

Minutes of the IUAA AGM held on the 5th November 2005 in Dublin City University,

Attendance:

Ian O' Sullivan (CIT),
Patrick Boylan, Jackie Mulhall, Kevin O' Brien, Josh Mylan (DCU),
Cyril Smyth, Stephen Lipson, Stuart Greene, Karl Fahy, Mark Kirwan (TCD),
Noel Lawlor (AIT),
Simon Murray, John Saulsters, Caoimhe Vallely (QUB),
Eric Brady, Hugo Leeney, Ruth Mills (UCD),
Herbert McClelland (DIT),
Kevin Grant, Sarah Cormack (UL),
Paul Butler, Linda Guilly (WIT)
Emma O Doherty (NUIG)

1 & 2. Minutes of 2004 AGM and matters arising

The minutes of the 2004 AGM were taken as read and there were no matters arising. Minutes were proposed by C.S and seconded by NL

3. Report of the Honorary Secretary

RH delivered the Honorary Secretary's report. HMC raised the issue of numbers competing at the Antrim Forum meet. He suggested that we try and work out options for getting more teams into the event. HMC also questioned the usefulness of having the event on a Tuesday evening. SM commented that the NIAF were looking for ideas that would help them to improve the event. SG suggested that we should organise our international events along the same lines as the schools whereby the events rotate between Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. JS indicated that QUB considered getting involved in matches with Cambridge or Oxford but that there were significant cost implications. The report of the Honorary Secretary was proposed by HMC and seconded by KG.

4. Report of the Honorary Treasurer

SM delivered the Treasurers report. HMC suggested that the IUAA look into buying electronic timing equipment. SL commented that he had looked into this in the past but felt that such a purchase was outside the financial limits of the IUAA he added that the Leinster AAI system that we currently use in Nenagh is not 'high tech' enough. IOS commented that

the Munster AAI system should be available for use in Nenagh. EB asked if a system could be put in place whereby clubs could directly lodge affiliation fees with the IUAA. JS queried the decision not to increase affiliation fees. EB suggested that fees be index linked so that they would automatically increase slightly each year. SL reminded the floor that fees are paid relative to college size. EB added that if fees were variable that it would make it difficult for clubs to plan their finances. PB mooted the idea of having a reduced set fee plus a race entry fee. SL added that with such a system colleges may leave weaker athletes at home to save funds he also added that the affiliation fees for the IUAA are quite low compared to other intervarsity organisations. NL noted that UCD were in arrears and EB commented that UCD were attempting to remedy this but that there were some issues with the clubs computer failing. SM concluded that he thought that the current system worked very well and subsequently proposed that the treasurer's report be accepted by the meeting. IOS seconded this proposal.

5. Report of the Honorary Competition Secretary

IOS delivered the Honorary Competition Secretary's report. It was noted that there were currently some large gaps in the indoor timetable. IOS commented that the timetable was set at a time when there may be for example 9 heats in the men's 200m but that now with dropping numbers participating that the timetable could be tightened up. NL suggested that on the day that events could be brought forward to accelerate the timetable. IOS explained that such a situation could cause chaos should an athlete be warming up for an event outside the arena when their event start time gets moved. The drop in numbers at the indoors was also noted. EB commented that if the date was settled then so too would the numbers competing, he added that in the early 90's only the big 2 stood a chance of winning the indoor title but now small colleges could challenge if focused. PB commented that it was great to see more colleges competing. EB commented that standards were holding and that it is becoming harder to gain team points which results in a points spread at most competitions. EB concluded that the IUAA need to continue improving its championships and that going forward integration with the AAI could allow for further development. JM suggested that efforts should be made by the IUAA to get college authorities to include athletic achievement on student transcripts. HMC suggested that it is necessary to get more staff at colleges involved in athletics. NL raised the issue that it is getting harder and harder to get athletes. IOS indicated that it will be possible to float ideas with the AAI from January 06. JS suggested raising the idea of forming athletics academies with the AAI.

The report of the competition secretary was proposed by CS and seconded by PB

7. Review of 2004-05 championships

SL informed the floor that numbers competing were down on 03-04 he added that he hoped this was a blip and not a trend. Despite the drop in numbers standards remained high. SL thanked all hosts and commented that events worked out very well. HMC commented that meal money was paid promptly by colleges attending the T&F, and thanked SL for all his help prior to the championships. HMC suggested that future hosts enlist the help of local club members and that they should be sure to thank them appropriately. JS felt that there was a worrying lack of finish line judges. IOS suggested that the club 'helper' list could be expanded to include finish line judges. JM suggested a process of nominating officials. SL suggested the big 8 colleges nominate at least one official. EB commented that the technical running of the championships was to a very high standard and that a lot of the same people had been involved for a number of years, he concluded by suggesting that more people be trained in the technical areas in order to alleviate the strain on the long term organisers. PB added that continuity was important that it is important to bring in new people. SL noted that the check in time for events was 1hr before start time. There is to be no more flexibility in this area. It was decided that the indoor date would remain at December 11th. SL concluded by thanking all hosts.

8. Honorary Presidents Address

SL delivered his final Honorary Presidents report. DCU delegates congratulated SL on all of his achievements as President during his three year tenure. The presidents report was proposed by HMC and seconded by PB.

9. & 10. World Student Games

The successes at the recent WSG T&F were noted and CS pointed out that outside of the medal winners Ireland had three other athletes who achieved top 6 positions. NL pointed out that other countries athletic bodies were flaunting the eligibility criteria. JS queried the interaction between the IUAA and CUSAI in the run up to the championships . SL pointed out that CUSAI had just ratified a new constitution and that in recent years the level of influence that the IUAA have in the athletic affairs of CUSAI has increased. PB pointed out that the controversy about the 'eligibility' of some of Irelands athletes reflected badly on CUSAI and

not the IUAA. EB raised his fears about CUSAI's claim to be the Irish sports body with full control over university NGB's. When EB queried the fit between CUSAI and the IUAA he indicated that he was not happy with their response. PB suggested that the IUAA should solidify its relations with the AAI and then approach CUSAI with added backing. NL pointed out the problem that CUSAI is a body comprised of sports administrators only and that the 'old' CUSAI and ISSA had many problems. EB added that CUSAI are recognised by the Sports Council of Ireland and are a registered company.

EB went on to suggest that Enda Fitzpatrick would be an ideal coach for the forthcoming WSG XC. SL agreed to approach EF and further a nomination should EF be agreeable.

11. Motions concerning amendments to rules of championships

It was agreed by a unanimous vote that the UCD program in Sports Management be added to the approved courses appendix in the rules of competition.

12. Ratification of future varsity hosts

Hosts for the XC and T&F were ratified until the end of the 2006/07 season. AIT to host the XC with WIT as a reserve and DCU the host the T&F in 2006/07. EB indicated that UCD would be anxious to host the 2007/08 T&F. JS raised the issue of QUB hosting the 2008/09 T&F on the 6 lane Mary Peters track. SM assured the floor that QUB would host the event at the Antrim forum which has 8 lanes.

13. IUAA/AAI integration

HMC commented that the proposed IUAA/AAI integration looks great on paper and encouraged the executive to pursue the proposals. EB agreed with HMC's comments. JS worried that the AAI may not manage the transition properly but IOS pointed out that it was a no lose situation for the IUAA. If the AAI succeed then we are involved and if they fail we take a step back and carry on with our own business as we have done for many years. EB once again commented that the integration is an opportunity for growth and that the IUAA has nothing to lose. PB added the comment that if we don't integrate with the AAI that future interaction with CUSAI may prove difficult. NL added that the IUAA can pull out of the integration process at any stage. IOS suggested that it is necessary to draw a line through the dealings of the 'old' AAI and look to the future. PB added the comment that it is logical for one body to

oversee all athletics in Ireland, he also added that the IUAA's affairs were in good order and that we are privileged to be asked on board. JS queried the financial arrangement that would exist between the AAI and the IUAA. The general feeling from the floor was that colleges want to see exactly where their subscriptions go. There was a unanimous vote to proceed with the integration process.

14. Election of officers

SL announced that for the first time in many years Michael Hillery (UL) would not be available to take up any committee position. SL went on to thank MH for his outstanding contribution to Irish University Athletics.

PB nominated IOS for the position of President. No other nominations were presented. JM seconded the nomination and IOS was duly elected. SM nominated EB for the position of Vice President. No other nominations were presented. HL seconded the nomination and EB was duly elected. SL nominated EF for the position of Vice President. No other nominations were presented. DCU seconded the nomination and EF was duly elected. CS nominated Rebecca Haworth for the position of Hon Secretary. No other nominations were presented. HMC seconded the nomination and RH was duly elected. IOS nominated SM for the position of Hon Treasurer. No other nominations were presented. JS seconded the nomination and SM was duly elected. SL nominated JM for the position of Hon Competition Secretary. No other nominations were presented. NL seconded the nomination and JM was duly elected. EB nominated CS for the position of Hon P.R.O. No other nominations were presented. SL seconded the nomination and CS was duly elected. IOS nominated PB for the position of committee member. No other nominations were presented. SL seconded the nomination and PB was duly elected. SL nominated PBy for the position of committee member. No other nominations were presented. JM seconded the nomination and PBy was duly elected.

15. A.O.B.

It was decided by the floor to allow the executive to choose the representative of the IUAA to the AAI board.

The affiliation of Blanchardstown Institute of Technology was approved by the meeting.

Colleges were reminded to ensure that their athletes wear appropriate college singlets when competing in IUAA events.

It was suggested that the IUAA should in some way help college students who wish to set up a club. It was also suggested that some efforts should be made to help college clubs with their coaching setup.

UL delegates suggested a freshers competition and EB suggested an expansion of the colours match set up.

EB concluded the meeting by mooting the idea of a Hall of Fame and indicated that he would follow up with a more concrete proposal at the next meeting of the IUAA.

Proposed by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Minutes compiled by Ian O'Sullivan, Hon. Competitions Secretary
2004/05.