

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



**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Dublin City University  
New Student HUB Centre  
The Páirc Room**

Organised by Dublin City University Athletic Club

**In Attendance:**

**IUAA Universities Committee Members:** Eric Brady, Enda Fitzpatrick, Stephen Lipson, Laura Brennan. Adam King, Ruairi Kennedy.

**Members:** Cian McBride (DCU), Cormac Dalton (DCU), Rachael Smyth (DCU), Eamonn Murphy (DCU), Katherine O'Keefe (UL), Shane Aston (IT Carlow), Aaron Chandappan (IT Carlow), David Staunton (MU), Victoria Isa Daniel (MU), Owen Scully (NUIG), Sarah Quinn (NUIG), Ross Daly (AIT), Jack Fortune (AIT), Shane Lowe (UCC), Dylan Byrne (QUB), Azran Reer (TCD), Emma McCay (UU), Niamh Malone (UU), Dean Adams (UU), Cliona Murphy (TCD), Sarah McAllister (TCD), John Moroney (TCD), Jack Boylan (DCU), Sarah Lahiff (DIT), Zak Higgins (DIT), Cyril Smyth (TCD)

**Apologies:** Damian Walsh (Chair IUAA), Garret Dunne (IUAA) Mark Rodgers (IUAA), Hanna Gibney (IUAA).

The Secretary Stephen Lipson (SL) welcomed all attendees to the AGM 2018, apologies that the Chair Damian Walsh is unable to attend and passes the meeting to the IUAA Treasurer Eric Brady (EB) to Chair.

**1. Minutes of the 2017 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) explained the issues leading to the lack of medals during the 2018 championships, apologised for this and assured everyone that they would be available to colleges at the Road Relays. Katherine O'Keefe (KOF) inquired about availability for the upcoming seasons championships. CS said that he had ordered enough medals for last 3 seasons.

The Minutes of the 2017 AGM were proposed by KOF and seconded by Cliona Murphy (CM).

**3. Review of the 2017–18 Championships**

SL outlined how provisional discussions had taken place with the AAI to provide officials at IUAA championships and that the AAI would use these officials to train interested IUAA members who have signed up to AAI coaching courses. To this end the IUAA was approaching the floor with a view to all the member colleges trying to identify interested athletes who were looking to become more involved as officials. EB expanded on this pointing out this would be useful to the individual themselves, their CV and their clubs and member colleges should pass names to the IUAA. Sarah

McAllister (SMC) said that TCD would engage with this process and KOF said that UL would engage in the process. CS said that he was more than happy to train people to become a starter as young people tend to get involved in electronic timing but not in starting. He encouraged people to become involved.

### **3.1. Road Relays – NUI Maynooth – November 2017 [hosted by NUI Maynooth]**

SL outlined that the new course and canteen were now in their third year and were proving very successful in addressing that H&S issues on the course as there were no longer cars on the course and that the new canteen provided more than enough seating for all the athletes. Enda Fitzpatrick (EF) highlighted that part of the course had been resurfaced and this had greatly improved the running surface. Victoria Isa Daniel (VID) from MU explained that the closing date for meal tickets would need to be earlier this year as the catering company were requesting an earlier confirmation on numbers. EB said that colleges had to book if they wanted to attend. John Maroney (JM) asked if the change over zone could be moved back a bit to try and equalise the mile legs. SL explained that this would cause issues with the finish line and make the change over zone confusing. EB suggested that JM put together a proposal and submit it to the IUAA for consideration.

### **3.2. Indoor Track & Field Championships –Athlone Institute of Technology– February 2018**

LB asked for feedback on the live streaming. SMC asked if the live stream could go up quickly after a race as athletes wanted to review the race. LB explained that a different provider had been used this year. Facebook live streaming auto deletes if the file is too big. RK asked if AIT could stream to YouTube as this might be able to save bigger files.

### **3.3. Cross Country Championships –Santry Playing Fields– March 2018 [hosted by TCD]**

EF congratulated TCD on being able to turnaround an excellent championships a week later having had to cancel with only a few day notice due to the snow. SL pointed out that there had been massive meal ticket orders for the original date and that unfortunately this had dropped off on the rescheduled date due to colleges being unable to secure accommodation at short notice. CM added that because some colleges had ordered late TCD had been unable to facilitate the requests as there wasn't sufficient time for the hotel to arrange food.

### **3.4. Outdoor Track & Field Championships – Mary Peters– April 2018 [hosted by QUB]**

EF congratulated Dylan Byrne (DB) who had jumped in at the AGM and offered to host and had pulled off a well organised championship. SL said that the partnership with the IUAA had worked well. DB said that the only issue had been the fire alarm activation at the hotel by a student not affiliated to an IUAA members club. SL pointed out that this had impacted all guests at the hotel and had arisen as a ticket had been passed to a non-athlete. LB said that the live streaming had been conducted using an iPad. RK/LB/DB all stated that this had worked well. RK reached out to colleges to see if anyone was interested in assisting from a technical perspective. Emma McCay (MC) said that host colleges should get clubs and societies engaged. LB explained that AIT had managed this for the IUAA at the indoors. LB said that it might be cheaper for the IUAA to purchase equipment. Shane Aston (SA) supported this saying that it would probably be cheaper to purchase the equipment and would pay for itself very quickly.

### **3.5. Irish Universities vs Scottish Universities – Scotland– May 2018 [hosted by SUAA]**

Laura Brennan (LB) said that 70 people had travelled to Scotland for the competition and that the IUAA had won the men's and the overall competition. It had been well organised on the day. The poles had proved an issue on the bus and that it would be a case of taking them by car next time. The date had clashed with a referendum and that the departure of the bus was delayed to try and accommodate some people who had wanted to vote. Ruairi Kennedy (RK) and LB both discussed the need to improve how athletes were contacted as this continued to prove challenging as despite the fact that the top two were automatically selected that tended not to compete due to other commitments which straight away meant that that were looking for two athletes per event to compete. LB suggested that captains provide the phone numbers of the top 7 athletes in each race. She also explained that when contacting athletes they needed a few days to respond which unfortunately meant some athletes were contacted very late in the process. RK said that it had been better than the previous year but that some athletes were missed due to late dropouts and despite best endeavours it wasn't always possible to contact the athlete next in line. KOF asked whether contact information should be collected on the day. LB/RK and EB all said 'yes'. EB said that a more formal process would help. RK apologised of the lack of availability of singlets and that the IUAA should maybe consider looking at

the idea of bulk ordering a supply in the future with a standard design. This would also ensure athletes got the correct size singlet. CM congratulated LB and RK on all the hard work that they had put into ensuring a strong team was able to travel.

#### 4. Ratification of Future Intervarsity Hosts

Eoin Scully (ES) confirmed that NIUG would host the XC in 2019 and that it would most likely be in St Marys college as there would be ground works required on the course in NUIG. NUIG where to confirm the date with St Mary's as either the 2<sup>nd</sup> or the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Shane Lowe (SLo) from said that UCC would like to host the XC in 2020 as they hadn't hosted since 1997 but that they weren't certain about a venue. EB said that it was about a commitment to host and that UCC could determine the venue later. EF said that DCU would like to host in 2021 as again it had been a long time since DCU had hosted and that if necessary DCU would act as a fall back host for 2020.

Shane Aston (SA) put IT Carlow forward to host the T&F in 2020. UCD said that they would like to host in 2021 and would confirm this at the 2019 AGM. TCD asked to host in 2022 and UCC asked to host in 2023. Eamonn Murphy (EM) said that the new UCD track was provisionally scheduled for completion in late 2020. SL said that this should be confirmed at the 2019 AGM as this sounded very tight.

SL asked the floor if they would prefer the indoors on a Friday or a Saturday. The feedback from the floor was that the IUAA should try and secure a Saturday date. EF explained that the Friday date was originally due to cost and availability but that the new national stadium had made Saturday possible now. SL said that it was hoped that the Saturday date would mean that more officials would be available. EB asked that if anyone was unhappy with the proposed move to a Saturday that now was the time to speak.

The following venues and dates were confirmed by the AGM:

Road Relays	NUI Maynooth – Saturday 17 November 2018
Indoors Track & Field	Athlone IT – Friday 8 February 2019
Cross-Country	NUIG – Saturday 2 or 9 March 2019
Outdoors Track & Field	AIT – Fri / Sat 5/6 April 2019

#### 5. Financial Report

EB went through the sources of income and expenditure and highlighted the following points:

- The IUAA runs a zero budget
- Main source of income is affiliation fees, the bulk of which comes from the Tier 4 colleges
- All arrears had been paid
- €500 in sponsorship vs €4000 the previous year, but that the €4000 had been the only notable sponsorship in the previous 15 years
- Hosts tend to get local sponsors
- The costs of insurance had been stable in recent years
- That the misc costs was to cover postage, race numbers and web hosting
- Championship support grants are only paid out if the host doesn't make an excessive profit
- The IUAA funds the timing for the championships if it is a cost to the hosts
- Very little had been paid out last season as there had been no medals and no grants had been paid out

The cost of the international with the Scottish Universities was discussed. Eamon Murphy (EM) queries why it had been more expensive last year than the previous year. EB explained that the costs differed when it was at home vs when it was away and there were extra travel costs when it was in Scotland. Also the size of the team traveling last year was large. Ruairi Kennedy (RK) added that the two team captains had chased a lot of athletes last year which increased numbers competing/traveling. EB said that if the cost remained this high going forward then it wasn't sustainable. Cyril Smyth (CS) added that the location with Scotland can influence the cost. EB said

that the large numbers of athletes meant a second bus had been required which increased the overall cost. EF inquired whether one bus and a few cars would have been cheaper.

EB said that the IUAA ran deficit of €7k last season and that sources of income and areas of cost will need to be reviewed. He also added that the new technical universities will require structuring of the tiers/membership fees, as membership numbers will drop and hence income will drop.

## **6. Universities International for 2018**

EF said that the World Student Games were in Italy but that the AAI were not funding a team. CS inquired if the standards had been set yet. EB said that the IUAA would get information on the WSG but that team events were preferred over individual athletes.

EB moved onto the international with the Scottish Universities and said that the IUAA was hosting the Scots in 2019. EF said that the date was important to avoid clashes. Laura Brennan (LB) said that the last time it had been hosted in conjunction with the national multi-events but that the timetable had not been ideal as the IUAA was allocated gaps in the timetable. CS added that getting officials was a challenge and that Dublin was expensive for accommodation. EB asked was everyone agreed that the IUAA would host the event in 2019. EF suggested the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> weekend in May. CS said that we should avoid clashing with the schools. LB suggested hosting it in Belfast as it was cheaper and there were a lot of officials in the NIAF. EF said that this could possibly be done in conjunction with another event in Belfast. Brexit was raised as a possible concern regarding cross border travel. CS said that we need to agree a date quickly with the Scots. The 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019 was agreed as this avoided college exams. EB asked for volunteers to help organise the event. LB and RK said that they would assist.

## **7. Chairman's Address**

SL read the chairs report. CS thanked Damian, commending him for his dedication even before joining the committee and thanked him for all his work and stated that hopefully he will be in a position to return in a few years time.

There report was proposed by CS and seconded by Katherine O'Keefe (KOK)

## **8. Motions**

No motions were received.

A membership application had been received from Hibernia College. SL said that the IUAA committee was happy with the application but that it needed the approval of the membership. EB asked was everyone happy to allow a new member and that now was the time for comments or questions. The application was carried unanimously.

John Moroney (JM) asked was it too late for a motion. EB said yes but it could be discussed. JM asked if the IUAA would accept times for assisting in seeding time trials at the indoors. EB said it was difficult but that the IUAA could attempt to. JM explained that Erasmus students wouldn't be known and could get assigned to the B race. EF suggested that a time be entered on the check-in sheet. SL said that this required resource and would be challenging. EB asked would it improve the situation. EF & SL said that it would only be required for the 1500m & 3000m races. Eamon Murphy (EM) said that it was open to fake times being entered and that colleges would need to be able to stand over the times. CS pointed out that as the indoors were early season that the times would probably have to be from the previous season. EB & EF said that we can make this work. EB added that the IUAA would have the final say on who went into which time trial. SL said that it would be best endeavours. SL confirmed that the floor wanted the time trials to be seeded as opposed to randomly assigned.

## **9. Election of Officers**

As Damian Walsh had completed a two-year term the position of Chair was open for election, along with all other positions.

The following officers were elected:

- Chair: Garrett Dunne [Proposed by Laura Brennan, Seconded by Stephen Lipson]
- Assistant Chair: Laura Brennan [Proposed by John Moroney, Seconded by Cian McBride]

- Hon Secretary: Stephen Lipson [Proposed by Enda Fitzpatrick, Seconded by Laura Brennan]
- Finance Officer: Eric Brady [Proposed by Laura Brenna, Seconded by Shane Aston]
- Competition Officer: Dylan Byrne [Proposed by Enda Fitzpatrick, Seconded by Laura Brennan]
- Development Officer: Enda Fitzpatrick [Proposed by Cian McBride, Seconded by Stephen Lipson]
- PR Officer: Ruairi Kennedy [Proposed by Laura Brennan, Seconded by Shona Lowe].
- General Officers:

The following candidates were proposed and seconded: Each candidate was afforded the opportunity to say a few words, or for someone to say a few words on their behalf if the nominee wasn't present.

- Adam King\*\*
- Sinead Kelly\*\*
- Shane Aston\*\*
- Cormac Dalton
- Hanna Gibney

\*\* Elected following a vote.

During the election it was asked what the role of the Competition Officer involved. SL clarified that all positions where what the incumbent made them. It was also asked what the role of the Development Officer involved. EB clarified that with AAI/IUA integration moving closer together this role was important.

#### **10. A.O.B.**

EB requested that all colleges ensure that they label their electronic payment and that they contact him immediately so that he could verify receipt.

SL asked all colleges to check that their clubs postal address was correct on the online entries portal.

SL & EB said that they would look into a method of electronic payment for IUAA championships.

CS presented the nominations for Athlete of the year. CS explained that his list of nominations came solely from performance in the Varsities, the Universities International and the WSG. CS proposed the following Female Athletes: Elizabeth Morland, Phil Healy, Sorcha McAllister and Nadia Power. Elizabeth Morland was chosen as the IUAA Female Athlete of the Year for season 2017-8. CS proposed the following Male Athletes: Luke McGann, Matthew Behan, Marcus Lawlor, Andrew Millon, Travene Morrison and Shane Aston. Matthew Behan was chosen as the IUAA Male Athlete of the Year for season 2017-18. CS said that both athletes would receive their awards at the Road Relays. A vote then took place to determine which of the two IUAA winners would be chosen to go forward to the AAI awards presentation for University Athlete of the Year. Elizabeth Morland was chosen. CS indicated that he would contact AAI with this name.

EF said that Adam King had requested that the men's hammer take place first at the T&F for safety reasons.

EF said that the IUAA should look at a trophy in memory of Joana Dignan who two year previously. The IUAA agreed to review the suggestion. EB added that the IUAA would determine what the trophy should be awarded for.

EB thanked everyone for attending and thanked DCU for hosting the AGM.

[Minutes compiled by Stephen Lipson]