

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



**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
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, Cliona Murphy,

**Members:** Gordon Brett (AIT), Adam Halpin (AIT), Paul Byrne (DCU), Adam McInerney (DCU), Tracy Moran (GMIT), Shane Aston (IT Carlow), Craig Harrington (CIT), Ian O'Sullivan (CIT), Jennifer Healy (IT Tralee), Joseph Doherty (NUIG), Rachel McCann (QUB), Solyane Michaut (QUB), Caron Ryan (TCD), Luke Evans (TCD), Fiona Doyle (TCD), Grace Culhane (TCD), Herbert McClelland (TUD), Wayne Fanning (Limerick IT), Emily Goff (UCC), Peter Kilgannon (UCD), Israel Olatunde (UCD), Conor Maguire (UCD), Kate Nurse (UCD), Sinead MacErlane (UCD), Jack Hickey (UL), Damien Madigan (UL)

**Apologies:**

The Chair Garret Dunne (GD) welcomed all attendees to the AGM 2021,

**1. Minutes of the 2020 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 2020 AGM were proposed by Dylan Byrne (DB) and seconded by Paul Byrne (PB).

**3. Review of the 2020–21 Championships**

**3.1. Road Relays – NUI Maynooth – November 2020 [To have been hosted by Maynooth University]**

Garret Dunne (GD) said that the event didn't go ahead due to Covid restrictions in place at the time.

**3.2. Indoor Track & Field Championships –Athlone Institute of Technology– February 2021**

Garret Dunne (GD) said that the event didn't go ahead due to Covid restrictions in place at the time.

**3.3. Cross Country Championships – DCU Playing Fields – September 2021 [hosted by DCU]**

GD said that it was a great feeling when the XC went ahead and congratulated DCU for all the work they did to ensure the event went off smoothly. Stephen Lipson (SL) said that medals for the additional team members would be issued shortly as the IUAA only brings enough medals for a scoring team on the day.

### **3.4. Outdoor Track & Field Championships – CANCELLED [To have been hosted by the IUAA]**

The T&F was due to proceed in August 2021 but unfortunately had to be cancelled last minute due to Covid related difficulties. Herbert McClland (HMC) questioned where the 50 officials that had been listed on the event plan were coming from. GD said they were coming from the AAI, IUAA and other sources. HMC said that the AAI had committed a long time ago to helping and would it now be the case that the AAI will be helping more going forward. GD said that the AAI have helped but not as much as the IUAA would have hoped but that Andrew Lynam of the AAI had committed additional officials for the Indoors and T&F. HMC, this is great to hear.

### **4. Ratification of Future Intervarsity Hosts**

GD said that a host was required for the XC in 2022. The dates for the championships were

Road Relays: 13/11/21

Indoors: 29/1/22

Cross Country: 5/3/22

Track & Field: 1/4/22 to 2/4/22

GD asked if anyone wanted to host the XC in 2022. There were no volunteers. Eric Brady (EB) said that we need colleges to host. SL encouraged clubs to get involved and said that in recent memory QUB and NUIG had volunteered at the AGM to host the T&F and XC respectively. Laura Brennan (LB) said it was a good opportunity and that there would be IUAA help. Paul Byrne (PB) said that DCU hadn't hosted in a long time and that the Club had really enjoyed organising the 2021 XC in September which was complicated by Covid requirements. Ian O'Sullivan (IOS) said that the old rota system should be reintroduced. There were ample big colleges and everyone should take responsibility. GD said that we need the big college to get more involved, and listed out the big colleges. EB said that some colleges haven't hosted in years and we needed to spread the load. It wasn't fair on the big colleges as there were plenty of college capable of hosting the XC. GD said that there are names that come to mind who are due to host, e.g. UL. Damian Madigan (DM) said that UL don't have the grounds for XC and that the T&F would be difficult as lane 1 was not in use. Jack Hickey (JH) said there was limited T&F equipment and things were currently financially tight. GD said that he understood the Track but that the cost of hosting the XC was minimal. EB said that the IUAA covered medals, ambulance, timing and some other costs and that it wasn't an issue if the host wanted to use a course off campus. SL said that NUIG had gone off campus and that UCC had only switched back on campus at the last minute. UL agreed to think about it and said they would come back to the IUAA on whether they would host it. SL said that it was a good opportunity for smaller colleges to host and put up their hand for 2023 and 2024. GD asked UL to revert by the Road Relays. The discussion moved on to the host for the T&F in 2022. SL said that TCD had been requesting 2022 for the last 4 AGMs. Peter Kilgannon (PK) said that UCD had planned on hosting in 2021 but because of Covid and the Track this didn't happen and asked if UCD could host in April 2022. Fiona Doyle (FD) explained that it was the TCD 150 years anniversary and for the last 4 AGMs Cyril Smyth had been mentioning that TCD wanted to host, that TCD was a long ally of the IUAA, that TCD had stepped in in 2020 at short notice and that they already had a committee formed and would love the opportunity to host in 2022. PK said that it was UCDs 100 year anniversary. Shane Aston (SA) said that Carlow was due to host in 2020 but that Carlow is now ready to host. GD asked if anyone had any thoughts. SL asked if the UCD track was ready. PK said not yet but soon. SA said that the track in santry was a risk. FD said that TCD had looked at other tracks. PK asked if TCD would consider hosting the XC. FD said TCD had been building towards this for years. LB asked would UCD not take it in 2023. GD reminded everyone that UCC had it in 2023. IOS asked was TCD ratified at a prior AGM. SL said no but they has said that they wanted 2022 at the previous 4 AGMs and that UCD had been ratified for 2021. IOS said we should vote. FD said that TCD had been given assurances and read out an email from the IUAA. SL said the email was from him but that it hadn't given a guarantee. GD asked if SA could give more info on the Santry track. SA said the mondo type track is coming to end of life and it would probably be ok to host but is was a hard surface if someone falls. GD said that the AAI were still hosting at Santry. SA said it was his view of the track. EB said we tended to confirm the host at the AGM and that we needed to make a decision. GD said the discussion was to see if we could get an agreement and we should now vote. EB asked if we can rule out sharing the hosting responsibility. FD said that TCD would prefer to host on its own. LB said that she would set up a vote, and to discuss other dates what she did this. The Road relays was proposed by LB and seconded by EB for the 13/11/21. TUS Indoors in Athlone on 29/1/22 was proposed by John Moroney and seconded by GD. Gordon Brett (GB) said it should be possible to host with Covid. The T&F in 2023 was proposed by GD and seconded by EB. IOS queries the Mardyke track. EB said the IUAA is keen

to make this a good event. Craig Harrington (CH) said that the CIT track had been used last time and it is down for relaying. GD said that this was the oldest intervarsity competition in the World. GD asked if there were any offers for the XC in 2023. LB explained that the vote for the T&F was now ready and that each eligible rep had one vote. The voting system failed and was deferred until later in the meeting.

## **5. Financial Report**

EB said that the main source of income was the membership affiliation fees. He explained how 75% of the fees from the 20/21 season would carry into the 21/22 season and hence the IUAA would only be looking for 25% fees for 21/22 for anyone who paid 100% in 20/21 but would be looking for 125% in 21/22 for anyone who didn't pay in 20/21. SA asked if we had considered charging entry fees. EB said that this had been shot down previously. SL said that athletes would be left behind. SA said that it would increase revenue. EB asked what others thought. GB said it was something to consider but only if there was a financial need as there was no appetite to charge entry fees. GD agreed with GB as our current income covers our current costs.

EB presented figures and due to the cancellation of the international and championship events due to covid outgoings had been minimal leading to a healthy bank balance.

GD said the GMIT had just messaged him to say that they would like to host the XC in 2023.

## **6. Internationals for 2021/22**

GD said that he would like to re-establish the event with the Scots for May/June 2022 and that he would work away on this in the background. .

## **7. Chairman's Address**

GD thanked everyone. Zoom wasn't the place for long speeches and that all topics had been covered/discussed already. He thanked DCU for hosting the XC and thanked the outgoing Committee.

The vote for the T&F host for 2022 was now ready and proceeded. UCD won by 16 votes to 14 for TCD. SL asks if the dates had been confirmed. They were confirmed as the 8/4/22 and 9/4/22.

## **8. Motions**

SL explains that we need to ratify new colleges. (MTU and TUS). Jennifer Healy (JH) asked if they could compete as campuses. Wayne Fanning (WF) said that Limerick IT would agree as competing with AIT will limit LIT's opportunities to grow. GB said that AIT still wish to compete as separate campuses as the distances are huge, it will impact participation, there will be less colleges competing and relay teams would be impacted as they can't train. GB said that the motion should be amended to affiliate campuses. JH said that she would mirror everything GB has said, and that College Senior Management has said they (MTU) were to compete separately. JH also added that the IUAA should consult with the members impacted. HMC said that in 2019 TUD was formed and told to be one college as this is what senior management wanted for TUD. JH said that their senior management decided differently, i.e. to compete separately. Every merger will be different. HMC said that traffic in Dublin prevents them training together. GB said that their preference was to compete separately. SL asked what the rest of the membership thought as there were constitutional issues which would need to be looked at to move forward with this. GD said that we need the view of both sides. IOS said that CIT would disagree with Tralee, and that there was no direction given with CIT/MTU. We needed to reflect on this as he believed MTU should compete as one. He had brought RTC Cork into the IUAA and he would be very disappointed if they ended up competing as separate entities. He couldn't comment on what senior management had decided in Tralee but there was always a space to enter an athlete even if combined. CH said that he agreed with IOS and that CIT needed to talk internally (with Tralee). JH said that Student Sport Ireland (SSI) are interested as it impacts sport .We are not headless chickens. The colleges have decided to compete separately. HMC said that he sits on SSI and they don't want to get involved but he asked whether the Students Union and all the directors were on board with competing separately. EB said that this was a very useful conversation. We need to hear from the impacted colleges. The IUAA hasn't made a blanket decision. The IUAA has rules. We committed a few years ago when we changed the fees. Our members are one legal entity. UU has multiple campuses. We need a constitutional change to do what MTU and TUS want. Distance is a challenge, What other sports do is their business. Managements may have made a decision but

they don't have that power. Can't have some colleges competing as campuses and others not. UCD also have multiple campuses. JH said it doesn't reflect reality comparing UCD with MTU. EB said that legally MTU is one legal entity. If one legal entity can compete as multiple teams then all have to be permitted to do so. GD said that we have a lot of colleges in transition. In the future they might competes as one. Message from TUS is that they want to compete separately and the messages from MTU is split. TUS and MTU aren't members individually and need to re-affiliate. We aren't in a position to make a decision on this. Do we put this on ice pending an EGM. IOS said that UU have multiple campuses and are a good example of a college who had to get on with it. GD said that maybe a 2/3 year grace period before merging as a way forward. EB said that we would need to fix the rules to accommodate this. GD said this needs a lot of thought. SL said that competing as a bigger member would be stronger and that an EGM was required. GB said that AIT was trying to build teams and participation. Competing at one would impinge the college competing as spaces were tight in the T&F and athletes would be left behind due to reduced space if they competed as one with LIT. SL said the splitting into campuses permits colleges with the same number of athletes to enter more athletes as competing separately lets them enter more. EB said that we would need to hold an EGM but to let CIT/Tralee/AIT/LIT compete in Maynooth. GD said that an EGM before Christmas was required to resolve the issue, and let the 4 colleges compete separately at Maynooth but an EGM must be held to resolve prior to the XC.

GD said that TCD had just offered to host the XC in 2022. UL agreed to stand aside to let TCD host. GD said that both UCD and TCD can now celebrate their respective anniversaries. FD thanked the meeting.

## 9. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

- Chair: No election this year
- Assistant Chair: Laura Brennan [Proposed by Stephen Lipson, Seconded by Dylan Byrne]
- Hon Secretary: Stephen Lipson [Proposed by Eric Brady, Seconded by Craig Harrington]
- Finance Officer: Eric Brady [Proposed by Dylan Byrne, Seconded by Peter Kigannon]
- Competition Officer: Cliona Murphy [Proposed by Laura Brennan, Seconded by Fiona Doyle]
- Development Officer: James Nolan\* [Proposed by Eric Brady, Seconded by Laura Brennan]
- PR Officer: Victoria Isa Daniel [Proposed by Laura Brennan, Seconded by Craig Harrington]
- 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.

- Caron Ryan
- Dylan Byrne\*\*
- John Moroney \*\*
- Pierre Murchan \* \*\*

\* Not present but had confirmed that her would run for election.

\*\* 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.

The electronic voting system was limited and only permitted 1 vote so in the case of the vote for General Officer the floor had to vote for the 1 person they didn't want elected.

## 10. A.O.B.

GD confirmed to CH that OYDs will not be granted an extra year due to Covid.

LB said that there were AAI coaching opportunities coming up. SL strongly encouraged people to get involved. DB said this was a god opportunity.

PK asked about a DMR at the indoors. GD said that teams don't have the depth and that the one day event makes it very challenging. It might be possible to have some university events in another event

being held in Athlone. SL said that we might need to drop something to make this happen. PK suggested the baseline meet in AIT might be a good test event. GB said that AIT would support that.

SL thanked Brian Foley for his continued work on maintaining the entries and results websites and suggested that we should honour him for his work at the XC in 2022. .

GD closed the AGM and thanked everyone.

[Minutes compiled by Stephen Lipson]