

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



**Saturday 12th October 2019
Trinity College Dublin
TBSI 152-160 Pearse St
Room B2.72 and B2.73 (merged)**

Organised by Dublin University Harriers and Athletic Club

In Attendance:

IUAA Universities Committee Members: Garret Dunne, Eric Brady, Stephen Lipson, Laura Brennan, Shane Aston.

Members: Bridget McDyer (NUIG), Alexandra Tierney (UCD), Nathan Linsay (QUB), Michael Ogunsiakan (TUD), Michael Jordan (MU), Victoria Isa Daniel (MU), David Fox (UCC), Ann Lonenev (TCD), Ciaran Quinn (TCD), Pierre Merchan (NUIG), John Moroney (TCD), Cliona Murphy (TCD), Joseph Finnegan Murphy (TUD), Dean Adams (UU), Niamh O'Neill (UCD) Sean Dowling (TUD), Cyril Smyth (TCD)

Apologies:

The Chair Garret Dunne (GD) welcomed all attendees to the AGM 2019,

1. Minutes of the 2018 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.

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were proposed by GD and seconded by Cliona Murphy (CM).

3. Review of the 2018–19 Championships

3.1. Road Relays – NUI Maynooth – November 2018 [hosted by Maynooth University]

Victoria Isa Daniel (VID) from MU explained that there was an issue with colleges not paying for their meal tickets. SL explained that this had been an issue for years and that it was largely centred around the smaller colleges only paying for what they needed on the day as opposed to what they had ordered. Eric Brady (EB) said that colleges are to pay for all tickets ordered. Laura Brennan (LB) advised that it was always best to order less than you thought you needed as there was always late dropouts.

3.2. Indoor Track & Field Championships –Athlone Institute of Technology– February 2019

The availability of officials was discussed. EB said that the weight for distance had impacted on the jumps. SL said that starting/finishing events of time was key to the smooth running of the championships due to the tight timetable.GD said that 30-40 people are required to assist with the smooth running of the championships.

3.3. Cross Country Championships – St Mary’s College Galway – March 2019 [hosted by NUIG]

GD outlined that the event had been in Galway and that Galway City Harriers had provide officials on the day. Cyril Smyth (CS) said that it was a very exciting finish. Bridget McDyer (BMD) said that the whole experience had been great for the club in NUIG and that it had really helped get everyone involved.

3.4. Outdoor Track & Field Championships – Athlone Institute of Technology– April 2019 [hosted by AIT]

GD said that AIT and Gordon Brett had done a great job but that despite everyone’s best efforts we were still short on officials. LB said that the IUAA had been messaging colleges in advance for names via social media and will do so again in the future. EB brought up the issue of insurance and said that if anyone witnesses an accident they should report it and write up a report of what they witnessed. This is important for insurers. GD floated that the IUAA was considering reviewing the scoring system to help level the playing field between big and small colleges and if anyone has any ideas can they please share them with the IUAA.

3.5. Irish Universities vs Scottish Universities – Northern Ireland– May 2019 [hosted by IUAA]

GD said that the event was short of officials as it unfortunately clashed with another T&F event in NI. This had raised internal discussions as to whether the IUAA could /should host the event. The IUAA doesn’t in reality have the resources to host without significant outside help in terms of officials. The SUAA are due to host in 2020 but the issue will come back around in 2021. EB outlined that this has now become the biggest expense on the IUAA books and that hosting is a challenge. Cliona Murphy (CM) asked if it could be opened up and charge athletes. GD said that the small numbers doesn’t help with the current 2x2 format and it might be an insurance issue. EB said that this could be worked out with the insurers. CM suggested that it could possibly be opened up to just students. Shane Aston (SA) said that the current date clashes with the AAI multi-events. EB suggested bringing in a 3rd team might be a better option. CS said that the Leinster province would be interested. GD said that the date isn’t fixed but that there are constraints due to exams finishing. John Moroney (JM) asked if the Scots could invite a British team then the event is in Scotland. EB said that historically the English teams weren’t interested. EB suggested that we could invite a schools team and let them throw their own implements. CM said that we could piggy back on the AAI games. CS said that in relation to the schools team idea that is was a crowded time in the calendar. GD said that the AAI games is an option. BMD said that Connaught teams would be interested.

4. Ratification of Future Intervarsity Hosts

GD explained that the Indoors used to be a 2 day event, then a 1 day event, that Fridays had historically been easier to get a booking on, but that we have a Saturday this year. That Fridays are becoming harder for Students to miss labs and that hopefully he Saturday will help with officials. CS said that Saturday will help get timing officials. SL said that we had agreed at the 2018 AGM to try a Saturday.

David Fox (DF) confirmed that UCC would be hosting the XC.

GD said that in relation to the T&F it had been intended to host the event in IT Carlow but that the track was unlikely to be ready hence a new host was required. SL said that this is what Dylan Byrne had done 2 years ago when he put his hand up and said that QUB would host. EB said thiatthis was very important. SL said that UL/NUIG/TUD were due a turn. EB asked what tracks were currently out of commission. VID said that Lucan had no cage or javelin, BMD said that Galway wasn’t up to standard. Joseph Finnegan Murphy (JFM) said that TUD could lok as Tallaght as it had all the facilities. CS said that the IUAA should reach out to UL. GD asked everyone to go away and discuss and to revert back to the IUAA ASAP. SL said before the Road relays.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Road Relays | NUI Maynooth – Saturday 16 November 2019 |
| Indoors Track & Field | Athlone IT – Saturday 15 February 2020 |
| Cross-Country | UCC – Saturday 7 March 2020 |

GD then moved onto the 2020/21 season

The Road Relays would be in Maynooth, the indoors would be in AIT or Abbotstown. The XC was provisionally scheduled to be hosted by DCU. The T&F was scheduled to be hosted by UCD. Alexandra Tierney (AT) said that the track hadn't been started yet, It was agreed that IT Carlow should be the fall back.

CS said that TCD had previously asked to host in 2022 and that this was still the case as it was the 150th anniversary of DUHAC and that UCC should host in 2023 as this was the 150th anniversary of the 1st Intersvarsity competition.

5. Financial Report

EB explained that the bulk of the membership fees come from Tier 4 and Tier 2. EB then outlines the income/expenditure. The grants for the host colleges for the XC and T&F hadn't yet been released as reports were still to be submitted. The cost of hiring the Indoor Arena in AIT will be monitored vs the National Stadium. EB highlighted the cost per medal and the cost of the live streaming, which had been reduced through the use of alternative methods of streaming. LB highlighted that AIT had assisted with the streaming as they have the facilities and that other colleges do have the facilities and this should be utilised. EB ran through the proposed budget for the 2019/20 season. The international is the big cost and EB poised the question as to whether the IUAA could afford to send 70 people and asked should we consider sending less people but with more people doubling up or alternatively cutting events as the costs need to be reviewed.

6. Internationals for 2019/20

GD said that the international with the Scottish Universities had come up in several areas already. No contact had been made with the Scots yet but it was already known that they did want to host in 2020. The SUAA structure is changing so this may impact. Now is the time to raise and concerns about the 2020 event. Sean Dowling (SD) asked what the meeting thought of scrapping the event. GD said that it provided a level of international competition and that there was demand from the athletes. SD said that due to the cost and the timing of the event that it wasn't worth the money. GD said that a case could be made to cancel it. BMD asked could the event be restructured with by only selecting higher standard athletes. EB said that it is a team event and numbers get points, as the goal is to provide competition. We do what the floor wants, the question is valid. CS pointed out that the location within Scotland influences the cost. EB said that the IUAA keeps it central for the Scots. SL asked is there something different the IUAA should spend the €20k on. GD said that the IUAA could spend it elsewhere. SA said that when it goes well it is a great event. He went on to say that it shouldn't be scrapped but that maybe we should look at restructuring. Michael Jordan (MJ) agreed and added that it had been a great opportunity for him. GD said that it can assist with scholarship applications. SA said that the money wasn't been wasted. CM said that it should be improved not scrapped. LB said that the issue was the date in late May. VID said that MU and DCU were still in exams. LB said that the 1st week in June would be better. SA said that the ones who want to compete would be the ones planning to stay in Ireland. CS pointed out that the Scots would be choosing the 2020 as hosts. GD It is clear that there is an appetite to keep it going but we need to look at costs and structure.

7. Chairman's Address

GD said that the competition had been strong, that 6 records had been broken and that there had been record attendance at all events. GD thanked the committee especially during the 8 week period in Feb/Mar/April when 3 varsities had been held. GD then paid a special thankyou to Enda Fitzpatrick who had stepped away from the DCU and the IUAA. He had built DCU and hence Irish Athletics. His contribution has been immense. GD also paid tribute to Craig Lynch a former IUAA athlete who had recently passed. (The floor stood for 10 seconds).

8. Motions

A membership application had been received from Dublin Business School. SL said that the IUAA committee was happy with the application but that it needed the approval of the membership. The application was proposed by LB and seconded by Alexandra Tierney (AT). The application was carried unanimously.

No motions had been received from the membership. The IUAA had a motion: To add 'Technological University Dublin' to the list of affiliated members in Appendix 1. SL said that TUD had to be ratified to be eligible to compete. GD said that the IUAA can't have 1 member competing as 3 when under the same Umbrella. Sean Dowling (SD) said TUD wanted to compete as one. The motion was proposed by EB and seconded by SL and passed unanimously. SL then asked the floor if there was anything for discussion.

9. Election of Officers

As Garrett Dunne had completed one year of a two-year term the position of Chair was not open for election.

The following officers were elected:

- Assistant Chair: Laura Brennan [Proposed by Cliona Murphy, Seconded by Garrett Dunne]
- Hon Secretary: Stephen Lipson [Proposed by Shane Aston, Seconded by John Moroney]
- Finance Officer: Eric Brady [Proposed by Stephen Lipson, Seconded by Sean Dowling]
- Competition Officer: Dylan Byrne [Proposed by Garrett Dunne, Seconded by Nathan Linsay]
- Development Officer: John Moroney** [Proposed by Cliona Murphy, Seconded by Ann Lonenev], Shane Aston, [Proposed by Stephen Lipson, Seconded by Victoria Isa Daniel]
- PR Officer: Victoria Isa Daniel [Proposed by Laura Brennan, Seconded by Michael Jordan].

- 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.

- Ciaran Quinn **
- Pierre Merchan **
- Shane Aston**

** Elected following a vote.

10. A.O.B.

CS presented the nominations for Athlete of the year. CS outlined how he came up with the list and says that he will take further nominations from the floor. 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: Michaela Walsh and Phil Healy. Phil Healy was chosen as the IUAA Female Athlete of the Year for season 2018-19. CS proposed the following Male Athletes: Marcus Lawlor, Damien Landers and John Kelly. Marcus Lawlor was chosen as the IUAA Male Athlete of the Year for season 2018-19. 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. Marcus Lawlor was chosen. CS indicated that he would contact AAI with this name.

Pierre Merchan (PM) asked about Guests competing in the Road Relays to assist with selection for AAI competition. GD outlined the background and the issues with congestion. SL said that guests hadn't been allowed historically. VID & CS both cited congestion. EB said that IUAA insurance was only for IUAA races and not separate races. SL & EB said that Maynooth University would need to agree to any proposal. SL said that if any Guesting was to take place it would have to be as a separate race before the main races with officials provided by the AAI. GD said that the IUAA needed to try and help the AAI. VID said that she would check with Maynooth University.

SL clarified that the T&F would be on the 3rd/4th April 2020.

Dean Adams asked about music at the T&F. SL said that it was possible but that manning it was an issue as it required someone on it permanently. GD said that we will try.

GD thanked everyone for attending and thanked TCD for hosting the AGM.

[Minutes compiled by Stephen Lipson]