

Irish Universities Athletics Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held in Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier Street on Saturday 1st November 2003.

Executive Members in Attendance:

Dr Stephen Lipson, Hon. President
Mr Eric Brady, Immediate Past President
Professor Cyril J Smyth, Vice President
Professor Cyril M White, Committee Member
Professor Michael Hillery, Committee Member
Mr Ian O'Sullivan, Committee Member

Apologies were received from Mr Ian O'Neill (Committee Member), Mr Noel Pollock (Hon. Treasurer), Mr Dave Maley (Committee Member), Ms Lesley O'Connor (Committee Member), Ms Siobhan O'Keeffe (Committee Member) and Mr Tim-Pat O'Connor (Vice President)

In Attendance:

Delegates from ten members were present.

Mr Gary Park (DCU)	Ms Jennifer Goggin (NUI Cork – UCC)
Ms. Louise Reilly (DCU)	Ms Rebecca Haworth (NUI Cork -UCC)
Mr Enda Fitzpatrick (DCU)	Ms Maria Slattery (NUI Dublin – UCD)
Mr Herbie McClelland (DIT)	Mr Rob Bruce-Brand (TCD)
Mr Alan McEntee (Dundalk IT)	Mr Karl Fahy (TCD)
Mr Robert O'Rourke (IT Carlow)	Ms Janine Jensen (TCD)
Mr Eamonn Whelan (NUI Maynooth)	Mr Karl Kildea (UL)
Mr Paul Wilson (QUB)	Ms Gerard O'Shea (UL)
Mr Simon Taylor (QUB)	

Apologies were received from Mr Noel Lawlor (Athlone IT), Ms Carmel Lynch (IT Carlow), Mr Patsy McGonagle (Letterkenny IT) and Ms Lisa Muldowney (Dundalk IT).

No delegates were present from Athlone IT, Cork IT, Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology, IT Tallaght, IT Tralee, IT Letterkenny, Limerick IT, NUI Galway, Portobello College, Royal College of Surgeons, The Incorporated Law Society of Ireland, The National College of Ireland, University of Ulster, and Waterford IT.

The Hon President Dr Stephen Lipson opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He stated that the agenda and related documents had been made available on the IUAA website with the intent of inclusivity and openness, albeit

that Members were only represented by those present. He felt that it was important that all interested should have access to reports and proceedings.

1. Minutes of the 2002 AGM

Seeing as the Minutes had been made available prior to the Meeting, they were taken as read. Ms Janine Jensen (TCD), seconded by Mr Karl Fahy (TCD), proposed them as an accurate record of the 2002 AGM.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not on the Agenda.

3. Hon Secretary's Report

The Acting Hon. Secretary Dr Stephen Lipson had prepared the report. Dr Lipson outlined the main topics of his report.

- CIT had been awarded the Intervarsity of the Year Award by CUSAI for their hosting of the 2002 Outdoors Track and Field Championships.
- The on-line entries continued to be a great success and had improved the efficiency of the IUAA and the host Colleges in organising championships
- The issue of trophies and the manner in which they were presented, stored and the condition in which they returned for subsequent award
- The contribution of Professor Cyril White to the IUAA both as a past president in its infancy and his service as a starter at the championships
- The World University Games in Daegu, Korea and the achievement of Paul Hession (NUI Galway) in winning the Silver Medal in the 200 m
- The World University Cross Country Championships in Collegno, Italy in March 2004 and the appointment of Mr Ian O'Neill as team manager
- The administration of the IUAA, recording of Executive Meetings and attendance, minutes of General Meetings and the making this information generally available to all participants through the web site

The report was proposed by Professor Michael Hillery (Executive) and seconded by Ms Janine Jensen (TCD).

4. Hon. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. President gave an overview of the accounts. The accounts for 2002-2003 had been made available through the IUAA website. The opening balance had been €3,203.30. Income for the year was €11,216.05 and expenditure €12,603.74, a deficit of €1,387.69 for the year. The net assets of the IUAA stood at €1,6888.67. The Hon. President pointed out that the IUAA had never really had substantial assets and that the majority of the income came from subscriptions from members. There was a pressing need for sponsorship. The trophies of the IUAA were a very valuable asset to be cared for as the IUAA was unlikely to have funds for replacement should trophies be lost. During 2002-2003 the lid for the Men's Outdoors Track & Field trophy had been replaced. NUI Dublin – UCD had lost the lid a few years previously and had

provided £600 towards the replacement cost. Mr Eric Brady pointed out that any extra costs in the future in terms of new activities would have to be self-financing.

The report was proposed by Mr Karl Fahy (TCD) and seconded by Ms Janine Jensen (TCD).

5. Hon. Competitions Secretary's Report

The report had been prepared by Dr Stephen Lipson as Acting Competitions Secretary from July 2003 through October 2003. Dr Lipson highlighted important matters in his report.

- The need for helpers and assistants at championships
- The large numbers participating in the Road Relay Championships
- The decision to move the Indoors Track and Field Championships until after Christmas in 2003-2004
- The changes made to the Indoors Track & Field timetable and the incorporation of the scoring of the pentathlon into the overall T & F scoring
- The first class organisation of the Cross Country Championships by DCU and the large numbers of competitors
- The winning of the Ladies Cross Country title by the hosts DCU for the first time
- The problems encountered with certain events at the Outdoors Track & Field Championships hosted by NUI Galway and the sterling efforts made by NUI Galway to organise the event
- The Celtic Cross Country hosted at the sports grounds of DIT
- The winning of all three trophies at the Antrim International by the IUAA for the first time and the excellent performances of team captains and athletes
- The participation of athletes in post championship events, the very good behaviour of athletes and the camaraderie that developed from these social occasions

The report was proposed by Mr Enda Fitzpatrick (DCU) and seconded by Ms Janine Jensen (TCD)

6. Hon PRO's Report

Dr Stephen Lipson had prepared the report. The report emphasised some of the problems encountered during 2002-2003 in getting the results of IUAA championships and the activities of the IUAA published. The principal points were:

- The difficulties in getting articles published in the *Irish Runner*
- Searching for alternative magazines such as *Fair Play*

- The publication of results of IUAA championships in both the *Irish Times* and *Irish Independent*
- The upgrading of the IUAA website and getting the results of championships from previous years on the site as a historical record
- The success of the IUAA as a communication vehicle for the association, the number of hits on the site indicating how widely it was viewed by members and others
- A new look would be given to the web site by 2004

Mr Eric Brady felt it was important to maintain monitoring of the use of the site as this might prove to be valuable data to encourage a potential sponsor.

The report was proposed by Ms Jennifer Goggin (NUI Cork – UCC) and seconded by Mr Karl Fahy (TCD).

7. Review of 2002-2003 Championships

Reports had been received from Dublin City University on their hosting of the 2002-2003 Cross Country Championships, from the Team Managers for the 2003 Celtic International Cross Country, and from NUI Galway on their hosting of the 2002-2003 Outdoors Track & Field Championships. The Hon. President emphasised the importance of receiving these reports as they acted as a tremendous information resource to other Colleges organising championships, especially those who might be doing this for the first time. The hosting of a championship only came around once every 10-15 years by which time those with knowledge and experience had left a College or were no longer active in helping the athletics club in a College. Everyone had something to learn from the experiences of others, good and bad. The general feeling of the meeting was that by and large the championships in 2002-2003 had been very successful. Matters raised included:

- The importance of back-up with hand timing because of the problems experience in Galway with electronic timing
- The desirability of having all events at one venue for T & F championships
- Delays in programmes
- The improvements in the Indoor timetable
- The excellent changing facilities at the 2002-2003 championships
- The price of championship dinners and the need to try to control this while still providing a quality experience

The Hon. President thanked those who had prepared the reports, appreciating the time, effort and thought that had been put into them.

8. Hon President's Address

The Hon. President had published a very full statement on his views on IUAA activities and experiences during 2002-2003 on the IUAA website. The issues raised in his address included:

- The cooperation achieved with the AAI over fixture dates and technical representation to ensure that National records set at championships would be confirmed
- The proposed merger of CUSAI and ISSA
- The use of IUAA race numbers
- The excellent participation levels by athletes in championships
- The excellent standards of hosting of championships
- The valuable contribution of officials from both within and without the IUAA to the running of championships
- The restoration of the JP O'Sullivan trophy to mark the 130th T & F championships
- The need for clear guidelines on a variety of issues to avoid problems that arose during 2002-2003
- The excellent hosting of championships by DCU, NUI Galway and NUI Maynooth during 2002-2003
- The use of information technology and a vision of the use of this technology to the benefit of the IUAA in the future; a special thanks to Mr Brian Foley for his fantastic efforts in this regard
- The Celtic XC and the need for funding for future hosting
- The success of athletes at the World Student Games in Daegu
- The need for a strategic plan for the future

Dr Lipson thanked his colleagues on the Executive for the help and encouragement throughout the year and closed by wishing all members success during the championships in 2003-2004.

9. World Student Games Track and Field 2003 – Review

A brief overview of the achievements of athletes was presented. These championships had provided invaluable experience for those who participated. There was a short discussion on selection, qualifying standards, interaction with CUSAI, the importance of these championships in the development of Irish athletics given that many of the young elite athletes were at college in Ireland, and the in-put of the IUAA into the selection of the coach.

10. World Student Cross Country Championships – Italy 2004

The Hon. President given a short presentation on the event. He was delighted that Mr Ian O'Neill had been selected as team manager. It had been the intent of the manager to provide clear guidelines on selection. Athletes who wished to be considered for selection were asked to make themselves known to Mr O'Neill.

11. Motions Concerning Amendments to the Constitution

General tidying up of Constitution

The Hon. President emphasised that much of what the delegates were being asked to approve was a tidying-up exercise. The introduction of amendments sometimes led to anomalies being created or wording in diverse sections needing to be changed slightly to conform with the intent of a newly introduced amendment. There was also a need to streamline some of the numbering of sections.

Discussion centred on issues arising from the proposed changes to Sections 5.2 and 5.2.1 –Voting , Section 6.3 (6.2.1) - Subscriptions and Levies and Section 7 – The Association’s Championships. Points raised included nos of votes and the difficulties and cost of getting delegates to attend the AGM, the importance of voting on constitutional issues as they affected all participants in the Association’s activities, and the issue of penalties. It was felt that penalties might not be applied to those Colleges within Level 1 as it was important to maintain the inclusiveness of Colleges.

After the discussion the proposed wording changes to the Constitution were approved unanimously. Professor Michael Hillery thanked the Hon. President for the immense work he had put into revising the Constitution. As the person who had been involved with the first two revisions he realised only too well the time and effort involved.

Two motions concerning cross-country championship participation were considered.

Motion 1 (Proposed by DCU)

That rules 8.3. and 8.4 be amended so as not to act as a barrier to entry to the cross-country championships but allow unlimited numbers of competitors as follows:

Rules 8.3 and 8.4:

8.3.

Each competing Member shall be allowed in the case of the men’s Cross-Country Championship to enter a team of up to sixteen, (16), athletes of whom up to four, (4), athletes may be entered under the terms of Section 7.2 (iv) and an additional five (5) under the terms of Section 7.13. The first six, (6), athletes of a Member team across the finishing line shall be the scoring athletes.

8.4

Each competing Member shall be allowed in the case of the women's Cross- Country Championship to enter a team of up to fourteen, (14), athletes of whom up to four, (4), athletes may be entered under the terms of Section 7.2 (iv) and an additional five (5) under the terms of Section 7.13. The first four, (4), athletes of a Member team across the finishing line shall be the scoring athletes.

Amended to:

8.3.

Each competing Member shall be allowed in the case of the men's Cross-Country Championship to enter a team of athletes of whom the first six, (6), athletes of a Member team across the finishing line shall be the scoring athletes.

8.4

Each competing Member shall be allowed in the case of the women's Cross- Country Championship to enter a team of athletes of whom the first four, (4), athletes of a member team across the finishing line shall be the scoring athletes.

Motion 2 (proposed by TCD)

(a) That more than 16 and 14 athletes, respectively, be allowed to participate for their colleges but that the numbers of scoring athletes remain unchanged.

(b) That any additional athletes over and above the 16 and 14 athlete quotas be considered as guests and not be entitled to a medal should their colleges win medals.

(c) That by competing as guests, athletes over the current quotas would not be classified in the scoring place system but would be entitled to be recorded as finishers and accorded times.

These amendments and proposals were proposed conjointly by Mr Gary Park (DCU) and seconded by Ms Janine Jensen (TCD). Both spoke on the issues. Both expressed that although their proposals were somewhat different in phraseology the intent of both was the same, namely, to be more inclusive with respect to participation in the cross-country championships by allowing all who wished to participate to do so, without necessarily disadvantaging smaller Colleges with smaller numbers of available students. It was becoming increasingly problematic in the larger colleges to select teams and deny participation to enthusiastic athletes. When athletes didn't get on teams there was a tendency to drop out of the sport. This was a national problem and the

IUAA should be encouraging participation in athletics not preventing it. There were not the same problems with cross-country events as with track and field championships. Surely the IUAA should be trying to encourage as many third level athletes as possible to promote these events while ensuring fairness in terms of the scoring of the cross-country championships.

There was broad sympathy for the intent of the motions. It was agreed unanimously that rules 8.3 and 8.4 be amended as follows:

- (i) that up to 10 substitute athletes be declared for both the men's and women's events, and
- (ii) that only declared substitute athletes who did not make the final declared teams of 16 men and 14 women, respectively, be allowed to run as non-scoring participants in the cross-country championships.

12. Perpetual Trophy

The Hon. President stated that the Executive was proposing that the offer of a trophy for middle distance events from 800 m through 5000 m for outdoors track and field be accepted. The trophy was to be presented to the College with the highest points for men and women combined in these events.

The AGM accepted this proposal with one dissenting vote.

13. Election of Officers for 2003-2004

The following were elected to Officerships and the Executive Committee.

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Vice President	Prof. Cyril J Smyth	Dr Stephen Lipson	Prof. Michael Hillery
Vice President	Prof. Michael Hillery	Mr Eric Brady	Prof. Cyril M White
Hon Treasurer	Mr Gavin McBride	Mr Simon Taylor	Prof Michael Hillery
Hon Secretary	Ms Rebecca Haworth	Mr Ian O'Sullivan	Mr Eric Brady
Hon. Comp. Sec.	Mr Ian O'Sullivan	Ms Jennifer Goggin	Mr Enda Fitzpatrick
Committee	Mr Enda Fitzpatrick	Mr Gary Park	Mr Eric Brady
	Mr Kieran Lambe	Mr Ian O'Sullivan	Prof Michael Hillery

The position of Hon. PRO was not filled. Delegates were asked to bring any nominations to the Captains' Meeting in NUI Maynooth after the conclusion of the Road Relay Championships.

The Hon. President welcomed the new officers and members onto the IUAA Executive Committee.

14. A.O.B.

14.1. Recognition of Dundalk IT as a Member of the IUAA

The application of Dundalk IT to join the IUAA was approved.

14.2. National College of Ireland

14.3. Mountain running

A letter from Mr Simon Taylor (QUB) concerning the currently informal Irish Universities Mountain Running Championship under the auspices Irish Mountain Running Association (IMRA) had been received. Mr Taylor spoke to his letter. He requested that the IUAA consider following the IAAF decision to include mountain running in its list of championships. He commented on the success of university athletes in the World Mountain Running Championships in Alaska. There was now a EAA European Championship and the IAAF was considering proposals for a World Championship. He asked that the IMRA event be advertised and promoted on the IUAA website if the IUAA could not take on the co-ordination of the event itself.

The Hon. President stated that Mr Ian O'Neill (UU) had raised the matter of IUAA medals for the individuals and teams at the IMRA event. However while the IUAA would do everything it could to assist IMRA, the event was not an IUAA event and he felt that the Association should not be taking on additional events at this time. The view of the IUAA was that IUAA medals should not be awarded as the event was not officially an IUAA championship.

14.4. Thanks to Hon President

Professor Cyril Smyth asked the AGM to applaud the Hon. President for the sterling work he had done for the Association during 2002-2003. The Hon. President had shown determination in dealing with a number of thorny issues during the year. He felt that Dr Lipson had shown great determination to resolve these difficulties for the benefit and good of the Association.

14.5. Passwords for Entry System and Entries for Road Relays Maynooth

The Hon. President asked members that if they had not received their passwords they should consult him. He reminded Members of the closing dates for the Road Relay entries.

14.6. Registering Athletes

Members were asked to register athletes as soon as possible and not to leave everything to the last minute.

The Hon President wished delegates a safe journey home and looked forward to seeing many of them in NUI Maynooth for the Road Relays.

Proposed by:.....

Seconded by:.....

Stephen Lipson
Hon. President IUAA

Date:.....

Minutes compiled by Prof. Cyril J Smyth, Minutes Secretary for AGM 2003