Agenda: IOP Biological Physics Group committee, AGM Meeting 11th September 2024

12.30 to 1pm at Swansea University Bay Campus (British Biophysics Biennial Meeting)
And on Zoom

Attendees: Jack Shepherd , Massimo Vassalli, Margarita Staykova, Peter Adams, Isabella Guido, Michelle Peckham, Mark Leake, Tim Saunders, Peter Weightman, Chiu Fan Lee, Tom Waigh, Mark Wallace

1. Welcome, Apologies [ML/MP]. Apologies: Nirvana Caballero, Diana Fusco (Maternity Leave), Marco Mazza, Bartek Waclaw, Matteo T. Degiacomi

2. Minutes of last meeting [ML]: Accepted

3. Updates on Activities: past recent, current and future meetings /conferences [ML]
Mark introduced the members of the Biological Physics Group committee highlighting the diversity of its members, both in gender and geographical. He mentioned that he was now entering his final year as chair of the committee, as he will finish in September 2025.
He summarised the membership of the wider biological physics group:,which comprises~6% of all IoP members (nb. 53 sub-groups in total) and he pointed out that BPG members ~30% younger. than the mean across all IoP. We also have a higher female (F) to male (M) ratio (~1:4) compared to the IOP as a whole (~1:3). He highlighted the summary or major contributions of physics to biology (from 1950 to now) put together by Bartek Waclaw, with the help of the committee, and available on the informal BPG website, and encouraged everyone to read and comment. He mentioned the regular newsletters, also available on the website.
He announced the winner of the Tom Duke Prize as Julia Yeomans. The prize is In memory of Tom Duke a pioneer in Biological Physics and we aim to select an ambassador in biological questions. The prize funds 4 UK/Ireland seminars, ≥2 in universities where biological physics is not already well established to encourage physicists to engage with life scientists. He further commented the new prizes (thesis prize, ECR prize, Tom McCleish communications prize) that the committee will award will be announced on social media soon.
Mark then summarised all of the various meetings we had organised or supported/helped to organise. There have been quite a few meetings across a broad area of interests:

Motility in microbes, molecules and matter, February 2023 Edinburgh, Marco Mazza...
Physics of emergent behaviours IV: Phase transitions in biology, March 2023 Harrogate Tim Saunders, Chiu Fan Lee, Margarita Staykova, Peter Adams
Early career event, March 2023 Harrogate. Peter Adams
Physics of Life 2023, March 2023 Harrogate. Mark Leake, Mark Wallace
Organoids and lab-on-a-chip, April 2023 IOP London. Bartek Waclaw, Diana Fusco...
Mechanics in biology: from molecules to cells and tissues, June 2023 Glasgow. Massimo Vassalli
Super-resolution imaging workshop, July 2023 Leeds. Michelle Peckham..
Physics of living matter, September 2023 Cambridge. Diana Fusco...
Advancing radiation biology 'The North' 2023, October 2023 York. Mark Leake...
Super-resolution in 'The North' December 2023 York. Mark Leake...
Innovations in EM relevant to Biological Physics, December 2023 York. Mark Leake...
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Imaging elasticity, June 2024 NPL Teddington. Massimo Vassalli
Celebration of Tom McLeish, September 2024 Durham. Mark Leake
Active soft matter, September 2024 London. Isabella Guido...
AI in biological physics, September 2024 London. Marco Mazza, Chiu Fan Lee, Matteo Degiacomi...

And mentioned the upcoming activities:
British Biophysical Society Biennial meeting, September 2024 Swansea. Mark Leake...
Biomedical sensing, December 2024 London. Mark Leake...
Super-resolution in "The North", 6 December 2024 Leeds. Michelle Peckham...
Quantum Bioscience, 15 December 2024 London. Peter Adams, Mark Leake..
Physics of Life 2025, 24-27 March 2025 Harrogate. Mark Leake...

- 4 key stakeholders in UK biophysics ~500 participants Excellent funder and ECR engagement

Finally, he mentioned that the outcome of the consultation – for Uk Physics of Life (Roadmap) would be presented at this meeting, with its final recommendations.

4. Financial report [MW] Mark Wallace gave a brief presentation on the costs and expenditure for meetings and events, as well as committee expenses. He mentioned that we are involved in more joint meetings with other subgroups to make more of the reduced budget.

5. Any other business.
There was a question about any ‘surplus’ budget. Unfortunately, there is none. There were some questions and discussion on the new prizes and their criteria.

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List of current BPG ctte members:

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