

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



Saturday 13th October 2012

**University College Dublin
Belfield, Dublin 4**

Organised by University College Dublin

In Attendance:

IUAA Universities Committee Members: Paul Butler (Chair), Eric Brady, Enda Fitzpatrick, Stephen Lipson, Joe Warne

Members: Barry Upton (WIT), Damien Walsh (WIT), Caoimhe Morris (IT Blanchardstown), Rebecca Egan (TCD), Vincent O'Sullivan (TCD), Attie Papas (TCD), Irene Gorman (TCD), Cyril Smyth (TCD), Joshua Essuman (IT Tallaght), Billy Crosbie (DIT), Sandra Lawler (DCU), Darren McBrearty (DCU), Simon Turnock (DCU), Hannah Trehy (DCU), Dan King (UCD), Richard Owens (UCD), George Boyle (UCC), Kieran James (UCC), Dermot McDermott (Athlone IT)

Apologies: Garret Dunne (IUAA), Andrew Connick (IUAA), UL (Niall Tuohy), NUI Maynooth (Lisa Houlihan), UU (Stephen Rooney)

The Chairman welcomed all attendees to the AGM 2012.

1. Minutes of the 2011 AGM.

The minutes had been available on the website. The minutes of the 2010 AGM were summarised by Stephen Lipson.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes.

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

3. Review of the 2011–12 Championships

3.1. Road Relays – NUI Maynooth – November 2011 [hosted by NUI Maynooth]

The Road Relay Championships had experienced bright, sunny weather. Twenty-four complete men's teams and 18 complete women's teams, 203 athletes in total, had participated. This represented two more teams than in 2010. There had been no major problems with the course or the results on the day. Previous concerns over the price of meal tickets for the food provided had been addressed by moving to different venue. This seemed to work satisfactorily and the same would be provided in 2012. The Chairman asked Colleges to ensure that all meals ordered at Intervarsity Championships were paid for promptly throughout the year. Colleges were advised not to overbook to avoid having to pay for tickets that were not used. Several issues had arisen during the past year in relation to non-payment of meal tickets. This then became an unwelcome and unfair financial burden on the host College. In the case of NUI Maynooth, repeated contact over months with one College had been necessary to get payment.

The men's championship was won by UCD "A", 2nd was DCU "A" and 3rd was DCU "B". The women's championship was won by DCU "A", 2nd was UCC and 3rd was DCU "B".

3.2. Indoor Track & Field Championships – Nenagh Olympic Stadium – February 2012

In total 199 athletes had competed – 52 women and 147 men. Five championship best performances had been set. Although the one-day format seemed to be working well, more officials and helpers were needed to ensure that these championships went off smoothly. This had been particularly true with the field events. The Chairperson reiterated that AAI was prepared to run a training course for officials if there was sufficient interest from the member Colleges. Alternatively AAI Regional Development Officers were also running courses to train officials. The 2013 Indoors Championships would take place in the new stadium at Athlone IT. The increased number of lanes would ensure fewer heats. At the time of the AGM, accurate costs were not available for the hire of AIT stadium. The Chairman felt that it was important to note the contribution made by Nenagh Olympic AC to the development of indoor athletics in Ireland and felt that the Nenagh Olympic Committee had done much to improve their facilities over the past few years.

Both the team championships had both been won by DCU: Men – 1. DCU, 2. UL, 3. UCD; Women – 1. DCU, 2. UCD, 3. UCC.

A discussion on the date for the 2013 championships then followed. The date that had been provisionally booked was Saturday 16 February, 2013. This was one week after the National Senior Indoors Championships. There was a general view that the holding of the IUAA championships after the National Senior Indoors would relegate the IUAA championships to a non-event. There were also cross-country championships in the following weeks. The Universities Committee was asked to consider earlier options. The Chairperson stated that unfortunately the Athlone IT Stadium was already booked on Saturdays and Sundays and a move to an earlier Saturday was not really possible. He stated that Athlone IT had offered Fridays to the IUAA. Decreased hire charges for a weekday could be financially beneficial to the IUAA. After further discussion involving potential clashes with examination dates in Colleges, Friday 1 February was agreed as a better alternative to Saturday 16 February. The Committee was asked to approach Athlone IT as soon as possible with a view to securing this date.

3.3. Cross Country Championships – Waterford IT Carriganore Campus – March 2012 [hosted by WIT]

The Cross-Country Championships had been blessed with spring-like weather – 120 men and 67 women had competed, slightly smaller numbers than in 2011. The championships had not been held in conjunction with the ISAA Championships as the ISAA had kept to their provincial rotation schedule and the ISAA championships had been hosted at St Michael's College, Galway. The facilities at the Carriganore Campus had been first class. There was no doubt that the course had been tough. The Chairman pointed out that other fields were now available and that should the championships return to WIT in the future, a flatter course could be designed.

Both the men's and women's events had been keenly contested. The results in the men's team championship were: 1. DCU, 2. WIT, 3. UCD. The women's team championship had seen a changing of the guard: 1. UCD, 2. DCU, 3. TCD. The overall championship was retained by DCU, with UCD in 2nd place and UL in 3rd place.

WIT had introduced the Novice Cross-Country Championships that had been passed by a motion at the AGM in 2011. The rules used to decide these were:

- Same race results as used for the men's and women's championships
- Eliminate scoring members of winning teams (men and women) over past 3 years
- Eliminate individual medallists over the past 3 years
- Remaining athletes eligible for novice championships
- Team scoring based on the finishing positions of the top two female athletes plus top two male athletes from any remaining college

UL has been the first team winner of the Squirrel Trophy. These rules would be added to in subsequent years including the following rule:

- Eliminate previous Novice winning teams/individuals over past 3 years.

Joe Warne commented that he could not understand the three-year exclusion. As the rules stood, an athlete could become a Novice again in his/her 4th year in College. He felt that the rules and guidelines should be amended to exclude for 4 years instead of 3 years. The Chairperson pointed out that there had been no particular reason for the choice of 3 years and, if the members wished to amend the rules, it was open to the floor to do this as these rules had not been formally approved by an AGM. There was general agreement to amend 3 years to 4 years.

The championship ball had taken place in the Tower Hotel, Waterford. The venue, meal and post-meal disco had been well received. However, as was reported in WIT's Championship report, the function had not gone off without incident. During the banquet a number of attendees had behaved in an unacceptable manner. This included the attempted theft of artwork from the hotel. The students who were involved had been reprimanded by the hotel's security staff and their names taken. Furthermore, there had been significant damage to the men's toilets next to the banqueting room, including to a picture, hand-dryers and toilet roll holders. This had resulted in WIT Athletic Club having to cover the €381 cost of repair and replacement. This unacceptable behaviour of the few IUAA athletes involved had reflected badly on WIT and its athletic club in the eyes of the management of the Tower Hotel.

The Chairperson asked that all Colleges remind their athletes that their behaviour was important. The hotel could have had the athletes arrested who had been involved in attempting to remove art from the walls of the hotel. Those who had perpetrated the damage to the men's toilets would almost certainly have been charged with criminal damage had they been identified beyond all reasonable doubt. It was also important that athletes should show respect to officials of the host College who had been invited to the function by being silent during their brief words of welcome on behalf of the College. Last but not least athletes should show respect to their fellow competitors when they were being presented with medals and trophies. Again behaviour in this regard was not what it should be.

The discussion then turned to the subject of future joint hosting of the IUAA cross-country championships with the ISAA cross-country championships. The ISAA was to hold its 2013 National Championships at Greenmount College, Antrim. Sligo IT had previously indicated a desire to host the IUAA Cross-Country Championships in 2013. However, this was no longer possible as Sligo IT had very few athletes and did not feel that it was appropriate to host the IUAA championships in 2013. The Colleges next on the rota were UCD and UL, both of whom felt that there was insufficient notice to host the championships in 2013. DUHAC in Trinity had indicated that, while the club was not pushing to host the 2013 cross-country championships, it would be willing to do so at the Santry Playing Fields in 2013 as a fall-back option. However, if the IUAA wished TCD to take on the Cross-Country Championships, this decision had to be taken as soon as possible.

Differing viewpoints were presented by contributors. Enda Fitzpatrick (IUAA) stated that he had always been an advocate of and a firm supporter of joint ISAA-IUAA championships and had pushed for this association as it provided a showcase for University athletics to the athletes in Irish schools. He accepted that the building of the relationship had not been entirely smooth, e.g., the unsatisfactory course and facilities at Dartfield in 2008 and the relegation of the Universities races to the end of the championships with few school spectators, but felt these were matters could be worked through with the ISAA. Secondly, the Schools could provide courses and facilities at no cost or effort to the IUAA. Thirdly, in the case of Greenmount College in 2013, where there was no active University club at QUB, the event could be held at this venue without an IUAA member being involved in detailed organisation of the championships. He accepted that there could be a loss in terms of the social side of the championships, but given recent incidents at post-championship events, was it really essential to have a College organise and host the post-championship function.

The Chairperson, Paul Butler, gave his personal views from his experience of dealing with the ISAA. When the idea of joint championships had been proposed and initiated, the IUAA had entered into such hosting on the basis of partnership. The ISAA had selected its venues in 2012 and 2013 without any consultation with the IUAA, in contrast to the discussions on UU Jordanstown, CIT Cork and ALSAA, Dublin Airport/NAC, Abbotstown. While the IUAA had integrated itself positively into Athletics Ireland, the ISAA continued to act as an 'independent republic'. He felt that the ISAA really did not want the Universities Championships and that decisions were being made on a take-it or leave-it basis in the hope that the Universities would leave, unless the IUAA host College was covering the bulk of the expenses to the benefit of the ISAA financially. If the IUAA decided to go to Greenmount

College with the ISAA in 2013, there was no University host to organise a post-event function. If the Colleges wished the post-competition function to happen, then it would fall to the in-coming Universities Committee to organise the event, if this was possible.

Two alternatives were put to the meeting – the AGM should either decide to grant the organisation of the IUAA Cross-Country Championships to TCD in 2013 at the AGM or alternatively such decision should be delayed to allow further discussions between the Universities Committee and the ISAA, with the provision that, unless something could be worked out between the ISAA and the IUAA before the Road Relays at NUI Maynooth at the latest, the 2013 IUAA Cross-Country Championships would be allocated to TCD. The TCD delegates agreed that the second alternative was acceptable to them, if there was a wish to pursue discussions with the ISAA. The AGM approved the second course of action that the Universities Committee should enter into discussions urgently with the ISAA, but failing this assign the championships to Trinity College.

3.4. Outdoor Track & Field Championships – Athlone IT Stadium – April 2012 [hosted by AIT]

The Outdoors Track & Field championships had been hosted by Athlone IT. The number of participating athletes was up on 2011 – 314 versus 291. The facilities were first class. For the first time the championships had been streamed live on the internet. The championships had also had a FaceBook site and a Twitter address and had been widely watched at home and abroad from the on-line messages and comments received. The Chairperson emphasised that this was not a future expectation of the IUAA, but, if any College felt they wanted to do so again and had the facilities to stream the championships on the internet, it could have positive benefits. AIT had reaped promotional, publicity and recruiting benefits.

The Outdoors Track and Field Championships had been very successful athletically. Nine new championship best performances had been set. The results of the men's championship were: 1. DCU, 2. UCD, 3. UL. In the women's competition, DCU had retained their title while UL and UCD had placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Overall the placings were: 1. DCU, 2. UL, and 3. UU. The Throws Trophy had been won by UCD, the sprints trophy by UL and the Middle Distance trophy by DCU. The Chairperson reminded Clubs that trophies must be brought back to the appropriate annual competition, even if the holder felt that the trophy would be retained. It was disappointing for a winning team not to be presented with the trophy at a post-championship function. He also pointed out that trophies should be returned clean. Many of the trophies were silver and quite valuable. It was important to maintain them in good condition.

The championship dinner had been held in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone. Again some of the attendees showed a lack of respect to the AIT guests when they had gotten up to say a few words. Some students had arrived at the function worse for wear and were refused entry. Some others collapsed at the dinner from the effects of drink and had to be taken home. The Chairperson repeated that he felt that the socialising aspect of intervarsities was part and parcel of the development of inter-club relationships and mutual respect between collegiate athletes. Unfortunately there was a trend towards binge drinking in rooms or accommodation before people arrived at the post-championship function. He asked clubs to do whatever they could to discourage this type of behaviour. If this trend continued it was likely that such behaviour would lead to the demise of the social aspect of intervarsity championships. Academic institutions were under ever increasing pressure to control alcohol consumption by students and would not be willing to see the name of their Colleges sullied by approving functions that were simply an excuse to drink to excess. When athletes left at the end of a post-championship function it was important that a buddy system operated to ensure that everyone got back home or to their accommodation safely.

4. Ratification of Future Intersarsity Hosts

4.1. 2012–13

The following venues and dates were confirmed by the AGM:

Road Relays

NUI Maynooth – Saturday 17 November 2012

Indoors Track & Field	Athlone IT – Friday 1 February 2013 -TBC
Cross-Country	TCD Santry Playing Fields – 9 March 2013 – Subject to the outcome of discussions with ISAA regarding Greenmount College and future joint hosting
Outdoors Track & Field	UCC – 12/13 April 2013

4.2. 2013-14

By rotation NUI Galway was due to host the Outdoors Track and Field Championships in 2014. There were issues with the facilities at Dangan and whether NUI Galway would be able to host the championships would need to be resolved before April 2013. The Chairperson felt that it was inappropriate to discuss future hosting of the Cross-Country Championships at this stage. However, he expressed the view that it would not be difficult to find hosts for these championships should the discussions with the ISAA fail as to the future hosting of joint championships.

5. Financial Report

Eric Brady gave a brief overview of the finances of the IUAA. Income from College subscriptions totalled €13,025. All ten Colleges in the €1000 tier annual subscription level had paid and both Colleges at the €750 annual fee level. In contrast only 3 of the 7 Colleges at the €175 fee level and 2 of the 10 at the €500 annual fee level had affiliated in 2011–12. The Finance Officer stated that the Direct Deposit System had worked well, except that Colleges making payments had for the most part failed to identify their payments. This had then necessitated efforts on his part to identify the sources of affiliation fees. He asked Colleges to ensure that a College name or acronym was used with payments.

The principal items of expenditure were:

Insurance	€1,050 [a decrease on 2010–11]
Medals	€1,865
Timing	€1,555
First Aid	€ 400
Champs Athlone	€1,500
International Comp	€ 644 [Antrim – singlets, travel etc]
Nenagh Stadium	€ 800
Bank Charges	€ 39
Administration	€ 584

Expenditure Totalled €9,589. The surplus for 2011–12 was thus €3,435. Added to the IUAA's balance from 2010–11 of €7967, the reserves totalled €11,402. Nenagh Olympic AC was still an outstanding creditor for the cost of hiring the stadium for the Indoors Championships. He asked Clubs to ensure that the annual affiliation fees were paid as soon as possible after receipt of the invoice. Stephen Lipson reminded the delegates that, as per the Constitution, members were required to pay their affiliation fees before the 20 January, and that Clubs could be excluded from competition after that date if the fees had not been paid.

The Finance Officer cautioned that, while the overall balance was healthy, there would probably be increased expenditure in 2012–13. The costs of hiring the AIT stadium were still unclear. The Chairman would be reporting on the development of an Intervarsity T&F meeting towards the end of the present academic year. This would also incur costs to the IUAA.

6. FISU World Student Cross-Country Championships – Łódź, Poland – April 2012

The Chairperson gave a brief overview of what had happened. The initial decision of CUSAI and AAI High Performance had been not to send a team to Łódź to represent Ireland at these World Student Cross-Country Championships. AAI President (Liam Hennessey) and Paul Butler convinced CUSAI to enter a team. However, due to the nature of the timing, the availability of the athletes of sufficient

calibre, and the financial restrictions being imposed, the team was withdrawn. The Chairman extended his sincere thanks to Liam Hennessy for his efforts on behalf of University athletes.

7. FISU World University Games – Kazan, Russia – 6–17 July, 2013

Operationally participation in the World University Games was under the direction of CUSAI. Currently the standards for participation were not available. It would be important that the AAI (High Performance) Chairperson and the Universities Committee Chairperson liaised with CUSAI regarding selection and funding. Funding would most probably be as per previously with an allocation from CUSAI/AAI and the student and his/her college funding the rest. Interested athletes were advised to notify CUSAI of their interest in participation months in advance, even if they had not made the qualification standard at that stage. One-year-down athletes were eligible to compete under FISU rules for the Games.

Darren McBrearty asked whether it was AAI policy that an athlete would only be sent to either the World Student Games or the 9th European Athletic U23 Championships in Tampere, Finland [11-14 July, 2013] or the 22nd European Athletics Junior Championships in Rieti, Italy [18-21 July, 2013]. The Chairperson responded that, given the proximity of dates, this situation would probably occur, but suggested that it was a matter that would have to be discussed on an individual basis with the Team Managers involved. It was reasonable to question whether an athlete could peak to compete successfully at two high-level championships which occurred virtually simultaneously.

8. Chairman's Address

Paul Butler, Chairperson of the Universities Committee, indicated that he was stepping down as Chairperson and would not be going forward for election for a second term. His address was being put on the IUAA website. He emphasised that this did not mean his withdrawal from University athletics. He would always be there to help whenever he was able to do so and intended to continue to officiate and to help the IUAA in whatever capacity he could. When the IUAA became the Universities Committee of the IUAA, the IUAA had gained a seat on the Board of Athletics Ireland. At the time this had not been a universally popular move within AAI circles.

Paul Butler commented on his experience of two years as the IUAA representative on the Board. He felt that the IUAA and Universities Athletics were now generally viewed in a positive light by the other Board members. Secondly, the contributions of the Chair of the Universities Committee were well taken and valued by the Board. Thirdly, the AAI Board was in good hands with the incumbent AAI President (also President of Athlone IT), Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin, and AAI CEO, John Foley. The future direction of the relationship between the IUAA and AAI, and any benefits that University Athletics might accrue from this relationship, were entirely dependent on the person filling the Chairperson of the Universities Committee position. This was obviously a serious responsibility for the incoming Chairperson, whoever that might be. The development of this relationship going forward would require much thought and care. He believed that he had helped to improve the relationship between the IUAA and the AAI. He ended by extending his sincere thanks to the members of the Universities Committee. He felt proud and privileged to have been elected Chairperson of the Universities Committee and wished the incoming Chair and Committee success in the future. He finally thanked the various hosts of the 2011–12 championships, the Universities Committee, the AAI Board, Cyril Smyth and Brian Foley, the volunteers, officials and, most importantly, the athletes who helped make the IUAA championships special and successful.

9. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

- Chairperson: after some discussion and the failure to find a candidate who would accept the position, Paul Butler agreed to continue in Office until an EGM at NUI Maynooth in November
- Assistant Chairperson: Damien Walsh [Proposed by Barry Upton (WIT), Seconded by Paul Butler (IUAA)]
- Hon. Secretary: Stephen Lipson [Proposed by Paul Butler, Seconded by Dan King (UCD)]
- Finance Officer: Eric Brady [Proposed by Vincent O'Sullivan (TCD), Seconded by Damien Walsh (WIT)]
- Competition Officer: Andrew Connick [Proposed by Eric Brady (IUAA), Seconded by Stephen Lipson (IUAA)]

- Development Officer: Enda Fitzpatrick [Proposed by Joe Warne (IUAA), Seconded by George Boyle (UCC)]
- PR Officer: Garret Dunne [Proposed by Paul Butler (IUAA), Seconded by Richard Owens (UCD)]
- General Officers:
The following candidates were proposed and seconded:
 - Barry Upton [WIT]*
 - Dermot McDermott [Athlone IT]*
 - Billy Crosbie [DIT]
 - Claire McGlynn [TCD]*
 - Kieran James [UCC]

Delegates voted by ballot for up to three of the candidates. The votes were scrutinised by Cyril Smyth and Paul Butler. The three candidates asterisked received most votes and were deemed elected.

The Chairperson formally declared that an EGM was being called for Saturday 17th November, 2012 at NUI Maynooth to elect the Chairperson of the Universities Committee.

10. A.O.B.

10.1. Road Relays

A delegate asked if there was any possibility of the date of the Road Relay Championships being changed in the current year. The Chairperson stated that this was not possible. The date for the hosting of the championships at NUI Maynooth was always done in full consultation with the College because of graduation ceremonies in the October–November period. The date for the championships was chosen to avoid such clashes.

10.2. Possibility of Joint Hosting of Championships between Colleges/Universities

The question was posed as to whether or not it was permissible for two Colleges/Universities to co-host IUAA Championships. The Chairperson responded that there was nothing in the Constitution or Rules of Competition to prevent this. However, he could foresee issues in terms of how the championships were presented, e.g., logos on programmes, order of institutions on publicity, and the possibility of friction between ‘partners’ over ownership. If such a proposal was being developed, the parties involved needed to think through all the issues, and especially any institutional co-funding.

10.3. Outstanding IUAA Relay medals

Cyril Smyth indicated that he had the outstanding medals for Colleges, but had omitted to bring them to the AGM. He was willing to send these out in the post the following Monday. Joe Warne suggested that this matter could just as easily be dealt with at the Road Relays.

10.4. Contact Details for Incoming Committee Members and IUAA Members

Stephen Lipson asked the incoming Universities Committee members to give him their email addresses and contact telephone numbers before they left. He also asked all members of the IUAA to ensure that he had up-to-date contact details for each Member Club to ensure that communications reached the appropriate individuals.

10.5. Invoices for IUAA Affiliation Fees

Eric Brady stated that he would be sending out invoices for affiliation fees the following week. As had been stated by the Hon. Secretary, he wished the Members present to ensure that correct contact details were available for invoicing.

10.6. AGM 2013

By rotation the AGM in 2013 would be due to be hosted by DCU.

[Minutes compiled by Cyril Smyth]