UKNOF Governance Evolution

UKNOF 18 Meeting,
London
20th January 2011

Keith Mitchell
UKNOF Chair

Current Status

- We have run 18 successful meetings ☺
   ~40-100 attendees each time
- Mailing list of ~700 people
- Programme Committee
- Funding Council
- Committed regular volunteers
- Secure ongoing financial base

UKNOF Remit

- ## From Charter:
  - *"To pro-actively support the sharing of knowledge, ideas and best practices to enhance the effective, stable and secure operation of the UK's Internet infrastructure as a whole."*
  - *"UKNOF's remit is technical, and any discussion or activities involving commercial, legal or political issues should be limited to where they have a direct impact on technical aspects of network operations."*

UKNOF Activities

- *"Distribution of clue"* ☺
- Meetings 3 times/year
  - Current, interesting, stimulating, relevant sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices
  - Wider-ranging and less specific remit than other UK Internet bodies
  - OPEN to all, bring in new blood
  - Bring world-class international speakers to UK audience
- Mailing list
  - Mostly announcements

Programme Committee

- 13 volunteers
- Ensures supply of interesting presentations
- http://www.uknof.org.uk/uknof-pc.html
- We are **always** looking for interesting, topical, relevant speakers and presentations
- Submissions and suggestions to: <pc@uknof.org.uk>
- Increasing demand – submit early !

PC Members

- Keith Mitchell (chair)
- Andy Davidson
- Bijal Sanghani
- Denesh Bhabuta
- Ian Meikle
- Ivan Beveridge
- Mike Hughes

- Nigel Titley (co-chair)
- John Lyons
- Neil McRae
- Rob Evans
- Steve Kennedy
- Will Hargrave

Funding Model

- Non-profit
- We prefer to avoid charging meeting registration fees if at all possible
- This has been possible through per-meeting vendor sponsors
- Used idea of "subscriber sponsors" to help build operating reserves in early days
- We now have a good operating cash buffer so this is less critical

Funding Council

- Invited representatives of sponsors who have contributed significantly to UKNOF
- ..and have made an ongoing support commitment
- We covered our 2009 costs well enough to not need to ask FC for 2010 or 2011 funds
- Provides degree of governance/oversight for UKNOF
- http://www.uknof.org.uk/uknof-fc.html

Our Valued Volunteer Helpers

- Without whom it would not all be possible:
  - **Admin: Denesh Bhabuta**
  - **Connectivity: Andy Davidson,Will Hargrave**
  - **PGP signing: Ivan Beveridge**
  - **VoIP: Steve Kennedy**
  - **Webcast: Brandon Butterworth, Tom Bird**
  - **Accounts: Willie Black**
- And all our speakers
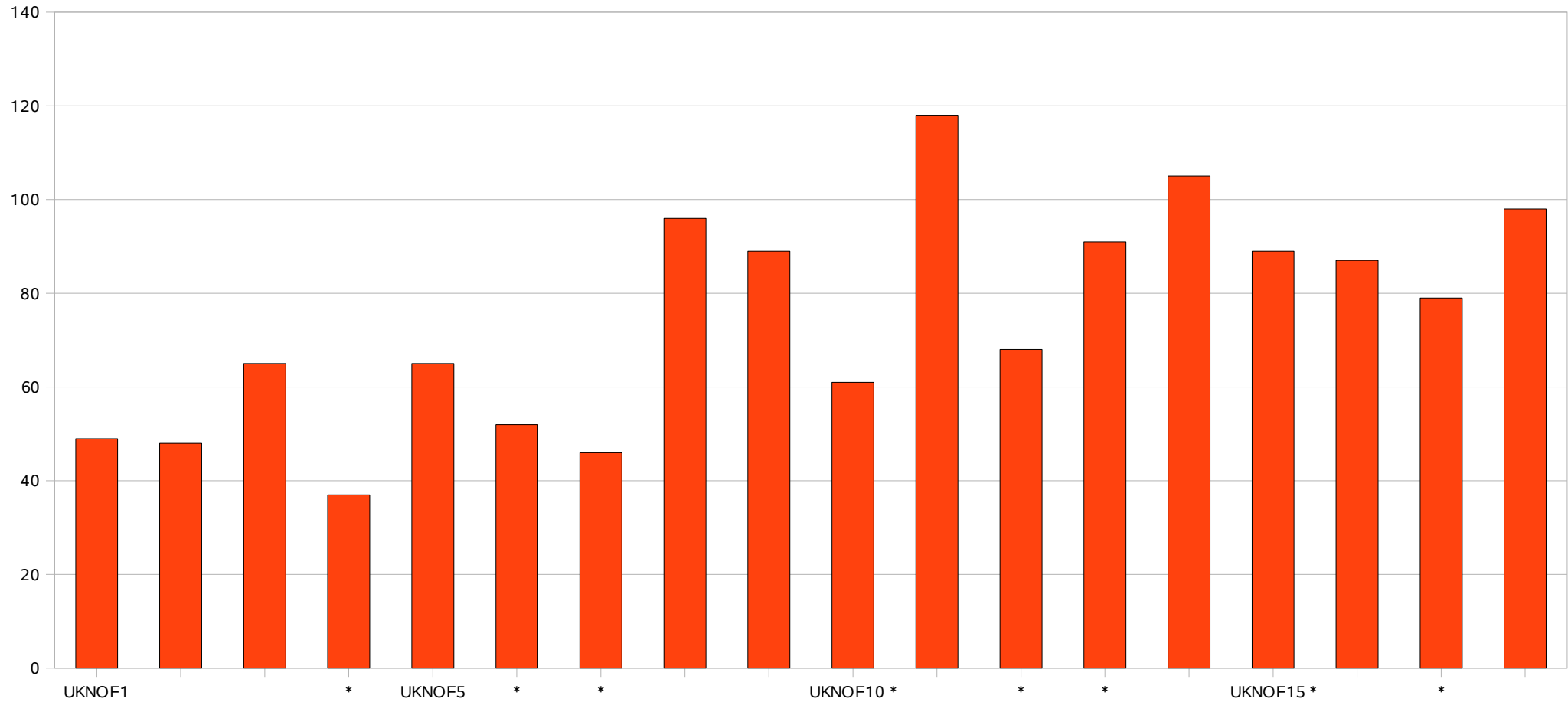- **THANK YOU !!**

UKNOF Running Costs

- Typically about £5k per meeting:
  - venue ~£1.5k
  - catering ~£1.5k
  - admin, misc expenses ~£1500
  - connectivity, webcast
- About 20-25 days/yr Chair's time
  - contributed by ISC, as part of their public benefit remit
  - Keith's day job Director of Engineering at ISC
- About 10-15 days/yr Admin time
- We have reserves for around a year of meetings
- Detailed accounts available on request

UKNOF Meetings

- 3 times per year
  - At least one per year in London
  - At least one per year outside London

- Dates are now notionally 3rd Thursday of every Jan, Apr & Sep
  - subject to venue etc availability

- We are always looking for hosts/venues

Meeting Registration

UKNOF Facilities

- Web site, DNS and internal e-mail currently hosted on Keith's server
- Co-lo and transit for this donated to UKNOF by Jump Networks
- Mailman mailing list hosted by LONAP
- Various parties help with VoIP, meeting and webcast connectivity/archive
- UKIF provide bank account, bookkeeping, legal entity

UKIF Ltd and UKNOF

- The UK Internet Forum (UKIF Ltd) was set up as an alternative Internet trade association in 2005
- Hosted UKNOF secretariat as part of a number of proposed activities
- In practice supporting UKNOF has been its only activity for past ~4 years
- Arrangements largely informal

UKIF Ltd

- Public company limited by guarantee
- Only members are the Directors:
  - Keith Mitchell
  - Willie Black
  - Steve Dyer
- Does bookkeeping, invoicing, holds bank accounts, and provides legal entity for UKNOF

UKNOF Governance Proposal

- Idea is to put things on a more formal footing, without overthinking or creating structure with too much overhead
  - "if it ain't broken don't fix it"
- UKNOF would effectively do a "reverse takeover" of UKIF Ltd
- UKIF legal entity will become dedicated to supporting UKNOF

The Proposal

- Close out UKIF accounts at end-2010 so they have no residual non-UKNOF elements
  - mostly writing off tax liabilities on long-expired creditors/debtors
- UKIF Ltd Membership opened up to UKNOF stakeholder *non-profit* Internet entities that contribute in some way to UKNOF's operation
- Member appointment is by invitation from and approval by existing company members

Membership Proposal

- Initial Members:
  - Existing UKIF Directors
  - LINX
  - Nominet
  - LONAP
- Other possible organisations might include:
  - RIPE NCC, ISC, BBC, ??
- Membership in <u>perpetuity</u> unless resign or terminated for cause

Member and Board Powers

- Company members can:
  - elect new board members (2 new seats would be created)
  - remove board members
  - be legal entities or natural persons
- The Board:
  - can appoint and remove programme committee members
  - signs off finances
  - can be natural persons only
  - has usual Company Director fiducary duties

Supporting UKNOF

- Company Members are not expected to make an ongoing financial commitment to UKNOF, but are expected to devote time and other in-kind resources needed for its smooth operation

- A new category of "supporters" would be created for commercial organisations that help UKNOF materially on an ongoing rather than per-event basis - these would receive recognition but not membership

Other Details

- While in principle could change entity name of *UKIF Ltd* to *UKNOF Ltd*, this is a lot of paperwork for mainly cosmetic gain
  - currently effectively "UKIF Ltd trading as UKNOF" works
- Programme Committee would remain as is
  - but gains formal "new blood" mechanism
- Funding Council replaced by company Members and Board

Next Meetings

- **UKNOF19**
  - 20th April 2011, Leeds
  - Seeking sponsors
- **UKNOF20**
  - 6th Sep 2011, HP Labs, Bristol
  - Seeking sponsors

Contact Details

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