



UKNOF Status and Development Update

UKNOF 26 Meeting,
London
13th September 2013

Keith Mitchell
UKNOF

Current Status



- We have run 25+ successful meetings 😊
~40-200 attendees each time
- Mailing list of ~1000 people
- Programme Committee
- Member Advisory Committee
- Board
- 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



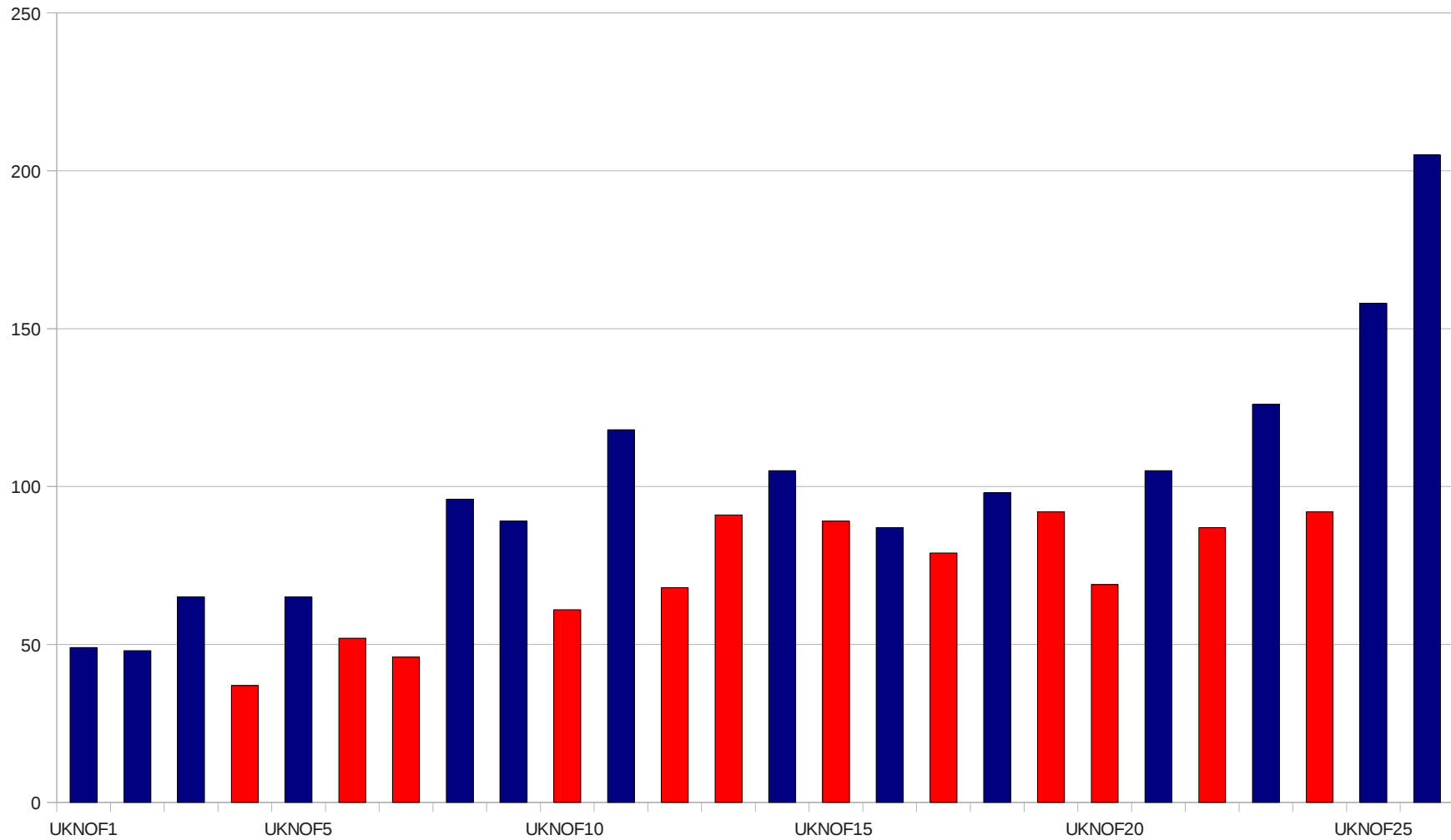
- “*Distribution of clue*” 😊
- Meetings 3 times/year
 - Current, interesting, stimulating, relevant sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices
 - Wider-ranging and less specific remit than other UK Internet bodies
 - OPEN to all, bring in new blood
 - Bring world-class international speakers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

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/calendar etc availability
- We are always looking for venues/sponsors

Meeting Registration



UKNOF Facilities



- Home Page, DNS and internal e-mail currently hosted on Keith's server
 - Co-lo and transit donated to UKNOF by Jump Networks
- Indico, Wiki and CRM VMs hosted by Bytemark
- Mailman mailing list VM hosted by LONAP
- Video archive on YouTube channel “*UKNOFconf*”
- Various parties help with VoIP, meeting and webcast connectivity/archive

Funding Model



- Non-profit
- We prefer to avoid charging meeting registration fees
- This has been possible so far through per-meeting vendor sponsors
 - want to continue this !
- *Experimenting* with limited paid-for registrations:
 - to permit individual donations
 - to encourage early registration
- We now have a good operating cash buffer

Development Challenges



- 12-18 months ago, it became clear to the Board that UKNOF's success needed to be more pro-actively managed
- Donated venues no longer big enough
 - turning attendees away
 - limit of ~100 spaces
- Excess of supply over demand from interested sponsors
 - lost opportunities
- Events becoming larger, more complex, taking more resources and demands on volunteers to manage

Development Strategy



- Around a year ago, the Board decided upon a strategy to eliminate various barriers to UKNOF's growth and success
- With hindsight, we could have done a better job of explaining and communicating the necessary changes 😊
- Nonetheless, the strategy has proved highly successful !
- Here's that missing explanation...

Development Objectives



- Remove logistic and funding barriers to provide enough spaces for *anyone* to be able to attend
- Don't waste sponsorship opportunities
- More professional, scalable organisation
- Distributed collaborative in-cloud team-working tools, less reliance on SPoF individuals
- Build operating reserve of ~2 meetings' costs

Growth Approach



- Bigger venues (& catering) need to be paid for, and are more expensive per head
- Keeping attendance free means raising additional sponsorship funds
 - set meeting attendance and revenue targets
- Raising sponsorship funds needs more dedicated professional approach
- Funds raised need to pay for someone's time to do this, as well as cover meeting costs

UKNOF Running Costs

- Typically about £25k per meeting:
 - around £100/attendee/day
 - venue, catering
 - also admin, badges, connectivity, travel, misc expenses
 - plus re-imbursed time
 - 4 months @ ~80hrs/month of Denesh's time
 - 4 months @ ~20hrs/month of Keith's time
 - aim to compensate these at £30/hour as we can afford it
 - Raise most of this through sponsorship plus a small amount of late/donation registrations
- Detailed accounts will be presented at AGM, and are always available on request

New Sponsor Scheme



- Host, Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze levels
- Also Supporter and Social Recognition levels
- <http://wiki.uknof.org.uk/Sponsorship/Overview>
- So far achieving/exceeding £25k per meeting
- Planning “Patron” sponsor level
- Denesh has been largely making all this happen, in Events Manager role

UKNOF Governance

- Principle has been to put things on a more formal footing, without over-thinking or creating structure with too much overhead
- We are **not** running monopoly, mission-critical national Internet infrastructure here !
- UKNOF Board accountable to community through stakeholder *non-profit* Internet organisations that contribute in some way to UKNOF's operation
- Implemented via *Advisory Committee* of individual representatives appointed by these organisations
- Appointment is by invitation from and approval by existing company members

UKIF Ltd and UKNOF



- The UK Internet Forum (UKIF Ltd) was set up as an alternative Internet trade association in 2005
 - Public company limited by guarantee
- Hosted UKNOF secretariat as part of a number of proposed activities
 - Does book-keeping, invoicing, holds bank accounts
 - In practice supporting UKNOF its only activity for past ~7 years
- In Sep 2011, UKNOF effectively did a “reverse takeover” of UKIF Ltd
- UKIF legal entity now dedicated to supporting UKNOF

UKNOF/UKIF Board



- Directors:
 - Denesh Bhabuta (*Executive*)
 - Willie Black (*Chair*)
 - Steve Dyer
 - Mike Hughes
 - Nat Morris (*from Aug 2013*)
 - Keith Mitchell (*Managing Director*)
 - Nigel Titley

Board Powers and Duties



- The Board:
 - can appoint and remove committee members
 - signs off finances
 - can be natural persons only
 - has usual Company Director fiduciary duties
- 1/3rd of Board must step down for reappointment each year

Some Organisation Changes



- Get fresh blood into Programme Committee
- More engagement with Advisory Committee
- Formalise regular helpers into Meeting Committee
- Mailing list for irregular volunteers
- Reduce overlapping individuals between Board and above committees

Supporting UKNOF



- Advisory Committee 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 sponsors being created for commercial organisations that help UKNOF materially on an ongoing rather than per-event basis
- Individual membership for meeting attendees is something we've been considering, but we're not quite in shape to support that yet
- In the meantime we believe that our Advisory Committee and thence UKNOF is accountable to the wider community through their own stakeholders
 - If you ever have questions/concerns, please raise them through your AC representatives

Advisory Committee

- Comprises the following organisation representatives:
 - BBC: Brandon Butterworth
 - IXLeeds: Andy Davidson
 - LINX: John Souter
 - LONAP: Will Hargrave
 - JANET(UK): Rob Evans
 - RIPE: Nigel Titley
- *Other possible candidate member organisations might include ISC, ISPA, ISoc, Nominet...*
- Attend AGM and have Board/Fiscal oversight

Programme Committee

- 14 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
- Now issuing call for abstracts well in advance of each meeting to promote quality of material
 - <http://indico.uknof.org.uk/conferenceCFA.py?confId=29>
- Ideas and suggestions to: <pc@uknof.org.uk>

PC Members



- Keith Mitchell (chair)
- Bijal Sanghani
- [Chris Russell](#)
- [Debbie Casey](#)
- Denesh Bhabuta
- Fearghas McKay
- Ian Meikle
- Mike Hughes
- Nat Morris
- Neil McRae
- Nigel Titley (co-chair)
- [Ray Bellis](#)
- Rob Evans
- Steve Kennedy

Meeting Committee



- Loose regular volunteer co-ordination thus far via [<meeting@uknof.org.uk>](mailto:meeting@uknof.org.uk)
- We would like to get this under more formal footing, with Denesh taking Events lead
- Regular contributors include Brandon Butterworth, Tom Bird, Ben Hedges, various PC/AC/Board members
- Improve “editorial separation” between programme content and meeting logistics
- Co-ordinate per-meeting helpers via new [<volunteers@lists.uknof.org.uk>](mailto:volunteers@lists.uknof.org.uk) list
 - great way to get involved !

Our Valued Volunteer Helpers



- **Ivan Beveridge, Denesh Bhabuta, Tom Bird, Brandon Butterworth, Debbie Casey, Andy Davidson, Ben Hedges/LINX, Will Hargrave, Mike Hughes, Steve Kennedy, Rob Lister/LONAP, John Lyons, Fearghas McKay, Nat Morris, James Rice/JUMP, Chris Russell, Luke Sheldrick, Bob Sleight, Peter Taphouse, Matthew Walster**
- **PC members and many others**
- **And all our speakers**
- **THANK YOU !!**

Recent Achievements



- First >200 attendee meeting !
- “Indico” conference management platform
- Create sponsor/supporter framework
- Defined expenses policy
- volunteers@lists.uknof.org.uk mailing list
- Reviewed Programme Committee composition and appointed “new blood”
- Gradually migrating website content to wiki

Next Meetings



- **UKNOF27**
 - Manchester Central, 21st Jan 2014
- **UKNOF28**
 - Huawei Reading, 24th April 2014
- **UKNOF29**
 - TBC Sep 2014
- Always looking for speakers and sponsors !

Contact Details



E-mail: admin@uknof.org.uk

Prog. Committee: pc@uknof.org.uk

Advisory Committee: ac@uknof.org.uk

Meeting Committee: meeting@uknof.org.uk

Board: board@uknof.org.uk

Phone: +44 20 7763 5295

Web: <http://www.uknof.org.uk>



Questions Discussion ?