

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



**Saturday 10th October 2020
Via Zoom (Due to Covid 19 Restrictions)**

Organised by the Irish University Athletics Association

In Attendance:

IUAA Universities Committee Members: Garret Dunne, Eric Brady, Stephen Lipson, Laura Brennan, Dylan Byrne, Victoria Ias Daniel, John Moroney, Pierre Murchan, Shane Aston

Members: Aaron Tierney Smith (WIT), Aisling Kelly (UCC), Alan McGinely (TCD), Andrew Hart (MU), Benen Ryan (QUB), Bobby McCabe (MU), Brian O'Neill (AIT), Caron Ryan (TCD), Catriona Edington (QUB), Ciaran Crowther (UCD), Conall Hayes (TCD), Cormac Dalton (DCU), Craig Harrington (CIT), Cyril Smyth (TCD), Darragh Kelly (UL), Harry Kearns (UCD), Jack Manning (DCU), James Holden (TUD), James Nolan (UCD), Joseph Finnegan Murphy (TUD), Laura Cussen (UCC), Paul Byrne (DCU), Ronan Fitzpatrick (QUB), Ruth Comerford (UCD), Sinead Mccerlane (TCD)

Apologies:

The Chair Garret Dunne (GD) welcomed all attendees to the AGM 2020,

1. Minutes of the 2019 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.

No matters were raised. The Minutes of the 2019 AGM were proposed by GD and seconded by Dylan Byrne (DB).

3. Review of the 2019–20 Championships

3.1. Road Relays – NUI Maynooth – November 2019 [hosted by Maynooth University]

GD summarised the results and congratulated TCD ladies on their first ever win in this event.

3.2. Indoor Track & Field Championships –Athlone Institute of Technology– February 2020

The event had been moved to a Saturday and there had been 4 championship records.

3.3. Cross Country Championships – UCC Playing Fields – March 2020 [hosted by UCC]

The event had been held just before Covid 19 case numbers started to take off in Ireland.

3.4. Outdoor Track & Field Championships – CANCELLED [To have been hosted by TCD]

The event had to be cancelled due to Covid 19. This was the 1st cancellation in a very long time. GD thanked TCD for all the work they had put in up to the cancellation. Eric Brady (EB) reminded the meeting that TCD had stepped in late in the day to host as the IUAA is struggling to find hosts. The IUAA need member colleges to host championships as the IUAA can't host them by itself. Colleges need to apply 2 years in advance. The lack of host is putting the IUAA in a very difficult position.

Dylan Byrne (DB) explained that this was important and that the IUAA needed colleges to get on board and host championships.

4. Ratification of Future Intervarsity Hosts

GD said that the committee had discussed this in detail at the pre AGM meeting. These were challenging times. Level 3 meant no competitions. The traditional season would be very challenging this academic year and opportunities to hold events would be limited. It was likely that some championships would have to be prioritised over others, and today was an opportunity for the memberships to say which ones they wanted to prioritise. MU were unlikely to be able to host the Road Relays this year and it looked unlikely that any championship would be possible this side of Christmas. The Indoors looked unlikely due to restrictions on indoor events. The committees is thinking if restrictions ease in the new year that maybe the Road Relays could be held in February, the XC in March and the T&F in April. If only 2 events were possible then this would be the RR and T&F and if only one was possible this would be the T&F. GD asked what the floor thought of this.

Paul Byrne (PB) said that he would like to see the XC go ahead, and possibly some sort of RR/XC hybrid event, but that it was hard to see any championships going ahead. GD said that Student Sport Ireland would have a part to play. EB said it would be interesting to hear what the various member clubs were planning. Were clubs planning on small local competitions so as to avoid a 12 month hiatus. Cyril Smyth (CS) said that anything below level 3 was unlikely, that the indoors was impractical, the T&F would be logistically challenging with 350 people in attendance, the XC would be easiest to run and that for the RR it could be an option to limit colleges to one team. He went on to remind the floor that colleges couldn't travel in level 3 and that it would be summer 2021 at the earliest before the situation would improve. Aaron Tierney Smith (ATS) said that a scaled back T&F would be better than nothing. EB asked that if a championship event went ahead in some form where did the membership sit if college weren't permitted to travel due to restrictions? It was highly likely the country would be at different levels. GD asked was it better to have something that some colleges could attend as opposed to nothing. Ruth Comerford (RC) said that clubs had other issues to contend with before attending a championship and that was being able to get athletes together to train, never mind compete. GD and EB asked what colleges were and could do on this front. PB said that in DCU some sports have permission to train, but nothing indoors. Caron Ryan (CR) said that TCD had clearance for groups of 15 people. Craig Harrington (CH) said that there was limited training in CIT and that some members were training with their clubs. Bobby McCade (BMC) said that athletes had to complete a Covid form to compete on campus. Brian O'Neill (BON) said limited numbers could train as individuals on campus but not as a team. Darragh Kelly (DK) said that all training was suspended until 36th Oct and that the college would possibly limit travel/competition within Munster. Benen Ryan (BR) said that training was permitted under NI Athletics guidance. GD summarised by saying that it sounded like college had limited numbers in attendance and were operating under a lot of restrictions. GD asked where we went from here: Do we ratify hosts or do we hold an EGM in January? There is no point debating which direction Covid will go in. What is the best course of action. CS said that it is good to plan. He also pointed out that host colleges might not want students from outside attending event on campus. The XC could hold the women's event first and then when all women have departed host a men's race. Hold an EGM and review that situation at that point. Obviously there could be no social event connected to the championships. He also pointed out that hosting a T&F with limited notice would be very challenging. GD asked if we could agree on an EGM and move on with the agenda. EB asked if circumstances change how long do clubs need to mobilise. PB said that for the XC he had the 13th March booked, DCU would keep planning and if the EGM gave the go ahead then DCU would be ready. DB said that unpredictability is the issue. Laura Brennan (LB) asked was DCU college happy to host (as opposed to DUC AC). PB said that would need to be explored. LB asked what if some counties are in lockdown at what point do we say there is no competition. The committee feels that we can go ahead without some colleges. CH said that if something is organised then it should go ahead even if a county is in lockdown. EB asked how many teams were required to make a championship legitimate. GD suggested between 1/3 and 1/2 is the minimum requirement. Local event would be down to the individual colleges to organise as this is virtually impossible for the IUAA to organise. EB suggested that if there were on IUAA championships that maybe the IUAA could provide financial support to local events. GD said that there would be nothing this side of Christmas and that the new committee should convene an EGM at the first possible opportunity. Stephen Lipson (SL) added that it should be at the first opportunity but also that it should be no later than Jan/Feb. This was proposed by SL and seconded by John Moroney (JM). Conall Hayes (CH) pointed out that if colleges were studying remotely that level 3 would impact

colleges not necessarily based on where the college was located but by where their student population lived.

5. Financial Report

EB goes through the income/expenditure in detail and gives a preliminary estimate for the 2020/21 budget including €20k for the international. SL clarified that the admin cost is mainly for race numbers, stamps and website hosting. EB said that he wants to set aside some money for revamping the IUAA website. EB moved onto the affiliation fees for the 20/21 season and said that the committee felt it was wrong to charge full fees but the committee was concerned that some colleges might have issues securing funding if nothing was charged. The committee feels at that portion should be charged and that if all events go ahead extra might have to be charged and that if nothing goes ahead colleges would have to be reimbursed. GD asked what do colleges think. PB didn't think a lack of payment this season would impact the following season. BMC said MU might have issue securing full funds this season, but that something should be paid. SL suggested 50% with any balance/offset carrying to the following season. CH said 100% should be paid. GD proposed 100% and that the IUAA would work with colleges having difficulty and that the 100% would defer to the following season if nothing went ahead.

6. Internationals for 2020/21

GD said that it was unlikely that any would go ahead.

7. Chairman's Address

GD thanked everyone. Zoom wasn't the place for long speeches and that all topics had been covered/discussed already.

8. Motions

Setanta College and Mary Immaculate College had applied for membership. GD proposed, SL seconded. The motion was passed. GD then briefed the floor on plans to merge CIT and IT Tralee in the Oct 2021 AGM.

9. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

- Chair: Garrett Dunne [Proposed by Stephen Lipson, Seconded by Laura Brennan]
- Assistant Chair: Laura Brennan [Proposed by John Moroney, Seconded by Pierre Murchan]
- Hon Secretary: Stephen Lipson [Proposed by Eric Brady, Seconded by Dylan Byrne]
- Finance Officer: Eric Brady [Proposed by Victoria Isa Daniel, Seconded by Garrett Dunne]
- Competition Officer: Dylan Byrne [Proposed by Stephen Lipson, Seconded by Laura Brennan], Cliona Murphy** [Proposed by John Moroney, Seconded by Alan McGinely]
- Development Officer: James Nolan** [Proposed by Ruth Comerford, Seconded by Harry Kearns], John Moroney, [Proposed by Laura Brennan, Seconded by Dylan Byrne]
- PR Officer: Victoria Isa Daniel** [Proposed by Bobby McCabe, Seconded by Andrew Hart], Ciaran Crowther [Proposed by Ruth Comerford, Seconded by Harry Kearns]
- 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.

- John Moroney **
- Pierre Merchan **
- Dylan Byrne**

** Elected following a vote. Candidates were afforded that to say a few words, or for someone to say a few words on their behalf if the nominee wasn't present.

10. A.O.B.

GD said that the IUAA would look to hold the AGM via zoom going forward. CS said that this would be an excellent idea. SL said that we would need to look to tidy up the constitution to move forward with this.

GD said that a point had been received in advance from RC in UCD re the partnership between the AAI and DCU. James Nolan said that it was great that the AAI is investing in athletes but that it need to be fair and equitable. All on none as the current arrangement is disadvantageous to others. Will the AAI let us know how much that are investing both monetary and time wise in DCU. GD said that PB from DCU is on the call and might be able to add more but that the topic had come up at AAI board level and that no cash was changing hands to the best of GDs knowledge. The arrangement was that athletes could use DCUs facilities and DCU athletes could access AAI high performance which was formalising an existing arrangement. The announcement was a PR exercise. University Athletics is on the AAI radar and they will work with any college. The currently have 4 RDO. PB said that it was a pairing up of ideas. It was in place prior to me starting in my role. AAI have said they will talk to any college to share ideas, not cash. Other colleges can reach out to the AAI. PB said that he was more than happy to chat to anyone about it. GD asked JN if this provided enough reassurance. JN said that he wanted the point minuted that if all new students see AAI staff in DCU it will favour one university (DCU) over others. It is an observation. GD added that the incoming committee can work on this.

CH asked if the results of the Munster college races could be placed on the IUAA results website. SL said to send them up and they can be placed on their like the colours results.

SL thanked Brian Foley for his continued work on maintaining the entries and results websites. CS said that we need to invite BF and honour him for his work as it needs to be acknowledged.

GD closed the AGM and thanked everyone.

[Minutes compiled by Stephen Lipson]