not selected by Northern Ireland until later in the season. The highlight of the year for the club however was undoubtedly the Londonderry Trophy. This we won for the first time since 1942 by taking one of the track and six of the field events. It was to be a harbinger of score very successful seasons to come. The start of the 1959 season was to prove a bit hesitant. We won as expected the Inter Club Relays and then drew with a strong Edinburgh side. Several days later, we took on Aberdeen who were expected to be weaker and, suffering the fate of all infected with overconfidence, we lost. Among the few bright spots in the later match was B. Hannon's new college record in the 440 yards hurdles. The next item on the programme was a tour of England, there we defeated an Oxford side at Iffley Road, where R. V. Francis broke the college 220 yards record, and we were narrowly defeated at Birmingham. Back home it was time once more for the Londonderry Trophy which we retained and this time with a little more success on the track, indeed the 4x400 yards team even managed to break the Irish record. In the field the victory was in no small way due to the indefatigable efforts of Lunde who moved from high jump fan to long jump pit to pole vault run up to shot circle to javelin area and back to the discus circle picking up many valuable points along the way. The rest of the season was also successful, we defeated a London United Hospitals team and in this match, Shillington



Figure 9: The World Student Games, Paris in 1957. Trinity had four representatives, from left to right: H. G. Reynolds, R. Taylor, G. Mason → J. B. Lawson, absent from the photograph, was carrying the Irish flag.

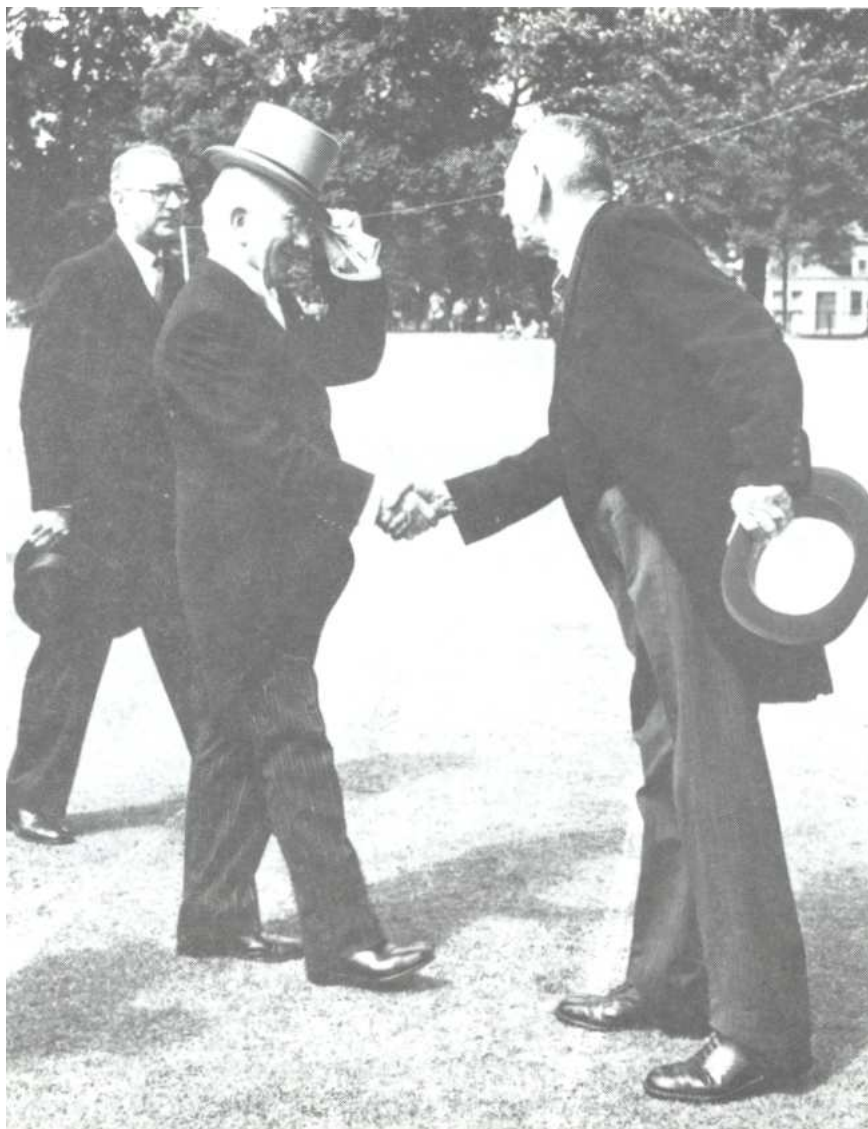


Figure 10: President Sean T. O'Kelly and Provost McConnell being greeted at the Races in 1957.



set a new mile record and Francis a new 440 yards record of 49.6. The final match was against Queens which was also won. In the A.A.U. championships, amongst other titles earned by members of the club were the 440 yards hurdles by Hannon and the 440 yards by Francis in a time of 49.4.

The 1960 season was to be the club's 75th anniversary and it was hoped to celebrate the jubilee in fitting style. The season began well with wins against Clonliffe, in the Inter Club Relays and against Queens and for good measure, Taylor collected a new college record in the shot along the way. The tour to England was to take in the U.A.U. championships and a match against Cambridge. At the U.A.U., the club achieved its best ever placing, third behind the giants, London and Loughborough. In the process, Lunde won the high jump and pole vault, Shillington set a new meeting record in the 880 yards in 1.51.5 and for good measure Taylor was second in the shot and third in the discus. Then it was on to Cambridge for another victory before heading home. Prior to the team travelling to Belfast for the Londonderry Trophy, Shillington ran the halfmile in an open meeting in Santry and came second to Brian Hewson, the reigning European champion at 1500 metres. In the process, he clocked 1.49.8 which equalled the qualifying time set by the British Board for that years Olympics in Rome. In the Londonderry Trophy itself, we won every event but the 3x120 yards hurdles on the track and despite the absence of Taylor and B. Ovbiagale, held our own in the field and so retained the trophy. Back in Dublin, we won the G. V. Ryan Trophy again, in which match Francis set a new college record in the 220 yards and Taylor what he thought was a new Irish record in the shot, it turned out later that the shot was an ounce underweight and the record was consequently disallowed. The A.A.U. championships which followed saw club members win nine titles, amongst them the mile won by Shillington in 4.06.4, the third fastest ever by an Irishman up to that point, and Taylor, who insisted the shot be weighed before he threw, got his Irish record officially as well as the title and so deprived D. Guiney of his record which had stood since 1948. The climax of the season was a jubilee match against the rest of the A.A.U. in which we were narrowly defeated. All in all, then the contention that it was the club's best year in competition since 1885 as proposed by the athletic correspondent in TCD was a hard one to argue against. How could the club then hope to follow a season such as that? Well, below is a fixture list and results from the 1961 season:



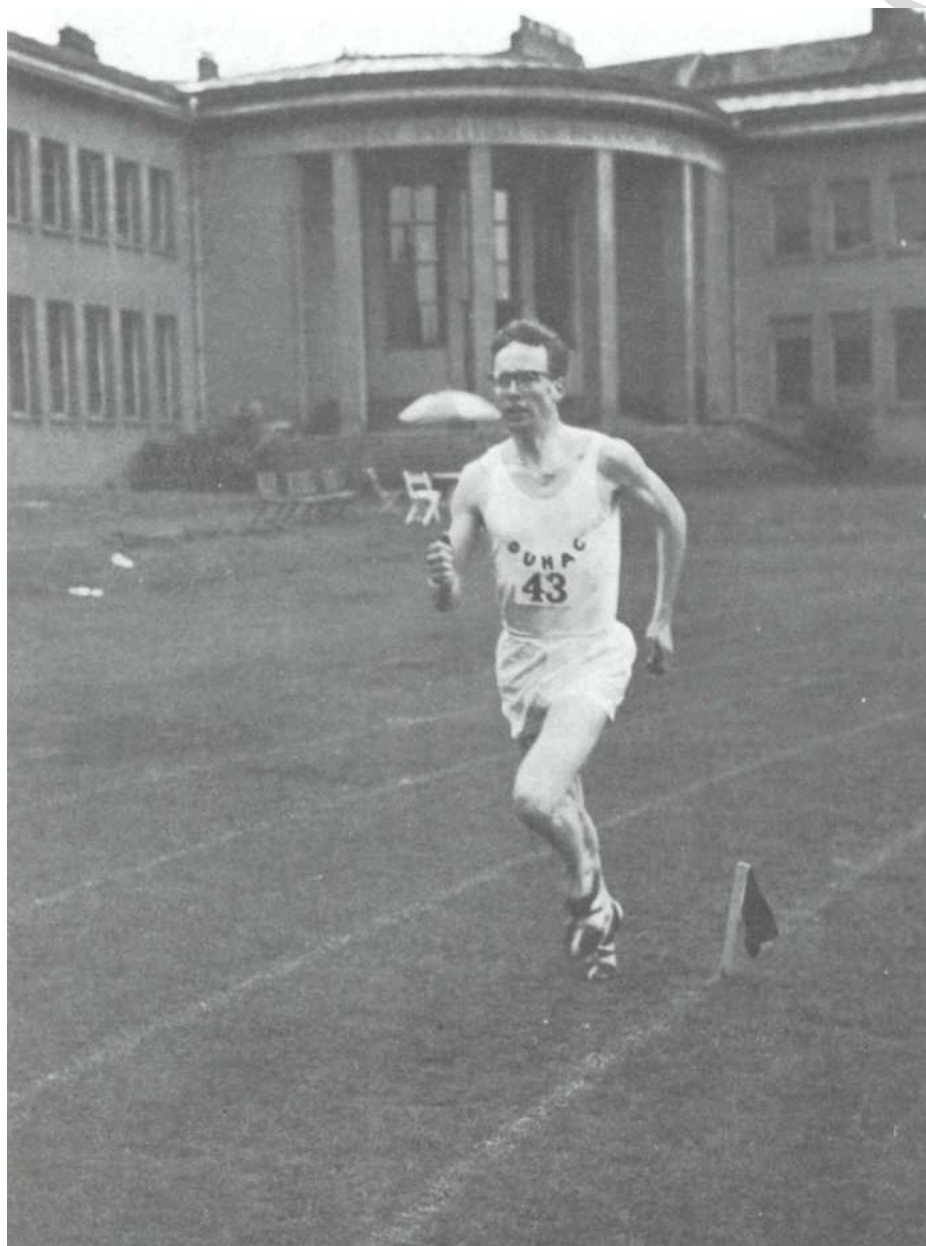


Figure 11: Rounding the top bend in College Park in 1960 — Colin Shillington, one of Trinity's top athletes.

27.4.61	College Park	Vs Birmingham University	won 88-38
6.5.61	Santry	Vs Clonliffe Harriers	won 85-48
10.5.61	College Park	Inter Club Relay Meeting	won 45-24 etc.
13.5.61	College Park	Vs Queens University	won 99-44
16.5.61	Santry	Vs A.A.U.	won 72-71
20.5.61	Cherryvale	Londonderry Trophy meet	won 51-49-17
26/27.5.61	Motspur Park	U.A.U. Championships	4th behind
London, Loughborough and Cambridge			
29.5.61	Iffley Road	Vs Oxford & United Hospitals	won 68-39
1.6.61	College Park	Vs U.C.D.	won 87-73
3.6.61	Santry	G.V.Ryan Trophy meeting	won 41-34 etc.

This procession of victories was all the more notable because we had lost some of our star athletes such as Taylor, who became the first Irishman to putt over 50 feet during the season and Oladitan who won the 1961 A.A.A.'s long jump title and these losses certainly told against us in the U.A.U. championships. Still we did have our compensations, the Clonliffe match saw the emergence of H. Kennedy-Skipton as a javelin thrower of note following in the line of Miller and Lawson, Ovbiagale set a Nigerian discus record in the Inter Club Relays and Shillington won another U.A.U. title this time at the mile. But the highlight of the year undoubtedly was the first colours match against U.C.D. After much toing and froing behind the scenes in order to oil the beauracratc wheels, permission was finally granted by the I.A.A.F. to the holding of a closed meeting with U.C.D. This took place, after some frantic preparation, on 1st June 1961 in College Park before a large crowd of some 4000 people and turned out to be a very exciting match. To single out individual athletes in one non-championship meeting is even more invidious than highlighting their performances throughout the season. The victory in the colours match of 1961 was a team effort as were all other such victories, a fact which sometimes gets forgotten in the individuals concentration on his own event. Nevertheless this famous occasion cannot be passed over without mentioning the contribution of that years captain, R. V. Francis who finished second to the Pole, Maniak in the 100 and 220 yards, contributed to the relay victory and won the 440 yards in a new college record of 49.0. Others deserving of mention include C. J. Shillington who as well as winning both the 880 yards and mile, finished a close third in the 440 yards and also the ubiquitous T. T. Lunde, who won the high jump and pole vault, came second in the long jump and third in the javelin which event was soon by H. Kennedy-Skipton with a throw of over 200 feet. The final result was D.U.H.A.C. 87 points, U.C.D.A.C. 73 points. The season then finished with a win in the G. V. Ryan Trophy and confirmed our ranking as the number one club in Ireland. It must be stressed however that overall the results in 1961 were achieved as a result of a team effort, the loss of some of our outstanding individual athletes from the previous year was compensated for by the willingness of

their successors to try and emulate them and not be overawed by the reputations which they left behind them. This team effort is exemplified in Lunde's competitive record. Of the 30 events he entered wearing a D.U.H.A.C. vest during the season, he won 19 and came second in 10.

It was of course too much to expect that standard could be achieved in every year and the 1962 season brought the clubs supporters down to earth with a bump. We retained our inter club relays title but then in quick succession, finished second in two triangular matches, the first against Edinburgh and Aberdeen and then against Glasgow and St. Andrews. Following that, we lost the Londonderry Trophy narrowly but came back to win in our first official participation in the contest for the P. J. O'Sullivan Intervarsity Trophy since 1936. This was achieved with a very depleted team, a separate team having been sent to the U.A.U. championships the same weekend, and it must be said that U.C.D.'s first team was also not competing due to a similar clash of dates. The match against the A.A.U. was lost as was the G. V. Ryan Trophy. However, something was rescued from the season when after a neck and neck battle all the way through, the second colours match was drawn 86 points all.

During this period of outstanding achievement on track and field, the Harriers had continued to plough their own lonely furrow. The season of 1960-61 was not as successful as the previous one, a win in the match against Crusaders and Avondale was followed by defeats against Donore and Clonliffe and later Queens. A disappointing third in the A.A.U. novice championships was followed by a not unexpected defeat against the Cheshire Regt., runnersup in the All-Ireland Championships. However, in the last race of the season a triangular match in the Phoenix Park, though beaten by the United Hospitals team, second in the recent U.A.U. championships, we had revenge over Queens for the defeat in the previous term. The 1961-62 season divided neatly into two halves. Before Christmas though, we beat Aberdeen at home, we suffered defeat at the hands of Donore and Clonliffe and then on tour, at the hands of St. Andrews and Aberdeen and finished the term with a defeat by Queens in Belfast. After Christmas however, we began with a win over Avondale and then in the first cross country colours match following the thaw, there was an extremely close match in Belfield which finished in a tie. S. Whittome winning the race and A. Sparshott finishing third. The year ended satisfactorily with a race in Phoenix Park in which we beat Queens, Bangor and Aberystwth. The next season was also successful with a win in the inaugural Intervarsity match against the three colleges of the National University for the 'Green Fox Trophy', the points totals being D.U.H. 31, U.C.D.A.C. 59, U.C.C.A.C. 111 and U.C.G.A.C. 143. For once, the Harriers had a strong six: P. Davy, S. Whittome, A. Shillington, A. Sparshott, S. Byrne and F. Quinlan with others to back up their efforts. This year also ended on a high note with another win against Queens, Bangor and Aberystwth. The final season of this period was a mixed one from the club's point of view but we did beat U.C.D. and



Figure 12: D.U.H.A.C. Team, 1961

Back Row (l-r): P. M. Toomey, D. J. Tyler, J. A. Leeson, A. J. Shaw, B. Dubiagle, A. McN. Scott, J. Kennedy-, P. J. Davey, H. Kennedy-Skipton, B. O. Osoba

Front Row (l-r): A. R. Sparshott, G. Mason, S. K. Whittome, T. T. Lunde, R. V. Francis, F. H. Quinlan, C. J. G. Shillington, B. Roe, 11.-D. O'Clery

enjoyed a tour to England.

The 1963 athletic season had started with a very successful tour which took in England, Holland and Sweden. Back home, matches against Aberystwyth and Clonliffe were won and the Inter Club Relays title retained. However, in the Intervarsity, we were beaten by U.C.D., the margin being two points. Not surprisingly, we also lost in the match against the A.A.U. and in the colours match were narrowly defeated by U.C.D. again, despite a double in the 100 and 220 yards by R. Kirkham a similar achievement by A. Shillington who won the 440 and 440 yards hurdles and a one two in the 880 yards by F. Quinlan and P. Toomey. The season was also notable for the record breaking exploits of S. C. Whittome who broke both the college three mile and one mile records, in the case of the latter removing the name of C. J. Shillington from the list, no mean achievement. The following season started off with a tour to Scotland and wins were recorded over Aberdeen and St. Andrews but we lost to Glasgow. At home, we defeated Queens and Edinburgh and at that point in the season, L. Hatt had scored wins in all the matches, both in the shot and discus. Hopes were high for the Intervarsity but once again, we lost to U.C.D. However, a measure of revenge was extorted when we turned the tables in the colours match later in the month.

In the period 1945 to 1964, the club had lived through twenty years the first of which had seen peace of a sort, break out after the greatest war in history and the last held out the prospect that this peace, hopefully, would break out in the Irish athletic scene. Ironically, just as the peace at the beginning of this period meant the broadening of horizons, the peace at the end meant that to some extent the outlook of the club was to turn inward, from now on increasingly, the highlights of every season over the country and on the track were to be the colours match and the Irish Inter-varsity Championships.



Figure 13: Dara Shakespeare — National Javelin Record Holder, National Champion and Irish Inter-Varsity Champion

# 'A Fair Sex'

## 1965–1971

“However, although they have yet to find winning form, there is much to enthuse about in the number of girls who turn out regularly to train. The club is young and immediate success is hardly likely.”

- T.C.D. Miscellany, April 30th 1965.

An enthusiastic viewpoint presented to the “college goers” of the swinging 60s on the formation of only the third womens athletic club in the Republic, that of Trinity College, Dublin. On month later, College Park was the setting for “one of the greatest occasions in Trinity athletics” — victory over U.C.D. by both men and women.

“The women were victorious in their first ever Colours match, walking over a pathetic U.C.D. team with maximum points.”

After losing their first two matches versus Clonliffe and Crusaders respectively, the newly formed womens athletic club, under the leadership of Lil Cranly, it's first captain, had recorded it's first team victory. Womens athletics had begun to take a foothold in college its aim now would be to establish for itself a niche in college sport, in a similar fashion to that already held by clubs such as the womens hockey club and the lawn tennis club.

The formation of the womens athletic club opened up an entirely new arena of sport to women in college, one of dual function, in which they could assert themselves as individuals as well as part of a team. Now the ladies of college had a chance to expend their energies into new channels, to follow the standards set by the earlier female Olympians, the most recent at the time being Wilma Rudolph Treble (100, 200, relay) in Rome in 1960 and the victories of the British pair, Ann Packer (800 m.) and Mary Rand (long jump) at the 1964 Tokyo Games. Above all, they now had a new field in which they could attain esteem and prestige both for themselves and their college.

Why however had it taken until 1965 to establish a womens athletic club in college? After all, today we seldom find an athletic club that does not cater for both men and

women. Then again, we are living the the world of the eighties, a world in which the position of women is “slightly” better than that of her predecessors. She is now more at one with her male counterparts than ever before, not only in relation to academic matters but also in the wide spectrum of sport. In years previous to 1965, the involvement of women in college athletics was very limited. One does find snippets concerning women being totally daring, by revealing a slight patch of leg, as early as 1932!

“The women harriers, moreover, have shown that public opinion is far enough advanced to see nothing immodest in women wearing shorts.”

- T.C.D. Miscellany, 1932

However, such adventurous females were few and far between and there was certainly never any mention of women competing or even training for that matter on an organised level. Female involvement in athletics rarely extended beyond preparing and distributing sandwiches for the “aftermath” of certain race meetings. Such a job, frowned upon by many today, was considered a great honour. Indeed, it opened up a new social scene for the ladies of college, a chance to meet their sporting heroes, vital introductions could be attained, which could for many either “make or break” their college year. As Serina Bitchell advised in her article, “Advice to young ladies in college”, T.C.D. Miscellany, 27th November 1964 regarding sport:

“Avoid taking part in the more hearty ones (obvious really). If you’re making club teas, turn up late so that you need only hand round someone else’s delicious sandwiches. Use these occasions to meet a Knight of the Campanile — an essential accessory if you’re to attend the College Races in style.”

Although it had taken quite a period of time for Irish women to show a full interest in athletics, after all women had first competed in the Olympics as far back as 1928, once the seeds of a club had first been sown, it wasn’t long before it had taken root and both the club and women’s athletics in general became established in the country as a whole.

Going back to the day it all began — 14th April 1965 — a rainy day in College Park, something we all relate to be it ’65 or ’85, the first time women ran on an organised basis in college. The event — the trials for the Womens Track team. The first high jump had to be abandoned due to the treacherous conditions however, on the whole were encouraging and a foundation for a womens track team had been laid down.

Five days later, on 19th April, Lil Ganly won the first womens pentathlon in college, with a total of 2,730 points. The first track match versus Clonliffe Harriers was totally chaotic — obviously the sight of the shapely female legs, clad only in shorts, was too



much to handle for some of the eager supporters!! In the first colours match, J. Patterson won the 110 yards (12.5 seconds), B. Cooke took the long jump with a leap of 15'8" and the 4x100 squad took the relay in fine style. The 102nd College Races that summer saw O. Meagher take the 110 yards in 12.7 seconds followed closely by Ms. Patterson (12.8) and Ms. Byrne (12.8). At the same meeting, the Ladies Invitation 110 yards was won by Maeve Lyll, of Olympian fame.

The '65 season closed with the customary A.G.M. During the proceedings, that well-established and highly esteemed figure in college sport, Mr. Shillington, Captain of the Mens Squad of the same year, proposed that the Womens section should:

- a) Be called "Dublin University Womens Athletic Club".
- b) Remain a sub-section of D.U.H.A.C.

His motion was passed unanimously.

The ladies section was later to break away on their own.

The following season saw the womens athletic team progressing steadily. Again Ms. Ganly and Ms. Cooke were very much to the fore, both winning in College Races — Ganly taking the 110 yards in 12.1 seconds and Cooke the 220 yards in 28 seconds. As yet however, a full fixture list for womens participation had not been attained.

The 1967 season saw no outstanding breakthroughs. In a match versus Queens, there were no Trinity winners, although Ms. Patterson came very close when finishing second in the 220 yards in a time of 28.8 seconds.

College Park was the venue for the first Intervarsities for Women — the date, May 1968. Competition was keen and fierce, each individual female athlete giving her all for the good of her college and undoubtedly great personal satisfaction. Individual Trinity victories on the day were recorded by C. O'Neill in the 220 yards (29 seconds), P. Pijeot, 80 metres hurdles (15.5 seconds) and by the 440 relay teams with a time of 56.1 seconds. Under the guidance of team captain Mary Kirby, the Trinity ladies team finished third behind the powerful sides of U.C.D. and Queens. However, it wasn't long before the power of these two teams would be crushed by the strength of a new look Trinity Ladies Athletics team which was all the time building up with the entrance of new eager, enthusiastic and energetic freshers to college. Good performance by Trinity women was scored at College Races at the end of the same month, J. Grace and J. McNicholl being particularly impressive. This was in fact the beginning of the Jane McNicholl era in college athletics. Little did the spectators at College Park that day realise that they were witnessing in action a woman who for the next five years in succession was to win the womens Intervarsity cross country title, as she took the 880 yards title in a time of 2.33. At the same meet, P. Wilson was victorious in the long jump with a leap of 15'9".

The following summer, that of 1970, Ms. McNicholl recorded an 800/1500 metres double at the Irish Universities Championships, with times of 2:20 and 5:09 respectively



Figure 14: D.U.H.A.C. womens team in 1972, having won the Intervarsity Championships without losing a single track event.

Back Row (l-r): Patricia Moran, Caroline Fitzgerald, Janet Grainger

Front Row (l-r): Patricia Wilson, Jane McNichol, Judy Page, Maria Murphy.

— a tremendous achievement, considering both finals were held within a few hours of one another.

Going into the track season of 1971, Trinity ladies already had one title at Intervarsity level behind them for that year — that of Jane McNicholl who had fought hard over talented opposition, while on her way to claiming her third Intervarsity cross country title. The team, led by captain Alison Hill, rallied together some great team spirit and succeeded in beating U.C.D. in the annual colours match. New stars were emerging. Patricia Wilson recorded a fine treble with victories in the 200 metres, 400 metres and long jump, N. Adjun was an impressive winner of the 100 metres, J. Paje putted the shot 26'3" to score maximum points in her event and of the course, there was Ms. McNicholl's victory in the 880 yards.

Cork was the setting for the 1971 Intervarsities — U.C.C. being the ever enthusiastic hosts. The Trinity team, definitely lacking the determination and fiery spirit that had lifted them to much success earlier in the season, failed to impress. Only two individual victories were scored, those of McNicholl (400 metres) and P. Wilson (100 metres). These individual victories along with the impressive performance of Ms. Paje in the discus, earned the three Trinity ladies their places on the first ever Irish Universities Selection Athletic team. The team comprising of many of the individual victors at the Cork Championship had its one and only match versus a B.L.E. selection in College Park. The event was held as part of the traditional College Races during Trinity week of 1971. This was in fact the first time that there was a full compliment of womens events on the programme. The event proved to be highly entertaining and tremendously competitive. The B.L.E. team did, however, emerge as distinct victors on this occasion.

## 1972–1978

1972 was an excellent year — not only for wine but also for the Trinity College ladies athletics club.

The year took off with a bang when the captain Jane McNicholl won the cross country title at Lady Dixons Park. She ran consistently and won both the 800 metres and 1500 metres at the Intervarsities held in Santry. Trinity won the Intervarsity title by a massive 104 points to U.C.D. who came second with only 42 points and showed a tremendous performance in both track and field events. All three sprints, 100, 200 and 400 metres were taken in style by Patricia Moran — this was her first year competing for college in the Intervarsities and she was certainly making a name for herself which she continued to live up to in subsequent years. Moran helped her team to come home first in the 4 x 100 metres relay, Patricia Wilson jumped a winning 4.67 metres in the long jump and came first in the 100 metres hurdles. Janet Grainger added the high jump to Trinity's long list of successes of the first 1972 Intervarsities.

A Galway athlete, Jean Folan was placed second in the 800 metres and 400 metres at this event. Jean was an undergraduate at U.C.G. and then joined Trinity where she was to fill her life with further study, lecturing in the anatomy department, and serious running. Finding Jean with time to spare was not easy. However, she ran brilliantly for Trinity adding strength to the team in future years. She has recently accepted a new post in U.C.D. (1985) but I am sure her contact with Trinity athletes will remain as strong as ever.

Also in 1972, an Irish universities team was sent to Glasgow to compete in a triangle between Scottish and British universities. The Irish ladies team had three Trinity representatives. They were Jane McNicholl, Patricia Wilson and Judy Page. Jean Folan was also in the team although still connected to U.C.G. at this point and was a great asset to the team's success.

Colours match in College Park 1973 — T.C.D. v U.C.D. The reports were in Trinity's favour:

"The home team were still on top in the womens section which T.C.D. won by 20 points. The feature here was magnificent sprinting by Patricia Moran who took the 100 and 200 metres in dashing style and was the key figure in T.C.D.'s relay win" — Irish Times, May 1973. This period proved to be another successful year for the Trinity ladies who won the 'double' in College Park when the colours match was run in association with the college races.

"The great difference in class between the teams was underlined by the fact that of the nine events run, U.C.D. were only successful in two". Janet Grainger jumped a winner, both long and high, the 71 feet thrown by Miss C. Hunter in the javelin was good enough to gain Trinity another first as was her discus.

At Shawbridge in Belfast, Trinity Ladies again took the Intervarsity title — another major win in one year which made it three in 1973. The captain Caroline Fitzgerald was placed high in both discus and shot putt. Patricia Moran kept her reputation by winning the 100 metres in 12.3 seconds and the 200 metres in 27.8 seconds. The jumpers were J. Lynberg and J. Grainger who together took the top two places in their events and the still U.C.G. Jean Folan won both the 400 and 800 metres.

The training must have slackened for the following year. Trinity had no winners at the Intervarsities but Patricia Moran, 1974 team captain, just got the team together for the colours match pipping U.C.D. to the post by a lucky 60 points to 57.

Perhaps Patricia had her mind on improving the relations between the then separate mens and ladies athletics clubs in Trinity. At the 1975 AGM, it was agreed that the ladies athletics was to be included in any scheme applying to the mens club. Times were changing — mixed training and mixed teams were in the production line. However, the clubs were still separate entities, together in all but in name.

It was the proposal by Eleanor Lamb in 1976 on behalf of the ladies athletic club

that there might be an absolute amalgamation of the mens and ladies clubs — the details of the proposal were that there be an overall committee comprising of a club chair, secretary, treasurer with mens and womans captains and other representatives from both clubs. This was to be run strictly on a one year basis. Siobhan Lonergan was the first ladies captain of the newly amalgamated club. Jane Lyons being the womans representative — ladies were now to be recognised for the pinks award, based on a high standard of performance.

Led by Siobhan Lonergan (now Mrs. Tracey), the Trinity girls took third place at the Intervarsities with Patricia Moran making a strong performance in the sprints. Siobhan herself a middle distance runner gained team points in the 1500 metres just beating Mary Friel by 6/10ths of a second. Again, the 4x100 metres relay team was in winning form. “A particularly successful day for host team Trinity when they just failed to made a clean sweep of the four relay events having won the other three, they looked certain to take the ladies 4x400 metres when Veronica Keane went on to the final leg with a lead of 30 yards — Mary Doyle (U.C.C.) closed up on to the Trinity girl on the back straight but Miss Keane held on and was still in the lead with only five metres. Miss Doyle however touched the tape first to win although T.C.D. recorded the same time” — Irish Times 1977. U.C.C. were the 1977 Intervarsity champions.

Veronica was again pipped at the post in the 400 metres colours race in College Park which T.C.D. won by an overall of 10 points. Patricia Moran improved her personal best in the 200 metres by 1.3 seconds and again won both sprints. The captain, Siobhan, made an unusual appearance on the field, throwing the javelin and getting third place after she equalled the colours match record. She won the 800 metres in 221.5 seconds as well as the 1500 metres in 454 seconds.

It was time for a club tour. The amalgamated club was to visit Holland in June 1978. Veronica Keane was again not quite quick enough — I quote here from the amusing minutes of the tour: “The party totalled twenty-one: sixteen fellows and five girls. These odds could have been better but for the misfortune of Veronica Keane who missed the plane and thus the tour”. The results and times indicate that the Trinity athletes were having a good time in the red light city — they did manage to come second overall in a triangle between R. U. Ulrecht and V. U. Amsterdam. A nice break was had by all!

Third again in the '78 Intervarsities, Siobhan Lonergan, Hilary Smith, Gretta Hickey and Jane Lynham ('78 ladies captain) performed well. However, Trinity ladies were more successful in the cross-country event when Siobhan came first.

“There were scenes of wild ecstasy, uncontrolled emotion and uninhibited delerium when T.C.D. beat U.C.G. recently. U.C.G. had not been beaten for the last six years in an Intervarsity cross country race. Their victory banquet

planned for the Gresham hotel had to be cancelled, Trinity celebrating with their usual banquet of cheese sandwiches and beer.”

- Newsletter '78.

## 1979–1985

By 1979, the ladies of D.U.H.A.C. had clearly demonstrated that their function in the club was no longer to serve sandwiches to the “athletic heros” of the day, but that they in their own right were heroines. This was particularly true of the Harriers who between the years of 1969 and 1979 had taken eight of the individual titles over the gruelling two mile course at the Intervarsity cross country championships. By 1985, this number had increased to ten, and indeed two of these winners, Siobhan Lonergan and Mary Friel, later went on to represent their country at the world cross country championships. Apart from the excellent individual performances, Trinity also had strength in depth and there were some fine team wins. The team of '81, Etain Crossadell, Barbara Gill, B. Cornyn and K. O'Donnell packed extremely well to regain the title which Trinity had won the previous year, when finishing third, sixth, eighth and ninth respectively at the Intervarsity Championships. Trinity ladies had to wait three years to repeat this performance — when in 1984, Mary Friel, Jean Folan, Ann Brady and Lotte Cantly narrowly defeated the U.C.D. team at these Championships in Santry.

The Harriers athlete, also faired well on the track. Gretta Hickey who had won two cross country titles scored well in both 1500 metres and 3000 metres events for college. Having won the 3000 metre Intervarsity title in 1978, she added a colours 1500 metres title to her list of achievements in 1979, when Trinity, captained by Jane Lynham, notched up an easy victory against U.C.D. to win 75 to 53. The colours match of that year saw the college long jump record being broken when Margaret Worrall leaped a distance of 5.12 metres to take the title. Other fine performances include those of Cathy Llewellyn who won the 400 metres and 800 metres, and Sheena Conroy winning the shot and discus.

Plassey, Limerick was the venue for the Intervarsities of 1981. The ladies team, fresh from their victory over the country were anticipating some fine performances on the track. Their captain, Etain Crossadell, paved the way, in winning the 800 metres in 2.19.8 and finishing second in the 400 metres. Margo Quinn followed suit by taking the sprint double in 12.5 and 26.5 respectively. Fionnuala Kennedy gained maximum points in the high jump. However, in spite of these fine performances, Thomond College with a strong team and home support held off the challenge of T.C.D. to take the trophies.

The ladies team of 1982 slipped one place in the results of both cross country and track and field Intervarsity championships. Jean Folan was the first girl home in the two

mile event at Maynooth in fourth place, while on the track at the equivalent championships in College Park, Margo Quinn repeated her sprint double of the previous year. Fionnuala Kennedy was our only other winner of the day, taking the high jump title with a height of 1.63 metres. The College Races of that year saw the defeat of Margaret Worrall by captain Mary Condon. Ms. Condon leaped a distance of 4.90 metres to gain victory over the record holder who was 8 cms behind.

Post-graduate student, Mary Friel, who had competed for U.C.D. in the late seventies took her first title over the country in March 1983, in a thrilling battle with Roisin Smith of U.C.D. The following year however, Ms. Smith was to gain revenge at the same event in Santry. On the track, later that same year, Mary Friel took the 3000 metres Intervarsity title in Belfast. Team performance at this competition was poor due to the poor turnout of Trinity's ladies. Our only other victory of the day was that achieved by Junior Freshman, Mary Nolan in the 200 metres. Overall, this season was a disappointing one with few ladies competing due to exam pressures.

But, this lull in the ladies team did not last for long. As if to make up for the poor show of the previous year, the team turned out in their numbers to prove their strength. The year began modestly enough with a meet in Belfast with Junior Freshman, Lotte Cantly, taking the laurels at a cross country event. The team however were beaten into second place by their Northern counterparts. The next cross country outing was the Intervarsity championships in Santry, where Trinity, with its full strength team took the trophy. The following day, a venue many miles away in Holland was the scene for Trinity's next victory. Here, the ladies won well from the Dutch girls.

This was a most unusual year for Trinity's athletes for within the space of one week, we were finishing the last cross country race of the year and beginning the track season. The ladies coped well. winning on the track against Wageringen and Enschede.

Back in Ireland however, pre-varsity meets yielded poor results with losses against Limerick A.C. and Thomond College. However, all athletes were preparing for an assault on the Intervarsity Trophy. Trinity's ladies were hoping to achieve the double for the first time i.e. to win both cross country and track and field championships. Belfield was the venue for this event, and U.C.D. on home ground were keen to repeat their victory of the previous year. Good all round performances from the girls from Trinity put a stop to their plans. Dara Shakespeare competing in the three throwing events notched up wanted points for the club — and won the javelin easily to take her first Intervarsity title. Mary Friel, although losing her 3000 metres to Fionnuala Morrish, in finishing second, won the 1500 metres to gain maximum points for Trinity. The 400 metres was an exciting race with team captain Mary Nolan and Ann Brady battling their way against each other in the home straight. Ms. Brady won eventually in 58.2 seconds. Ms. Nolan failed to regain her title of 1983 in the 200 metres, finishing second also whilst Margaret Downes in the hurdles did well to come second to Noelle Morrissey

of U.C.C. The relay events decided the overall result and with T.C.D. finishing second in both 4x100 metres and 4x400 metres, secured enough points to take the championship trophy.

And so to the present year, that of 1985. The girls, invigorated by their success put in some fine individual performances both on track and field, and cross country. Mary Clark, in her first race for Trinity, took the colours cross country title but through injury missed much of last year, but having recovered now, anticipates some good races. The Intervarsity in Cork was the venue for some record-breaking performances. In all, T.C.D. athletes broke four of the Intervarsity records. Junior Freshman, Patricia Walsh had an excellent run in the 200 metres, winning in a record time of 24.6 seconds. Later, she ran a blistering leg of the relay assisting the team to break the 4x400 metres relay in 3.55.8 — Dara Shakespeare smashed the javelin record with a throw of 48.1 metres — and in battle again were Ann Brady and Mary Nolan in the 400 metres hurdle with the latter winning on this occasion with a record time of 63.5 seconds. At the end of the day, these performances were not enough to win the team event and T.C.D. finished in second place behind U.C.D.

The centenary season yet awaits us, and with all our record breaking athletes still in college we are hoping for a successful year. Today, barring the triple-jump and pole-vault, women are certainly free to do what they choose in athletics. No longer is their role solely to serve teas to the male competitors. Unlike their counterparts in the thirties, women athletes now have freedom of choice as to whether or not they shall participate. The choice is there — the rest is up to them.





Figure 15: Back Row (l-r): Jean Folan, Mary Nolan, Fionnula Kennedy, Mary Friel, Anne Brady.  
Front Row (l-r) Dara Shakespeare, Mary Ryan, Lotte Cantley, Margaret Downes, Eimear McAnnally,  
Deirdre Ni Cheallochainn.

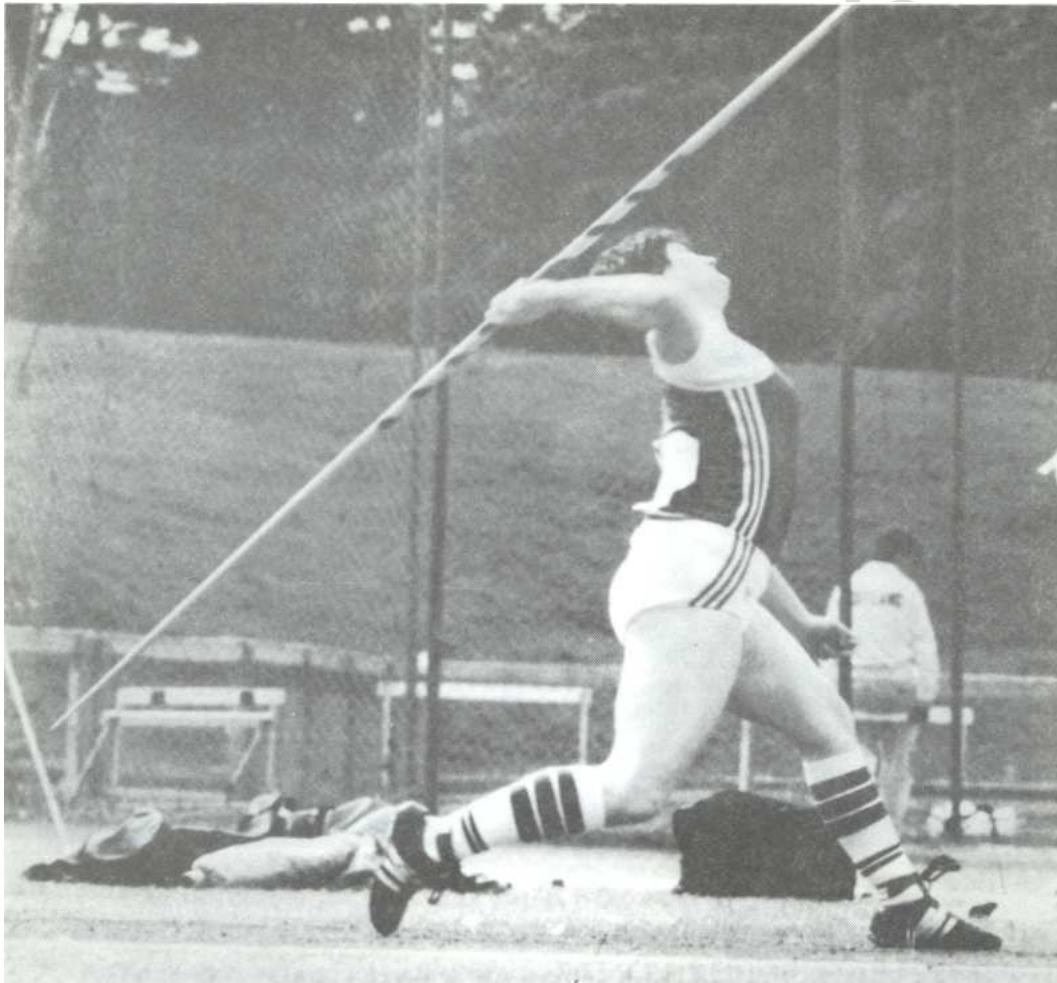


Figure 16: Dara Shakespeare



Figure 17: The start of the “Swinging Sixties” in College Park — the novelty walkers in their stride, 1960.

## Towards 1985

There can be no doubt that the team of '64 led by Tony Shillington meant business. Their first setback, however, came early in the year and they never truly recovered. The fatal blow was the news that the Curragh indoor stadium which had served the club well for many years was to undergo 'a drastic conversion for horses'. The events were cancelled but were later given a reprieve, which gave Trinity the chance to show its hostility towards the decision to give preference to horses over man, by fielding two teams. The committee chose the first team and the second squad should consist of as many people in the club as they could think of.

Both matches against the Curragh were closely contested affairs, the first being lost by a single point and the second by six points though in the latter, the club did have the satisfaction of relegating a U.C.D. selection to third place. In one way, this was a historic year; on April 14th, trials were held in College Park.

As we have seen before, it was the first time that the ladies competed in public and there were some very encouraging results. The Trinity decathlon and Pentathlon, sadly, an event which has disappeared in more recent times, was held later that week. Mr. L. N. Horan, a vice-president, presented his cup to D. Clarke and Lil Ganly was presented with the pentathlon cup by her mother, Mrs. Ganly.

As the season got into full swing, victories were recorded against Avondale and Clonliffe with two Trinity teams finishing first and second. In the Inter-Club relays a victory was fashioned by our field eventers and hurdlers. Not a single track event was won while in all the hurdles and field events, we took the top honours. Birmingham and Aberdeen also fell foul of our talents, the team being ably led to victory by Shillington who ran the classic captain's race in both the 440 yards hurdles and his more favoured event, the 880 yards. The highlight of the year or what should have been, turned out to be a flop, for the Trinity team at any rate. The Irish University Championships were a thoroughly depressing occasion. The committee at it's next sitting were to complain bitterly about the state of the track which they described as a Gaelic football pitch roughly and hurriedly marked for the occasion. The state of the pitch sadly though could not stop U.C.D. from powering their way to their third successive title. The revered J. P. O'Sullivan Trophy was once again on it's merry way to Belfield. A strong

wind, and needless to say, a heavy track, were all against top class performances and not a single new record was established. The race of the day however was the 880 yards in which Power of U.C.D. just pipped Shillington in a thrilling finish. Our only wins were Boelens in the long jump, Platt in the shot putt and Scott in the 120 yards hurdles. The 4x100 yards team of Beeches, Rees, Ray and Austin, a lively combination, also captured the sprint relay.

In addition to this, morale was further lowered by defeats against Queens and old rivals Glasgow. The colours match was now the only opportunity for the team to regain lost pride and this it did in style. The might of U.C.D.'s Moriarty (who had just two weeks earlier captured the 100 yards, 220 yards and 440 yards at the University Championships) was tamed by tremendous sprint doubles by Rees and Austin. The match was won by a clear twenty points. The match against Queens, despite defeat, was made memorable by the fact that the Lord Londonderry Trophy was for the first time held on the new Malone track. The secretary of the time wrote "We were all very taken aback by the fabulous rubber track and felt honoured that we were taking part in the first match on such a track in Europe". Things have gone full circle now and today's athletes are taken aback when they are confronted with a grass track in College Park. It has outlived the clay and cinder eras and now will I'm sure survive the tartan challenge. It quite simply is the best running track in these islands, despite the four dreaded bends and the invisible obstacles which make life difficult at best, for the tiring quarter miler. A 100 metres hurdles on a rainy day has however been known to sort out the men from the boys.

The following colours were awarded for the season '64-'65 by the colours committee; S. Austin, J. Rees, A. Ray, D. Clarke, B. O'Neill, K. Warnock, S. Byrne, A. Scott, F. Middleton, J. Russell, I. Jeffries, R. Boelens, I. Pointer, L. Hart, C. Butterworth, H. K. Skipton, R. Miller and finally, A. Shillington.

Despite the initial flurry of activity, the remainder of the sixties followed roughly the same pattern. Most successes that the club did have were due to outstanding individual performances rather than any depth of talent throughout the ranks. This was shown by the failure to lift the Trophy throughout the remainder of the decade. It was seen that the second man to score was all important to the outcome of the Universities Championships. We could always supply a disproportionate share of winners but in many cases, our second scorer finished too far down the field to count.

One year later, the disappointments of the previous season were made to look almost respectable. Every new match brought a tale of woe. The track and field report at the General Meeting showed a solitary victory against St. Columba's College. It was also pointed out, however, that the club had yet to compete in the G. V. Ryan Trophy, the U.A.U. Championships and in a tour to London. The main hope of a team win was in London and only then "if we can persuade our London friends to put out the

weakest team against us". The chances of salvaging anything from the wreck were very slim indeed. The inter-club relays did, however, produce a number of good individual performances including C. Butterworth's throwing in the javelin. He was consistently over the 190 feet mark showing he could easily break over the 200 feet barrier with sufficient competition. Greer ran a very capable 440 and 880 yards but unfortunately, an injury in the Belfast-Dublin walk forced him out of track competition for the remainder of the year. The Belfast-Dublin tie used to be an annual event in May; sadly now it too has gone by the wayside. Guinness, by tradition, used to give a barrel of stout to the winner who in turn, by tradition, used to donate it to a party to which all who had helped or competed were invited. A stout fellow by the name of Ian Angus seemed to be the first person to take the event seriously and completed the course in a time of 26 hours, 25 minutes in 1963. The following year saw Tim Macey reduce the record considerably and he subsequently became a respectable marathon runner. To end talk of what was undoubtedly a gruelling event on a happier note, in 1963 a Miss Lenone Best also competed and walked the course in 39 hours. She was later to become Mr. Angus' wife.

The Queens match in College Park again saw Butterworth increase his best in the javelin with a throw of 196 feet and 7 inches. He continued his magnificent competitive record by winning the shot putt and the discus. A certain Mr. M. Bull of Queens arguably put up the best performance of the day clearing the bar at 14'6" in the vault. The Trinity team was sadly lacking however, through the inevitable and lamentable loss of the rugby players Ray and Boelens and injuries to a few key members.

Saturday May 2nd is written into the minute book as "probably one of the blackest days in the club's history". It was also the date of the Irish University Championships. U.C.D. took 12 points to Trinity's 4 in the 440 yards hurdles and this set the pattern for the remainder of the afternoons sport. Butterworth and Platt won the javelin and shot respectively and these were the only individual wins. The 4x110 yard team: Leamans, Rees, Ray and Boelens scored our only track win.

After another defeat at the hands of Stranmillis College in Belfast, our athletes' confidence was almost shattered. They returned home with their tails between their legs and meekly vowed to spend the winter looking after the welfare of Greer and Millington and trying to lure a few of the lost souls back to the track for the new year. Finally, the colours match was lost to U.C.D. but not without a magnificent double by Platt, the captain, to cap what was not Trinity's best ever season. So apart from the consistency of Platt and Butterworth in the throwing events, there was little to enthuse about, but endure we did and already plans were being hatched in the bowels of Botany Bay to oust the U.C.D. pack and release their stranglehold on our trophy.

Despite the gloom, the general meeting had the pleasant task of ratifying four new records. Alan Scott's 15.2 seconds for the 120 yards hurdles (established at the College

Races on May 26th, 1965) was ratified as was J. R. D. Russell's leap of 6'2" in the high jump in Wurzburg during July '65. After some discussion, it was decided to start a special category of records for metric performances and the first times to be included in this category were Austin's 10.7 seconds for the 100 metres (also in Wurzburg on July 14th, 1965) and A. D. G. Shillington's 55.5 seconds for the 400 metres hurdles in Berne on July 7th. despite some queries as to the validity of the latter performance.

It should not go without mention that following the National Championships in Santry on June 25th, Rees, Snaith, Russell and Thunerke were all selected to represent Ireland against England on Wednesday June 29th. Rees being selected by virtue of his fine win in the 220 yards in 22.6 seconds and a third place in the 100 yards in 9.9 seconds. Russell took the high jump title with a mighty jump of 6'4" while Thunerke threw 211'6" to bring back the javelin title. Snaith was second in the 120 yards high hurdles and clubmate Miller was third. Boelens rounded off a successful championships by finishing in third place in the long jump with 20'11".

Despite the poor year, Trinity still managed to hold four places on an Irish team, a point which again emphasises our real problem, lack of depth and numbers. The club was past a stage where it could easily field two track and field teams and just as easily attract droves of brave and fearless men to the treacherous Phoenix Park for the weekend jaunt.

Chris Butterworth led the team into the new year and some fine early season performances by himself in the javelin and discus emphasised his leadership qualities. On Sunday April 23rd, D.U.H.A.C. became affiliated to Bord Luthchleas na hEireann and the following Wednesday, twelve teams competed in the inter club relays. Our membership of B.L.E. was to raise a slight problem a few weeks later again; team secretary, B. O'Neill, on enquiring about Mike Bull's non-participation in the College Paces found that the B.A.A.B. had asked Bull not to travel to Dublin for the event so as not to strain the existing relations between the N.I.A.A.A. and the newly formed B.L.E. The club funds at the General Meeting had been depleted to £11.3.7.

The strain of worrying about the club's financial position must have had an unnerving effect on athletes as they were beaten in three matches in quick succession; the inter club relays. Queens in College Park and finally, the colossal defeat in the Irish University Championships at the hands of U.C.D. who amassed 135 points to Cork's 104 and D.U.H.A.C.'s 57. The only success of the day was the admirable Butterworth who again took the javelin title. The highlight of the Queen's match was the win in the 880 yards by Gash with a personal best of 1:58.4 with B. O'Neill finishing second and also getting below the two minute mark.

The club at this stage were attempting to have a say in the running of the College Races. The format of the races was to be changed and Tim Macey asked that before this be done, due consideration should be given to the wishes of the athletic club. The same

racers have, in recent times, suffered a relentless decline in popularity. Attendance was down to a paltry few; I suppose a direct reflection of the modern athlete's unwillingness to compete for its own sake. Nowadays, to attract stars, astronomical sums of money are needed. The club has decided that payment to compete in the College Races was out of bounds and so have turned inwards in an effort to attract the attendance and participation of students. This has not been as successful as would have been wished, but the next few years shall hopefully show some kind of a revival. Tim Macey incidentally took the 104th College Races marathon in a time of two hours 43 minutes and 18 seconds. A familiar figure, Noel Carroll took the 880 yards invitation in a time of 1.52.9 beating Wilcox of Great Britain into second place. Tom O'Riordan, another familiar name to today's sports readers, took the two mile invitation with a time of 8 minutes, 55.8 seconds.

The remainder of the season of '68 was disappointing — beaten again in the University Championships and colours march. The match against Queens had to be refixed for Santry due to a prior booking of College Park by the cricket club, despite an attempt to get the cricketers to play their game on the rugby-pitch! The Universities Championships were held in College Park which was a notable event in that we saw a full Queens team competing for the first time in some years. Mowat won the shot and discus double. Gash was the unfortunate victim of a spiking accident in the mile and was third in the 880 yards. Relationships at the end of the year with B.L.E. were described by captain Warnock as 'good'. The College Races the following year were hit by a ban on English athletes competing in Ireland. Hugh Gash wished to invite Queens to compete instead, an idea with which B. Nolan (secretary) did not agree, on the grounds that the races should be more of a spectacle than an athletic event. The match went ahead but only on the understanding that it would be discontinued when the ban on English athletes was lifted. A new constitution was drawn up and the colour of the mens' vests were to be changed to maroon "because white was not distinctive enough". The outstanding new member of the team was Ian Mowat who won the shot, discus and javelin events in his first outing for the team, the annual triangular between D.U.H.A.C., Avondale and Clonliffe. John Dillon made his 1st appearance in a 4x400 metres relay at the inter club relays. He ran 53 seconds for his lap. Later, he ran his first 400 metres hurdles race in College Park at our club championships in a time of 59.9 seconds. Considering there was no-one else in the race, it was a sign of better things to come from the same John. The Universities Championships were held on the Queens Malone track where, unfortunately, the organisation, despite the lovely track, left much to be desired. Complaints were widespread but Queens made the most of the confusion and stole away with the spoils. Dillon was the most outstanding of the Trinity athletes. He was third in the 440 yards hurdles in 56.0 seconds, a new college record, and was also third in the 200 metres as well as being a member of the 4x110 relay team which took second place



behind Queens; Blake-Knox, Underwood and Hurrell made up that quartet. The team was weakened by the absence of captain Martin Snaith and Ian Mowat who would have scored highly in the throws. Our two winners on the day were Hugh Gash in the 880 metres with a time of 1.56.5 and H. Smyth, who tied the vault with Lane of U.C.D. Mowat went on to set a new match record in the colours with a throw in the shot putt of  $47'5\frac{1}{4}"$  in which he also won the discus and was third in the high jump.

John Dillon went on to become one of the finest athletes ever seen in Trinity and one of Ireland's best. In the colours, he recorded 55.3 seconds in the 440 yards hurdles and also won the 220 yards. Unfortunately, in the former, there was only one watch recording the time so it could not be ratified as a college record. But the old record was not to last for long. Reports of club matches between this and 1974 consistently praised his brilliant performances. His wins almost became a tradition and he had a rare ability to run anything from 100 yards to 880 yards, including the hurdles up to a very high standard. Arguably his finest performance in a Trinity vest was the colours match of 1971.

Having not won the George Dawson Trophy for a period of seven years, the D.U.H.A.C. team were determined and single minded about the task that lay ahead. Tactics rose to a crescendo with Dillon who by now held the national record in the 440 yards hurdles not competing in his favoured event. Instead, he concentrated on winning all his other events: The 100 yards in 9.9 seconds, the 220 yards in 22.6 seconds, the 440 yards in 49.4 seconds and finally, the 120 yards high hurdles in a time of 15.6 seconds. The same day, John McIntyre made a double in the 880 and one mile events while Rob Walker's win in the three miles and John Key's in the 440 yards hurdles cleaned up all the track events for Trinity. The night was almost over with only the javelin remaining and we needed a win to take the victory. A Nigerian, Emanuel Areo let the spirit of the team and a few words from Mr. West gone to his head and he almost threw the javelin through the window of the Maths Department. Trinity had at last broken the bogey and beaten the old rivals.

Another scintillating run by Dillon this time in his term as club captain in 1973 will long be remembered. D.U.H.A.C. regained the vice-president's cup after a gap of eleven years. His run in the final leg of the 4x800 metres event drew huge applause. He was asked to make up some forty yards going into the final two circuits and so he did in great style to win by over two seconds. That year, he regained the 400 metres and 800 metres titles at the Irish Universities Championships in Belfast. The colours was again taken with Dillon stretching his legs once again to win the 400 and 800 metres events. The state of affairs at D.U.H.A.C. was at this time pleasing to all concerned. Tom O'Riordan wrote in a headline "The influence of coaching and a little better organisation has brought about a greater awareness of athletics in Dublin University. And their second win in three years over U.C.D., in the annual colours



Figure 18: The incomparable John Dillon — holder of a wide range of College, and until recently, Irish records.

match at College Park was a just reward for their efforts". Trinity had four prolific scorers in John Dillon, Dave Tilsley, Michael Kennedy and Jim O'Connor. O'Connor won the shot and discus. Kennedy, 400 metres hurdles and pole vault while Tilsley set a match record in the 110 metres hurdles of 15.5 seconds and took second in the 200 metres.

The new coach, Mr. Cyril White, must take some credit for this revival, if it could be called that. He initiated the all important circuit training as part of the winter schedule and many athletes made much progress under his watchful eye. His dedication and enthusiasm rallied what had previously been a ragged bunch of individuals into a formidable and spirited team. It is interesting to note also that in the Universities Championships, a certain Mr. Brendan Curtain of U.C.D. won the high jump event and finished second in the long jump, shot, putt and javelin. The same fellow twelve years later was to play a vital role in bringing back the P. J. O'Sullivan Trophy to Trinity for only the second time in twenty-five years.

The early 70's brought mixed fortunes to our athletes. Events over which they had no control began to have a bearing on their sport. Politics once again reared its ugly head as Queens wrote to the club to say that they had to cancel all proposed competition with us because of the attitudes of the Irish athletics boards; this followed the suspension of the N.U.U. cross country team and three of the Queens athletes, who appeared in Maynooth for the annual inter-varsity cross country. Another meeting fell victim to the same argument. The team travelled to Derry and arrived only to find that they were not being allowed to have an official meeting. The athletes had to be content to navigate a somewhat overgrown track which was unmarked. The freezing wind blowing down the back straight capped the atmosphere and had it not been for the evenings healthy social activities, the whole trip could have been called a failure. At the General Meeting of 1971, Mr. L. N. Horan having completed his term of office as club president was replaced by Mr. S. H. Polden. Colours were awarded at that same meeting to John McIntyre, Emmanuel Areo, John Dillon, Derek Row, Rob Walker, Mike Ryan, Joyn Keys, Mike Foster, Hugh Newell, Alan Shatter, Chris Pearson and Peter Dee. One of the most unusual pleas of any general meeting came the following year when the chairman asked if it were too much to hope for that the president's name, Mr. R. J. Chillingworth, be spelt correctly on the College Races programme.

Middle and long distance running at that time seemed to be making somewhat of a return to strength in the college and in 1970, the club entered a team in the 15 mile National Championships. John O'Connell and Charles Price managed to come in together in 27th place with Derek Row and Mike Ryan not far behind. Rob Walker did not finish the course however, due to the extreme cold. Walker was two years later to become the Irish Universities Champion at 10,000 metres with a time of 30.11.0 so clipping almost two minutes off the previous record. He also ran a fine race to finish in

second place to the 5000 metres. Trinity incidently were beaten into third place despite Dillon's fine double in the 400 and 800 metres and the captain. David Baird's win in the 400 metres hurdles. An interesting meeting with Queens took place later that year in Malone for the Lord Londonderry Trophy. In the hurdles. David Tilsley was going very well until he hit a hurdle which he later decided "must Have been nailed to the track". He was catapulted into the next lane to be greeted with the news that he was disqualified. As was usual, Queens were easy winners but our team did catch a glimpse of the Londonderry Trophy while gulping tea and buns preparing to catch the Dublin train.

The same, fate was to befall our 400 metres hurdler Mike Kennedy in Belfast 1973. At the universities final. He fell at the final barrier; all credit to him for manfully getting back on his feet and taking second place. Tim O'Connor took the shot and javelin titles the same day while runner-up position in the shot putt went to Philip Orr — yet another rugby playing athlete. The practice of dual involvement in sports in college has constantly frustrated the best efforts of many team secretaries down the years. It is known however that athletics, of all the sports, is probably the one which lends itself best to being taken in partnership with another. It imparts upon the athlete an awareness of his own body and a sense of movement which is vital in all lines of sport. Conversely. it may also be true to say that athletics may be the one most badly affected by playing other games, because of the drastic effects that even small injuries can have upon athletic performance. Increasingly, nowadays. people take the view that concentration on a specific branch of sport is the best course of action but I feel that a healthy interest in a few makes for more enjoyment, appreciation and a healthier attitude to all spheres of life.

That same year a novel idea was tried out to further interest in the College Races into which the colours match was incorporated. It seemed to be an unqualified success — a big crowd, good weather and good athletics. Tradition was also seen to be broken a year later when Queens agreed to hold the Londonderry Trophy meeting in Dublin. Trinity also broke what seemed an almost traditional Queens dominance of the event and won it for the first time in over a decade. Progress, it seems, was being made when the University Championships were held in Belfield on their new all-weather track — fittingly in appalling weather conditions as if to test it's claim to being "all weather". It was, but our team evidently was not. Suffice to say that for the first time in a while, we failed to bring home a gold medal from that event. One Charlie Roberts provided the team with a moment's light relief when he went for an involuntary swim and almost drowned on the second lap of the steeplechase.

In this year also, Ian Travers leaped an excellent  $6'5\frac{1}{2}"$  in the colours match to make him the third highest jumper in Irish athletic history. That performance was to earn him the club 'best performance' award at the year's end. The new president of the club



Figure 19: D.U.H.A.C. Team, 1976 — winners of the Trinity Relays, the Colours Match, and the Londonderry Trophy.

was Col. David McNeill who replace Mr. Chillingworth in the chair. New colours were awarded to Kingston Mills and Robin Wormell who equalled the 'pinks' time of 3.57.3 in the universities 1500 metres final to take second place. The club awards went to C. Anderson — 100 metres and long jump; K. Mills — 800 metres; D. Smith — pole vault and D. Tilsley — 110 metres hurdles. The question should be asked: Why did Trinity fail to assert themselves as the top university club during these years and the few following, when it seemed that they should? Gathered together, our athletes were indeed a potent force, but the contention of more than one team secretary was that "The full potency of our forces was never unleashed", again showing our age old difficulty in assembling the full compliment of men to take part in the important competitions. Individual success was widespread, as was the case in the 1960's, but the team success which should logically follow having those individuals, never quite followed. However, despite the apparent lack of success, athletics was now enjoying a resurgence — many people, including the ladies, were taking part and taking great pleasure from the sport. The season of '76 was a very successful one — seven matches contested with five victories including an 18 point 'colours' win, and indeed one of the losses saw the team gain second place in the University Championships a mere six points adrift of Queens. In less productive seasons, the question was often asked at the year's end: "What went wrong?". This year they were quite entitled to ask what went right? Philip Conway was the new club coach and he largely helped to guide the team along the right lines. The most significant contribution to the varsities team was that given by B. Curtin, four of whose five events were on the field. Altogether, amassed a total of 21 points winning the javelin and placing second in the 110 metres hurdles. Ian Travers again won the high jump and another Irish international, G. Dee, turned on the style in the 800 metres to gain a great win. Kingston Mills and R. Wormell were prevented from taking a 1,2 in the 1500 metres by the good running of Liam O'Brien from N.C.P.E. who subsequently represented Ireland at the Olympic Games. V. O'Brien and C. Anderson kept up the strong sprinting tradition with second and third in the 100 metres while O'Brien was also placed third in the 200 metres. One year later, some performances were also notable — especially that of G. Giblin in winning the 800 metres. John Murphy threw the javelin 50.62 metres to head the field by over a metre. Robin Wormell continued his good form in the 1500 metres by powering his way through the field to win decisively. The field eventers also showed they could hold their own, good performances were achieved by R. Trautman, F. Conway, A. Craig, P. O'Reilly and S. Smith. The strength of Queens again won the day and we finished once more as gallant runners-up.

1978 was a season which promised much but yielded little. The Londonderry Trophy was again lifted and its capacity was sorely put to the test in the pavilion bar. We also had a win over Queens in the blues. The team which travelled to Belfast for the varsity championship was a depleted force, injury and absenteeism robbing us of vital men. S.

Smith played a captain's part by winning the vault (he narrowly missed the record), and gaining personal bests in both the javelin and 110 metres hurdles where he finished fifth and fourth respectively. F. Conway had a good win in the long jump. But while we were picking up points here and there, Queens were landing them in bulk finally amassing a grand total of 143 points with ourselves relegated to third place. The team were down after this defeat but were most certainly not out. Our 4x400 metres squad proved the point by scoring a notable victory in a somewhat "unofficial" race at 12.30am that night. So the trip after all was wound up on a successful note.

We were attempting a week later to win the colours for the third successive year, our prospects for which diminished however when we discovered that Viv O'Brien, a former D.U.H.A.C. stalwart was assisting the opposition. He took the 200m and helped U.C.D. to fashion a deserved victory. Good performances on our side were recorded by P. Dunne in the 1500 metres, N. Young in the 110 metres hurdles, F. McNamara in the 400 metres and Roy Dooney in the 5000 metres. All the field eventers performed well and indeed had it not been for their strength we would not have been within shouting distance of our rivals at the finish. Conway, Smith, Trautnam, Burgess, McGing, Spring and Murphy all performed well.

The College Races of '78 were the highlight of the year. Races secretary, A. Hewson managed to put together a high class field. Included was a match between D.U.H.A.C. a B.L.E. selection and the Army. Our own John Maher won the marathon in a very creditable 2.42.38 on his first attempt at the distance. The 70's ended in much the same vein as that in which the decade began. The 'colours' of '79 was indeed the highlight with Trinity recording a colours double — the men's margin being 89–82, and it all descended with the last event of the day, the 5000 metres; Kingston Mills won a hard competitive race beating McMahon of U.C.D. by a margin of almost 80 metres. Regrettable, it must be said that it was not a meeting of quality. Some reports in the following day's newspapers asserted that "the bizarre emphasis on competition in examinations have taken a toll on general sporting activities". It was claimed that the balance between activities inside and outside the lecture halls was not being preserved. This claim was supported by the fact that the 5000 metres had to be put back till late evening because some of the competitors were engaged in examinations and it transpired that the result would depend upon placings in that event. Whatever point of view is taken, it must be accepted however, that the switching of the exam dates to late May and early June did have a negative influence on both participation and attendance at the Races. The prospect of having major examinations a few days later was not the ideal recipe to entice people to "make a day of the races". Colours were awarded that year to D. O'Carroll, M. Barr, F. McNamara, A. Barry, M. Connolly, N. Murphy, P. Dunne, S. Berkely, S. Smith, K. Walshe, K. Mills, L. Adams, G. Guckian, P. O'Reilly, R. Trautnam, D. Spring, P. Conroy and A. Olumide.

The new decade began with one of the most frustrating year's Trinity have ever had. The Irish Universities Championships and the J. P. O'Sullivan Trophy were lost by a single point. The result hinged about the pole vault competition; had our vaulter cleared a single height in the vault, we would have rescued a famous victory. Luck was not on our side and M. Denehy saw the bar drop three times at the opening height. The captain, P. O'Reilly, and his men left Cork a very dejected bunch indeed.

The following year passed without great incident. The College Races was once again conspicuous only by its mediocrity. A few international guests did however grace the occasion but their efforts sadly went almost un-noticed in a deserted College Park. Indeed, so deserted was the Park at 2.30pm that the start had to be delayed by a half hour in the hope that a few passers-by might stroll in. They would have been welcome to compete as well as to watch. The 100 metres was won by Anderson with Cauldwell of St. Mary's, London taking the invitation 1000 yards. The Irish University Championships did however produce a number of good performances including Denis Finnerty's double in the 400 metres and 110 metres hurdles. The latter was won in a time of 14.8 seconds which was a new college record. Noel Murphy and Ritchie Robinson ran in first and second places in the 800 metres, Murphy's victory being particularly sweet as he had formerly been a U.C.D. star. Noel Harvey showed his great talent in taking the 5000 metres early from Hilliard of U.C.D. Harvey has since become one of the country's most formidable long distance runners. His performances with Trinity have all been outstanding, — I can say that since he first ran in an Irish Universities track and field championships with the team, he never finished in lower place than first, except on one occasion when he was second to D.U.H.A.C.'s Kingston Mills. Despite the good performance, Trinity could only manage 87 points against U.C.D.'s 145.5.

During the opening years of this period (1965–1985), the Harriers experience mixed fortunes in competition. The club generally held its own as regards colours matches but the best performance in the Intervarsity was a second place in the Phoenix Park in 1967. Matters improved during the 1970–71 season where the team came second in the club's invitation race, its best performance in that particular race up to that point, the colours match was won with same style and then in the Intervarsity in Maynooth, placed second. The following year did not see such strong team performances repeated but as consolation, R. Walker won the individual title in the Intervarsity and a few weeks later, to the delight of his team mates who were on Tour, was the first Irishman home in the International Junior Cross Country Championships in Cambridge, leaving in his wake a certain E. Coughlan. The team improved their performance during the 1972–1973 season with a crushing win against U.C.D. and once more were runners-up in the Intervarsity to the extreme frustration of all concerned. For a few years afterwards, the team found the going tougher and victories of note were scarce. Matters started to improve when we won the 1976 colours match and then came third in the Intervarsity the



following March. For the next few years, we came frustratingly close to emulating the club's win in the inaugural race for the Green Fox Trophy. In 1977–78, we beat U.C.D. in the colours match only to have them repay the compliment in the Intervarsity. The 1978–79 season saw another victory in the colours match but a weakened team lost the Intervarsity by a few points to U.C.G., who had dragged out of retirement for the occasion the stars of their unbroken succession of victories from 1970 to 1975. The only consolation that day was the fact that P. Dunne won the individual title. December 1979 saw the team win the colours match for the fourth time in a row and then the following March, they travelled to Belfast for the Intervarsity. In one of the most exciting races ever experienced by those present, the club won the Intervarsity title by one point from Queens. The victory was due not only to the fact that R. Dooney and K. Mills were first and second respectively but also to the rest of the team, P. Dunne, J. Maher, S. Attwood and N. Harvey who battled for every possible place right to the finish line. The title was lost the following year in Galway but we regained it in 1982. This was a much easier and more comprehensive win than the one two years previously, our pack being far superior to any of the opposition teams. On this occasion, the club also provided the individual winner in the person of N. Harvey. Since then, matters have been a little bleaker with the second place in the 1984 Intervarsity the club's best performance in recent years.

1982 was not a particular success from an athletic point of view back on the track. The highlight of the year was the running of the Irish University Championships in College Park. Noel Harvey was again our best performer. The team was weakened due to injury and as usual U.C.D. took home the P. J. O'Sullivan Trophy. One year later in Belfast, Noel Harvey again set a new record in 3000 metres steeplechase to complete a double having previously won the 5000 metres. Conor Mulcahy also had a very useful double in the hammer and discus. The College Races of '83 witnessed some great changes. Due to the declining interest of recent years, the inter club relays were held on the same day and the traditional reception held in the pavilion bar for the president of Ireland was scrapped. The strawberries and cream, the V.I.P. tents and the attendance of the President will all sadly be missed as they played more than their part in contributing to the atmosphere of one of the oldest sporting fixtures in the world. A charity element was also introduced — the proceeds from the races to go to a third world appeal. You could say that it was a shame to take away such a vital ingredient from the races but on the other hand, I feel it would be even more of a shame to see the tradition dying on its feet.

To return to the runners, Eugene Curran proved himself to be a half-miler of note by beating a strong field to take the 800 metres in the fine time of 1.52.8 at the Varsity Championships. Another new event to grace the Trinity Week was established by some quick thinkers on the committee. Liam Lysaght and Peter Campbell based the event on

the film of the same name, the “Chariots of Fire” race, which was in fact a race round front square. It proved to be quite a success and was won by Denis Finnerty in a time of 49.1 seconds with Alan Gilsenan and Brendan Mullin close behind. Since then, the event has gone from strength to strength and now is an established part of the Trinity Week’s entertainment. The club’s activities were not confined to track and field however. A mammoth sponsored run in aid of the blind was completed from Ennis to Dublin on what was one of the coldest weekends of the year. One of the most welcome sights of the year was the famous pub, “Dirty Nelly’s” in Bunratty after an early morning start from Ennis. At the A.G.M., Peter Campbell was elected as new captain.

The 1983–84 season was to prove a turning point for the D.U.H.A.C. our coach Dan Kennedy who took charge of circuits in the gym and then on Saturday mornings, often supervised a track and field session, injected new life into the squad. Captain Peter Campbell through his hard work set the pattern for what was to be a modestly successful year in itself, but more importantly, laid the foundations for the 1985 year which he felt should be a great one to put the “icing on the centenary cake” as it were. The first outing was a journey to Thomond College, Limerick for a match against their club and to undergo a battery of fitness and body function tests supervised by Dr. Tony Watson, the well known sports physiologist. The tour of the Netherlands which took place in March was the next outing. Three straight victories did much for our confidence especially the victory in the cross country run against Tillburg University in which all the team took part — a most unusual sight indeed to see the sprinters and throwers trundling their way through the mud. Perhaps the performance which most epitomised the spirit of the team was that of Patrick Hernon who in the second match of the tour ran in the 100 metres, the 400 metres and the 5000 metres, a most unusual treble! Though he did not win any of the events, that eagerness and drive was passed throughout the team. We arrived home a satisfied team looking forward to a fruitful campaign on the domestic athletic front. Two of the most unusual events in which we ever competed were included in the final match of the tour — the 67.415 meters sprint and the 1375 metres. The former was re-named after the first date on which that event took place (the club championships of Enschede Technical College). Denis Finnerty took the first place in 7.8 seconds just 1/10th outside the record with P. Campbell in third place in 8.0 seconds. Joe Peppard ran a great race to win the 1375 metres. Robin Bryson, one of the team’s characters, had some difficulty in negotiating the steeplechase water jump, and had it not been for his lively crawl he would probably have had to give up after the first lap. Incidentally, Robin and Eoin Rothery took part in the European Orienteering Championships that week in Belgium and both scored well.

The Irish University Championships were held in Belfield and nothing could stop the U.C.D. team from taking their fifth title in a row. Despite some good performances we were pipped on the last event by Queen’s for second place. Conor Mulcahy again proved

his value to the club by scoring a double in the hammer and discus, his participation did not end there however, he also competed in the shot putt and triple jump. The team owes a great debt to Conor who was always willing to fill in and give of his best in any event. Curran and Rothery had a 1, 2 in the 800 metres. Denis Finnerty overcame injury problem and took the 110 metres hurdles. At the end of the year, both Finnerty and Mulcahy were awarded 'Pinks' for performances. At the general meeting, Finnerty was elected captain and Mr. George Dawson took the chair as the new club president.

The new committee immediately addressed the matter of the Centenary year. "Was it? Or was it not?" was the first puzzle which had to be resolved. The consensus was that the most fitting way to celebrate our centenary year would be to reassert Trinity as the premier university club in the country, and having achieved that, to organise a dinner to share our success with the former D.U.H.A.C. members. It was decided also that some form of publication to mark the occasion would be a worthwhile venture.

It is appropriate then that the centenary year was one of the most successful ever in the long history of our club. From the opening date, the evening meet at Santry Stadium against Liffey Valley, Clonliffe and the visiting Dutch team from Enschede Technical College, to the final track meet at the Varsities Championships we were undefeated. Between both was a succession of memorable performances, none better than wins against Queens and Edinburgh Universities on the Malone Track and a closely fought victory against the National League champions, Raheny Shamrocks in the Inter Club Relays to take the Vice-President's Cup. The colours and hence, the George Dawson Trophy was also brought back to Trinity for the first time in six years.

To single out individuals in such a team effort is a very difficult task indeed. The universities championships is the best place to begin. After the successful build up, hopes were high that we could lift the P. J. O'Sullivan cup for the first time since '61. A few late withdrawals from the team dampened our spirits somewhat, the week before the big day. Some could not be helped however and the club wished Brendan Mullin every success on his forthcoming trip to Japan with the Irish rugby team. The club was proud of his achievements during a year which saw him make a valuable contribution to Ireland's Triple Crown win.

Nonetheless, we had potent tricks up our sleeves in the form of S. McBride, a man who ran 10.7 in the 100 metres to be beaten only by the power of S. Baird of Queens who was shortlisted for the British Olympic team. He was also beaten into second by Baird in the 200 metres.

The old stagers, led by captain D. Finnerty, paved the way for victory. Finnerty took part in six events. He began the day in the best possible fashion by easily taking the 400 metres hurdles in a fast 54.6 seconds and followed this with a fifth placing in the 100 metres and shortly after took the 110 metres hurdles title in 15.0 seconds. It was, however, a tired but elated athlete who accepted the apologies of U.C.D. at the

Varsities Ball that evening for overlooking to bring the J. P. O'Sullivan Trophy with them to Cork.

Eugene Curran ran an excellent 1500 metres race to win from Kirk of Queens in a high class field. This victory capped what was a fine universities career. Noel Harvey again lapped almost everybody in the field despite running in flat shoes to smash the 10000 metres record and Brendan Curtin, top Irish decathlete and superstar, scored highly in all his events, his best moment being the javelin competition. With one throw remaining, he was in second place behind Smith of U.C.D. In his final throw, he unleashed a superb effort which sailed past the 50 metres mark like a bird to land well beyond the U.C.D. man's best. P. Lawless gained valuable points when he finished in third place in the same event. The same Curtin also scored highly in the shot putt where he was second in the 110 metres hurdles finishing fourth and in the long jump where he also filled the fourth sport. Conor Mulcahy finished the day with a third place in the hammer which was a very closely fought competition and the discus where it took a new record by R.C.S.I. athlete, M. Sweeney, to push him into second place. The new colour, H. McDermott, ran a great race in the 800 metres to finish in second place to Kirk of Queens but both men ran faster than the old record. A word of praise must also go the ladies especially Dara Shakespeare who again broke the javelin record and M. Nolan who took the 400 metres hurdles also in new record time.

Colours were awarded at the end of the year to Finnerty, A. Gilsenan, H. McDermott, B. Curtin, E. Curran, E. Rothery, N. Harvey, J. Peppard, K. Sherlock, P. Lawless, C. Mulcahy, J. Sexton, S. McBride, G. McNulty, P. Cosgrave, D. Watson, N. Geoghegan, G. Lunney and M. Mullins. Conor Mulcahy was elected new captain.

And so, to the 1985–86 season. D.U.H.A.C. will host the Inter-Varsity Championships in College Park, where hopefully the club will retain the J. P. O'Sullivan Cup. But that is another unwritten story. Today, one can reflect on a colourful past which bestows on all members of D.U.H.A.C., past, present and future, a heritage of aspiration, hope and vitality. That is enough for now. Athletics is not important in itself, but in what it represents. To modify a contemporary catch-phrase:

“I know, it's only running, 'n' jumping 'n' throwing — but I like it!”



Figure 20: Dublin University Harriers team of 1938:

Back Row (l-r): S. A. Moore, H. D. Chomse, R. E. G. Sides.

Front Row (l-r) : J. W. T. Tuckey, D. H. McNeill, 11, P. L. Rice.

## Reminiscences:

One former member of the club, a certain Oscar Wilde, once said that “the old believe everything; the middle-aged suspect everything; the young know everything”. So, just in case we do not actually know everything, we have invited some of the most “suspecting” members of the club to reflect on their own era. These subjective recollections present a social history of the club, and while not a comprehensive view of their period, they do provide a very personal touch. There is also a brief tribute to Tom Maguire, a man who spanned many of these eras with his guidance and inspiration.

## The Twenties

In my time, there was more space for athletics in the College Park. The Moyne Institute had not been built and the long jump pit was where that building now stands. The hockey ground was at the engineering school end and no soccer was played. As there were very few athletic tracks outside Dublin, College Park after the summer term had ended was lent to some other clubs for their annual sports. The Irish Championships were held in Croke Park and D.U.H.A.C. supplied its share of champions. Ladies did not take part in athletics, at least not after they had left school. I recall that a suggestion was put forward in 1927 at the Council of National Athletics and Cycling Association that some events for ladies should be included. It was very firmly turned down. One member said that at the Irish Championship at the R.D.S. grounds in Ballsbridge in 1914, there had been a ladies High Jump "and the sight of women's legs was not edifying".

In the years 1925 to 1928, an outstanding distance runner was Norman Price. On the track, his distances were two and three miles. As a cross country runner, he was first man home against Oxford and Edinburgh in 1925, against Edinburgh and Glasgow in 1926, against Edinburgh and Oxford in 1927 and against Oxford in 1928. He then went to Oxford for a year prior to going to Northern Rhodesia in the Colonial Service. He got his blue for cross-country and was first man home in the Intervarsity match against Cambridge.

In my time, Trinity Week began on Trinity Monday and the College Races were held on Wednesday. The College Races were one of the main social events of the Dublin year. Invitations to it were highly prized and those invited had tea with lashings of strawberries and cream in the Pavilion. The men wore morning coats and top hats while the ladies appeared in a great variety of exotic fashions. Tea parties were held in the Hist and Phil rooms and in many under graduates rooms and there was a marquee where others could have tea if not invited elsewhere.

The Governor General was invited and attended. On his arrival on the ground from the Provost's house, accompanied by the Provost and the Chairman of Trinity Week, the band played "God Save the King" in honour of the King's representative.

Trinity Week 1929 was from June 10th to 15th. I was Hon. Secretary for the second time and all arrangements were going very smoothly. Then came the first signs of an approaching storm. Instead of the usual reply, his ADC came to see me and said that the Governor General, James McNeill, a retired Indian Civil Servant, who had attended in 1928 would not come unless "The Soldiers' Song" was played instead of "God Save the King". I replied that I would have to put this to the Trinity Week Committee, which I did. After a full discussion, it was decided to inform the ADC that the procedure would be as usual. In due course, the Governor General intimated that he would not be present at the Races, giving no reason.

There was no intention of publicising the affair and it was hoped to keep it quiet. Unfortunately, an undergraduate smelt a rat and sold a vague rumour to an evening paper. It was then decided to give the true facts to the Irish Times. They were published in the paper and then the storm broke. Newspapers north and south of the border and in England devoted a lot of space for some weeks to the affair. Many of the articles were in violent terms and varied with the politics of the paper. The Irish Times, The Times and The Sunday Times were, as was to be expected, fair and unbiased. The correspondence columns had many letters, some reasoned and well thought out, others hysterical. An attempt was made to raise the issue in the Dail. President Cosgrave disapproved of McNeill's attitude. Writing in the Sunday Chronicle, he said "the King is King of all (the British Commonwealth of Nations) and King of each".

Two of the Trinity Week fixtures were affected. Bray Boxing Clubs refused to participate and seven of the nine outside Rowing Clubs did not attend the Regatta. However, alternative arrangements were highly successful.

College Races were a huge success with a record attendance. As the newspaper put it "not for many years has such a brilliant gathering been seen in College Park". The events were keenly contested and everybody enjoyed themselves.

The rumblings continued for another couple of weeks and then died down. The Governor General was not invited again.





Figure 21: D.U.H.A.C. Team, 1935

Back Row (l-r): K. V. Comiskey, G. W. Craigie, L. V. Horan, T. Maguire (coach), J. F. Monan, L. H. Braddell, S. H. Polden

Front Row (l-r): H. A. Dougan, P. J. Mullaney, R. Wallace (Captain), G. A. Lewis, R. J. Walker.

## The Thirties

Living as I did in No. 9, I felt far removed from the cares and crises of the outside world. One's year was assured if the normal term exam were passed, though repeats for the unfortunate were not unknown.

A distinguished doctor (when he finally qualified) coined the phrase "The first ten years in the medical school are always the worst". He enjoyed a legacy to provide for him "so long as he was in college", and consequently was in no hurry to finish his course. He became, in my opinion, a first class physician.

Obeying rules was the norm in those days. If, for instance, one wished to invite his mother, or his sister — or even someone else's sister to tea in rooms, permission had to be sought, and granted (generally) by the Junior Dean. No ladies were permitted on the premises after 6pm under any circumstances.

An amusing story was told about two students who had a disagreement with their lecturer. They threatened to do a certain amount of violence to him at 6.30pm. On the evening in question, two very well dressed young "ladies" called at the Porter's office at the front gate and asked to be directed to the Professor's room. They then of course changed back into their normal (or male) clothes.

Understandably, the porters became alarmed when the "ladies" did not check out at 6.20pm and they collected a "posse" to find out exactly what the professor was doing! They eventually discovered a very frightened lecturer hiding under his bed — and no ladies sharing his room.

Living as I did in No. 9 with my room mate Harold Johnson (now a rector in England), we were close to all college activities. The Phil, the Hist, the choral society which was then in No. 5. The old library was the only library then in which to read. The "new" building was built later, as were the lecture room of today.

All readers and users of the library were obliged to take a solemn oath of silence and behaviour appropriate to quiet study, prior to gaining admission. Each undergraduate wore a gown going to lectures. Once, a youth appeared at his lecture in a gown which was held together by "faith, hope and charity". It had, to say the least, become knotted and was tied across his manly chest. The lecturer in charge ordered him out of the room on the grounds that he was not wearing a gown.

A very downcast young man wandered over to the Dining Room steps, sat down and lit a cigarette. A porter noticing this promptly fined him for smoking "in his gown"!

Lecturers were a race aloof generally from the profanum vulgus of students. They nevertheless had their exceptions. One divinity lecturer was standing with a group of his charges in the front square. The parson in question contributed quite a number of articles on matters of ecclesiastical content to The Irish Times. "There goes a pillar of the church" said the student. To which the Professor replied "Not so much a pillar of

the church as a column of The Irish Times.”

In rugby, we entertained either Oxford or Cambridge University in November and had our colours match in the College Park. This match was the greatest event in the rugby year (surpassing even the Leinster Cup). If fifteen colour members were able to defeat fifteen “blues”, then it was argued that a colour was equal to a blue. I only remember one defeat in these matches at home or on tour during my time in T.C.D.

The “pink” was of course a much sought-after distinction, but it has I am pleased to note survived the attempts to remove it.

Socially, the wearer of a pink would certainly be high on the lists of ladies choice at the Trinity ball.

Students in the 30s were recruited from the Protestant schools, or the North of Ireland or perhaps from English public schools. For the ordinary students from the remaining Irish schools, there were problems ecclesiastical which debarred most from entering Trinity.

Now most of those rules are relaxed and so a more Irish representative generation attends the university.

## The Forties

George Bernard Shaw once remarked that reminiscences tend to make one deliciously aged and a little sad.

And I was reminded about that not so very long ago when I turned in at the Lincoln Gate Lodge and walked down towards the Pavilion and looked across to the very impressive Moyne Institute Building.

I remembered, perhaps with a little tinge of sadness and nostalgia, that forty years ago and, of course, for many, many years before that, there had been trees in that quiet backwater in College Park.

And I remembered one tree in particular. . .

Right beside that tree there had been a shot-put circle, well marked out and well-worn from many years of use — and there I had spent many happy hours in the excellent company of a certain Tom Maguire.

Tom was a countryman from Co. Carlow, a gentle soul, quietly spoken and easy-going, old world in his ways and always cheerful and sympathetic and in those, now far-off days, he had been the athletics coach at Trinity for at least twenty years or more.

He had been a fine athlete in his time. Not too long after the heady days of Peter O'Connor, who had set a world record of 24'11.75" in 1901 and Percy Kirwan who had been British and Irish champion, Tom had become Ireland's long jump champion.

And as far back as 1910, he had been good enough to represent Ireland in the then annual international match against Scotland at Ballsbridge.

But he was more than just a long jumper. In most athletics events, he was an accomplished all-rounder, and in the fateful year of 1914, he had been nominated as a possible Decathlon competitor for the Olympic Games due to be held in Berlin in 1916.

The first World War, however, ended that dream for Tom. By 1916, he was in France with the Irish Guards, served with distinction throughout the war and, in the grim battle at Passchendale, was honoured with the Military Medal.

After the war, Tom returned to athletics and, although he was to win runners-up medals in the long jump, triple jump and javelin at the Irish championships, his great days of competition were over.

Gradually, he turned to coaching — and this, of course, was to lead to his life-long and passionate love affair with the Trinity Athletic Club.

And it was under that tree, where the Moyne Institute Building now stands, that I first met Tom Maguire in the early 1940's.

Perhaps the initial thing that impressed me about this remarkable man was, of all things, his pipe — and the loving care and diligence with which he prepared it for a smoke.

It was a ceremonial ritual with him. He would clean out the pipe, then press the

tobacco in gently and lovingly, light the tobacco slowly and with relish, take maybe a minute or even longer to get the whole operation moving smoothly — and then we would get down to the serious matter of training.

I would putt the shot from the makeshift circle and Tom, with smoke billowing around his head, would roll it back to me and perhaps without a word between us that would go on and on, for three-quarters of an hour or even an hour.

Whether Tom ever knew anything about proper shotputting technique I will never know — but he had his own methods of making one train.

I might feel a certain weariness, might be inclined to make a halt but Tom, puffing away contentedly, would quietly suggest another six throws. Then another six throws — and I gradually came to realise that with few words, he was exerting a definite discipline on me all the time.

Afterwards, sometimes under that tree, and at other times across a table in a little teashop in Nassau Street that has long since disappeared, Tom and I would talk — always about athletics and always about the great and fine sportsmen he had known during his time as coach to the Trinity Club.

Some of those men were champions, others were good competitors, and there were many who just made up teams — but he remembered them all with pride and affection and quite a lot of laughter.

Twice in his career Tom Maguire was coach to Ireland's Olympic teams; at Amsterdam in 1928, and London 1948 — and of all his Olympians, Denis Cussen of Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick, was of special and enduring joy to him.

With his fifteen international caps, Denis is better remembered nowadays as one of Ireland's most memorable wing-threequarters — and, of course rugby was always his major sport.

But, under the coaching of Tom Maguire at Trinity, Denis also became the first Irishman to break 10 seconds for the 100 yards, and his 9.8 seconds, although equalled by Freddie Moran in the 1930s, was to remain an Irish record for over a quarter of a century.

Tom, who always talked proudly of him, firmly believed that had Denis applied himself to running with the same enthusiasm he had shown for rugby, he might easily have won an Olympic medal — or, at the very least, have reached an Olympic 100 metres final.

But Denis, for whom athletics was the casual summer sport to prepare himself for the rugby season, was coming towards the end of his sporting career when he finally competed at the Olympic Games at Amsterdam in 1928.

There he got through his preliminary round in effortless fashion, but in the quarter-finals of the 100 metres he got away to a bad start and, despite a tremendously strong finish, was eliminated.



Figure 22: D.U.H.A.C.'s David Guiney putting the shot for Ireland in an International in Landsdowne Road.

That was a disappointment for Tom Maguire — and I think, too, there was another major disappointment for him some years later when World War II, which brought about the cancellation of two celebrations of the Olympic Games, prevented another of his favourite sons, Len Horan, from representing Ireland at the Games.

Len, for me, was one of the great commanding personalities of Trinity athletics. In the solid company of R. N. Coote, Jim Moran, George Craigie and D. H. McNeill, he carried the fine Trinity tradition of athletics from 1930s into the 1940s.

Len, a good friend for many years (and he may not forgive me for putting it into print) was the most recognisable figure of Irish athletics in those years, perhaps even a throwback to the lofty Corinthian champions of early sport.

Not only was he an admirable champion, he looked the part — tall, fit, bronzed, handsome and always impeccably turned out.

Indeed, one of my earliest memories of him is a Len Horan in a whiter-than-white track suit with the word “Ireland” emblazoned in green across the front.

This he had worn back in 1938 when, in the first of the new series of the Triangular International matches between England, Ireland and Scotland at Lansdowne Road, he had tied for the first at 46’ with R. L. “Bonzo” Howland of Cambridge University and England.

I have to confess that I envied and admired Len Horan quite a lot in those days of the early 1940s. At a time when I was struggling a little, trying desperately to master a shot-putting technique and then unable to putt more than 41’ or 42’, he was extremely remote from me with distances of over 47’.

I watched him closely, studied him carefully, absorbed quite an amount of the technique he was using so effortlessly and easily — and he eventually was more than indirectly responsible for the improvement that was later to take me to an Irish record.

The 1940s, due to the war in Europe, were unsettled days in College athletics, but gradually, as the decade wore on, and with the influx of foreign students and quite a few others who were returning to study after their years of war service, the standards began to pick up again with promise.

Jan Hoffmeyer, a South African, came along to give a badly-needed impetus to college high jumping, and he was in good company with George Mitchell and George Hollywood.

Jan was over 6’ regularly and had he been just a little more committed in his training, he might have gone much higher, perhaps even close to the 6’5” which was the Irish record in those days.

George Mitchell was also a first-class hurdler, was unquestionably the best in Inter-Varsity competition in those years and over several seasons, he came through with thoroughly impressive performances in both the A.A.U. and all-Ireland championships.

Trinity in the 1940s had some excellent sprinters and quarter-milers, particularly my

old friend Harry Booker who, these days, is better known for his long involvement with rugby, and the two very exciting brothers, R. C. and Elliot Jephson, who, if the old memory has not failed me, came from Co. Waterford.

R. C. Jephson was the college champion in both the 100 and 220 yards, and he went on to win several A.A.U. and Irish championships and also to represent Ireland in the Triangular International Championship.

His brother Elliot had an extraordinary talent but never really fulfilled it. A larger-than-life and rumbustious character, his interest in serious training was little above minimal.

Yet, for all that. he ran magnificent times in the 440 yards and Tom Maguire always maintained with a sad emphasis that Elliot, had he trained seriously for just one season, could certainly have been in Ireland's Olympic team in London in 1948.

But I suppose that man I remember most from those fading days was a man who was never a champion but whose enthusiasm and dedication to athletics and to the Trinity Club above all else were little removed from immense.

This was Dick Taylor, a divinity student then from the North of Ireland who, as I heard later, went on to great stature in the Church. Dick was a high jumper, always the No. 2, perhaps even sometimes the No. 3 on the College team — but that never mattered the slightest to him. He loved athletics passionately, loved the Trinity Club even more passionately — and just to be a part of it all was more than enough for this truly remarkable man.

But as George Bernard Shaw remarked so many years ago: "Reminiscences tend to make one feel deliciously aged and a little sad". But it's nice to be back ... to think again about old friends, sunny days in College Park, those long leisurely chats with Tom Maguire and times that are now long gone.

And even for only a few moments, perhaps sad ones, to think again about that tree in College Park where the Moyne Institute Building now stands.

I wonder what happened to it?



## The Fifties

As a look at the college records will show, the 1950s should be remembered for the performances in the field events. Part of the strength of the teams then were the outstanding all-rounders, Vico de Wet from South Africa in the earlier years and later Tyerunde Lunde from Norway. To anyone competing in those years, 24th May 1958 at Cherryvale, Belfast was a special occasion when for the first time in the decade, Trinity won the annual Londonderry Trophy Relays from Queens after many unavailing efforts, under the captaincy of John Oladitan (Nigeria). 1954 was the end of an era with the death of Tom Maguire, club coach for over thirty years. In his memory, a silver salver for the throwing events and the Tom Maguire Trophy for the javelin in College Races were presented to the club, also acknowledging one of his last and greatest club athletes R. D. W. Miller from Donaghadee, college and later Irish record holder in the javelin. With the split in Irish athletics preventing domestic competition in much of the country and against U.C.D., the main university competition was on tours to the universities in Scotland, with varying results, and some individuals annually representing the club at the British Universities (U.A.U.) Championships. On one occasion also, 1957, four club members competed in the World University Games, then held in Paris where they found themselves “out-gunned” in a mini-olympics type competition; the one Irish competitor who would have made an impression, Ronnie Delaney (Villa Nova) being absent due to injury. The high-point of the club year then was the still well attended College Races with the handicaps and the events open to all in college, ensuring large entries and keen competition in all events, whether serious or not so serious, and the prize fund (contributed to by past members and those invited to the races) was such that the prizes awarded were supplied by Weirs of Grafton Street and well worth winning. With the pavilion guests wearing formal attire, the Garda Band playing during the afternoon and the President of Ireland welcomed by the Chairman and Secretary of Trinity Week and escorted to the pavilion, it was a continuation into the 1950s of a change and changing way of life with the occasional conspicuous non-conformist in his lounge suit amongst those in the pavilion, whereby the traditional strawberries and cream were served. At the annual club champions held in those years (sans spectators), the winners received handsome silver medals with the college crest in enamel on one side with similar medals in bronze for runners-up. In the latter part of the 1950s, the club secured the services of Jack Sweeney as its coach for some years, notwithstanding his heavy involvement in schools and other athletics coaching and administration. A final thought on the 1950s is to wonder if the end of that decade brought one of the club’s best results in the then All-Ireland (A.A.V. and N.I.A.A.) Championships held in Belfast in 1959 with wins:- 440 yards — R. V. Francis (50.4), 440 yards hurdles — B. D. Hannon (56.9), Pole vault — T. T. Lunde (12’), (also third Long jump, 21’5¼” and 3rd High jump, 5’8”), Shot —

R. H. Taylor 46'11" and Discus — R. H. Taylor 158'2".

Copyright DUHAC 1985-2002

## The Sixties

A number of things come to mind sharply in writing about running at Trinity in the late 60s. The tours, and the generosity of D.U.C.A.C., the social events which stemmed from the tours and the characters involved in D.U.H. and D.U.H.A.C.

Running before the running boom had its own different qualities. It seemed that the only runner the children had ever heard of was Ronnie Delaney whose name would be shouted at us when we trained. In those days, we trained from the old gym and ran towards Sandymount and on to the Merrion Road and maybe even Leopardstown for a fifteen mile run. I can't recall running much more than forty miles per week though we had heard of Lydyard. I thought that the running shoes were terrible, road shoes it seemed hadn't been invented and unless you had very narrow feet and could fit into the few brand names around then one had to make do with tennis shoes. How things have changed! Of particular benefit to the runner I find is the accessibility of good shoes and good advice on running injuries, and — for the psyche — far more liberated comments from those who feel inspired to comment on the runner's person (it used to be just hairy legs)!

Remembering is part of what these pages are about; so the Merrydown Cyder in Oxford during the Easter vacation of 1968 and Hillend Camp, the Director of which was a London-Brighton competitor; the mud in Cardiff and in Exeter during the Easter of 1966 and Rod Anderson's rugby songs; and the athletics trips to London in 1966, W. Germany in 1967, Scotland in 1968 and W. Germany and Switzerland in 1969. I remember the magic of the 200 feet mark for Chris Butterworth's javelin, the surprise of Simon Stubbings who simultaneously played cricket in Spain and beat his personal best in the shot in Glasgow on the same day (or so the paper said), and the dedication of so many who trained, organised and competed during those years.

To dwell on the lighter side of the tours would be to neglect some of the memorable opposition we faced which including John Boulter, the 880 yards English international. Other internationals who we competed against in that era included the decathlon silver medallist in the Mexico Olympics who we competed against in Mainz in 1969, and Heidi Rosendahl who showed us around Keil in 1967 (she won the pentathlon in Munich in 1972). Neither can I forget Dr. Harold Lee who accompanied the London Hospitals cross country team in 1969 who ran ten miles daily in spite of osteoarthritis.

In honouring individuals, I must beg forgiveness for not mentioning enough people, but I would like to mention Tim Macey specially because he measured the marathon course out to Maynooth for the initial College races marathon. He also ran the Belfast-Dublin race long before ultra-marathons were well known. He was part of a group which included Keith Warnock, John Keyes and myself who ran together on school and college teams right through the decade and ran through their years in Trinity. Finally, I would



Figure 23: President deValera and Provost McConnell arrive at the College Races of 1961

like to finish on a note of thanks to D.U.C.A.C. for helping financially with our trips, and a moments reflection for absent friends and for the importance of participation — winning is not all.

Copyright DUHAC 1985-2002

## The Seventies

Athletics is a great melting pot. It is not confined to one gender, one social class or one type of school. Not surprisingly therefore, D.U.H.A.C. in the 70's contained a very broad mix of social backgrounds, despite the transformation of college over the period into a predominantly Dublin catholic university. By 1980, when D.U.H.A.C. won the mens Intervarsity cross country title for the first time in many years, four of the scoring six on the team were "Brothers boys".

The presence of so many Dubliners in D.U.H.A.C. also led to a conflict of interest as many athletes discovered dual demands for competition imposed by college and clubs — a problem that has not yet been sorted out. Training runs with the college team were superseded by training with outside clubs and the comradeship born in the shared misery of ploughing into the wind and rain along Sandymount (followed by refreshment upstairs in the Pav afterwards) has faded. These days, the only runners from the Pav are the graduates at lunchtime.

The appearance of tartan tracks in the 1970's, first in Belfast, then in Dublin and Cork had the beneficial effect of raising the standard of Intervarsity competition but the unfortunate side-effect of hastening the demise of College Park as a venue for major track and field meetings. Even that 'alternative' competition for which College Park is so suited — the 'gallon ten' has died and, according to anecdotal evidence, was last completed in 1974. For the uninitiated, the 'gallon ten' is a ten mile run around College Park (two large laps per mile) with each mile being interspersed with the drinking of one pint of beer. One of the great achievements of Irish athletics took place in College Park in the late 1970's however, when a well known Irish international 400 metres runner, with considerable sums of money wagered on the outcome, successfully broke 50 seconds for the 400 metres nude.

The generous support of D.U.H.A.C. played a significant part in establishing the longest-lasting memories of D.U.H.A.C. in the 1970's — the trip! The tours to Scotland, Holland, France and other places were always unforgettable for the participants. Athletic competition was always of very minor importance and was confined to whatever the locals could muster on the day. Considering more planning usually went into finding places to eat, drink and sleep than people to actually compete against. The tales of drinking exploits that returned from these tours have now reached legendary proportions while athletic achievements are long forgotten.

Trips to Northern Ireland were always looked forward to with enthusiasm, combining as they did the opportunity of cheap drink together with the vague hint of slightly dangerous foreign travel. For many members of D.U.H.A.C., their first visit to Northern Ireland took place on an athletics trip although, sadly, one or two refused to travel for fear of being exposed to any danger.

Well under half of those who competed seriously for D.U.H.A.C. in the late 1970's are now, only five years later, still actively involved in athletics. The friendships and rivalries born in competition however, have endured a lot better than individual motivation.

Copyright DUHAC 1985-2002

## Tom Maguire

Tom Maguire was probably the greatest man I ever met to manage and inspire and instruct young men. He was loved by all and by those who did not have his knowledge and coaching ability — he was respected. For me, he always told me that next year “a great big nigger” was coming in to putt the shot — it worried me the first year but later on, I took it in my stride.

A famous statement of Tom’s was “If exams interfere with athletics, then give up exams”.

Tom was a great all-rounder in athletics and from what I could gleam, would have been a great decathlon man. He often told stories of 1914–1918 war in which he fought and that out of the trenches, the O.C. would sometimes arrange for an athletic meeting for the troops.

In the 440 yard on one occasion, the British officers were saying how they had run this race and that race and, of course, had won. Tom ran in the races and kept his eye on the two “greats” and when they were busy watching each other, he bolted in and beat them all! Then followed the remark “I say, Maguire, do you run!” It illustrates his mind and modesty and ability and sincerity.

I could never say enough about Tom. In the early days. I got colours in rugby first term and he kept “haunting” me: “Try the shot, try the shot!” I was clumsy and awkward but he kept on (I was doing 29 feet). Tom said that I would do forty feet! However, that day eventually came and what was for me a wonderful time in athletics. Distances those days were far below modern performances but none the less, competition was keen. Tom finally promised that I should do fifty feet (the then ideal putt). One day in April 1942, I hit a tree and the shot went on to forty-nine four. Well so much for my own case.

Many others would probably have the same tale to tell. Roderic Coote (now a bishop somewhere) improved remarkably in the 100 metres hurdles and could perhaps tell the same story. We all went in to see Tom in the pavilion years after he left college. Some colleagues of mine said that they “saw” Tom in every corner of the College Park. One day as we met at the Races, he gave us all a “rub down” after training and I often feel that I would toss the shot any impossible distance after his massage. All the while, Tom entertained us with yarns and kept the “party” going.

Tom Maguire remains one of the major figure-heads of D.U.H.A.C., and is fondly remembered by all those athletes who knew him.



## APPENDICES

Copyright DUHAC 1985-2002

## Club Records

### MEN'S COLLEGE RECORDS SET IN CLUB COMPETITION:

100y	9.9	J. Dillon	1971
100m	10.7	S. C. Austen '65 & S. McBride	1985
220y	22.2	R. V. Francis	1960
220m	21.9	S. McBride	1985
440y	49.0	R. V. Francis	1961
400m	49.1	J. Dillon	1972
880y	1.51.5	C. J. Shillington	1960
800m	1.52.3	J. Dillon	1973
1 mile	4.09.7	S.C. Whittome	1963
1500m	3.53.0	E. Curran	1985
3 miles	14.32.8	S. C. Whittome	1963
5000m	14.20.0	N. Harvey	1983
10000m	29.15.0	N. Harvey	1965
120yH	15.2	A. Scott	1965
110mH	14.8	D. Finnery	1981
440yH	54.8	J. Dillon	1969
400mH	53.7	J. Dillon	1969
3000mSC	8.58.0	N. Harvey	1983
Shot Putt	49'7"	R. Taylor	1960
Javelin	220'8"	R. Miller	1953
Discus	146'6"	R. Taylor	1955
Hammer	50.72	C. Mulcahy	1984
Polevault		S. Smith	19
Long-Jump	23'1"	O. Oladitan	1958
Triple-lump	47'1"	R. Boelens	1965
High-Jump	6'5½"	I. Travers	1974
4x110y Relay	43.2	Rees, Ray, Boelens, Austen	1965
4x100m Relay	42.9	Anderson, Drislane, Doyle, O'Brien	1976
4x440y Relay	3.20.6	Hannon, Shillington, O'Clery, Francis	1960
4x400m Relay	3.20.8	Gilsenan, Curran, MacDermott, Finnerty	1983

## MEN'S ALL TIME BEST PERFORMANCES BY CLUB MEMBERS

100y	9.8	D. Cussen	1928
100m	10.7	Held jointly by several athletes	
220y	22.1	R. V. Francis	1960
200m	22.7	S. McBride	1985
440y	48.9	R. V. Francis	1960
400m		J. Dillon	
880y	1.49.8	C. J. Shillington	1960
800m		J. Dillon	
1 mile	4.03.7	E. Curran	1985
1500m	3.46.3	E. Curran	
3 miles		As college record	
5000m	13.47.0	N. Harvey	1983
10000m	29.15.0	N. Harvey	1985
120yH		As college record	
110mH	14.4	D. Finnerty & B. Mullin	1981 & 1985
440yH		As college record	
440mH	52.1	J. Dillon	1970
3000mSC	8.53.0	N. Harvey	1983
Shot Putt	50'6"	R. Taylor	1961
Javelin	243'9"	R. Miller	1963
Discus	146'6"	R. Taylor	1955
Hammer	54.82	C. Mulcahy	1980
Polevault		As college record	
Long-jump	25'3"	O. Oladitan	1961
Triple-jump		As college record	
High-jump		As college record	
4x100y Relay		As college record	
4x100m Relay		As college record	
4x400y Relay		As college record	
4x400m Relay		As college record	

## LADIES COLLEGE RECORDS SET IN CLUB COMPETITION

100m	12.1	M. Quinn	1982
200m	24.6	P. Walsh	1985
400m	58.0	A. Brady	1985
800m	2.17.0	A. Brady	1985
1500m	4.35.3	M. Friel	1984
3000m	9.35.8	M. Friel	1984
100mH	16.2	P. Wilson	1972
400mH	63.5	M. Nolan	1985
4x100m Relay	51.0	A. Brady, M. Nolan, P. Walsh, L. Cantley	1985
4x400m Relay	3.55.8	A. Brady, N. Nolan, M. Clarke, P. Walsh	1985
Shot Putt	10.04	D. Shakespeare	1985
Discus	28.00	D. Shakespeare	1984
Javelin	48.1	D. Shakespeare	1985
Long-jump	5.12	M. Worrall	1979
High-jump	1.66	F. Kennedy	1981

## LADIES ALL TIME BEST PERFORMANCES BY CLUB MEMBERS

100m	12.1	M. Quinn	1982
200m	24.5	P. Walsh	1985
400m	54.00	P. Walsh	1985
800m	2.07.00	S. Lonnergan	1983
1500m	4.18.0	S. Lonnergan	1980
3000m	9.35.1	M. Friel	1984
100mH	16.2	P. Wilson	1972
400mH	61.9	A. Brady	1984
Shot Putt	10.05	D. Shakespeare	1985
Discus	29.96	D. Shakespeare	1980
Javelin	49.96	D. Shakespeare	1985
Long-jump	5.38	A. Brady	1983
High-jump	1.75	F. Kennedy	1980

## Select Bibliography

- Padraig Puirseal: The G.A.A. In Its Time (ward River Press, 1984)
- C. Carberry: Seventy Years of Irish Athletics (Carberry Publications, 1946)
- Marcus de Burca: The G.A.A. — A History (Cumann Luthcleas Gael, 1980)
- K. C. Bailey: History of Trinity College
- T.C.D. College Miscellany
- “The Irish Sportsman”
- “Irish Sport”
- “The Irish Times”
- “Irish Sportsman-Farmer”
- “The Field”
- “Irish Athletic and Cycling News”
- The Mannsell Collection
- “Irish Sporting Annual”
- The Complete Memorabilia of the Members of D.U.H.A.C.
- J. Lawrence: Handbook of Irish Cricket

## The Harriers

(The following ballad was first printed in T.C.D. Miscellany 1921, at a time when the Harriers' membership was very depleted. Such was the success of this poetic masterpiece that the chorus is still chanted regularly by ailing treasurers.)

There's a spot in Chapelizod where it straggles o'er the Liffey  
'Tis a house in common parlance termed a pub  
You can hop upon a Lucan tram and get there in a jiffy  
Then join the Harriers — and pay your sub  
The squelchin' belchin' Harriers  
Oh! join the Harriers and pay your sub

Or if happy you desire a bath — the Yellow House  
Rathfarnham Has upon its kitchen floor a steaming tub  
And no longer need a fellow go unwashed thro' term for darn him!  
He can join the Harriers and pay his sub The  
Harriers, the Harriers,  
The ruddy, muddy Harriers  
Yes, join the Harriers and pay his sub

There's a widow too, out Dundrum way, with face and farm most amply  
And a nose of the variety called a snub  
And if tea and cake or buttered crumpets you would sample  
Just join the Harriers and pay your sub  
The Harriers, the Harriers  
The ramblin', scraimblin' Harriers  
Just join the Harriers and pay your sub

If you'r groggy in the thorax or you're weak in the abdomen  
If you're having difficulties with your grub  
Or if you merely wish to flee the encircling toils of women  
Just join the Harriers and pay your sub  
The Harriers, the Harriers  
The sprawlin', crawlin' Harriers  
Oh! Join the Harriers and pay your sub

The sub is only ten white bob — you say you'd never miss it  
But where are you to get it — there's the rub?  
Why not invest your overdraft and mortgage your deficit  
And join the Harriers and pay your sub  
The Harriers, the Harriers  
The huryn', scurryin' Harriers  
Oh! Join the Harriers and pay your sub

- From T.C.D. - a College Miscellany. December 1921.

“You can never plan the future by the past.”

- Edmund Burke

### **Trinity Trust**

THE TRUST WISHES THE D.U.H.A.C. THE VERY BEST FOR ITS CENTENARY AND IS HAPPY TO SUPPORT THE PUBLICATION OF THIS BOOK IN A SMALL WAY. BY BECOMING A CONTRIBUTOR, YOU CAN HELP THE TRUST EXTEND THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT IT PROVIDES TO STAFF AND STUDENT PROJECTS WITHIN THE COLLEGE. PLEASE CONTACT THE T.C.D. TRUST OFFICE, COLLEGE FOR DETAILS. YOUR CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE WARMLY APPRECIATED BY THE TRUSTEES, BUT ALSO BY THOSE WE WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY.