

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



Saturday 11th October 2014

**Trinity College Dublin
Dublin 2**

Organised by Trinity College Dublin

In Attendance:

IUAA Universities Committee Members: Cyril Smyth (Chair), Damian Walsh, Eric Brady, Enda Fitzpatrick, Stephen Lipson, Timmy Crowe.

Members: Evan McGuire (DCU), Emily Rogers (DCU), Garret Dunne (TCD), Laura Brennan (TCD), Kevin Migge (TCD), Colum O'Leary (TCD), Jennifer Dempsey (UU), Fiona Hill (UU), Simon Monso (DIT), Vicky Harris (AIT), John Travers(AIT), Paul McNamara (AIT), Lawrence Bovan (IT Tallaght), Alex Murphy (IT Tallaght), Richard Lucas (WIT), Michael Deady (WIT), Aisling Ahern (TCD), Amy Phelan (IT Carlow), Alan Whelan (IT Carlow), Cathal Daly (UCD), Aisling Watters (UCD),

Apologies: Claire McGlynn (IUAA), Alan Danagher (IUAA), Paul Butler (IUAA), Andrew Connick (IUAA), Neil Johnston (QUB), Darren Weldon (Dundalk IT).

The Chairman Cyril Smyth (CS) welcomed all attendees to the AGM 2014.

1. Minutes of the 2013 AGM.

The minutes hadn't been made available on the website so Stephen Lipson presented the minutes of the 2013 AGM.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes.

It was pointed out that the Welsh didn't attend the international due to a clash with the trials for the Commonwealth Games and that the Scottish athletes put up a selection team. Enda Fitzpatrick (EF) thanks Cyril Smyth (CS) for all his work in organising the international and for all his work and commitment.

3. Review of the 2013–14 Championships

It was pointed out that the indoors and the outdoors produced a large number of records.

3.1. Road Relays – NUI Maynooth – November 2013 [hosted by NUI Maynooth]

The start had been moved as per the 2012 AGM. Both races were very competitive. EF stated that safety in and around the orchard section was a concern. CS stated that the IUAA would liaise with NUIM. Stephen Lipson (SL) emphasised the importance of college providing officials. Damian Walsh (DW) stated that the course was slippery and that providing officials was important. EF expressed that view that the men's first leg with 25 men in a pack was very dangerous. Paul McNamara (PM) stated that the cost of the meal was high. SL explained that MUIM were constrained by Saturday working. DW said that the high number of people had surprised the catering staff. EF said that the IUAA should talk to NUIM to see if there were alternative options for the meal. CS Put it to the floor that the meal could be done away with. EF said that there were limited resources in NUIM to help with the organisation. Eric Brady (EB) stated that the IUAA could provide a hosting grant. Garret Dunne (GD)

asked if that would cause issues for other hosts. EB explained that it wouldn't as there was a hosting grant in place for the cross country and the outdoors. SL said that he would talk to NUIM about getting tables and chairs set up in the side room where people spilled over into last year. EF expressed that view that the previous venue in the main dining hall was a more suitable venue but had been too pricey.

3.2. Indoor Track & Field Championships –Athlone Institute of Technology– February 2014

CS expressed the view that the live streaming had gone down well and thanked those who had funded it. The success of the streaming had been noted by the AAI. The IUAA feels that going forward an effort should be made to steam event. The fact that the timetable had over run slightly was commented on and the earlier start time hadn't caused any issues. Timmy Crowe (TC) suggested that the 400m be run as heats into a final without semis. CS said that the AAI did this. EF said that the IUAA should look at this. DW said that it was a good idea. GD pointed out that round adds to the championship feel. SL asked about the 200m. CS asked if the floor was happy with heats into final in the 200m and 400m. SL said that there would be no B final. SL confirmed that the floor was happy with heats into final in the 200m and 400m. The option of a distance medley relay was discussed. CS asked where there any more comments.

3.3. Cross Country Championships –Cork IT– March 2014 [hosted by CIT]

CS outlined that the XC had been in Cork, that the course wasn't ideal due to stones, tarmac etc. That there was limited access, that the ambulance had held up the men's race. That this hadn't been an ideal situation and that course planning was required. EF agreed with CS, that the course wasn't ideal, that it wasn't suitable for kids and that it wasn't an XC course. GD said that the gravel track wasn't good but that the rest of the course was fine. EF said that H&S had held the race which was correct but that exit planning was required. EB asked if there was any output from the AAI XC review which could impact on the IUAA. CS said that there was none that he was aware of but that unfortunately his name had been on a document / letter without his knowledge. This had resulted from him having compiled data for the AAI and his name got tagged on. CS said that there had been a suggestion to incorporate the IUAA XC with the intermediates. Both EB and CS stated that this was not a runner.

3.4. Outdoor Track & Field Championships – Regional Sports Centre Waterford– April 2014 [hosted by WIT]

CS again stated that the online streaming had been a great success. DW said that WIT has 150 officials but that they were disappointed by support from Colleges. EF stated that it had been an excellent championship. SL read a paragraph from the WIT T&F report about students getting involved in the organisation and in athletics. EF said that SL was a key figure to the organisation of the varsity championships. CS stated that the IUAA needed to thank Brian Foley for his commitment, then appeals to members to help find historical results. SL give a motivational speech on the importance of officials.

CS summarises the season and thanks NUIM, AIT world class facility, CIT WIT, student helpers, committee helping to organise championships, the IUAA committee. There is a value to being involved. Thanks to everyone.

4. Ratification of Future Interschool Hosts

4.1. 2014–15

CS said that UU had requested the 2015 T&F in Mary Peters. Jennifer Dempsey (JD) UU asks if dates could be moved a week due to Easter holidays. The floor agreed to keep the previously agreed date.

The following venues and dates were confirmed by the AGM:

Road Relays	NUI Maynooth – Saturday 15 November 2014
Indoors Track & Field	Athlone IT – Friday 6 February 2015
Cross-Country	Clongowes Wood – Saturday 7 March 2015

The joint hosting of the XC with the schools was raised. CS stated that the IUAA had agreed to a 4 year cycle with the schools. This will be the 3rd year. The schools were proposing Clongowes Wood and wanted the IUAA involved. The course should be good. CS said that he wanted to visit the course. The venue is set in stone, assuming we don't break the 4 year cycle. EF said that he had spoken with Anthony White (ISAA) and the the course was suitable. CS raised the question of the host college. A college or the IUAA could host it. CS then raised the question of the varsity meal/function. He said that there was a new directive from Student Sport Ireland about event banquets. They don't support event banquets. The IUAA has had no issues in the last decade bar some very minor issues. Other sports have had bigger issues. The IUAA view point is that there is a college host. If the banquet needs to be separated then this can be done by the IUAA organising the function. Damage to hotel accommodation is the college booking the hotels responsibility and not the host colleges responsibility. Host college should not circulate accommodation information. IUAA will circulate information. EF stated that this has been coming for a few years now. This doesn't surprise him and he doesn't want college student in front of college disciplinary boards. Cathal Daly (UCD) Said that he doesn't see UCD being in a position to host the XC. EF said that he would see if DCU can host and the XC and revert at the Road Relays.

5. Financial Report

EB explained that funding was from the membership fees. Colleges mainly paid by bank transfer but most were struggling to tag their payments which was making it difficult for him to identify who had paid due to the banding structure of the membership fees. EB then goes through the accounts in detail, pointing out that the IUAA had spent €6500 more that it had taken in. This was mainly due to the Celtic international in Grangemount.

EF stated that support from the AAI should be sought. CS stated that they can provide timing in AIT if the event is on a Saturday or a Sunday. EB stated that he had asked when he was on the board but nothing came from it. The international is one avenue to approach the AAI for funding. Timmy Crowe (TC) asked had the IUAA gone looking for a sponsor. EB said that the IUAA had kind of looked for a sponsor but there were implications for local sponsors as championships. The IUAA is a small organisation and contractual commitments can be challenging. DW asked if it was worth exploring in more detail going forward. SL pointed out that corporate sponsorship requires time and effort. JD asked if there was funding for streaming for the T&F. She was advised that this was down to the host college.

6. FISU World Cross Country Championships–Entebbe, Uganda– 22 March 2014

CS said that the AAI didn't send a team due to the costs of travelling to the location.

7. FISU World University Games – Gwangju, South Korea– 3–14 July 2015

CS said that it was in Korea. EF said that the cost would be prohibitive at an estimated €3000 per athlete. Paul McNamara (PMN) said that the manager nomination deadline was the previous Friday so the appointment should be soon.

8. Internationals for 2014/15

CS thanked TC for his efforts in Grangemount, near Edinburgh. The event went off well. The officials used it as a trial for the commonwealth games.

CS said that for the 2015 event the Welsh were hoping to compete and that the IUAA & SUAA would ask the WUAA to host. He said that he would keep everyone informed. EF asks if the IUAA wil host if the WUAA say 'no'. CS says 'yes' but he was hoping that the WUAA would host. EF compliments CS on getting the internationals off the ground again after a number of years without them. CS said that the enjoyment was all derived from getting people out competing.

9. Chairman's Address

CS said that he had said everything during the course of the meeting. He thanked all athletes and clubs for their work. They made the championships.

10. Motions

No motions had been received.

11. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

- Chairperson: Cyril Smyth [Proposed by Enda Fitzpatrick, Seconded by Damian Walsh]
- Assistant Chair: Damian Walsh [Proposed by ??????, Seconded by Michael Deady]
- Hon. Secretary: Stephen Lipson [Proposed by Cyril Smyth, Seconded by Eric Brady]
- Finance Officer: Eric Brady [Proposed by Damian Walsh, Seconded by Timmy Crowe]
- Competition Officer: Timmy Crowe [Proposed by Emily Rogers, Seconded by Kevin Migge]
- Development Officer: Enda Fitzpatrick [Proposed by Timmy Crowe, Seconded by Emily Rogers]
- PR Officer: Michael Deady [Proposed by Richard Lucas, Seconded by Jennifer Dempsey].
Claire McGlynn was also nominated but lost out to Michael in a secret ballot.
- General Officers:
The following candidates were proposed and seconded:

- Claire McGlynn (TCD)*
- Alan Danagher (DCU)
- Garret Dunne (TCD)*
- Andrew Connick (WIT)*

Delegates voted by ballot for up to three of the candidates. The votes were scrutinised by Cyril Smyth and Enda Fitzpatrick. The three candidates asterisked received most votes and were deemed elected.

10. A.O.B.

Lawrence Bovan (IT Tallaght) informed the meeting that IT Tallaght, IT Blanchardstown and Dundalk IT had hosted a friendly T&F last season and it was a big success and that they would be doing it again this season. DW said that this helps colleges build, just like the Munster Championships between WIT and CIT and the Colours between TCD and UCD.

DW asked colleges to ensure that they tag their membership fee payments.

CS said that the IUAA had been approached by the AAI in relation to an award for the college athlete of the year. The IUAA had chosen John Travers (AIT) and Maria O'Sullivan (TCD). EF explained that next year colleges will nominate and the IUAA will choose.

Cathal Daly (UCD) said that TCD & UCD were happy to invite guests to the Colours.

[Minutes compiled by Stephen Lipson]