

IOP | Institute of Physics **Theory of Condensed Matter Group**

Minutes of the Officers Meeting

IOP, Portland Place, February 23rd, 2016, 9:30-13:00

Attendees: Mike Payne (MP, University of Cambridge, Chair), Rudolf A Roemer (RAR, University of Warwick, Secretary/Treasurer), Ryan Barnett (RB, Imperial College, Member), Keith McKenna (KMK, University of York, Member), Andrew Morris (AM, University of Cambridge, Member)

Apologies: Halim Kusumaatmaja (University of Durham, Member)

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

As this is the first officers' meeting of the newly reinstated TCM group, there were no previous minutes to consider.

2. Warwick Theory Day

MP and AM volunteered to organize the 2016 TCM "Theory Day" in Warwick. The committee noted with thanks that Nick d'Ambrumenil had again agreed to continue to organize the local arrangements in Warwick. As in previous years, a meeting in early June was deemed most practical considering most colleagues work load in term 3.

The committee considered a list of possible speakers, noting the criteria of diversity in topics (electronic structure, interacting many-body systems, soft condensed matter) as well as eminence for one speaker and the usefulness to be exposed to the TCM community for 1-2 newly appointed TCM colleagues. A good list of candidates was suggested to AM and MP and they were encouraged to solicit further input from the TCM community.

RAR noted that in principle, TCM group funds should allow to invite 1-2 speaker from outside the UK if there was sufficient desire to do so.

Action: AM, MP and N. d'Ambrumenil to organize the 2016 Theory Day in Warwick.

3. Physics by the Lake

Reported: MP reported that the "Physics by the Lake" summer school is happening 7-19 August 2016 in Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, organized by Dr Eran Ginossar (University of Surrey) and Dr Sam Carr (University of Kent). The deadline for applications is April 30th, 2016. See <http://www.physicsbythelake.org/> for more information.

Agreed: The committee was keen on supporting students to attend the summer school and suggested that for those students not receiving support from the summer school via the school's EPSRC grant (or other school funds), the IOP should encourage/support, as in previous years, the use of the IOP conference bursaries.

4. Diversity and Membership of Committee

Agreed: It was agreed that the committee should be increased beyond the current 6 members to more effectively be able to reach out into the TCM community. We will actively seek to recruit up to 4 additional members to the committee, with the aim to better reflect also the diversity of the TCM membership in the committee.

Action: MP to contact members of TCM, encouraging them to join the committee.

5. Additional Group activities: PhD prizes, member suggestions

- (a) **Agreed:** The committee enthusiastically supported the idea of an annual TCM PhD prize to be awarded at the TCM "Theory Day". We aim for a PhD prize already in 2016. The organization of the prize should follow as much as possible the procedure of the established IOP Computational Physics group (IOP-CP) PhD prize, with a 2016 submission deadline close to April 30th, 2016. Double submission to the IOP-CP and the IOP-TCM should be possible; in case of the prize winner being the same for IOP-CP and IOP-TCM, we would like to suggest to the IOP-CP the award of a joint prize. The PDF of the award-winning thesis should be made available on the TCM web pages.

Action: MP to contact the IOP Computational Physics group with our plan and to ask for their opinion/suggestions.

Action: MP/AM to follow up on suggestions for a name to help publicise the TCM PhD prize.

- (b) **Agreed:** The PhD prize award should be announced in "Physics World" if possible. Similarly, a short report on the "Theory Day" at Warwick should be published in Physics World as well as on the TCM membership web pages.

Action: MP/AM/d'Ambrumenil to write a short report after the Theory Day meeting in Warwick.

6. Any other business

- (a) **IOP-TCM web and communication presence:** The current state of the IOP TCM web pages are seen as insufficient and in-responsive to committee and member needs. We discussed the possibility of updating the TCM web presence by modern communication tools such as blogs, member forums, twitter feeds, etc.

- (b) **Agreed:** The committee is keen on exploring the possibility of enhancing the TCM web presence with the aim of using and highlighting existing TCM member efforts.

Action: AM to draft a list of requirements to communicate to IOP.

Action: MP to complain to IOP about the lack of access by the TCM committee to the TCM member pages. MP to ask IOP if the requirements suggested by AM will be part of the new IOP web system (and if only partially, what parts will be implemented).

(c) **Action:** RAR to ask IOP for a membership list of TCM members.

(d) **Action:** RAR to contact TCM group members (via IOP email system) with minutes of present meeting as well as updates on TCM activities.

7. Date of next meetings:

- Via video conferencing after the PhD prize deadline, i.e. early May 2016.
- Face-to-face at an AGM to coincide with the Warwick Theory Day, i.e. early June 2016.