

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



Saturday 22nd October 2022

**University College Dublin
Belfield, Dublin**

Organised by the Irish University Athletics Association

In Attendance:

IUAA Universities Committee Members: Garret Dunne, Laura Brennan, Eric Brady, Stephen Lipson, Victoria Isa Daniel, Dylan Byrne, John Moroney, Pierre Murchan, James Nolan

Members: Michael Murphy (DCU), Rory Cassidy (DCU), Paul Byrne (DCU), Grace Cullrane (TCD), Jack Lawlor (TCD), Evelyn Coughlan (TCD), Iain Morrisson (TCD), Ciaran Connolly (TUD), Cillian MacNamara (UCC), Roisin O'Reilly (UCD), Emmett Dunleavy (UCD), Dylan King (UCD), Toluwabori Alwinola (UCD), Molly Hourihan (UCD), Miriam Daly (UL), Damien Madigan (UL), Eoin Sharkey (UL), Jack Hickey (UL), Emma McCay (UU), John Foley (External Reviewer, part meeting)

Observer capacity: Aoife O'Sullivan (MTU), Charlie Gaffney (MTU), Lia O'Brien (MTU), David McInerney (MTU),

Apologies: ATU, Cliona Murphy (IUAA)

The Chair Garret Dunne (GD) welcomed all attendees to the AGM 2022, the first 'in person' AGM in 3 years. GD opened by saying that following the 2021 AGM and EGM, to facilitate the TU integration, John Foley (JF) had been asked to conduct an external review. JF was in attendance today to present the findings of his review.

JF said that his brief had been to talk to as many people as possible and he had spoken to 21 people in total. The view amongst the membership was that the TU should join together to make them stronger but understood why some might want to remain separate. Within the TU sector he has spoken to students, administrators and above. It was very emotive. They wanted to stay separate, the mergers were in their infancy and they needed time to breath. They were concerned that if they merged the participation in the smaller parts of the TU would drop off. JF summarised that in his view it was possible to navigate a way through this. Eric Brady (EB) said that there could be an EGM on the issue and this if an opportunity to ask questions to gain clarity. Jack Hickey (JH) asked what the current landscape was. GD informed the meeting that the IUAA had offered to put a motion forward today to facilitate the TUs competing separately in their former IT format for another 4 years while they put structures in place but that the TUs had rejected this. MTU were here today as the TUs had been offered observer capacity at today's meeting. Emma McCay (EM) asked JF would the report be made available. JF said he would make it available once written up but names would be redacted.

1. Minutes of the 2021 AGM and EGM

Stephen Lipson (SL) said that because the minutes had only been available online for the last 24 hours he would give a detailed summary of the meetings.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes.

EB had no amendments but wanted the meeting to know that prior to the EGM in December 2021 there were member colleges who had been asked to abstain in any votes.

No matters were raised. The Minutes of the 2021 AGM and EGM were proposed by GD and seconded by Laura Brennan (LB).

3. Review of the 2021–22 Championships

3.1. Road Relays – NUI Maynooth – November 2021

GD said that the event had gone ahead for the first time in 2 years.

3.2. Indoor Track & Field Championships –Athlone International Arena– January 2022

GD said that the event had gone ahead for the first time in 2 years.

3.3. Cross Country Championships – TCD Playing Fields – March 2022 [hosted by TCD]

This was the only championship that hadn't missed a year due to COVID. Ian Morrisson (IM) said that the mixed relay had brought in some track people.

3.4. Outdoor Track & Field Championships – Carlow- April 2022 [hosted by IT Carlow]

GD thanked IT Carlow for hosting at short notice. They had been hoping to host in the previous couple of years but delays to the track and COVID had prevented this. They had been asked to host at 6 weeks notice because the UCD track wasn't ready. GD thanks the huge efforts of Shane Aston and Donal McNally. GD commented on the ever increasing standard and that multiple records had been broken. EB asked if the extra officials that the IUAA had brought in had helped. GD said that it took pressure off the hosts and provided the IUAA with comfort that there were officials. IM asked if colleges could be notified of DQs prior to the results going up. LB agreed. JH said that there was confusion over heats in the relays and that clearer announcements were required. LB brought up the difference between qualified officials and event assistants and explained that qualified officials had more authority as they were qualified, where as event assistants typically aren't. James Nolan (JN) asked if chip and pin timing could be explored for the road relays, along with a time clock. EB said this could be looked into. JN asked about the T&F being early in April. GD explained that Easter and exams have a big influence on the available dates. SL said that the 25/26 April was exams. IM said that the National Road Relays were on in April. GD said that all clashed couldn't be avoided.

4. Ratification of Future Intervarsity Hosts

GD said he wanted to look at dates for the 22/23 season and hosts for the 23/24 season.

Road Relays: These were scheduled around the National XC but that Saturday 12th was not available in Maynooth but that Friday 11th was. So if the 12th was the preferred date then a new venue car free venue would be required. Grace Cullrane (GC) said that Fridays restricts OYDs and placement students. SL pointed out that this was the same situation for the T&F on the Friday. EB asked if Friday 11th worked. The floor agreed that Friday 11th November 2022 worked.

Indoors: 04/02/23 in Athlone International Arena.

Cross Country: University of Limerick were hosting and still needed to tie down the date as either the 4th or 11th March 2023. UL were to book and revert back to the IUAA. The floor was happy with either date for 2023.

Track & Field: UCC had been pencilled to host in 2023 to mark the 150th anniversary of the first intervarsity championships that had been held in UCC in 1873, however UCC had to withdraw due to the lack availability of the track in MTU for throws as the Mardyke couldn't accommodate all throwing events. JN said that UCD was interested in hosting as the track was now ready. He said the throwing circle needed a little work and that the cage was arriving next week. The Pole vault would be coming from Santry. John Moroney (JM) asked if this would cause an issue with date clashes. JN asked if he could have a week to ask questions internally. EB asked if UCD had the capacity to host. Toluwabori Alwinola (TA) asked what was involved in hosting. LB advised forming a sub committee and GD said it was a great opportunity for any club that hosts. SL advised to spread the work over 6 months. LB asked what the final cutoff was to determine if the track was ready. JN said January 2023. JH said that the National Relays shouldn't influence the date. SL said that a late April date will be an issue due to exams. Paul Byrne said that exams started in DCU on the 24th April. GD said that due to congress the AAI couldn't provide officials and that they had asked the IUAA not to clash with congress. EB said that due to Easter, Congress and Exams the only date was the 21st/22nd April 2023. GD floated moving to a Thur/Fri to see if this offered alternatives. JH pointed out that we had moved the indoors from Friday to Saturday to get officials. GD said 21st/22nd April 2023 is the only viable date. JN said UCD couldn't facilitate this date but could do the 28th/29th. GD and LB agreed to

talk to AAI about clashing with congress and that the date would be confirmed at the road relays in Maynooth.

GD moved onto the 23/24 season. TUD said that they would be interested in hosing in the future. EM said that UU would be interested in hosting the T&F in April 2024 but would need to clear this with their sports department. UCC said they too would be interested in hosting the T&F in April 2024.

QUB had notified the IUAA that they would like to host the XC in 2024. QUB were ratified as hosts.

5. Financial Report

EB went through the key points from the income and expenditure items in the IUAA accounts. He reminded everyone that the fees had been hybrid due to COVID. That the IUAA provides host colleges with a grant upon production of a report and a statement of accounts. This grant hadn't been claimed in recent years. He also pointed out that it wasn't paid if the host had made a profit. Medical costs had been increasing year on year. Two colleges had paid historical arrears. The balance was currently high as the international had been cancelled in 2020, 2021 and 2022 due to COVID. IM said that hosts can talk to prior hosts, with SL adding that historical reports were available online. UU queried who covered photography costs. GD said this would be a hosts costs. JH clarified that the grant was only available post the event upon production of a report and only if a profit wasn't made.

6. Internationals for 2022/23

GD said that he would like to re-establish the event with the Scots for May/June 2023 and that he had been working away on this in the background and that the Scots were interested in reviving the event in 2023.

7. Chairman's Address

GD said that this was the end of his second terms and that he would be stepping away from the committee. It had been a challenging period with COVID and the TU integrations. He thanked the committee and encouraged others to get involved as it was an opportunity.

8. Motions

SL said that no motions had been submitted and that the IUAA had no motions to bring forward but that the IUAA had received some topics for discussion but that they were to late to go forward as a motion, but could be discussed.

The first was the numbers to score in the Cross Country and the cap on numbers for the Cross Country. SL said that the request had been to reduce the numbers scoring in the Cross County to 4 and 3 for men and women respectively, down from the current 6 and 4. GD said that 6 and 4 encourages depth in the team. JH said it should be kept at 6 and 4. It was suggested that the women should increase to 5. IM said that college had struggled to get 4 so increasing to 5 would be a risk. JH said it was the colleges fault if they couldn't field 6 and 4 athletes. GC said not less than 4 in the women's, but maybe 5. GD said that it seemed the majority wanted to keep 6 and 4. JH asked about a Tiered championships in the Cross Country.

The second topic was the date of the Cross Country, in particular moving it from March to late September or early October. JM said that we would lose athletes if it is too early in first term. EB said that we would need a clear date in the calendar and would help spread the championships to 2 before Christmas and 2 after Christmas. GD said that the AAI would need to be involved to facilitate this in the calendar. SL asked when colleges started back after the summer. GC said it would suit elite athletes but it wouldn't suit beginners. LB said that March gives people more time to train if they are new to a college. Emmett Dunleavey (ED) said it was hard to get athletes in March and that an early fixture would fit better in the season and suggest the last week in September or the first week in October. SL asked would first years run. Aoife O'Sullivan (AOS) said that having it in September would motivate athletes for next year. Paul Byrne (PB) said that it should be trialled as the season opener. Charlie Gaffney (CG) said it was better in the Cross Country season as the current indoors-cross country-outdoors wasn't ideal. IM said that clubs build towards the March date, and it gives people time to get fit. It would be detrimental having it at the start of first term. I appreciate it isn't in the Cross Country season but the pre Christmas calendar is jam packed. It may be good for elites but it won't be good for beginners. JH said there was no denying the work TCD do to get numbers but that this wasn't the case in other colleges and if athletes aren't caught early with a competition they

will be lost. The days of Cross Country only athletes are over and athletes double up now. Victoria Isa Daniel (VID) asked would the host college be ready to host this early in the college year. JM said it is clear that the majority want the Cross County in September and to squash it into the 6 week Cross County season. GC and EB asked what the date would be if it was in September/October as we would need to know when all college terms start. IM pointed out that the end of September was before the Cross Country season and isn't slotting into the Cross Country season. The Cross Country is one of the two premier IUAA championships and we need to value it. GD asked when do college exams start in December as maybe early December would be a better date. He asked if moving the Cross Country would drive or reduce numbers and that maybe a trial would assist. EB said there was a clear sense to trail but when in September/October. GD said trying to streamline the calendar is one thing but we need to ensure people turn up. IM suggested discussing the date with the AAI. GD said the IUAA would discuss this with the AAI. IM said there were wider issues with Cross Country dates within the AAI which will complicate the discussion. JN said maybe trail it over 3 years to see if it gets the numbers. GC suggested swapping the Cross Country with the Road Relays as they were more aligned with the Track. JN wasn't keen to move the Road Relays. GD said the IUAA would discuss date options with the AAI.

The third topic was the number of athletes permitted to compete in the T&F, which is currently 2 UG/PG + 1OYD in the indoors and 2 UG/PG + 2OYD in the outdoors. SL added that his is what had been discussed at the EGM in December 2021. GD said that it was his view that a scarcity of places promoted competition. JM said it was rare to have the 2 OYDs places filled. SL clarified that the discussion at the EGM was around flexing between 2+2 to 3+1 and not about moving to 4+2. EB asked if this was to facilitate participation. EM suggested that guest races might alleviate the issue of athletes being left behind. GD said that competition is important and restricted numbers drives competition. JH and SL said that the sprints were oversubscribed and that sprinters were being left behind.

9. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

- Chair: Laura Brennan [Proposed by Pierre Murchan, Seconded by Victoria Isa Daniel]
- Assistant Chair: Victoria Isa Daniel [Proposed by Laura Brennan, Seconded by Pierre Murchan]
- Hon Secretary: Stephen Lipson [Proposed by Dylan Byrne, Seconded by John Moroney]
- Finance Officer: Eric Brady [Proposed by Paul Byrne, Seconded by Jack Hickey]
- Competition Officer: Cliona Murphy [Proposed by Laura Brennan, Seconded by Eric Brady]
- Development Officer: James Nolan* [Proposed by Roisin O'Reilly, Seconded by Toluwabori Alwinola]
- PR Officer: Pierre Murchan [Proposed by Laura Brennan, Seconded by Garret Dunne]
- General Officer: Emma McCay [Proposed by Victoria Isa Daniel, Seconded by Dylan Byrne]
- General Officer: Jack Hickey [Proposed by Eoin Sharkey, Seconded by Damian Madigan]
- General Officer: Dylan King [Proposed by Molly Hourihan, Seconded by Roisin O'Reilly]

10. A.O.B.

GD introduced the Athlete of the Year and explained that there would be a Male and a Female IUAA athlete of the year but that the IUAA could only put forward one name to the AAI awards ceremony. Rob McDonnal and Sarah Lehey were voted IUAA male and female athletes of the year respectively with Rob McDonnal being voted the overall winner.

SL thanked Brian Foley for his continued work on maintaining the entries and results websites

GD closed the AGM and thanked everyone.

[Minutes compiled by Stephen Lipson]