

**Minutes of the
Irish Universities Athletics Association
Annual General Meeting**



Saturday 15th October 2011

**Dublin Institute of Technology
Aungier Street, Dublin 2**

Organised by Dublin Institute of Technology

In Attendance:

IUAA Universities Committee Members: Paul Butler (Chair), Eric Brady, Andrew Connick, Enda Fitzpatrick, Stephen Lipson, Claire McGlynn, Damien Walsh, Joe Warne

Members: Barry Upton (WIT), Dean Upton (WIT), Gavin Downey (WIT), Patrick Shannon (WIT), Garret Dunne (TCD), Paul Ervine (TCD), Rebecca Egan (TCD), Cyril Smyth (TCD), Theresa Slattery (RCSI), Delong Zeng (RCSI), Laura Behan (DCU), Torlach Grant (DCU), Laura Shaughnessy (UCD), Donal Hanratty (UCD), Christopher Kelly (DIT), Sinéad Denny (DIT)

Apologies: Niall Prenderville (UCC), Barry Donovan (UCC), Niall Toohey (UL), Jessy Barr (UL), Michael Casey (Sligo IT), Donal Walsh (UCC) and CIT Athletics Club.

Paul Butler warmly welcomed all attendees to the AGM 2011. He asked that Sinéad Galvin (AAI Marketing & PR) be allowed to address the meeting on the National Athletic Awards Gala Dinner in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Northwood, Santry. Sinéad Galvin stated that AAI was trying to improve the format and to encourage attendance by younger members of the athletic family. As in previous years the Best University Club Award would be presented at the dinner. Tables for ten people cost €800. She expressed her hope that as many representatives of Universities and ITs would attend and that Clubs would try to fill a table at this important annual gala.

1. Minutes of the 2010 AGM.

The Minutes had been available on the website. A brief overview of the Minutes of the 2010 AGM was presented by Stephen Lipson. The Minutes were proposed by Enda Fitzpatrick and seconded by Claire McGlynn.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not on the Agenda.

3. Review of the 2010–11 Championships

3.1. Road Relays – NUI Maynooth [hosted by NUI Maynooth]

The Road Relay Championships had been very well supported. There were 23 men's teams and 17 women's teams with 213 competing athletes. Participation over the past few years had shown an upwards trend. It was encouraging that more of the Colleges were participating. There had been no

major problems with the course or the results on the day. The quality of the meal provided by NUI Maynooth for the price charged had received a lot of criticism. If athletes were to continue to support the meal provided by NUI Maynooth then the quality would have to improve. Cheaper options were available in Maynooth itself, although clearly dispersion of athletes to different eating venues would detract from the collegiate nature of this intervarsity competition. Suggestions from the floor included subvention of the meal by the IUAA or a cheaper, but value-for-money option. The Universities Committee had discussed this with NUI Maynooth. Other issues raised during discussion of this championship included possible consideration of other College venues, albeit that the course within the grounds of NUI Maynooth was excellent for such an event, and the need for additional marshals on the course particularly in the catering area, at the car park and the front of the College. The Universities' Committee was asked to ensure that a finish gantry and clock were available. The men's championship was won by DCU "A", 2nd was UCD "A" and 3rd was WIT "A". The women's championship was won by DCU "A", 2nd was DCU "B" and 3rd was TCD "A".

3.2. Indoor Track & Field Championships – Nenagh Olympic Stadium

The 2011 championships recorded the lowest numbers of participating athletes since the move to a February date in 2009. Part of this was due to the clash with the British Universities Indoors Championships. The IUAA would try to avoid such a clash in future, although the availability of dates in Nenagh was not within the IUAA's control. There had been a few issues on the day of the championships which resulted in some delays to races. However, the one-day format seemed to be working well. The Chairperson emphasised the importance of Colleges providing officials and assistants at these championships. More officials and helpers were needed to ensure their smooth running. At the time of the AGM it seemed unlikely that the new Indoors Stadium at Athlone IT would be completed in time for the 2012 championships. The team championships had both been won by DCU: Men – 1. DCU, 2. UL, 3. UU; Women – 1. DCU, 2. WIT, 3. TCD. The Chairperson indicated that AAI would be prepared to run a training course for officials if there was sufficient interest. This required a minimum of 15 participants. Alternatively AAI Regional Development Officers were running courses to train officials and member clubs were encouraged to avail of these to train up a few of their students as officials. It was suggested that, when required, the IUAA should pay expenses to national AAI officials to ensure that key responsibilities were carried out.

3.3. Cross Country Championships – National Aquatic Centre, Dublin [hosted by DIT]

The highest numbers of athletes participated since 2000 – 128 men and 75 women. The championships had again been held in conjunction with the ISAA Championships for the 4th consecutive year. The Chairperson praised the sterling efforts of DIT in organising these joint championships. The championships had been scheduled to take place at ALSAA, but the weather conditions and the holding of other championships on the proposed course had rendered it unsuitable. At short notice the course had been switched to the NAC, Abbotstown. The course was very well laid out and the facilities at the NAC were of the highest standard. The link with the Schools' Championships had worked well. However the IUAA was not tied to this link in the future. It was already clear that in 2012 there was likely to be a parting of ways as the IUAA had not been successful in persuading the ISAA to use the Universities preferred choice of venue. The women's championship had provided a photofinish climax for the individual medals and DCU had been pushed very hard in the team championship by TCD – 1. DCU, 2. TCD, 3. UCD. The men's championship was retained by DCU, with WIT in 2nd place and QUB in 3rd place.

The championship ball in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry had been a great success. The venue, meal and post-meal disco had been excellent. At the function a presentation had been made to Cyril Smyth, former President of the IUAA, in recognition of his services to the IUAA as both an official and administrator over 20 years. Several speakers acknowledged the efforts that had been made by DIT to ensure the success of these championships and endorsed the thanks of the Chairperson to all concerned.

With respect to the joint holding of the cross-country championships with the ISAA, there was a general consensus that it was important that the Universities Championships were hosted on College grounds to ensure that proper facilities were available. Because of the sequencing of championships it had to be accepted that co-hosting of the ISAA and IUAA championships would not always be possible.

3.4. Outdoor Track & Field Championships – Antrim Forum [hosted by QUB]

The number of participating athletes was down somewhat compared to 2010 in Dublin, but this was quite normal. Pleasingly for a championship outside Dublin, the number of athletes was still high. The late date in the Universities calendars had been problematic, particularly for the ITs because of examinations. The late date in 2011 had been unavoidable because of the late date of the Easter weekend. However, the Chairperson noted that the next time Easter would fall late in April, the IUAA championships would take place the weekend before Easter.

QUB and the NIAF were complimented on the efficient conduct of the championships. As always the NIAF officials had been a great help and had ensured that the championships were run smoothly. Both the men's and women's team championships had been won by DCU. In the men's competition UU and UL had placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively. This was the best showing by the UU men for some years. In the women's competition, UL and UCD had placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Overall the placings were: 1. DCU, 2. UL, and 3. UU.

The championship dinner at Queen's had been first class with the post-meal event in the Students' Union. Several speakers added their praise and thanks to QUB on the excellently run championships.

3.5. Home Countries International Cross-Country – Greenmount College, Belfast

The Home Countries International Cross Country took place on 26th March, 2011 at Greenmount College in Antrim in conjunction with the Aviva Schools Cross Country International. IUAA teams competed alongside teams from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Midlands. The IUAA teams were managed by Paul Butler and Joe Warne. The men's team finished 6th. The individual results were:

Women's Race (7.4km)

Laura Shaughnessy, UCD, 19th, 28:1
Sinead Denny, DIT, 26th, 29:48

Men's Race (10.8km)(6th team)

Andrew Agnew, QUB, 8th, 35:29
Patrick Brennan, Letterkenny IT, 15th, 36:06
Brian McGinley, WIT, 23rd, 37:00
Patrick Hogan, WIT, 27th, 37:29

The Chairperson thanked the athletes for their participation. He hoped that this initiative would provide an opportunity and mechanism for IUAA athletes to gain international cross-country experience in future years.

4. Future Intervarsity Hosts

4.1. 2011-12

The following venues and dates were confirmed by the AGM:

Road Relays

NUI Maynooth – 12 November 2011

Indoors Track & Field	Nenagh – 4 February 2012
Cross-Country	Waterford IT – 10 March 2012
Outdoors Track & Field	Athlone IT – 20/21 April 2012

The Chairperson reported that he had had lengthy discussions with the ISAA over the 2011 venue for the Irish Schools' Cross-Country Championships. The Schools' Championships were to take place at St Mary's College, Galway. The ISAA had been inflexible on this because of their provincial rotation system. The Schools' Championships were due to take place in Connacht and this could not be changed. The Universities' Committee had accordingly decided to stick with their venue at WIT.

4.2. 2012-13

The ISAA were due to hold their championships in Ulster in 2012–13. The IUAA had been approached by Sligo IT with respect to hosting the cross-country championships. This venue was being investigated. The hosting of the Outdoors Track & Field in Galway in rotational terms presented difficulties in respect of pole vault and throwing cages. The venue for 2012–13 was still on-going.

5. Financial Report

Eric Brady gave a brief overview of the finances of the IUAA. Income from College subscriptions totalled €10,500. The principal items of expenditure were:

Insurance	€1,222
Medals	€2,129
Travel/Acc	€ 606
Administration	€1,230
Miscellaneous	€ 209

The current balance was €7,967. A significant creditor was Nenagh Olympic AC for the cost of hiring the stadium for the 2010 and 2011 championships. At the time of the AGM the IUAA had not been billed for these. The Financial Officer felt that the IUAA championships or the IUAA as a brand could be marketed to raise sponsorship income. However the Universities' Committee was aware that Colleges marketed the championships when they were hosting and the Universities Committee had no intention of compromising such income streams.

6. AAI Report [Chairman – Paul Butler]

Paul Butler reminded the delegates that, in his capacity as Chairman of the Universities Committee of Athletics Ireland, he sat on the AAI Board. He felt that this was important in that it gave the IUAA a voice at the top table of AAI. Overall relations between the IUAA and the AAI were good. Liam Hennessy, President AAI, had attended the Indoors Track & Field, Cross-Country and Outdoors Track & Field Championships. John Foley, CEO of AAI, had assisted the Universities Committee on several issues throughout the year, including discussions with CUSAI over financial aid for the World Student Games in Shenzhen, China. The AAI had supplied gear for the Universities teams at the Home Countries Cross-Country International. The Best Universities Team Award continued to be part of the AAI National Awards night. Paul Butler expressed the thanks of the IUAA to Liam Hennessy and John Foley to be recorded. He felt that both were strong allies of the Universities Committee.

7. Chair's Address

The Chairperson started by recording his sincere thanks to the members of the Universities Committee for their hard work throughout the past season. He felt that they had all worked well together as a team. He also acknowledged that there were several former Committee members and IUAA officers who gave of their time and efforts in helping with IUAA championships and stressed that

such assistance should never be taken for granted. Overall the championships had gone very well in 2010–11.

Participation at the World University Games continued to be a financial burden on Colleges and students alike despite a contribution from the High Performance budget of the AAI towards the Games in Shenzhen. Participation of Universities teams in the Home Countries International at Greenmount College in Antrim had been a significant development. Whether the Celtic Universities Cross-Country could be resurrected in conjunction with this was unclear. He thanked Joe Warne for his enthusiastic help with this event. The Universities Committee was looking at potential ways of providing a track & field event to replace the defunct triangular match between Scottish Universities and Northern Ireland U23 that used to occur annually at the Antrim Form. Historically matches between an Irish Universities team and the NACAI, the AAUE and BLE had taken place in the 1960's. The possibility of an IUAA v AAI match as part of the AAI Games was being investigated. The Scottish Universities appeared to be interested in revitalising an intervarsity international. The possibility of a match against Loughborough was being looked at. He hoped that some option would be brought to fruition for the spring/summer of 2012.

8. World Student Games, Shenzhen, China

Eight Irish students had taken part in the athletics championships at the WSG in China:

Jessie Barr (University of Limerick)	10 th , 400M Hurdles (Ht)
Brendan Boyce (Leeds Metropolitan University)	15 th , 20K Walk
Micheál Doyle (University of Bedfordshire)	19 th , 20K Walk
Kourosh Foroughi (Dublin City University)	9 th , High Jump Final
Amy Foster (University of Ulster Jordanstown)	7 th , 200M Final & 5 th 100m SF
Brian Greegan (Dublin City University)	5 th , 400m Final
Justine Kenny (Loughborough University)	16 th , 400M Hurdles (Ht)
Laura Reynolds (Dublin City University)	12 th , 20K Walk.

The Chairman congratulated all of them on making the demanding qualification standards and on the honour their participation brought to their Colleges by competing at the highest student level of competition. Organisationally CUSAI co-ordinated student participation in all sports at the World Student Games. Meetings between CUSAI, the AAI and the IUAA had taken place at various stages in the year leading up to the Games. The Chairperson emphasised that it was important that the IUAA maintained lines of communication with the team coach appointed by AAI through CUSAI and that the appointee was encouraged to attend IUAA championships in the run-up to the Games. Despite the fact that some funding had been made available through the AAI to CUSAI, the event was expensive for athletes and their Colleges. Students still had to find considerable funds personally and through their Universities and/or Athletic Clubs and parents. The next World Student Games were scheduled for Kazan, Russia from 6–17 July, 2013.

9. World Student Cross-Country Championships 2012

The 18th World Student Cross-Country Championships were scheduled to take place in Łódź [pronounced *wutch*], Poland on 14 April, 2012. The prospect of Ireland participating remained unclear at the time of the AGM.

10. Prospects for Internationals 2011-12

The Chairperson indicated that the Universities Committee would be seeking to enter the Home Countries International Cross-Country or some Celtic International type event. The World University Cross-Country Championships were due to take place in Poland in April 2012. The Universities Committee intended to make as strong a case as possible for Ireland's participation. In terms of track and field the possibility of a Scottish Universities or Welsh Universities or both against the IUAA would be investigated. Another alternative might be a Combined Events Challenge type of match hosted by the IUAA, possibly with AAI involvement.

11. Motions concerning Amendments to the Constitution and Rules of Championships

Six motions were considered at the AGM:

11.1. Motion 1: Proposed by the Universities Committee

“That the total no of persons sitting on the Universities Committee be increased from eight to ten.”

This motion was passed unanimously.

This required that Section 5.3 of the Constitution be changed to read:

5.3.

The Universities Committee of the Athletics Association of Ireland shall consist of ten (10) voting members, elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association – A Chair and nine (9) officers.”

11.2. Motion 2: Proposed by the Universities Committee

“That the makeup of the Universities Committee be changed to reflect the requirements of the Association.”

This motion was passed unanimously.

To deal with this motion two new subsections were inserted into the Constitution.

5.3.1

The Officers of the Association shall be elected to the following positions: Assistant Chair, Secretary, Finance, Competition, Development, and Public Relations. The remaining positions shall be filled by General Officers.

5.3.2

In the event that any specified position(s) remain unfilled, then the number of General Officers to be elected shall be increased such that the total no of officers equals nine (9), excluding the Chair.

11.3. Motion 3: Proposed by the Universities Committee

“That the distance of the Cross country races be adjusted to suit the course.”

The motion was passed unanimously.

Clause 11.2 of the Constitution was amended accordingly.

11.2

The length of the courses over which the Men’s and the Women’s Cross-Country Championships are run shall be between 8,000m – 10,000m and approximately 5,000m, respectively. The course shall be bona fide cross-country.

11.4. Motion 4: Proposed by the Universities Committee

“That a novice category be included in the cross country championships”.

The motion was passed unanimously.

To account for this proposal Section 11.7 of the Constitution was amended:

11.7

The Association shall host a novice competition within the existing championships that shall be structured as per a set of criteria/guidelines published by the Universities Committee of the Athletics Association of Ireland from time to time.

Given the criteria and guidelines would have to be approved, it was not envisaged that this would become operational for the 2012 championships in Waterford.

11.5. Motion 5: Proposed by the Universities Committee

“That an award is devised to recognise the contribution of people to University Athletics, and those recipients to be recognised as “Honorary Life-time Members of the I.U.A.A.”.

It was pointed out that this had been agreed previously and that both Michael Hillary and Cyril White had been presented with an award a number of years previously. The motion was passed unanimously and it was agreed to include in in the I.U.A.A. Guidelines.

11.6. Motion 6: Proposed by the Universities Committee

“That the current level of subscriptions be raised to increase funding for the Association’s Championships and future development”.

<u>College Numbers</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Membership Fees 2010/11</u>	<u>Fees Proposed by IUAA 2011/2012</u>	<u>Proposed Fees by AGM 2011/2012</u>	<u>College</u>
Up to 2500	1	€175	€200	€175	DLIADT, Dundalk-IT, Garda College, IT-Blanchardstown, ILSI, Portobello, Cadet School, Griffith College
2501 – 6000	2	€425	€450	€500	AIT, GMIT, IT-Carlow, IT-Tallaght, IT-Tralee, Letterkenny-IT, Limerick-IT, NCI, RCSI, Sligo-IT, NCAD
6001 – 10000	3	€600	€625	€750	CIT, NUIM,
Over 10000	4	€775	€800	€1000	DCU, DIT, NUIG, QUB, TCD, UCC, UCD, UL, UU, WIT

There was some discussion about the proposed changes in annual affiliation subscriptions. It was felt that €25 onto each fee category was not going to generate a substantial increase in income with the likelihood of further increases in subsequent years. A proposal from the floor, and seconded, increasing all fees bar the small College fee met with support in that a bigger increase now could most likely be held constant for several years. The amended motion on fees was passed unanimously. Garret Dunne (TCD) stated that this larger increase might cause a problem in that DUHAC had received a budget allocation based on the old fee and would now have to make a revised budget request for a further €225 in affiliation fees. This concern was also expressed by Christopher Kelly of DIT.

12. Election of Officers for 2011–2012

The Chairperson remained in office for a further year as per the Constitution. The following candidates for Officers were nominated from the floor and seconded:

- Stephen Lipson [TCD]*
- Enda Fitzpatrick [DCU]*
- Claire McGlynn [TCD]*
- Eric Brady [UCD]*
- Damien Walsh [WIT]
- Andrew Connick [WIT]*

- Michael Casey (Sligo-IT)
- Tom O'Brien
- Joe Warne [DCU]*
- Barry O'Donovan [UCC]*
- Garret Dunne [TCD]*

The candidates asterisked were elected.

13. A.O.B.

13.1. Ratification of Membership

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and Marino College were ratified as members of the IUAA.

13.2. UCD Rás

The delegate from UCD extended an invitation to IUAA member clubs to participate in the UCD Rás which would take place at Belfield on Saturday 25 February 2012.

13.3. On-Line Registration

Stephen Lipson stated that passwords for the IUAA on-line registration/entry system would be sent out shortly. It was important that, if clubs had new contact persons or new email addresses, the IUAA be informed as soon as possible.

13.4. Indoor Championships

The Chairperson stated that there might be a possible change to the order of events at the Indoors Track and Field in that all finals might not be held at finals' times on the programme if there was no requirement for heats.

13.5. IUAA Website

Cyril Smyth stated that he had been tracking down University Championship results for many of the missing years over the past twelve months. He had transcribed these into Excel files and Brian Foley had updated the IUAA championships on the website accordingly. He sought help with finding results for the Cross-Country Championships that were still missing – 1974, 1984, 1987, 1989, 1990 and 1991, as well as more complete results for track and field championships held in many years where only the first three in events were known from newspaper reports. If any of the IUAA members knew athletes who had competed during those years who might have copies of the results, the IUAA would be grateful to receive copies to complete championship results. Perhaps some of these were recorded in old Club Minute Books or were stuck into Minute Books.

13.6. Thanks from Chairperson

Paul Butler recorded his own personal thanks and thanks on behalf of the Universities Committee to the following:

- Paul Davis and the NUI Maynooth staff for hosting the Road Relays
- Nenagh Olympic AC for their assistance with the Indoors Championships
- Chris Kelly, Herbie McClelland and all the DIT staff for hosting the Cross-Country Championships and the AGM
- Laura Loughlan, John Saulters and all QUB and Antrim Forum staff
- John Allen, NIAF staff and NIAF officials
- John Foley, Liam Hennessy and the AAI Board and Staff
- The Universities Committee, Cyril Smyth, Brian Foley and all officials who helped throughout the year.

13.7. AGM 2012

The Chairperson indicated that under the rotation system the AGM in 2012 was due to be hosted by UCD.

Minutes Compiled by Cyril Smyth (TCD).