

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



Saturday 15th October 2016

**Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
123 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2**

Organised by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

In Attendance:

IUAA Universities Committee Members: Cyril Smyth (Chair), Damian Walsh, Eric Brady, Enda Fitzpatrick, Stephen Lipson, Michael Deady, Garrett Dunne

Members: Ross Aylward (MU), Eric Hynes (MU), David Fox (UCC), Conor Wilson (AIT), Andrew Heney (AIT), Ciara Rooney (UCD), Daniel Hanllan (UCD), Eoghan Buggy (DCU), Liam Naughton (DCU), Herbie McClelland (DIT), Daniel Martin (ITTallaght), Roddy Rankin (QUB), Joshua Stubbs (UL), Clione Murphy (TCD), Niamh Reynolds (TCD), Blaithin Sheil (TCD), Laura Brennan (TCD), Jemil Saidi (TCD), Iseult O'Donnell (TCD), Ronal Keaskin (ITB), David Matthews (CIT).

Apologies: No apologies received.

The Chairman Cyril Smyth (CS) welcomed all attendees to the AGM 2016.

1. Minutes of the 2016 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.

Herbie McClelland (HMC) questioned whether the Schools should provide officials. Stephen Lipson (SL) and Enda Fitzpatrick (EF) confirmed that there had been confusion over the schools helping. Eric Brady (EB) stated that the issue had been resolved in Sligo. CS clarified that the issue had been at the finish line. The minutes were proposed by Garret Dunne (GD) and seconded by Laura Brennan (LB).

3. Review of the 2015–16 Championships

3.1. Road Relays – NUI Maynooth – November 2015 [hosted by NUI Maynooth]

CS stated that Maynooth University had again hosted the event and that both races had been highly competitive. The day had been sunny. Concerns had been raised in the past about the course safety, especially in the Orchard area due to the number of moving cars, but that the IUAA had reviewed the course for this race. The numbers entering the championships had increased. The start had been moved back to a small carpark allowing athletes to thin out prior to the narrow section. This had made the first lap slightly longer. There had been an issue over the eligibility of a UL athlete and the UL men's team was subsequently disqualified after the race. The IUAA had received an email in advance of today asking if the course could be reverted back to the old course. The IUAA committee had discussed this in advance of today's meeting and had agreed not to revert.

3.2. Indoor Track & Field Championships –Athlone Institute of Technology– February 2016

CS said that there had been a good turnout and that there had been more IUAA indoor records in 2016 than in the Outdoors. This was the second year 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. There had been one incident where an athlete had misbehaved. This incident should not have happened. Laura Brennan (LB) said that coaches had asked how the 3k had been seeded. SL and GD explained that efforts are made to seed the heats but it will be difficult to get it 100% correct. LB said the issue was the Erasmus Student who is unknown and hence can end up in the wrong heat. EF and CS advised that the college could provide times as checkin or in advance to the IUAA.

3.3. Cross Country Championships –Sligo Race Course– March 2016 [hosted by IT Sligo]

CS said that the championships had been hosted at the Sligo race course along with the schools championships. The course was good and dry. There had been refreshments immediately after the race in the adjoining centre and this was greatly appreciated by athletes. A lot of people had expressed disappointment about the lack of an intervarsity meal. The races had been exciting. CS said that the issue of hosting the championships with the schools would be discussed at a later point on the agenda. He said that there were differing views and that he wanted to keep this particular discussion for the later point on the agenda.

3.4. Outdoor Track & Field Championships – Morton Stadium, Santry– April 2016 [hosted by DCU]

CS stated that the event had been hosted by DCU in Santry, that the races had been exciting, that records had been set and that there was a large number of female athletes giving rise to heats instead in just straight finals. This had made for a good championship. The weather had been good and there were large numbers in the field events. The live streaming had been a massive success with the UCC women's 4x400m team being viewed 50 million times. GD congratulated DCU. Damian Walsh (DW) raised the issue of officials and helpers at both the indoors and the outdoors. He asked if everyone knew that there is a list of colleges who are designated to help, but that colleges aren't helping. Michael Deady (MD) said that the list had been put up on facebook. DW asked what does the IUAA need to do to get people to help. CS added that the volunteers don't need to be skilled. MD again put it to the floor as to what does the IUAA need to do to get people to help. EF said that we needed to look professional on the live streaming. SL reminded the floor that the timetable was key and that it must run on time to avoid impact on other events in the timetable. EF said that helpers are necessary to assist the official. CS raised another issue and reminded the floor that athletes needed to be silent and respect the starter. HMC said that it was disrespectful and embarrassing that people weren't being silent. Ronal Keaskin (RK) said that there were always issues and that on another topic sports officers aren't funding meals and not offering to host. CS said that it is always only a few who ruin it for everyone and that it was incumbent of Captains to control their teams. Niamh Reynolds (NR) asked if it was helpers or officials that were required as students don't know the rules. SL added that it is helpers and this is a requirement in the Rules of Championship. DW said the list is on the website. Joshua Stubbs (JSt) (ULAC) said that UL had done nothing to help as the Captain hadn't realised and that UL wanted to change this for the 2016/17 season. HMC offered the idea that colleges have sports students and maybe they could be involved in the organisation and running of the championships as part of their development/learning. Jemil Saidi (JSa) suggested that the IUAA ask for the names of helpers in advance. CS thought this possible wouldn't work. EB said that colleges should be sending helpers forward as opposed to the IUAA chasing colleges on the day. MD said that the IUAA can only ask so many times.

SL brought up the issue of colleges not paying for all the meals that they order for the Road Relays and that this is causing an issue for MU. CS said that MU are not happy and that colleges needed to pay. SL and CS reminded the floor that MU was out of pocket as a result of colleges not paying. GD said that colleges needed to account for people dropping out. CS and SL reminded the floor that the closing time for meal tickets was very close to the event and that colleges needed to pay for what they order.

CS then spoke about the Celtic International that had been held in Glasgow. Accommodation had been at the venue, the track was excellent. The event ran well and was competitive with the winners only being decided in the last few events. The IUAA won both the men's and the women's. The elite IUAA athletes don't compete for the IUAA but the 4th-6th placed athletes do and they are highly committed and worthy of competing for the IUAA. The match was a very friendly event with good positive interaction between the Irish and the Scots. The meal was in the old students union building

which is a magnificent building. The meal and after event were excellent. EF thanked CS for unbelievable work to get the event back up and running and in getting the athletes out to compete.

4. Ratification of Future Intervarsity Hosts 2016–2017

SL spoke about the Road Relays and the date had been set as 19th November in Maynooth University. The indoors could be hosted in either Athlone Institute of Technology or the new National Stadium in Abbotstown. CS pointed out that Easter was influencing the date for the T&F in April 2017. SL went on to explain that the IUAA had finished the 4 year cycle with the Schools and that 8 of the previous Cross Countries had been held in conjunction with the schools. It was the IUAA view not to go back with the schools. GD explained that there had been repeated issues with the venues and officials during the 4 year period that had been agreed with the schools. EF said that the issues had been because the IUAA men's and women's races hadn't been held back to back on the day but had been separated by schools races. HMC Explained that when DIT had hosted with the schools that there had been massive logistical issues organising an event for 1200 people, that massive car parks were required, that there were no spectators and that facilities have been challenging. David Matthews (DM) said that he felt the proposed date of the 11th March 2017 was too late. SL went on to say that there were two options: Either the colleges host the XC or the IUAA host the XC in Abbotstown in 2017 at the new National XC course. Then the situation should be reviewed for 2018 if a college wanted to host the event. CS showed the proposed course at Abbotstown on Google maps. CS said that the options for the date were limited due to a full race calendar and College exams in December / January. Ciara Rooney (CR) suggested moving the Road Relays to after Christmas, but did add that it would probably lose athletes after Christmas. EF agreed that we would lose numbers after Christmas. He added that in the future it numbers would drop off if the XC was before Christmas as numbers will drop off due to the XC season being over. CS proposed the 4th March for the XC. SL asked the floor what they thought in terms of who should host the XC. SL added that we can review the decision after the event on whether a college should host in 2018. EF pointed out that we need to look long term and maybe host the XC in Abbotstown every year. CS said that colleges might get fed up travelling to Dublin every year. CS stated that we can use Abbotstown but if a college wants to host the IUAA should allow them to do so. HMC stated that Dublin based students want to travel outside of Dublin. EF said that a consistent venue would make the event more professional. The floor agreed on the 4th March in Abbotstown, with a second choice date of the 25th February. The end of January is not an option due to exams and colleges not being back in term. As a backup if Abbotstown falls through DCU agreed to host. GD brought up the issue of the lack of a banquet after the XC in Sligo. LB stated that colleges should be told now if it is going to happen as it was only communicated late in the day that there wouldn't be one after the XC in Sligo and some colleges had booked accommodation on the basis that there would be one. EB asked the floor if they wanted a banquet. EF said that the DCU college wouldn't support anything after the meal as the University could be held responsible hence why Colleges are getting nervous. DCU had to have an end time on the meal when they hosted the T&F in April 2016. Ronal Keaskin (RK) said that Student Sport Ireland (SSI) had concerns over banquets and that SSI supported a meal immediately after the event as opposed to later in the evening. EB said that 2 years ago the IUAA hosted a banquet at the request of the members. If the membership want the IUAA executive to host a meal the executive can look into it. HMC said that whoever hosts the event gets into trouble. EB said that he had booked an event for UU in the IUAA's name and added that Athletes were generally well behaved. EF said that the issues were in other sports, but it is on the head of the person who books the event. EB asked, 'what do the members want' and the executive will review. DM said that CIT were behind the event for April 2017 but that the banquet hadn't been discussed yet. He suggested that athletes could go off into Cork city after the T&F. LB said that TCD wanted a banquet. CS said that there were issues with people not attending/supporting the meal and that this caused the host issues at they had to give the hotel numbers in advance. Also the meal did mean an extra nights accommodation for athletes. EB stated again that we need the colleges to tell us what they want. DW said that there was a keen interest from some colleges and maybe the IUAA could contact colleges and a decision be made at the Road Relays. SL stated that the AGM was the place for such a decision. A vote then took place and the floor unanimously voted in favour of holding a banquet with 2-3 abstentions from executive members. CS said that we should ask other colleges. SL pointed out that this was the AGM and that they weren't in attendance.

The following venues and dates were confirmed by the AGM: The date for the XC would be confirmed for definite at the Road Relays. The fall back date was the 25th Feb 2017.

Road Relays	NUI Maynooth – Saturday 19 November 2016
Indoors Track & Field	Athlone IT – Friday 10 February 2017
Cross-Country	IUAA Abbotstown – Saturday 4 March 2017
Outdoors Track & Field	CIT– Fri / Sat 7/8 April 2017

5. Financial Report

EB went through the sources of income and expenditure 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.
- 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, with approximately 3 paying per annum but not necessarily the same 3.
- Cheques won't be accepted for the coming years fees as BOI won't accept them.

EB also added that BOI were now offering banking 365 to organisations, something they hadn't offered previously. RK asked if the cost of the international varied depending on whether the event was at home or away, but that it averaged out over two years. EB confirmed that this was correct.

8. Internationals for 2016/17

EF informed the meeting that the WSG would be in Taipei, that financing would be complicated and that the AAI would probably only send 3-4 athletes.

9. Chairman's Address

CS stated that he had now completed two terms of two years each as per the constitution and would be stepping down both as Chair and from the IUAA committee. He had enjoyed every year and all my time with university athletics since the 1980's, pre the IUAA. He recalled how an opportunity had arisen, along with others, to found the IUAA and that he had enjoyed all his years. He reaffirmed that he was stepping back from the executive completely, that he was 70 years old now and that he would stay active within the IUAA but not on the executive. The IUAA needs new individuals coming on board who will be involved for long periods and not just as a student. CS said that he had loved being involved in University athletic. That the IUAA was the best thing to have happened to University athletics as it brought structure. He thanked the outgoing committee, the athletics clubs and wished all the clubs and athletes the best for future success. Clubs need alumni, get your past members involved. They could bring in money. He had been involved in handing out money in TCD for the last few decades and he understood that funding was difficult but we need to look forward. CS signed off by thanking the floor.

10. Motions

A number of motions and ideas had been received.

The first was to revert to the old course at the road relays. This was quickly rejected.

The second was a motion to introduce an medley relay into the T&F. CS suggested that we could have another championship, but did the colleges want it and would it fit in the calendar. He also pointed out that it would favour the bigger colleges. This motion didn't get the support of the floor.

The third motion was to create a Munster Universities Athletics Association. SL explained the motion as it had been submitted. DM expanded on this by stating that insurance was the issue and the Munster colleges wanted to make sure that they were covered. CS asked if the insurance had been investigated with CIT insurers and that any event on CIT grounds would be covered. MD added that if WIT hosted that insurance would be an issue. EB pointed out that insurance could be got through the IUAA's insurer but that the IUAA would expect to be reimbursed. DM explained that the Munster colleges weren't looking for the IUAA to organise events. CS added that if colleges wanted to

compete against each other in mini competitions that this positive and the IUAA can investigate insurance. HMC stated that students are covered by insurance. EB added that insurance covers the students but not 3rd parties and that it was good to talk now in plenty of time before the next AGM in 2017. CS added that the IUAA is not against helping the MUAA but that the IUAA is a national body and can't be subsidising a regional group. SL suggested that the MUAA look to cover their races under their college insurance policies. DM said that they wanted to go off campus. HMC said that this would require the Garda if using public roads. DM said that he would link up with EB about insurance. CS concluded that the outcome of the discussion was that DM and EB would have a discussion on insurance to see if anything could be done.

11. Election of Officers

CS stated that the position of Chair was for 2 years. SL added that it also included the AAI board position. CS explained that the individual couldn't talk as the AAI meetings were confidential.

The following officers were elected:

- Chair: Damian Walsh [Proposed by Garrett Dunne, Seconded by Michael Deady]
- Assistant Chair: Garrett Dunne [Proposed by Michael Deady, Seconded by Iseult O'Donnell]
- Hon. Secretary: Stephen Lipson [Proposed by Cyril Smyth, Seconded by Enda Fitzpatrick]
- Finance Officer: Eric Brady [Proposed by Damian Walsh, Seconded by Michael Deady]
- Competition Officer: Timmy Crowe [Proposed by Conor Wilson, Seconded by Andrew Heney]
- Development Officer: Enda Fitzpatrick [Proposed by Cyril Smyth, Seconded by Stephen Lipson]
- PR Officer: Michael Deady [Proposed by Cyril Smyth, Seconded by Enda Fitzpatrick].
- General Officers:

The following candidates were proposed and seconded:

- David Matthews (CIT)
- Jemil Saidi (TCD)
- Eoin Buggy (DCU)

The three candidates were deemed elected as there were three places to fill.

10. A.O.B.

MD informed the meeting that he was in talks to get a sponsor to cover the costs of the live stream. He had met the sponsor two weeks previously and a provisional agreement had been reached for money to cover the live streaming and possible a little bit extra. DM congratulated MD and told him to keep banging the drum.

SL thanked Brian Foley for his continued work on the entries and results websites.

CS brought up the IUAA 'Athlete of the Year'. CS presented a list of men. DW & GD proposed Marcus Lawlor. CS presented a list of women. EF & GD proposed Michelle Finn. The floor voted and the IUAA 'Athlete of the Year' was Michelle Finn.

CS thanked everyone for their contributions to discussions at the AGM and wished everyone a great IUAA season in 2016-17.

EB thanked RCSI for hosting the AGM

[Minutes compiled by Stephen Lipson]