**Universities International Match**

On Sunday 31st May 2015 the Scottish Universities and Colleges (SUCA) team competed against the Irish Universities (IUAA) team at the Mary Peter’s Track in Belfast. This annual international competition resulted in a win for the Irish team, but saw a number of impressive Scottish performances along the way, resulting in new SUCA records and a string of PBs.

The men’s team saw win’s for Edward Dudgeon in the 1500m, Ryan Thomson in the 5,000m, Jordan Charters in the Long Jump, and Remi Caudoux with a new SUCA record of 59.75m in the Javelin. Men’s Team Captain Andrew Murphy competed in three events with his best performance being second place in the Pole Vault where he set a new SUCA record of 4.50m. Sam O’Kane also competed in three events including a fine second place in the Shot Putt and third place in the Discus, where he achieved a personal best of 43.05m.

With many closely fought competitions throughout the day there were also some impressive second place finishes; Chris Reynolds in the Discus, with a new SUCA record of 48.79m, Stephen Dunlop in the 100m, equalling the SUCA record of 10.97s, Krishawn Aiken in the 400m, Ewan Dyer in the 400m hurdles and Andrew Lawler in the 3,000m Steeplechase with a personal best 9:29.77. There were also PBs for Sam O’Kane in the Discus (43.05m), Adam Hobson in the Javelin (54.59m), Cameron Wilson in the Triple Jump (12.66m) and Kier Miller-Archibald in the steeplechase (11:27.18). Additionally Sam Davies ran his first ever 5,000m and finished in third place, showing great potential for future competitions.

Both of the men’s relay teams narrowly finished second to their Irish counterparts, with David Brand, Stephen Dunlop, Shaun Tonner and Jordan Charters forming the 4x100m team, and Daniel Rees, Ewan Dyer, Thomas Bray and Krishawn Aiken forming the 4x400m team. One of the most exciting races of the day was the men’s 800m where Euan Martin (1:56.83) and Ben Potrykus (1:56.90) finished third and fourth, but all four athletes in the race were separated by only 0.32s.

Great team spirit was shown by throwers Adam Hobson, Remi Caudoux, Paul Wishart and multi-eventer Andrew Murphy who insisted on competing as a guest team in the 4x100m relay and managed an impressive performance.

The women’s team saw even greater success. In the 400m hurdles the winner was Anna Nelson, with Jade Currie in second place. In the Triple Jump the winner was Ellen Robertson, with Carolyn Harvey in second place. Carolyn also finished second in the Long Jump. Caroline George won the 200m and finished second in the 100m. Rachael Hunter won the Hammer with an excellent throw of 62.57m, and the 800m was won by Jemma Reekie. There was an impressive win for Sarah Douglas in the 3,000m, which was particularly notable as Sarah had already set a PB in the 3,000m steeplechase earlier in the match.

There was a second place finish for Stephanie Lawrie in the 1500m, after which she also competed in the 3,000m. Elizabeth Musgrove had a particularly busy day, finishing second in the 400m, third in the 200m, and being part of both relay teams. Claire Robinson finished third in both the 100m hurdles and the Long Jump. Adrienne Rennie achieved a PB in the 100m with a time of 12.85s. The excellent team spirit was further displayed by Grace Conroy who finished third in the pole vault, despite receiving a nasty blow to the face from her own pole, and also went on to compete in the 800m.

Both of the women’s relay teams narrowly finished second to their Irish counterparts, with Adrienne Rennie, Jade Currie, Elizabeth Musgrove and Caroline George forming the 4x100m team, and Lindsey Young, Jemma Reekie, Anna Nelson and Elizabeth Musgrove forming the 4x400m team.

Scotland’s athlete of the match was Women’s captain Nikki Manson. Nikki competed in three events and recorded excellent wins in both the High Jump and the Javelin.