

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



**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

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

Organised by Dublin Institute of Technology

**In Attendance:**

**IUAA Universities Committee Members:** Cyril Smyth (Chair), Damian Walsh, Eric Brady, Enda Fitzpatrick, Stephen Lipson, Timmy Crowe. Michael Deady, Garrett Dunne, Claire McGlynn

**Members:** Herbie McClelland (DIT), Laura Brennan (TCD), Jemil Saidi (TCD), Karen Blaney (UCD), Harriet Flynn (UCD), Aisling Drumgoole (UCD), Dover Hanley (DCU), Carmac Kelly (DCU), Shane Aston (DCU), Dara Kervick (DCU), Mark McGuinness (DIT), Adam Raitt (DIT), Mark Rogers (DCU), Conor Durnin (DCU), Adam King (DCU), Barry Quigg (NUIG), Vicky Harris (AIT), Dean Power (TCD), Aisling Ahern (TCD), Aaron Mathcoon Reen (TCD).

**Apologies:** Robby Rankin (QUB), Craig Harrington (CIT), David Matthews (CIT).

The Chairman Cyril Smyth (CS) welcomed all attendees to the AGM 2015.

**1. Minutes of the 2015 AGM.**

Stephen Lipson (SL) said that the minutes had been available online for the last few days but that he would summarise the main points. The main points were then summarised.

**2. Matters arising from the Minutes.**

Cyril Smyth (CS) commented that the change to the 200/400m at the indoors had worked, whereby the fastest 6 qualified for the final from heats.

**3. Review of the 2014–15 Championships**

**3.1. Road Relays – NUI Maynooth – November 2014 [hosted by NUI Maynooth]**

CS stated that Maynooth University had again hosted the event and that both races had been highly competitive. He raised the concerns that had been expressed about the very slippery orchard section and the number of moving cars around that part of the course. He went on to discuss the proposed new route for the coming season's race. Garret Dunne (GD) said that the tight bends weren't an issue as there were already several on the existing route. Clare McGlynn (CMG) said that the long finish straight was ideal. Enda Fitzpatrick (EF) explained that the location of the finish line would be unchanged but that the start would be further back in the small parking area which provided a wide start line. This meant that the first leg would be slightly longer. Eric Brady explained that this was a safer course. GD expressed the view that this the right decision as the existing course was too dangerous due to the cars. Herbie McClelland (HMC) said that IUAA needed to try out the proposed new course. Stephen Lipson (SL) expressed the view that the new venue for the meal was better than the previous venue. EF said that value for money was important. EB pointed out that some colleges were not paying for all the meals that they ordered and that this was pushing costs up. SL emphasised the importance of colleges paying for all meal tickets ordered and this applied to all varsity championships. Damian Walsh (DW) raised the issue of the lack of officials at the 2014 Relays

and reminded all colleges that they needed to step up to the mark and provide officials. CS reminded everyone that officials were required for the championships to run off successfully. Michael Deady (MD) said that all colleges should bring people who were prepared to help out. SL gave the example that athletes were disappointed if times are missing but this was what happened if there were not enough officials helping on the finish line.

### **3.2. Indoor Track & Field Championships –Athlone Institute of Technology– February 2015**

CS said that this had been the first time that the IUAA had run the championships whereby in the 200m & 400m the 6 finalist had been the fastest athletes based on times run in the heats. The AAI had provided the timing. SL apologised for the issue over the timetabling of the triple jump and short putt and stated that this would be rectified for February 2016. DW said that it had been a great championships and GD said that the streaming had worked well and had gotten great exposure for the championships. CS said that over the last few years it had become apparent that people wanted live streaming. CM said that live streaming was becoming a given. Timmy Crowe (TC) and CS asked the floor about the medley relay which had been raised at the previous AGM. CS said that there were time constraints. SL pulled up the results of the 08/09 race for the attendees to see how long the event had taken. CS said that maybe it could be considered for the outdoors. SL pointed out that this would technically be unconstitutional. SL said he would minute that the IUAA Committee would bring a recommendation to the AGM next year. CS said that the IUAA could maybe consider an exhibition race in 2016.

### **3.3. Outdoor Track & Field Championships – Mary Peter’s Track, Belfast– April 2015 [hosted by UU]**

CS started by discussing the water jump issue on the Saturday morning and explained that the ground staff had completely under-estimated the time it would take to fill the water jump. EF said that it was more normal to have the steeplechases back-to-back on the same day. SL said that the T&F timetable needed to be reviewed to allow this in time for the 2016 championships. CS said it had been normal to hold them back-to-back. CS raised the issue of the accident in the men’s SC. CS stated that there must be an ambulance at IUAA Championships. HMC said that they cost €500/€600 per day. EB said that the IUAA pays for the service. CS said that apart from the accident everything else had run off smoothly. CS apologised for medals not being available. This had come about as the supplier was struggling financially and unfortunately the IUAA suffered despite not owing any money to the supplier. EB added that the IUAA had been using this supplier since the late 1980s and that the supplier had since closed down. Shane Aston (SA) suggested that the heptathlon and the decathlon would be better than the current combined events. EB said that this had been looked at before and that it had been discussed as to whether medals should be awarded to eligible athletes in the AAI national championships. SL pointed out that changing the event from the current combined event could reduce numbers competing. SA said that that there would be extra incentives in the heptathlon due to the presence of the Discus and Pole Vault. CS said that the Pole Vault could present an H&S issue. CS stated that awarding medals, without IUAA championship points, on the basis of results from the AAI combined event championships could be looked at.

### **3.4. Cross Country Championships –Clongowes Wood College– March 2015 [hosted by IUAA]**

CS said that the XC had been held with the ISAA in Clongowes Wood College to celebrate 200 years of Clongowes Wood. The course was very good and the weather had been dry. CS spoke about the shortage of officials and helpers. Unfortunately times had been accidentally deleted from the stopwatch and the times had to be taken from the streaming. CS apologised for this and again emphasised the importance of having enough officials. GD said that this was further evidence for the need to get captains and colleges to help. Cormac Kelly (CK) said that the times weren’t that important as each XC course is different. DW explained about the athlete from UL who had finished a lap early due to the lack of officials. CS said that even with a very long lap, this could still happen when there was no lap-counting official. EB raised the issue of having to pay in for the championships and said that this was not acceptable. EF said that IUAA needed to sit down with the schools about the event. CS said that a parking permit could be one solution. CK raised the issue of the timing of the races and the fact that the men’s race was last and lacked atmosphere. SL pointed out that there was still time to discuss the timetable with the ISAA for 2016. EF said that it could be possible to get both IUAA races first or in the middle of the timetable. CS said that there had been issues raised by the schools in relation to the condition of the course after the IUAA men’s race in the past. CK said that the course could get cut up, but this can also affected the IUAA men when they had to run last. SL felt that both

races should be back to back. EB said that the IUAA needed to meet with the Schools. CK said that the schools should watch the intervarsity races. SL said that this did not happen. CS said that the schools do not stay to watch.

CS summarised the season and thanked NUIM, AIT world class facility and UU, student helpers, committees helping to organise championships, and the IUAA committee. There was a value to being involved. A thank you to everyone was acknowledged by applause.

#### **4. Ratification of Future Intersarsity Hosts**

##### **4.1. 2015–2016**

CS said that the Cross Country would be hosted by Sligo IT and the IUAA at the Sligo Race Course on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. The T&F for 2016 was due to go to NUIG but they had explained that they were not in a position to host as the track currently had no Pole Vault or Steeplechase and the track surface was not in good condition. CS informed the meeting that in a pre-meeting discussion DCU had said that they were prepared to host the event in Santry, and that UCD had said they were not in a position to host. GD felt that DCU would do an excellent job. The date was discussed and it was decided that the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> April were the preferred dates over the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> April. EF said that all events were earlier this season due to the Olympics. CS pointed out that any later date would clash with exams. Dara Kervick (DK) said that it was very early to hold the championships. SL pointed out that a later date would affect numbers. GD reminded everyone that a later date would clash with exams. CM & GD said this would make it even harder to get people to help. CS said that there were no alternatives for 2016. CS asked EF if he could revert quickly as to the availability of Santry Stadium.

DK raised the option of having the indoors championships on a Wednesday. EB asked if this was to suit DCU or all colleges as the date should be one that works for most colleges. After discussion it was agreed that the first choice date for the indoors was 12/02/16 and that the second choice date was 05/02/16.

The following venues and dates were confirmed by the AGM: The dates for the Indoors and the T&F would be confirmed for definite at the Road Relays.

Road Relays	NUI Maynooth – Saturday 14 November 2015
Indoors Track & Field	Athlone IT – Friday 12 or 5 February 2016
Cross-Country	Sligo-IT – Saturday 5 March 2016
Outdoors Track & Field	DCU– Fri / Sat 15/16 or 8/9 April 2016

#### **5. Financial Report**

EB went through the accounts and highlighted the following points:

- Colleges were not labelling their payments which made it challenging to know who had paid due to the banding nature of the fee structure.
- The University International cost a lot of money.
- Money was still owed to CIT for the XC championship.
- There was a pressing need to look for sponsorship.
- Colleges were not paying their fees until late in the season which impacted on cash flow.
- Some colleges were still sending cheques which the IUAA was reluctantly accepting.
- Tier 1 colleges were struggling to pay and organise.
- Insurance costs were highly likely to increase.
- Fees might have to be reviewed for the 2016/17 season.

GD asked when the fees were last increased. EB stated that it was about 5 years ago. CS pointed out that most college sport departments were receiving reduced funding. HMC said that sports officers were facing increased fees from other sports and that some of the smaller colleges were pumping their money into GAA and not athletics. GD said that the IUAA had spent €4k more than it took in and this was largely due to the cost of the international. CS explained that the Welsh had withdrawn from hosting in January 2015 and that he had wanted the international to go ahead so the IUAA hosted the event. **EB said that €8k for the international was doable in certain circumstances.** DK pointed out that if the IUAA wanted colleges to affiliate that increased fees might knock out smaller colleges. EB said that in reality it was the bigger colleges which would definitely pay. DK asked if smaller colleges could pay per athlete as this would encourage participation. SL pointed out that this was not ideal as smaller colleges would only pay for strong athletes to compete and would not pay for weaker athletes to compete, whereas if they paid their annual fee they could enter as many athletes as wished to compete (according to IUAA competition rules), weak or strong. CS said that if the IUAA could get sponsorship it would prevent a fees rise, which he said the IUAA should try and avoid. MD said that sponsorship was required and if anyone knew of anyone interested in sponsoring the IUAA they should pass MD's details to these individuals or companies. DW said that the AAI should fund the IUAA. MD said that we needed money. EB said that financially the IUAA was K for the moment but that needed to be careful.

#### **6. FISU World University Games – Gwangju, South Korea– 3–15 July 2015**

CS said that it had been a very successful games and that IRL had won its 4<sup>th</sup> ever Gold medal with Thomas Barr in the 400mH.

#### **7. FISU World Cross Country Championships–Cassino, Italy– 12 March 2016**

CS said that these championships were scheduled for Italy in March 2016, but he was not sure if the AAI would send a team. CS said that he would raise this at the next AAI Board meeting and with Student Sport Ireland

#### **8. Internationals for 2014/15**

CS thanked everyone who was involved with helping at the international in the Mary Peter's Track. A lot of last minute arrangements had been required. CS thanked all the athletes, many of whom had stepped in at the last minute. There had been some strong winds on the day and one Scottish official had been hit by the cover of the HJ mat that had taken off in the wind. Everything had gone smoothly on the day. EF thanked CS and SL.

CS said that there was date congestion for the planned return meeting in 2015/16 (2016). CS said that the Scots felt that the date did not help them field their strongest team. The Scots had asked if the meeting could be put back a week. CS asked the floor what they thought of this. CS asked if he could agree a date with the AGM's permission. CMG said that she did not think a week later would be an issue. CK said that it could in fact lead to a higher standard on the IUAA team. EF said that the IUAA should propose a week later as both teams would have better athletes available to them. CK asked about the possibility of an IUAA team guesting in the British Universities. CS said that it could be investigated. EF said that he doubted that this was possible, as the British Universities Championships were closed championships like the IUAA championships.

#### **9. Chairman's Address**

CS said that a lot had already been discussed. He thanked the Committee and said that most athletes did not realise how much sterling work the Committee did in the background for athletes' benefit. CS thanked MD for arranging live streaming, EF for arranging the internationals, and SL for all the results processing. CS said that he had one more year as Chair and that after that he would continue to help. CS then thanked Brian Foley for all his work on the results on the IUAA website. Most IUAA athletes had never seen him, but he had designed all IUAA software and maintained it all. SL added that on numerous occasions Brian Foley had actually been on holiday when putting results up on the website.

#### **10. Motions**

No motions had been received.

#### **11. Election of Officers**

The following officers were elected:

- Assistant Chair: Damian Walsh [Proposed by Michael Deady, Seconded by Claire McGlynn]
- Hon. Secretary: Stephen Lipson [Proposed by Garret Dunne, Seconded by Enda Fitzpatrick]
- Finance Officer: Eric Brady [Proposed by Shane Aston, Seconded by Damian Walsh]
- Competition Officer: Timmy Crowe [Proposed by Claire McGlynn, Seconded by Michael Deady]
- Development Officer: Enda Fitzpatrick [Proposed by Garret Dunne, Seconded by Michael Deady]
- PR Officer: Michael Deady [Proposed by Shane Aston, Seconded by Eric Brady].
- General Officers:  
The following candidates were proposed and seconded:

- Claire McGlynn (TCD)\*
- Garret Dunne (TCD)\*
- Jemil Saidi (TCD)
- Shane Aston (DCU)\*
- Dave Matthews (CIT)

Each candidate gave a short speech so as to assist the delegates present in deciding who to vote for. CS spoke on behalf of Dave Matthews. 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.**

CK raised the issue of the 'Athlete of the Year' Award. CS said that the committee had nominated one male and one female athlete, but that the AAI only wanted one athlete. CS said that this was not ideal but that in his eyes there was only one candidate this year, if one athlete had to be chosen. GD suggested that maybe the IUAA could nominate 2 athletes to be put forward. A discussion ensued. EB stated that there could be an IUAA male and female Athlete of the Year and that one of these was put forward to the AAI. CS explained that he needed a name that day as the award ceremony was soon and the deadline for submission of a name had passed. The floor nominated Thomas Barr. Timmy Crowe (TC) said that there were other athletes who should also be congratulated. CS agreed, however, Thomas Barr had won a WSG Gold Medal. CS asked the floor if they wished to come back in Maynooth with a female athlete's name. DK suggested that the female athlete could wait until next year and the nomination process could be formalised between now and then. Some female names were floated including Ciara Everard. DW suggested that colleges could nominate male and female athletes throughout the year and then one name would go forward. CK suggested that the most improved athlete be nominated. CS asked if the floor was happy with Ciara Everard as the IUAA female athlete.

CK asked about switching the Cross Country and the Road Relays. EF suggested just moving the Cross Country to before Christmas. CK said that having the Cross Country in February/March was bad timing. GD said that the Road Relays encouraged mass participation and asked was the IUAA catering for a few athletes or all athletes. GD and EF agreed that the topic should be discussed. EB said that something concrete should be brought to a meeting. CS pointed out that the IUAA was currently tied into a cycle with the Schools. CK said that this was not an issue. EB said that history meant that the indoors ended up in February and that the Cross Country had been held before Christmas in the past as had the indoors. EB pointed out that the season was confined and that options were very limited. CS said that there was an AAI working group and one proposal being discussed was to finish the Cross Country season earlier. However for the moment the IUAA had to finish its commitment to the arrangement with the Schools. CK confirmed that the 2016/17 season was an option.

SL read out the apologies (Listed at the start of these minutes)

CS thanked everyone for their contributions to discussions at the AGM and wished everyone a great IUAA season in 2015-16.

[Minutes compiled by Stephen Lipson]