

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



**Saturday October 16th October 2010
Trinity College Dublin
Moyne Institute of Preventive Medicine
12.30 p.m.**

Organised by Trinity College Dublin

In Attendance:

IUAA Universities Committee Members: John Saulters (Chair), Eric Brady, Paul Butler, Enda Fitzpatrick, Stephen Lipson, Laura Loughlin, Damien Walsh.

Members: Cormac Doherty (TCD), Ciara Baker (TCD), Cathal O'Donovan (TCD), Claire McGlynn (TCD), Patrick Flynn (WIT), Barry Upton (WIT), David Tobin (WIT), Andrew Connick (WIT), Sinéad Denny (DIT), Christopher Kelly (DIT), Joe Warne (DCU), Cyril Smyth (TCD)

Apologies: Donal Walsh, University of Ulster, University of Limerick, University College Dublin

John Saulters welcomed everyone to the AGM 2010.

1. Minutes of 2009 AGM.

An overview of the salient points of the Minutes of the 2009 AGM was presented by Stephen Lipson. They had been available on the IUAA website prior to the AGM. The Minutes were proposed by John Saulters and seconded by Damien Walsh.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

Enda Fitzpatrick referred to Minute 7 regarding the kit provided to athletes attending the World Student Games in Belgrade in 2009, specifically to the description of the gear being unsuitable. He wished to clarify that his comments had been made in respect of

the recreational clothing supplied to the athletes, which had been soccer gear, and not the track gear provided to the athletes.

There were no other matters arising from the Minutes.

3. Review of 2009–10 Championships (John Saulters).

The past championship year 2009–10 has seen large numbers of athletes competing across all the Championships.

3.1. Road Relays – NUI Maynooth

As always this had proved to be a popular event at the start the University season. The Road Relays had continued to go from strength to strength over the past years with a consistently increasing number of participants whilst maintaining a high standard of competition. In 2009–10, 227 athletes competed in the road relays with 11 colleges competing in the men’s event and 9 in the women’s event. This compared with 175 competitors in 2008 and an annual average of 168 athletes over the decade 1999–2009.

The Universities Committee expressed its thanks to Paul Davis and to the staff at NUI Maynooth for assisting the Universities Committee in the staging of this competition.

DCU won the men’s and women’s competitions, holding off challenges from Queens and Trinity, respectively.

3.2. Indoor Track & Field Championships

The disappointing numbers of athletes competing in the 2008-09 Indoor Championships had prompted the members at last year’s AGM to change the Indoors from a two-day to a one-day championship. This change had paid off with the largest number of athletes participating in the Indoors Championships in quite some time. Nonetheless, the Committee had ensured that the championship nature of the event had been preserved and that the races had not simply been a series of time trials. A particular thanks was due to all the volunteers who pulled together to make the championships a success. In 2009–10, 205 athletes competed in the championships, with 19 colleges competing in the men’s event and 12 in the women’s event. This compared with 176 competitors in 2008 and an annual average of 185 athletes over the decade 1999–2009.

DCU dominated these championships, winning both the men’s and women’s competition.

3.3. Cross Country Championships

The 2009–10 Cross Country Championships were held for the third year running in conjunction with the ISAA All-Ireland Schools Cross Country Championships.

Numbers participating increased substantially in 2009–10, with the number of women’s teams completing in the event nearly doubling (albeit from a low number). In 2009–10, 182 athletes competed. This compared with 134 competitors in 2008 and an annual average of 135 participants over the decade 1999–2009.

The co-operation of Cork IT Athletics Club, CIT staff and the Munster Schools resulted in what was acknowledged to have been one of the finest championships to have taken place. Following on from these championships, DIT would have a hard act to follow.

Breandan O'Neill and Linda Bryne defended their titles in Cork, leading DCU to the men's and women's titles. However, the University of Ulster team pushed the DCU men's team all the way to the sixth scoring athlete, losing out by only two scoring places.

3.4. Outdoor Track & Field Championships

Unfortunately, John Saulters and Laura Loughlin were stranded abroad because of the Icelandic ash cloud when the Championships took place. On the basis of the reports received by the Chairman, these championships had taken place in a splendid manner. In 2009–10, 325 athletes competed in the outdoors track and field championships, the first time that over 300 athletes had participated. There were 19 Colleges in the men's competition and 14 Colleges in the women's competition. These numbers compared with 273 competitors in 2008 and an annual average of 261 athletes over the decade 1999–2009. Six championship records had been broken in competition, with high class fields throughout the championships.

DCU continued where they had left off in the Indoors taking the men's, women's, sprints and middle distance trophies. However, UL took the honours for the throws trophy.

3.5 Comments on Championships

The Chairman extended a special vote of thanks to Donal Walsh and Ian O'Sullivan in relation to the excellent manner in which the Cross Country Championships had been staged at CIT, Cork. Enda Fitzpatrick praised the execution of the Outdoors Track & Field Championships by the Trinity College hosts. In particular, he felt that he had to single out the co-ordinators of the Organising Committee for a special vote of thanks – Claire McGlynn and Bryony Treston. Both had committed unsparing efforts to these roles and deserved the highest praise and a sincere thank you for a job exceptionally well done.

Christopher Kelly (DIT) raised the issue of guesting in IUAA championships as some athletes had felt aggrieved in not being able to participate in finals because they were excluded by a guest. The championships were after all University championships. The Chairman pointed out that this problem was an old chestnut that IUAA Committees had endeavoured to tackle over at least a decade. It had been noted both in the past and in the case of the 2010 Track and Field Championships that whenever the championships were held in Dublin, the problem was more acute and there were more requests to guest than in any normal year.

This issue had been tackled head-on by Stephen Lipson during his presidency of the IUAA. Stephen Lipson commented that the criteria for guesting were very stringent and fully explained on the IUAA website. In 2010 the majority of the requests to guest in the championships had been turned down. It was particularly difficult to turn down requests through AAI where an athlete was close to a qualifying standard for a major championship with few options available to attempt to meet the necessary standard. Cyril Smyth commented that the problem lay in principle in the sprint track events – 100 m, 200m, 400 m and sprint hurdles. Distance events from 800 m upwards and field events were not where the problems lay. Within the guesting regulations, it had been agreed that guests could proceed to finals within the IAAF rules of competition.

4. Financial Report (John Saulters)

The Chairman reported that the IUAA was in a sound financial position. Twenty-one Colleges and Universities had paid their subscriptions in 2009–10. The one-day Indoors

Championships had resulted in considerable cost savings. Moreover, the IUAA had not sent a team to the Schools International during the year because of the venue being Truro in Cornwall. It had been agreed with the Scottish and Welsh Universities to miss the event in 2009–10. The Chairman hoped that the IUAA might be able to field a team in the Home Countries Cross Country International in 2010–11, which was a issue for the incoming Committee to pursue.

On the subject of the social side of championships, the Chairman pointed out to future hosts not to over-extend themselves financially with respect to post-championship events. It was important that as many of the participating athletes as possible should be able to attend and thus the individual cost was an important factor. It was all the more important in the current economic climate to make the post championship events affordable to the vast majority of participants. He also indicated that the IUAA did not fund deficits relating to social events. The IUAA would help financially with competition factors such as first aid cover and electronic timing and provided the medals.

The following seven past members had not paid subscriptions in 2009–10: Garda College, Cadet School, ILSI, Portobello College, DLIADT, Limerick IT and NCI.

WIT commented that there had been a somewhat prolonged delay in the cashing of their subscription cheque, which gave a false impression of the financial status of the WIT athletics club at the end of their financial year. The Chairman regretted the delay in cashing their cheque through the IUAA account, but pointed out that it had simply not been possible to send cheques one at a time by registered post to the Bank. One could only assume that a cheque would not be cashed after its six-month expiry date. Unpassed cheques could be reconciled in the club's annual accounts by appearing in Expenditure and then in the Statement of Income and Expenditure, where the unpassed cheque could appear as a creditor.

On the issue of funding of IUAA events and University student teams in the future, the matter of sponsorship was raised. The Chairman indicated that the CEO of the AAI was positively disposed to the Universities Committee and keen to source a sponsor or sponsors not only for home events, but also for World Student Games, World University Cross Country Championships and other University International events. John Saulters encouraged the incoming Universities Committee to pursue this line with John Foley and the AAI.

5. Chairman's Address (John Saulters)

5.1. Universities Committee.

The Chairman reported that it had been a good year for the Universities Committee with few problems. The sterling work done in the past had put functional systems in place.

5.2. AAI

On the subject of the AAI, the Chairman stated that the AAI at Board level had, since Congress in April 2010, entered a period of stability. The October-April period had been somewhat fraught by rumour and speculation, as well as financial uncertainty. There was still much work to do, and the Universities Committee, and the Chair in particular, needed to be proactive on issues with the AAI and its CEO.

5.3. Thanks

John Saulters stated that IUAA championships could not take place without the very hard work of the Host Colleges. He reiterated his gratitude to CIT and Trinity College and their volunteer committees for hosting high quality championships during 2009–10.

The Chairman also thanked the IUAA webmaster, Brian Foley, for his continued support in maintaining and continually developing the websites and software. The historical record of university championships going back to 1873 in Cork and the data on hundreds of individual athletes was probably the most complete on-line database in the World. It was an invaluable historical and athletic record.

In closing John Saulters thanked the outgoing Committee for their input and hard work. In his view 2009–10 had been one of the best he could remember from a Championship viewpoint and he looked forward to next year being just as good, and if possible better.

5.4. Comments

Cyril Smyth stated that he and others had been helping Brian Foley to update data on older championships. An effort was being made to identify the first names of athletes who currently had a first initial and surname. Names had now been sorted out for the majority of TCD and UCD athletes. A lot of the UCC and UCG athletes were gradually being identified. Help was needed with QUB and UU athletes. If anyone was able to fill in gaps, they should email the updates to Brian Foley.

6. World University Cross Country Championships, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, April 2010

An Irish Universities team was not sent to these championships for several reasons. AAI high performance did not feel that competitive teams of the requisite calibre were available which had a reasonable chance of medalling at the event to justify the costs involved. Several of the athletes who could have been selected did not show any interest in competing in this event. Again, as in the case of the Universiade in Belgrade, there had been the prospect of potential costs to athletes themselves.

In Canada only 42 female and 54 male athletes from 18 countries had participated. In the men's team event Japan were 1st, Spain 2nd, Great Britain 3rd, Canada 4th and France, the winners in 2008, 5th. In the Women's team event Great Britain were 1st, Australia 2nd and Canada 3rd.

Andrew Connick (WIT) asked why individual athletes who could have raised the necessary funding had not been considered. While there was support for this concept, reservations were expressed that selection must always be on merit in the first place and not purely because someone could afford or buy the honour of representing Ireland. The incoming Committee could try to tease this possibility out with CUSAI and the AAI for future years.

The World University Cross Country Championship in 2012 was scheduled for Łódź (pronounced *woofsh*), Poland on 13th April.

7. World University Games (Universiade), Shenzhen, China, 12–23 August, 2012

The Coach appointed by AAI for the XXVI Universiade was Teresa McDaid. The standards for athletes were available and had to be achieved between 1 January–4 July 2011. The standards were more stringent than those for the European U23

Championships which would take place in Ostrava, Czech Republic from 14–17 July, 2011. It was highly possible that many of the athletes who might make the standards for Shenzhen would opt for the European U23 Championships, given that all expenses would be met by AAI, whereas participation in the Universiade was fraught with financial problems. John Saulters indicated that for the World University Games athletes would have to make the standards set out by AAI as there was no “B” set of standards.

Standards for Universiade 2011, Shenzhen, China

Men	Event	Women
10.45	100m	11.60
21.00	200m	23.60
46.60	400m	53.00
1.48.00	800m	2.04.00
3.42.00	1500m	4.14.00
13.45.00	5000m	16.00.00
29.00.00	10000m	33.30.00
14.10	110H / 100m H	13.50
51.00	400m H	58.00
8.45.00	3000m Steeplechase	10
1.26.00	20k Walk	1.41.00
1.06.00	Half Marathon	1.16.00
2.20m	High Jump	1.85m
7.80m	Long Jump	6.35m
16.00m	Triple Jump	13.35m
5.30m	Pole Vault	4.10m
58.00m	Discus	54.00m
73.00m	Javelin	54.00m
18.00m	Shot Putt	16.20m
69.00m	Hammer	62.00m
7300pts	Decathlon /Heptathlon	5500pts

John Saulters reported that Teresa McDaid had indicated that she would attend the University Track & Field Championships. She was also keen that athletes who were interested in the World University Games should make their interest known to her.

The whole question of athletes having to pay to participate for their country at World University Games was raised. It was unlikely that money would be available from the high performance budget unless the individual athletes concerned were real medal

prospects. The hope was expressed that the incoming Universities Committee might pursue the avenue of sponsorship as a way of allowing University athletes to compete in what were the Olympic Games for University students.

8. Motions

No motions had been received for consideration by the AGM.

9. Ratification of Future Intervarsity Hosts

The 2010–11 Intervarsity Cross-Country Championships would again take place in conjunction with the All-Ireland Schools Cross Country Championships at ALSAA on 12 March 2011, hosted by DIT.

The 2010–11 Outdoors Track and Field Championships, with the Combined Event Championships, were scheduled for the 29–30 April, 2011 at the Antrim Forum, hosted by Queen's University of Belfast.

The Cross-Country Championships in 2011–12 would likely be held at St Mary's College, Galway, hosted by NUI Galway.

The 2011–12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships would likely be held at CIT, Cork, hosted by CIT.

The Cross-Country Championships in 2012–13 would likely be hosted by QUB in Belfast.

The possibility of Waterford Institute of Technology hosting the 2012–13 Outdoors Track and Field Championships was still under consideration by the Universities Committee.

It was intimated that discussions with the Irish Schools Athletics Association were ongoing to try to indicate an additional 'provincial' element into the rotation, Dublin and Leinster, to make the present four province rotation a 5-venue rotation in order to alleviate the cycle for University hosts in Connaught in particular.

10. Election of Officers 2010-2011

Chairman: John Saulters was proposed by Enda Fitzpatrick, seconded by Joe Warne. Paul Butler was proposed by Andrew Connick, seconded by Damien Walsh. John Saulters then withdrew his nomination. He thanked the meeting for nominating him, but he had already indicated to the Universities Committee at its last meeting that he would only stand if no other candidate was available. He had commitments in terms of his new job and was getting married next August, and felt he could only be a candidate in exceptional circumstances. Enda Fitzpatrick was then proposed by John Saulters, seconded by Claire McGlynn.

A ballot was then held. Cyril Smyth, as a non-voting delegate, agreed to act as returning officer. He declared that there was a clear majority in favour of Paul Butler and declared him duly elected.

Universities Committee: The following individuals were proposed and seconded for election as officers of the Universities Committee:

- Enda Fitzpatrick
- Joe Warne
- Damien Walsh

- Eric Brady
- Stephen Lipson
- Claire McGlynn
- Andrew Connick
- John Saulters

John Saulters withdrew his nomination, leaving seven candidates for the seven officer positions on the Universities Committee. They were deemed duly elected.

11. A.O.B.

11.1 DLIADT

Cyril Smyth stated that he had been approached by a female athlete who was attending DLIADT as a Freshman student asking how the DLIADT might be able to participate in the Intervarsities Championships. He had indicated to her that he would raise the matter at the upcoming AGM as he had been unsure of DLIADT's current status regarding affiliation. The meeting agreed to re-admit the DLIADT to the IUAA with no back subscription excess.

11.2. IUAA Webmaster and Statistician, Brian Foley

Andrew Connick commented that he had never met Brian Foley, but it was clear that Brian Foley did an incredible and unsung job in relation to the IUAA website. He felt that the IUAA should invite him to an Intervarsity dinner to show the appreciation of the Association to him in the form of a presentation for his services to the IUAA. Stephen Lipson explained that Brian Foley had been behind the development of the on-line entry system and the results software over a decade ago. The incoming Chairman, Paul Butler, stated that the new Committee would consider this proposal.

11.3. Nike Sponsorship

Claire McGlynn reminded the meeting that Trinity College had obtained sponsorship of shoes from Nike for the winners of the 100 m and 1,500 m at the 2010 Intervarsities Track and Field Championships. She thought that this avenue of sponsorship might continue and was willing to help an organising committee in contacting the company.

11.4. AAI, Aviva and Sponsorship

Eric Brady noted that AAI had been successful, in the current economic climate, in hanging on to its principal sponsors, e.g., Woodies DIY. Aviva were now on board as a sponsor of schools' athletics. He felt that the Aviva sponsorship might be pursued in conjunction with AAI to extend it to the Universities.

11.5. Outdoors Track and Field Championships

On behalf of the Trinity College Organising Committee for the Intervarsities Track and Field Championships, Claire McGlynn thanked all the College officials, AAI officials, sundry helpers and members of the Universities Committee who had officiated and assisted at the Championships in April. Without this help and support the championships would not have run as smoothly as they did. She also stated that the Organising Committee had started its work more than a year before the championships and that this time period had been essential for the planning and execution of the championships.

11.6. On-line Banking

The Universities Committee was asked to consider whether on-line banking might be possible to facilitate payment of fees to the IUAA rather than sending cheques. Cyril Smyth pointed out that banks tended to view clubs as businesses and that there were considerable fees involved in setting up an on-line banking facility. It might be possible for the Sports Departments or Student Unions to pay the fees directly to the IUAA as they tended to have such facilities already rather than Sports Departments or Student Unions paying monies to athletics clubs who then sent cheques out by post. John Saulters informed the meeting that CIT already paid on-line. It was suggested that the requisite account information to allow on-line payment should be included with invoices.

11.7. Outgoing Chairman John Saulters

Speaking on behalf of the Universities Committee and the Association, Paul Butler thanked John Saulters for all of his work on behalf of the Universities Committee, in particular during the bedding-in period with the AAI. He pointed out that John had travelled on numerous occasions from Belfast to Dublin to attend Board meetings of the AAI and Universities Committee meetings. He had defended the Universities Committee's corner at AAI Board meetings in an admirable manner during his period as Chairman of the Universities Committee. He wished John Saulters success in his new job and wished both John Saulters and Laura Loughlin happiness together in the future. Paul Butler also thanked Donal Walsh and Laura Loughlin for their work on behalf of the IUAA during their membership of the Universities Committee. The Meeting showed its appreciation and thanks to all three by a round of applause.

Signed..... Date.....