

# Minutes of the Irish Universities Athletics Association Annual General Meeting



Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> 2008

University College Dublin  
Belfield, Dublin 4  
The Blue Room, The Student Centre

12.30 p.m.

Organised by University College Dublin

**In attendance:**

**IUAA Executive Members:** Paul Butler (President), Stephen Lipson (Immediate Past President), Eric Brady (Vice President for International Development), Karl Fahy (Vice President for National Development), John Saulters (Registrar), Jacqueline Mulhall (Competitions Secretary), Damian Walsh (Committee Member)

**Members:** Eoin Pierce (DIT), Chris Summers (UU), Margaret Galvin (UCD), Laura Loughlin (QUB), Eamonn Sweeney (QUB), Andrew Agnew (QUB), Ronan Daly (UCD), Rioghra Moggan (TCD), Andrew Connick (WIT), Catriona Ryan (UL), Donal Walsh (UCC), Kaity Byrd (UCC), Sinead Noonan (UCC), Joe Barry (TCD), David Corigan (TCD), Aisling O'Brien (TCD), Maria Halley (UCD), Craig Deaveir (RCSI), Finuala Britton (DCU), Brian Farrell (DCU), Declan Monaghan (DCU), Joanne English (RCSI), Barry Upton (WIT).

**Apologies:** Cyril Smyth (Secretary), Simon Murray (Treasurer).

Paul Butler (PB) welcomes everyone and thanks UCD for arranging the venue for today's meeting. PB outlines the importance of attendance at Association Meetings as they are the platform for discussing the direction of the Association.

**1. Minutes of 2007 AGM.**

The minutes were taken as having been read, as they had been on the IUAA website for a significant time.

**2. Matters arising from the minutes.**

Jacqueline Mulhall (JM) asked that it be inserted that the Competitions Secretary had thanked DCU for hosting the Celtics.

The Minutes were proposed by Stephen Lipson (SL) and seconded by JM.

### **3. Report of Hon. Secretary.**

PB stated that Cyril Smyth (CS) had sent his apologies for being unable to provide a report or today's meeting but that CS would try to make one available on the website shortly.

### **4. Report of Hon. Treasurer.**

Simon Murray (SM) had sent his apologies. His report was presented and outlined the following points:

- The deficit for the current year was as a result of the expenses incurred in travelling to the Celtic Cross Country.
- Cash flow had been an issue due to late payment of membership fees.
- The current balance was in the black.

SL asked about insurance. John Saulters (JS) informed the meeting that the expenditure on insurance was to extend the AAI insurance policy to cover IUAA championships. Eric Brady (EB) added that the insurance was limited and only provided cover if the IUAA was at fault, and that all colleges should check what cover their college insurance policy provided.

The Report was proposed by EB and seconded by JS.

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

JM presented the report. JM stated that the AGM provided opportunities to evaluate the past and develop the future.

Road Relays: Thanked NUIM but raised concerns that the renovations taking place in the college had led to a deviation from the part of the normal course and that unfortunately it hadn't been ideal, but that the race would be reverting back to its normal course in 2008. The winning teams were detailed.

Indoors: The winners were detailed and the strength of the competition was acknowledged. JM discussed the timing of the event in February and presented the view that it had worked well and that cooperation with other AAI events had helped ensure the February date. The IUAA executive was proposing that the February date be let develop over the following two years in order to establish it in the calendar. JM outlined that there had been issues with the PV uprights, but that the event had been held in conjunction with the AAI indoors in the Odyssey Arena and thanked the AAI for facilitating this. JM stated that the IUAA had taken advice on the PV and stated that the IUAA would follow best practice in relation to H&S at all times.

Cross Country: The issues with the facilities at the schools preferred course were outlined and JM stated that the IUAA's concerns had been expressed. The University of Ulster had been confirmed for 2009 and the issues experienced in 2008 would not be repeated and that the IUAA would not continue hosting championships with the schools if standards in relation to a number of issues were not met. JM thanked NUIG for assisting with the hosting of the event and UL for letting the cross country move to NUIG.

Celtics. JM expressed the view that this event could be kept going but that cost issues would need to be addressed as discussed in the treasurers report.

Track & Field: JM thanked UCD and said the views were welcome on the start time on the Friday. JM also apologised to athletes for the steeple chase water jump.

Dates for the 2008/2009 season were confirmed:

Road Relays: 15/11/08, Indoors 14-15/02/09. Cross Country: 08/03/09, T&F: 24-25/04/09

JM went on to make what she described as some personal observations. JM outlined that she had been involved in 3<sup>rd</sup> level athletics for ten years with DCU, the last three of which had also been on the IUAA executive and that she was concerned that the IUAA couldn't fulfil its remit in promoting athletics in a professional era. JM outlined the following:

- Championships at international level were falling short. The Celtics had been reinstated but Antrim had ceased.
- Declining numbers, 28 members, 21 active. It isn't just an IUAA issue but we must address it.
- Financially the IUAA struggles to provide existing competition, never mind internationals.

- She had been involved with working with the President (PB) to form a sub-committee to work with the AAI.
- That there was a large responsibility on the new committee and the floor should hold them accountable.

The report was then opened for discussion. EB stated that the floor should be asked what it wanted in terms of championships and internationals. JM stated that what the athletes and the championships deserve the organisation of the IUAA championships to be at a higher level.

Donal Walsh (DoW) expressed the view that there was a shortage of people to help out. JM said that the IUAA shouldn't be relying on volunteers to rake pits. DoW said that hopefully the IUAA could link in with the AAI. JS said that the NIAF had an officials association to help, but that the AAI didn't have an equivalent yet. PB pointed out that Colleges were asked to provide assistants, that this was unfair, but unfortunately it needed to be done. It was a very big burden for a host college alone to provide all the officials and that hopefully we can get better going forward. JM stated that we have to make it better, that we have to clarify the nature of the competitions and the Internationals and more races should be part of that process.

The Report was proposed by JS and seconded by Damian Walsh (DW).

## **6. Report of Hon. PRO**

No report was available as the PRO position had been vacant.

## **7. Review of 2007/2008 Championships.**

PB asked the floor for their thoughts and that is was important to contribute.

EB stated that the situation regarding the PV at the indoors should be clarified early this year. PB stated that the IUAA had had no option but to withdraw the PV last year, as it had to act due to the issues with the PV uprights. The AAI and Nenagh Olympic management were in discussion as the situation requires a permanent fixture.

SL brought up the co-hosting of the cross country with the schools and pointed out that the 2009 event would be on a UU venue and not a schools venue. DoW asked if the schools had helped with the running of the two IUAA races. PB stated that the schools had set up the course and had given us page space in their booklet and no cost to the IUAA. However the schools do have a pattern of hosting in a different Province each year. EB pointed out that the schools didn't really help during the race and that they only helped with the timing at the IUAA's request. PB pointed out that they had provide assistance prior to the race. DoW asked what the athlete feedback had been. SL stated that the decision of the Captains Meeting on the evening of the race had been that the IUAA should co-host with the schools but only on a 3<sup>rd</sup> level venue or a venue that had all the necessary facilities and could cope with the numbers. Fionnula Britton (FB) pointed out that the schools had presented their medals during the IUAA men's race which defeated one of the co-hosting objectives of exposing third level athletics to school children. PB stated that the venue hadn't helped but that the IUAA would work with the schools.

Andrew Connick (AC) stated that the IUAA needs to up its profile in publications. PB stated that the AAI had promised more access to the Irish Runner. FB stated that the distances in the cross country were an issue and that maybe the men's race should be shortened. PB pointed out that there was a motion in relation to this and that all contributions would be welcome at the time. PB also pointed out that the hosting of the cross country on UU grounds was a direct result of using Loughrea.

SL inquired about the Celtics. PB informed the meeting that they were in Wales in 2009 and that the cost would be lower. Selection would be based on the IUAA Cross Country. EB asked if the floor was happy. JS outlined the details of the Welsh race based on information received to date.

## **8. Hon. Presidents Address.**

PB started by stating that the position of President wasn't an easy one. Challenges, day to day issues and the long term integration. He had focused on the day to day and the championships and that JS had focused on the AAI integration. During the summer PB/JS/JM had formed a sub committee to look at AAI integration. The cross country had been a product of integration but it had taken a few years and this year the IUAA took a risk to make it happen. It hadn't been the best championships ever and hopefully lessons could be learnt on both sides and that this seasons event would be dramatically improved. Sometimes the first steps aren't the best.

The AAI awards dinner had included an IUAA award. PB thanked EB and Mary Clark for the award and that the event had been supported by the IUAA executive.

The number of athletes competing, as detailed by JM, was up in two championships and down in the other two. However these numbers are down on the turn of the century. The IUAA has responded in the past and we are responding again, an example being the timing of the indoors. It is a 2-3 year process and everyone should be encouraged to send teams.

JM explained that the IUAA was considering a one day competition for the indoors. EB stated that the event had started out as a one day competition but that colleges had complained about IAAF rest periods. For it to be a one day event we would need shorter rest periods.

PB went on to outline the tiered championships and how they had help provide competition. Chris Summers (CS) suggested filling gaps with sprints, throws and jumps. PB explained that the membership needed to bring these motions forward. EB asked why aren't people coming to the indoors. Catriona Ryan (CR) pointed out that exams are an issue. Laura Loughlan (LL) suggested that a meal or social event may help. EB pointed out that DCU were developing athletics excellence within DCU and were winning everything. EB said that this was putting it to the other colleges and that they needed to step up to the mark. JM explained that this was inferred in her report. PB stated that we applaud DCU but other colleges need to sand up. DoW stated that there should be more scholarships from the Sports Council to third level. CS said that the tiered championships had helped. FB suggested handicap races. EB said that the IUAA executive had looked at it but that it was very challenging to do as colleges strengths varied annually.

PB resumed his address and informed the meeting of the motions to follow and in particular the motion defining the integration with the AAI in a clearer direction that at present. PB sated that he would be in favour of the motions but that it was important that everyone voted for what they felt was best. The IUAA executive has different views but we all feel that we should move forward with this motion. PB thanks the executive and the sub-committee for all the work completed on the AAI motion. PB thanked all the volunteers because that is what every one is. The executive is voluntary, as are officials.

The Report was proposed by SL and seconded by CS.

#### **9. World Student Games Cross Country 2008 - Review.**

PB introduced the topic by congratulating the Men's and Women's Teams and Finnuala Britton (FB). JS Added that FB had come 2<sup>nd</sup>, the the Women's Team had finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Men's team 7<sup>th</sup>. The race was in Normandy, in France. The build up hadn't been smooth and at the IUAA cross country the executive found out that the AAI had made the decision not to send any men. The IUAA board member had raised this at AAI board level and the AAI agreed to send a men's team. CUSAI were also late sending out information to athletes. In conclusion some tough lessons had been learnt regarding communication.

#### **10. World Student Games Track & Field 2009 – Preview.**

PB outlined that the standards had been agreed between the AAI/CUSAI/IUAA, that the AAI would fund two thirds of the cost plus and provide the gear. The team management was discussed and the meeting was advised that the AAI was responsible, but that it was hoped that the IUAA could influence the Assistant manager position. It was also stated that communication must be improved on compared to the world student cross country.

#### **11. IUAA / AAI Integration – Progress to Date**

JS had been the IUAA member on the AAI board. JS outlined that initial progress on the AAI board was slow and didn't really involve the IUAA, however since the AAI congress the new AAI had been a lot more proactive. This was been headed my the newly appointed President, Liam Hennessy and CEO, Mary Coughlan. JS also outlined the work performed by the IUAA executive sub committee of PB. JM and JS. The sub committee was proposing that the IUAA change its constitution to allow it to become a committee of the AAI. In September (2008) the AAI Board had granted permission to form a Universities Committee and that if the motions today were passed then the IUAA would fulfil this position. JS also outlined that the AAI saw the High Performance end of the AAI focusing on WSG competitions.

SL asked how the new AAI committee was. JS advised that is was more professional.

DoW stated that the next WSG Cross Country was in Canada in 2010 and that the IUAA should pick the team. JS advised that CUSAI had control of selection, but that it was hoped that the AAI/IUAA and CUSAI could get to a situation whereby CUSAI would rubberstamp the AAI/IUAA recommendation. EB added that CUSAI could still say no to an AAI/IUAA selection. SL added that it would be 2 bodies going forward (AAI/IUAA & CUSAI) as opposed to 3 which had to be a move in the right direction. PB reminded the room that CUSAI are the FISU recognised body. EB pointed out that the mess in relation to the cross country was caused by CUASI & AAI and had been resolved by the IUAA and JS.

JS added that he felt that the IUAA should have been on top of the situation and overseen the whole process better to ensure that athletes were being informed.

## 12. Ratification of future varsity hosts.

This section of the agenda was brought forward from position 13 to position 12. The following were ratified as hosts for the cross country and T&F for the current and following season.

Cross country 2009	UU
T&F 2009	UL
Cross Country 2010	To be hosted at and IUAA approved venue in Munster
T&F 2010	TCD

## 13. Motions concerning amendments to the Constitution and Rules of Championships.

The first motion discussed was a proposed change to Rule 10.2:

- 10.2 The length of the courses over which the men's and women's Cross-Country Championships are to be run shall be approximately 8,000m - 10,000m and 4,000m respectively. The course shall be bona fide cross-country.

The meeting was informed that amendments were allowed. FB proposed that the Women's race be increased to 6km. Craig Deaveir (CD) stated that that was too long. PB said that a distance range was possible, as proposed with the men. DoW stated that 8km in the men's would increase numbers. SL stated that a range would increase variety and flexibility. EB stated that if it was a range the host college could decide, but that it could suit the host. SL replied by stating that we already have this situation with the host having the ability to choose course type. EB stated that the women's race had been 6, then 5 then 4. Brian Farrell (BF) proposed that the men's be 8km only as this would make it more competitive and increase the standard. FB stated that 5km for women wasn't unreasonable. JS pointed out that 5km would involve a short and long lap. SL pointed out that the distance at world student level was a range. JS and JM proposed an amendment that the women's be 5km and the men's 8km. Chris Summers (CS) asked what the distances at the Celtics were. JS advised him that they were 5 and 10. The amended motion was then put to a vote. (Women 5km, Men 8km).

The amended motion was passed with zero opposed and two abstentions. All others were in favour.

The second motion discussed was a proposed change to Rule 9.4:

- 9.4 The scoring events in the Indoor Track and Field Championships shall be as follows:

MEN		WOMEN	
TRACK	FIELD	TRACK	FIELD
60m	Long Jump	60m	Long Jump
60m Hurdles	Triple Jump	60m Hurdles	Triple Jump
200m	High Jump	200m	High Jump
400m	Pole Vault	400m	Pole Vault
800m	Shot Putt	800m	Shot Putt
1500m	16kg (35lb)	1500m	8kg
2000m Walk	Without-follow	1500m Walk	Without-follow
3000m	Combined Events	3000m	Combined Events
4 × 200m Relay		4 × 200m Relay	
1200 x400 x800 x1600m Relay		1200 x400 x800 x1600m Relay	

The discussion immediately moved to the introduction of a 4x400m relay, however it was pointed out that no motion had been received. The discussion reverted back to the medley relay. DW stated that it was an opportunity for athletes who didn't make the two team places in the individual competition. EB pointed out that this event would be a straight final only. CS proposed that it be non-scoring. Kaity Byrd (KB) proposed that it be a mixed relay. EB asked the floor if they felt that there should be another relay. KB stated that it would be good for the atmosphere. PB asked if it was a drain on resources, for both team and officials. Catriona Ryan (CR) asked what would happen if there were large numbers. SL stated that it wasn't an issue as the 1200m was the first leg event. Joe Barry (JB) asked if the officials could cope.

The motion was passed with zero opposed and one abstentions. All others were in favour.

The third motion discussed was a proposed addition at Rule 3.2:

### 3.2 The Executive Committee of the Association can upon receipt of a Membership application form accept or reject the application.

PB explained the reasoning behind this motion, which was being proposed by the IUAA executive. After a discussion the IUAA executive asked if this motion could be deferred to the end so as to enable a suitable wording to be agreed upon.

The meeting then moved on to the main motion of the day, the proposed changes to the constitution to enable affiliation to the AAI and greater integration with the AAI, along with a restructuring of the executive committee of the association.

PB and JS presented the proposals of the sub-committee, that had be approved by the IUAA executive. The most significant change being that the IUAA would become the Universities Committee of the AAI and would be elected by the IUAA membership. CS pointed out that the northern colleges weren't represented on the AAI and that there were no named positions on the new universities committee. JS explained that sub-committees could be formed. JM added that such a sub committee had been formed to produce this document/motion. EB stated that the AAI was a Public Limited Company and that this was a cause for concern as the IUAA trophies could be used to off set AAI debts should that go bankrupt and steps should be taken to protect the trophies. SL explained to the floor that the Universities Committee was not elected at congress. EB stated that there was a difference between Governance and Regulation and that the IUAA would have the autonomy to make it's own decisions. EB then queried membership. JS stated that membership was currently institutional but that this could change going forward, but the IUAA executive was currently proposing no change in this area. CS asks what would happen if the AAI started changing things that we didn't like. CS asked would the option to pull still be available to us. PB/JM/JS stated clearly that the answer to this was "Yes". SL explained that there would be negatives but that the positives would significantly out weigh the negatives. It was also pointed out that the committee in conjunction with the membership could call an EGM.

The motion was passed with zero opposed and zero abstentions.

## 14. Election of Officers for 2008/2009

Due to the changes to the constitution that had just been passed the following positions were open for election.

- Chair (2 years)
- 7 x Officers

The following nominations were made for the position of Chair:

John Saulters: Proposed by: Laura Loughlin, Seconded by: Chris Summers

Paul Butler: Proposed by: Stephen Lipson, Seconded by: Karl Fay

PB handed the chair to SL. SL advised that the option of secret ballot was available. SL asked both candidates if they wished to accept the nomination. A secret ballot was used.

John Saulters was deemed elected.

It was announced that Cyril Smyth would not be standing for election. A few words were said to acknowledge CSs contribution to the IUAA over the previous 16 years since he was first elected at the AGM in 1992. He had served the IUAA in several positions including President (3ys), Immediate Past President (3yrs), Vice President (7 years), Secretary (2yrs) and PRO (1yr).

The following nominations were received for the seven officer positions.

Catriona Ryan: Proposed by: Paul Butler, Seconded by: Damian Walsh

Jacqueline Mulhall: Proposed by: Fionnula Britton, Seconded by: John Saulters

Donal Walsh: Proposed by: Katey Byrd, Seconded by: Sinead Noonan

Eric Brady: Proposed by: Ronan Daly, Seconded by: Paul Butler

Kerry Hart: Proposed by: Chris Summers, Seconded by: John Saulters

Paul Butler: Proposed by: Karl Fahy, Seconded by: **Stephen Lipson??????**

Damian Walsh: Proposed by: Paul Butler, Seconded by: Andrew Connick

Stephen Lipson: Proposed by: Karl Fahy, Seconded by: John Saulters

Laura Loughlin: Proposed by: Andrew Agnew, Seconded by: Chris Summers

Proportional Representation was used. John Saulters announced the results in the order in which the names had been nominated. The following were deemed elected:

Jacqueline Mulhall

Donal Walsh

Eric Brady

Paul Butler

Damian Walsh

Stephen Lipson

Laura Loughlin

PB announced that the IUAA executive was withdrawing the motion concerning 3.2 as the wording of the motion was proving more challenging than originally envisaged.

PB announced that there were two membership applications to be considered. The first was from the Cadet College and was supported by the executive. The motion was passed with zero opposed and zero abstentions. The second was from the Institute of Chartered Accounts and the executive was proposing that this application be rejected. The motion was rejected with zero in favour and two abstentions. All others were against.

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

SL announced that the online entry passwords would be posted with the Road Relay Entries.

PB thanked everyone who had served on the IUAA executive over the last 18 years and looked forward to the inaugural year of the Universities Committee.

JS thanked PB for his work on the sub committee for integration and as President of the IUAA and pointed out that PB hadn't allowed the fact that that he had another year to run as President to compromise the timing of the integration motion.

SL thanked UCD for hosting the AGM.