

IUAA Chairs Address 2017/2018

As outgoing chair of IUAA I would like to thank you all for attending today's AGM. I would like to apologise I cannot be with you all today in person to address the membership due to family reasons. I would like to thank all those who made our championships a success not just in the last year but throughout my term as chair as well.

2017/2018 saw IUAA provide four successful championships to our membership:

- ❖ Road relays in Maynooth
- ❖ Indoor T & F in Athlone
- ❖ Cross Country hosted by Trinity College Dublin
- ❖ Outdoor T&F in Mary Peters hosted by QUB

I would like to sincerely thank all the guys at Maynooth and Athlone Campuses for again supporting our competitions and making our IUAA events a success with the use of their facilities. Furthermore I would like to say a special thanks to Trinity College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast for taking on the hosting of our Cross Country and Outdoor T&F respectively.

Hosting competitions of this size and magnitude is not an easy task for any committee it requires a lot of endless hours of planning organising and behind the scenes work and even more work over the competitions weekends themselves to make them a success. So well done to both organising committees on providing successful championships in 2017/2018.

I would like to thank the organising committee and all those involved with this years international match with Scottish University athletics (SUCA). Organising this event can be a hair pulling task at times when selection is been made and all the pre planning that goes with this competition especially when it is abroad. However it was another successful overall championship result for IUAA and that is testament to the all involved so well done.

I also would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out throughout the year to make our championships a great success. Voluntary manpower has always been key to helping make our championships what they are and i would hope that universities and college clubs will continue to provide this assistance to future committees and ensure smooth running of future competitions.

2017/2018 Season wasn't all straight forward and did bring us some obstacles as a committee. One of these main obstacles was the issue of our medals for our membership winners. This was an unfortunate situation we found ourselves in as an organisation due to the untimely circumstances. I would like to thank the membership for been so patient with the IUAA on this matter, as I know all the respective winners are naturally keen to receive their medal reward. This matter has been addressed today with you by Mr. Cyril Smyth on the IUAA's behalf. I would like to sincerely thank Cyril for addressing this for IUAA and for all the tireless and endless hours he has given for IUAA in seeking out a new medal provider and ensuring we have a new provider for future championships.

As outgoing Chair I would like to sincerely thank the current IUAA committee for all their support and all the work they have put in over the course of the 2017/2018 season. We are a small committee of volunteers most of us with full time jobs outside of IUAA. For a large quantity of the IUAA membership, I think it's fair to say they probably don't realise how much great work this committee does in the background for athlete's benefit. I'm sure you would all here today reciprocate with me in thanking them for their sterling work.

I would also like to send a special thanks to another member of IUAA who most of you may have never heard of nor seen, a silent partner one would say, Mr. Brian Foley who is our results webmaster and updates the IUAA database online. He has even added a new twitter feed button into the system to allow us to post results faster and more efficiently for the general public to get real time updates of our championships a feature which we all appreciated so big thanks to Brian.

I have now completed the last year of my term as Chair of IUAA (2 year term), and I have decided it is time for me to take a step back and focus on my family commitments. This has been a hard decision for me to make as I have had so many great experiences and made so many friendships as a member of this executive and as an athlete for over a decade now which I will truly cherish.

I started on this committee like most of you today in this room by just attending an AGM back in 2007 and went on to serve as vice chair for 4 years and Chair for 2 years in this time.

As I now take a step back I would like to see new blood come to the fore and would encourage any of you to get involved on the committee, as it can be a very rewarding experience.

I wish the new incoming Chair, committee and athletes every success with the 2018/2019 season and I hope it will be another successful one for all involved.

Yours in Sport

Mr Damian Walsh.
Chair IUAA 2016-2018