

# Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier Street Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007

## Present:

Laura Loughlin	QUB	Stephen Lipson	President
Alan Baird	QUB	John Saulters	Registrar
Paul Pollock	QUB	Simon Murray	Hon. Treasurer
Owen Carleton	QUB	Eric Brady	Vice President
John Kelly	IT Tallaght	Paul Butler	Vice President
Seán Bolger	IT Tallaght	Jacqueline Mulhall	Hon. Competitions Secretary
Gerard Purcell	Dublin IT	Cyril J Smyth	Hon. Secretary
Damian Walsh	WIT		
Noel Lawlor	AIT		
Ruth Carson	TCD		
Mark Kirwan	TCD		
Bryony Treston	TCD		
Richie Morrin	TCD		
Marcia Halley	UCD		
Donagh Humphreys	UCD		

## Apologies:

Ian Chaney	Hon. PRO
NUI Galway	

## 1. Opening of Meeting

The President Stephen Lipson called the meeting to order at 1.30 p.m. He welcomed those present and thanked them for attending. He noted with sadness the death of Professor Michael Hillery, Past President of the Association 1993 – 1996, and asked the meeting to stand for a minute's silence in his memory.

## 2. Minutes of AGM 2006

The Minutes of the AGM 2006 were presented to the meeting by Eric Brady. No matters were raised with respect to the minutes. Acceptance of the Minutes as a true record was proposed by Cyril Smyth (TCD), seconded by Simon Murray (QUB). There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not on the Agenda of the 2007 AGM.

### 3. Report of Hon. Secretary

The Hon. Secretary Cyril Smyth circulated his report to those present in hard copy. The Hon. Secretary paid tribute to Michael Hillery, Past President of the Association, who had passed away on 24 May 2007. He outlined the significant contributions made to the Association by Michael Hillery and spoke about his personal qualities.

The Hon. Secretary then reviewed each of the IUAA Championships, noting the winners of the team championships for each. He noted that 11 championship records had been set at the Indoors & Outdoors Track & Field championships.

#### *Indoors T & F Championships*

Event	Athlete	College	Record
1500 m	Danny Darcy	DCU	3:54.97
High Jump	Christopher Crowley	DCU	2.01 m
Pole Vault	Liam Houlihan	UL	4.30 m
16 kg WfD	Jeremy Harper	UU	9.29 m
8 kg WfD	Laura Kerr	UU	8.74 m

#### *Outdoors T & F Championships*

Event	Athlete	College	Record
3000 m S/C	Fionnuala Britton	DCU	10:07.08
4 × 400m		UU	3:52.32
8 kg WfD	Eileen O'Keefe	RCSI	9.42 m
Hammer Throw	Eileen O'Keefe	RCSI	67.21 m
Pole Vault	Edel O'Meara	NUIG	3.00 m
16 kg WfD	Jeremy Harper	UU	9.03 m

In particular he commended Danny Darcy for his run against the clock to set a new Indoors 1,500 m record. He paid tribute to the contribution that Eileen O'Keefe had made to the IUAA championships since 2001, winning 19 Gold medals, 2 Silver medals and 1 Bronze medal. Eileen O'Keefe had set 7 IUAA championship records in the process. She had graced the IUAA championships as an athlete representing AIT and then RCSI. She had represented Ireland at three Universiades and had won a Silver Medal in the Hammer Throw in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2007.

The Hon. Secretary also noted that Fionnuala Britton had won 4 consecutive Cross Country titles If she were to avail of her OYD status and postgraduate

studies in Ireland she would be capable of breaking Louise Kavanagh's record of 6 consecutive titles. Fionnuala Britton had performed outstandingly in the World Cross Country Championships in Mombasa, Kenya and at the World Athletics Championships in Osaka, Japan, where she had made the qualifying time for the 3,000 m steeplechase in Beijing. On behalf of the Association the Hon. Secretary wished both Eileen O'Keefe and Fionnuala Britton well in the Beijing Olympics.

The Hon. Secretary presented a table of the performances of the ten athletes who had represented Ireland at the XXIV Universiade in Bangkok, Thailand. Eileen O'Keefe had maintained the positive trend of at least one T & F medal at four consecutive Universiades – Beijing 2001 (Gareth Turnbull, Silver), Daegu 2003 (Paul Hession, Silver, Izmir 2005 (Ailis McSweeney, Silver; Jolene Byrne, Bronze; Paul Hession, Bronze; Derval O'Rourke, Bronze; 4 × 100 m Relay, Bronze) and Bangkok 2007 (Eileen O'Keefe, Silver).

The Hon. Secretary welcomed the return of the Celtic University Cross Country Championships in 2007 in conjunction with the Schools Cross Country International hosted at DCU Sports Grounds in March 2007. It was hoped that this would now be maintained as an annual event. The 2008 championships event would be in Perthshire, Scotland on 5 April 2008.

The Hon. Secretary closed by thanking the host colleges for their efforts in organising the championships in 2006–07, but in particular thanked Noel Lawlor and Gordon Kennedy of AIT who had had to reorganise many things because of the change of date of the IUAA Cross Country Championships.

#### **Comments:**

**Outdoors 16kg WfD Record:** Eric Brady pointed out that the IUAA website had attributed a new record to Jeremy Harper of UU in the 16 kg WfD at the Outdoors Championships. In fact the record of John Menton still stood since the 35lb WfD was the same event, only converted to a metric weight (35 lb = 15.8757 kg  $\approx$  16kg).

**Multi-events Team Championship:** In his presentation the Hon Secretary had omitted to state that DCU had won the Combined Events Outdoors Team Championship.

**Professor Michael Hillery's Funeral:** The President Stephen Lipson stated that the IUAA had been represented at the removal of Michael Hillery by Professor Cyril M White and that he had laid a wreath on behalf of the Association with condolences.

**Tiered Championships:** The President apologised that the Results of the Tiered Championships were not up on the website for the Outdoors Championships. WIT had won the Men's title and QUB the Women's title.

Stephen Lipson indicated that these results would be put up on the web as soon as he was able to do so.

Acceptance of the report of the Hon. Secretary was proposed by Paul Butler (WIT), Seconded by John Saulters (QUB).

#### **4. Hon. Treasurer's Report**

The Hon. Treasurer Simon Murray summarised the financial year for the IUAA. There had been two additional expenses in 2006–07, namely, the Celtic University Cross Country for which the IUAA's contribution towards the cost of staging this event had been €3,000. In addition the IUAA had availed of insurance from the AAI to ensure that IUAA championships were fully covered, as the insurance cover provided by host colleges was not always as complete as one would wish. The cost of this insurance for 2007 was €967.

The Hon. Treasurer expressed concerns that some colleges had not paid their membership dues by the January 20<sup>th</sup> deadline. As no subscriptions had been received from RCSI and Blanchardstown IT, these members would be suspended in 2007–08 pending payment for 2006–07 and the current year.

The financial outcome for 2006–07 had been a deficit. However this had not impacted substantially on the IUAA as a strong positive balance had been carried forward from 2005–06.

The IUAA subscriptions had not changed for at least three years as it had been IUAA policy not to increase the subscription fees until absolutely necessary. The Hon. Treasurer felt that the subscriptions fees in 2007–08 had to be raised because of reduced subscription fee income and increased expenditure costs such as insurance. The proposed increases were €100 in band 1, €75 in band 2, €50 in band 3 and no increase for the small colleges in band 4. In the latter instance the IUAA felt that even a small increase might increase the financial burden enough to deter these colleges from participating. The IUAA was anxious that this did not happen.

The Hon. Treasurer was carrying out a review of the Colleges with the Hon. Registrar to ensure that Colleges were still in the correct bands. This had revealed that CIT, DCU and WIT should be moved up from Band 2 to Band 1 in terms of their current student population numbers.

#### **Comments**

**Fee Bands for Colleges:** The Hon. Registrar was asked by delegates to review all of the Colleges. The Registrar stated that he intended to check the numbers of students attending these institutions. This would ensure that all Colleges were seen to be treated fairly. It was commented that GMIT, among others, perhaps should no longer be in Band 1 on the basis of student

numbers. The Hon. Registrar John Saulter indicated that he was in the process of checking the numbers of students in Colleges.

**Medals:** In response to a question the Hon. Treasurer indicated that the cost of medals for the Outdoors T & F Championships was approx. €600 – €700.

**Indoors T & F Championships:** The Hon. Treasurer stated that the major costs with the Indoors T & F Championships were the costs of the timing equipment and of the hire of the stadium.

Acceptance of the Report of the Hon. Treasurer was proposed by Jacqueline Mulhall (DCU), seconded by Noel Lawlor (AIT).

## **5. Hon. Competitions Secretary's Report**

The Hon. Competitions Secretary Jacqueline Mulhall said that she would not go through the results of the Championships as these had been covered in detail by the Hon. Secretary. However, there were a few issues that she felt should be highlighted.

### ***Road Relays, NUI Maynooth***

Because of the building works near the Chapel, the course had had to be altered, compared to recent years, on the grounds of safety considerations. Nonetheless the event had gone off smoothly. She thanked members of the Executive for their efforts in making the course usable. The meal had been of the usual good standard. She felt that there was a need for a few more officials on the course to ensure that the event went smoothly. The decline in the numbers of Womens' teams in the past few years was continuing concern. The Hon. Competitions' Secretary encouraged clubs to try to get at least one team each out for this event.

### ***Indoors Track & Field Championships***

This event had been the subject of some discussion by the Executive. Some ideas would be presented under 'Review of Championships'. The Executive had not been able to switch the date of the championships to February 2008 in the current season. She also felt that there was a need to review the timetable of the events to condense the programme.

### ***Cross Country Championships***

The Hon. Competitions Secretary thanked AIT for an excellent, well laid-out course. She fully recognised the difficulties that the necessitated change in the date of the event had caused for AIT. It was unfortunate that the hotel was then unavailable for the social event. She felt that under all the circumstances AIT had done an excellent job in every way possible given these difficulties. She thanked Noel Lawlor and everyone at AIT for their efforts on behalf of the IUAA championships.

### ***Celtic Cross Country International***

The Hon. Competitions Secretary was delighted that this event had returned. It provided an opportunity for Cross Country athletes to participate in an international competition against peers from Scotland and Wales. The course at DCU was excellent and the sunny day had added to the atmosphere of the event. With the link to the Schools International established, she hoped that this event would now continue on a sound Calendar basis. This kind of international event platform seemed an excellent way of encouraging athletes who were on the fringe of the International platform for Ireland either at World Student Cross Country level, European level, U.23 level or World Cross Championship level.

### ***Outdoors Track & Field Championships***

The starting time has been experimented with at the championships in April. The weather had been sunny and dry for a change, but there was a chill in the air by the early evening. This had proved difficult for the combined event athletes in particular. Also it had meant that many athletes did not get an evening meal until very late. It had been hoped that the later start would assist with the availability of officials. There had been criticism of the throwing circle and difficulties at times with the equipment. The increasing numbers of participants in events, in particular the field events, was a very encouraging trend, but it placed some strain on the timetable and on officials. The splitting of the meal venue and some aspects of the meal had come in for criticism as well of the size of the room for the presentations. All in all the championships had been successful with DCU sweeping the boards on the trophy front. The Hon. Competitions Secretary thanked DCU for running the championships.

### ***Tiered Championships***

The tiered championships had come into being in order to encourage the smaller colleges, in particular those that were perhaps unable to field as large teams as the Band 1 colleges. This had gotten off the ground at the Outdoors T & F Championships. Now that this was established she hoped that it would act as an incentive for the smaller colleges to field more athletes in events. Clearly the potential implications of expanded numbers at both the Indoors and Outdoors Track & Field Championships were difficult to assess at this stage. She hoped that the IUAA would do somewhat more to promote the tiered T & F Championships so that Colleges were fully aware of these new opportunities.

In closing Jacqueline Mulhall thanked all the members of the Executive for their help and support throughout the year.

### **Comments:**

**Timetable Outdoors T & F:** There was a general consensus that 4.00 p.m. was too late a starting time on Day 1. It was suggested that a timetable should be approved by the Executive and not left entirely to the host College.

**Tiered Championships:** In answer to a question about this, the President pointed out that it did not involve a separate entry system. The Colleges were all in the overall championships by right. The Executive had assigned the smaller Colleges to Tiers 2 and 3 on a trial basis on the basis of past performance in championships. Once entered, they were automatically in the tiered championships. The same on-line entry system applied to both the overall and the tiered championships.

**Cross Country Championships:** The President pointed out that he had received the Report on the Cross Country Championships from AIT through Noel Lawlor and that he would put this on the website as soon as possible.

Approval of the Hon. Competitions Secretary's report was proposed by Noel Lawlor (AIT), seconded by Gerard Purcell (DIT).

## **6. PRO's Report**

The President stated that this had been available on the web for all to read. The PRO Ian Chaney had done an excellent job in getting as much coverage as possible of events, both before and afterwards. Coverage had been got in the *Evening Herald*, *Irish Runner*, and the *Irish Independent*. Moreover, coverage of the championships had been put on the AAI website. Of all of the events, the Indoors T & F Championships had received far less coverage. This was disappointing given that 5 championship records had been set and that there had been some excellent competition. Ian Chaney had thanked contacts in the Press for their co-operation and help. The PRO was not going forward for this position in 2007–08, but hoped that whoever took on the position would be able to build on what had been established in 2006–07. He hoped that more pictures of events would appear in future in newspapers, the *Irish Runner* and on the websites of both the AAI and the IUAA.

### **Comments:**

**AAI Website:** It was suggested that a link between the AAI website and the IUAA website on its homepage would be a way of bringing fuller coverage directly to the attention of AAI athletes and Juvenile and Schools athletes. The IUAA website should have more photographs.

**Publicity:** There was a general feeling that the PRO had done an excellent job given the profile of athletics in the media vis à vis soccer, GAA, and rugby. It was at times a thankless task beating on doors. Copy was provided but not always printed.

Approval of the report was proposed by John Saulters (QUB), seconded by Simon Murray (QUB)

## **7. Review of Championships**

### ***General issues***

Simon Murray reminded clubs that the provision of officials and helpers was important. While host clubs did their very best to get officials this was not always possible. This was particularly true with the Indoors T & F Championships. Anyone who was involved with a College club and who perhaps assisted at County or Regional Championships was most welcome to help on any occasion. In relation to the Road Relays, the Executive was asked to check with NUI Maynooth on the status of any road works or building works before the event. The provision of new mats for the Pole Vault in Nenagh Stadium was raised. It was the understanding of those present that these were now available.

### ***Road Relay Championships***

The idea of hosting a Schools Road Relay with the IUAA event was floated. Concerns were expressed about any possibility of an open event as the NUI Maynooth course would not cope with such large numbers. It was felt that Schools Provincial teams might be invited to participate in the IUAA Road Relay championships. The idea was considered to be worth further investigation with the possibility of its introduction in 2008, if appropriate arrangements were possible.

Eric Brady also raised the question of whether there was any interest in other types of relays on the same day as the Road Relays, e.g., field event relays. This might be given some thought in an effort to provide competition for athletes other than runners.

The issue of the Captains' meeting after the Road Relays was raised. The last two years this had proved difficult to hold other than as an informal meeting at the end of the Dining Hall. Because of the spread of athletes in the Relays, some captains disappeared for warm down runs or showers after supporting 'B' or 'C' teams and not everyone knew where the meeting room was being held. The President felt that a Captains' meeting was important to cover issues such as the Indoors T & F, the Cross Country and any issues left over from the AGM.

### ***Indoors Track & Field Championships***

This item was introduced by John Saulters (QUB). He stated that there had been a general feeling for a few years that there was a need to revitalise the Indoors T & F Championships as they did not have the same atmosphere as the Outdoors T & F Championships. Moreover, athletes tended to drift in and out of the arena rather than waiting to support club mates and other athletes. Among the ideas that had been discussed by the Executive were:

- All track heats on a Friday evening
- All track finals on the Saturday – 60 m dash and 60 m hurdles first to facilitate high jumps and pole vault



- Any semi-finals, e.g., 200 m, 400 m, to be held early on the Saturday morning with finals in the afternoon
- Two high jump pits (?)
- Possibly Shot Putts on the Friday evening
- On the Saturday in the early evening a function, e.g., buffet meal, in local hotel with the presentations

The idea of the introduction of some social aspect to the Indoors T & F Championships was welcomed. It was felt that a draft timetable would aid discussion of these ideas. There was no overt opposition to the suggestions made. The delegates asked that this concept be discussed more fully once an outline programme was available. It was pointed out that it might not be possible to accommodate many of the 'double-up' events that the present programme allowed. Athletes would have to realise that the primary objective of the programme was to try to encourage participation by as many athletes as possible rather than to cater for a few athletes who would like the programme to allow them to double in 60 m – 200m, or 200 m – 400 m, or 800 m – 1500 m, or 1500 m – 3000 m.

NUI Galway had written to the Executive asking the issue of the 4 × 200 m to be discussed. NUI Galway felt that a 4 × 400 m would be a better option. Cyril Smyth commented that when the Indoors T & F Championships had been introduced it was all run in an afternoon as there were fewer events than at present. The 4 × 200 m event was chosen as a compromise between 4 × 100 m and 4 × 400 m that would allow clubs to put in teams, i.e., 400m/800 m runners could move down and 60 m/100 m sprinters move up. There was some discussion on this. The majority seemed to prefer to continue with the 4 × 200 m option rather than to change to a 4 × 400 m relay.

### ***Cross Country Championships***

The President reminded the meeting that the idea of integrating the Schools and Universities Cross Country Championships had been floated two years previously. The combining of the Schools International with the Celtic University Cross Country had been a welcome step in this direction. Following the Schools International there had been discussion of integrating the Schools National Championships and the IUAA Championships in 2008, as the Schools had intended to hold their championships at AIT. While this would have meant a return to AIT in 2008, even although the IUAA Championships had been provisionally allocated to UL in 2008, this had seemed at the time a worthwhile choice.

However, it now transpired that the Schools National Cross Country Championships were not being held at AIT because of works in association with the installation of the track and other building works. This was confirmed by Noel Lawlor. The latest proposal was that the Schools would hold their championships at Roscommon Racecourse. This would make it difficult for the IUAA championships to be hosted by a College.

Roscommon Racecourse was not considered by the delegates to be a good option for University athletes because of the limited facilities. The President agreed that the IUAA should talk urgently with the Schools. If there was agreement to hold the event in Galway in association with NUI Galway or GMIT, or in Sligo in association with IT Sligo there might be a basis for going ahead with joint championships.

Given that UL was aware that they had been allocated the Cross Country Championships provisionally for 2007–08, there was a need to clarify matters by the Road Relays at NUI Maynooth. If agreement could not be reached with the Schools, the IUAA Cross Country Championships would go ahead in Limerick in March 2008 as originally provisionally planned.

### ***Cross Country Distances***

The issue of Cross Country distances was raised. There had been discussion of lowering the Mens' distance to 8 K from 10 K in line with the U.23 distance. It was felt that this might allow more participation from the Junior ranks of the IUAA. While it was appreciated that the World Student Cross Country Distance was 10 K (+) and that the IUAA championships catered for Junior through Masters athletes, there was a view that the distances should reflect those at international level for the majority of students, i.e., U23.

The Womens' distance under 23 was 6 K. Views expressed from the floor did not support raising the Womens' distance. It was felt that 6 K would discourage athletes from competing who currently made up teams to allow Colleges to participate in full. The longer distance would not attract more competitors and thus the *status quo* should remain.

The majority of the athletes currently participating in the Womens' Cross Country Championship were 'non-elite' athletes and the championship had to reflect a need to encourage more participation. If the IUAA's goal was to increase participation, then the Womens' distance should remain unchanged.

The President stated that the IUAA would return to the matter of distances after the Cross Country championships and that, if there was a consensus to change any distances, this would have to be brought as a motion to the AGM in 2008.

### ***Combined events***

Damian Walsh (WIT) raised the issue of the timing of the combined events in Santry in April. The late start had proved difficult for the completion of the combined events because of the chill in the evening. He hoped that an earlier start would be possible in future.

## **8. Hon. President's Address**

The Hon. President Stephen Lipson addressed a number of issues in his address to the AGM. He reminded the meeting that he had taken on the role as President in his capacity as Immediate Past President because the elected President Ian O'Sullivan had resigned because of the pressures of other commitments.

He pointed out that being President of the Association was time-consuming and –required a degree of commitment that perhaps not everyone present realised. He had found the year particular difficult at times trying to balance full-time employment with the needs of the Association. He felt that he had not been able to perform his duties as President as well as he would have liked, but asserted that he had tried his very best under the exceptional circumstances in which he found himself back in the office of Hon. President.

The Constitution of the Association and the Rules of Competition were important for the functioning of the Association and during 2007-08 aspects of the Constitution needed to be looked at with a view to clarifying issues that had not been provided for. While many of the sections of the Constitution had been revised, some had not changed since the time the first version was drawn up by the late Professor Michael Hillery. There was a need to revise the Constitution to allow for the special circumstances such as he had found himself in at the AGM in 2006. The Constitution did not explicitly provide for the circumstances such as the resignation or death of the incumbent President.

The AGM in 2006 had seen the creation of new roles for the Vice-Presidents of the Association in International and National Development and the creation of the post of Hon. Registrar. The responsibility of representing the Association on the Board had initially been done by Eric Brady and was currently being done by John Saulters. With the changes in types of courses being offered at third-level institutions, it had become important to have a member of the Executive who had responsibility to ensure that athletes participating in the championships met the definitions laid down by CUSAI. He thanked the Vice-Presidents for their efforts during the year and the Hon. Registrar for monitoring developments in Colleges, guest applications, and other eligibility issues.

Integration with the AAI had been a slower process that most had envisaged in 2005 following the AAI Special Congress. This process was starting to accelerate. Eric Brady was now on the Finance Committee of the AAI, and the Association was proposing that John Saulters continue on the Board of AAI through at least the AAI National Congress in 2008 to next year's IUAA AGM. The IUAA had made a strategic submission to the AAI.

The Hon. President hoped that the introduction of the tiered T & F Championships would boost participation in these championships. The three to four year college cycle of athletes could lead to increasing strengths in athletics

in the smaller colleges. This was essential for the development of the sport and the IUAA. The submission to the AAI by the IUAA was designed to promote clubs in third-level institutions by Regional Development Officer providing assistance. He assured the AGM that the IUAA would be actively encouraging participation of colleges in the tiered championships.

Stephen Lipson expressed his own and the Association's sincere thanks to the officials, clubs and members of the Executive who had helped in any way to make the IUAA championships a success. He thanked the host colleges for organising championships – NUI Maynooth for the Road Relays Championships, AIT for the Cross Country Championships and DCU for the Outdoors Track & Field Championships.

Finally he referred briefly to the death of Professor Michael Hillery and his contribution to the Association.

Approval of the Hon. President's Report was proposed by Mark Kirwan (TCD), seconded by Eric Brady (UCD).

**Comment:**

Cyril Smyth proposed a sincere vote of thanks to Stephen Lipson for stepping into the position of Hon. President for 2006–07 in the exceptional circumstances that pertained in November 2007. He fully appreciated how difficult the year had been for him in his relatively new job. He had attended all the championships and meetings without fail. Stephen Lipson received the acknowledgement of the meeting with a round of applause.

## **9. World Student Games Track & Field Championships**

Details of the performances of the 10 athletes representing Ireland had been given in the Hon. Secretary's Report. The Hon. President noted that over the past four Universiades in Beijing, Daegu, Izmir and Bangkok, the IUAA had had much less of an input into selection of team managers, team coaches and the setting of standards than previously. With the integration into the AAI, he hoped that the IUAA would be able to have more input regarding these issues. CUSAI were funded by the Irish Sports Council in relation to the FISU Games and FISU World Championships and as a result National Governing Bodies had much more of a say in the selection of teams and officials.

The view was expressed that there had been a lack of engagement between the appointed coach and assistant coach and College athletes in terms of their contacting athletes who might make the standard and trying to help the athletes who had almost made the standard to achieve this.

It was hoped that, with the XXV Universiade being held in Belgrade, Serbia in 2009, the standards set might allow participation of a larger number of athletes, as had been the case in 2005 when the XXIII Universiade had taken

place in Izmir, Turkey. The tentative schedule for the Track & Field Championships was 4 – 9 July 2009.

The website for the XXV World Student Games in Belgrade, Serbia is <http://www.universiade-belgrade2009.org/en/>

## **10. World Student Cross Country Championships 2008**

The XVI World Student Cross Country Championships were being held on the 5 – 6 April 2008 in Mauquenchy Racecourse, near Forges-les-Eaux, Haute Normandie, France. The Mens' distance is 11,050 m and the Womens' 6,550 m, with scoring teams of four (max. 6 athletes) and three (max. 5 athletes), respectively. Competitors must be born between January 1st, 1980 and December 31st, 1990.

The Organising Committee's website is:

<http://www.universitycross2008.com/english/index.php>.

There are photographs of the course, course maps and other details on this website.

## **11. Motions concerning amendments to the Rules of Championships.**

No motions were received for the AGM.

The Institute of Tallaght had applied to rejoin the IUAA. This application was being made under Section 6.2.2 of the Constitution which reads:

*Any member whose membership fee has lapsed for four or more years may be reinstated to full membership subject to the approval of a majority of delegates present and voting at a General Meeting and the payment to the Honorary Treasurer, in full, of the current year's subscription*

IT Tallaght was re-admitted to the IUAA by a unanimous vote by delegates.

## **12. Ratification of Future Varsity Hosts**

2007-08 Road Relays – NUI Maynooth 17 November 2007  
Indoors Track & Field Championships – Nenagh 8–9 December 2007  
Cross Country Championships – UL(?) – 8 March 2008

## Outdoors Track & Field Championships – UCD – 18 –19 April 2008

### 2008-09 Track & Field Championships – QUB

The QUB representatives stated that there was a strong indication that the Mary Peters Track was going to be redeveloped into an 8-lane track, but that this would not happen in time for the 2009 Outdoors Championships. Moves were afoot to redevelop Mary Peters Stadium for the 18<sup>th</sup> World Transplant Games in Belfast in 2011. Belfast was selected as the official UK candidate in the bidding for these Games.

Trinity College wished to retain the 2010 Championships as this marked the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Dublin University Harriers & Athletic Club, the oldest athletic club still in existence in Ireland.

Another possibility might be the new track at AIT in 2009.

The issue of the 2009 Cross Country Championships was left in abeyance given the current problem with the 2008 championships.

### **13. IUAA/AAI integration – an update**

The Hon. Registrar John Saulters, the IUAA representative on the Board of the AAI, spoke about the current position. He stated that Eric Brady had been the Board Member from November through March and that he had been the Board member since. The AAI was holding a consultative forum on Saturday 17 November 2007. The AAI Congress was due to be held in April 2008.

The AAI Board had drawn up a Corporate Governance Discussion Document which would be put to the Forum in November. This possibly had potential implications for the IUAA's position on the Board. Clarification would be sought on this issue. The Discussion Document proposed the election of Board members at Congress. The IUAA's position was that the IUAA should elect its own representative and that this nominee should be ratified at Congress. The IUAA was firmly of the belief that it was important that the Board member representing the IUAA was passionate about University-College athletics, had experience as an IUAA athlete or official, and had been on the IUAA Executive. It was essential that the Board Member positively represented the interests of the IUAA and its member clubs.

The IUAA had made a submission to the AAI in the form of an operating plan for the future. This included among other things:

- Proposals for contacts between Regional Development Officers and University/College clubs
- An outline development plan for college athletics

- Coaching
- Development days
- Squad days in the run-up to World Student Cross Country Championships and World Student Games
- Equipment kits

The AAI had spent many months getting its own structural plan developed. A lot of money was being put into athletics and the IUAA hoped that it would be able to get some of this into the third-level sector clubs.

The Hon. President reminded those present that at the AGM in 2006, it had been stated that the Executive would come forward to the AGM in 2007 with proposals on how the IUAA Board member would be elected or appointed. The Executive's view at this critical stage in the development of the Corporate Governance of the AAI was that the Hon. Registrar John Saulters should continue as the IUAA Board Member through 2007-08. The Executive was firmly of the view that John Saulters was best placed to represent the interests of the IUAA since he had sat on the Board for the previous six months. It would not be in the best interests of the Association to change its Board member at this critical time given that he was familiar with and to Board members. He was thus up to speed regarding all the political nuances and interplays. The meeting accepted the logic of these arguments.

The Hon. President outlined some of the thinking of the Executive regarding the position of IUAA representative on the Board of AAI. He stated two possible procedures:

***Procedure 1:***

- Nominations were sought for this position from the IUAA membership
- Nominations were vetted by the IUAA Executive to ensure that the nominees had relevant experience, expertise and involvement with the IUAA
- Nominations might be filtered, rejected or added to by the IUAA Executive
- Candidates, with short CVs, would be circulated to IUAA members
- Election of the Board member at the AGM

The membership might view this as a democratic process with overview by the Executive in the interests of the Association.

***Procedure 2:***

- IUAA Executive to nominate the Board member
- Approval might or might not be sought from the AGM

A number of delegates spoke on this issue. One view expressed by a QUB delegate was that a vote at the AGM might be very partisan, with delegates voting for the candidate from their University or College because he or she was known to them without considering whether the individual was really the best candidate. Noel Lawlor (AIT) was firmly of the opinion that the Executive was best placed to nominate the Board member, whether that person was a member of the current Executive or not. He believed that there was a wealth of experience on the current Executive and that there was likely to continue to be this core of people with experience and expertise on the IUAA Executive in the future. He proposed that the meeting should empower the Executive to make this decision. For the time being he was adamant that an AGM should not be making this decision to ensure that there was continuity and that the views of the IUAA were being represented with the full trust of the Executive in individual appointed to represent the IUAA. The meeting unanimously endorsed this view.

The meeting approved that John Saulters should continue as the IUAA representative on the Board of AAI for 2007–08.

#### **14. Election of Officers**

The Hon. Secretary Cyril Smyth was elected for two years in 2007–08 and confirmed that he wished to continue in that role for the second year.

Stephen Lipson continued on the Executive as Immediate Past President.

The following elections took place:

<b>Executive</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>
Hon. President	Paul Butler	WIT	Damian Walsh (WIT) Stephen Lipson (TCD)
Vice President for International Development	Eric Brady	UCD	Cyril Smyth (TCD) Paul Butler (WIT)
Vice President for National Development	Karl Fahy	TCD	Donagh Humphreys (UCD) Mark Kirwan (TCD)
Hon. Treasurer	Simon Murray	QUB	John Saulters (QUB) Jacqueline Mulhall (DCU)
Hon. Competitions Secretary	Jacqueline Mulhall	DCU	Stephen Lipson (TCD) Simon Murray (QUB)
Hon. Registrar	John Saulters	QUB	Cyril Smyth (TCD) Damian Walsh (WIT)
Hon. PRO	No nominations		
Committee Member	Damian Walsh	WIT	Paul Butler (WIT) Mark Kirwan (TCD)



All of the above-mentioned nominees were each approved unanimously by the meeting.

## **15. A.O.B.**

### ***15.1. AAI National Awards***

The AAI had agreed to an award being made to the best overall club in IUAA team competition at the Gala Awards Ceremony in the Crown Plaza Hotel on Saturday 17 November 2007.

The winning club for 2007–08 was DCU. Tickets for the Awards Evening were being provided to the DCU Club Captains 2006–07 to attend the dinner to accept the award. A silver trophy had been provided by Eric Brady.

Because this Awards Ceremony was going to have a substantial media profile, the IUAA Executive felt that it was important that there was a good attendance at the Awards by members of the Executive. It was important that the Hon. President of the Association should attend. The sum of €300 had been set aside as a subsidy towards Executive members who wished to attend. Depending on the number who wished to attend, a pro-rata subsidy would apply, with each Executive attendee paying the balance of the €100 cost.

The AGM was asked to approve this expenditure. The meeting agreed that it was important that there should be as good a presence as possible from the IUAA Executive at this Awards Ceremony.

### ***15.2. Thanks***

Stephen Lipson thanked DIT for hosting the AGM and for the provision of some biscuits and refreshments. In particular he thanked Herbie McClelland and Gerard Purcell for their assistance and co-operation.

### ***15.3. Tiered Championship Womens' Trophy***

Cyril Smyth proposed that the un-named trophy for the Womens' tiered championship be named the "Michael Hillery Memorial Cup" in memory of the late Past President of the Association. This was approved unanimously by the meeting.

### ***15.4. Dara Shakespeare Memorial Trophy***

Cyril Smyth informed the meeting that the Executive had approved the acceptance of a trophy for Throws at the Outdoors Championships. The trophy was presented by TCD. It was being named after Dara Shakespeare who represented TCD in Varsity Championships. She still held the Varsity record for the original model javelin when the specifications changed in 1999. She was

Irish National Javelin Champion in 1980, 1985, 1986, 1994 and 1999 and Irish record holder. She represented Ireland on several occasions in Javelin.

The "Dara Shakespeare Memorial Cup" would be awarded to the club gaining most points in the Mens' and Womens' Shot Putt, Javelin, Hammer, Discus and Weight for Distance events.

***15.5. AAI Observer***

An observer from the AAI had been invited to the AGM but had been unable to attend because of the short notice given. In future it was hoped that an observer would be present to make the AAI more aware of IUAA affairs.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

The Hon. President thanked everyone for their attendance and wished them a safe journey home. He hoped to see as many of them as possible at the Road Relay Championships in NUI Maynooth on 17 November 2007.

Cyril J Smyth  
Hon Secretary IUAA