



UKNOF Status Update

UKNOF Annual Meeting
13th September 2017

Keith Mitchell
UKNOF

Current Status



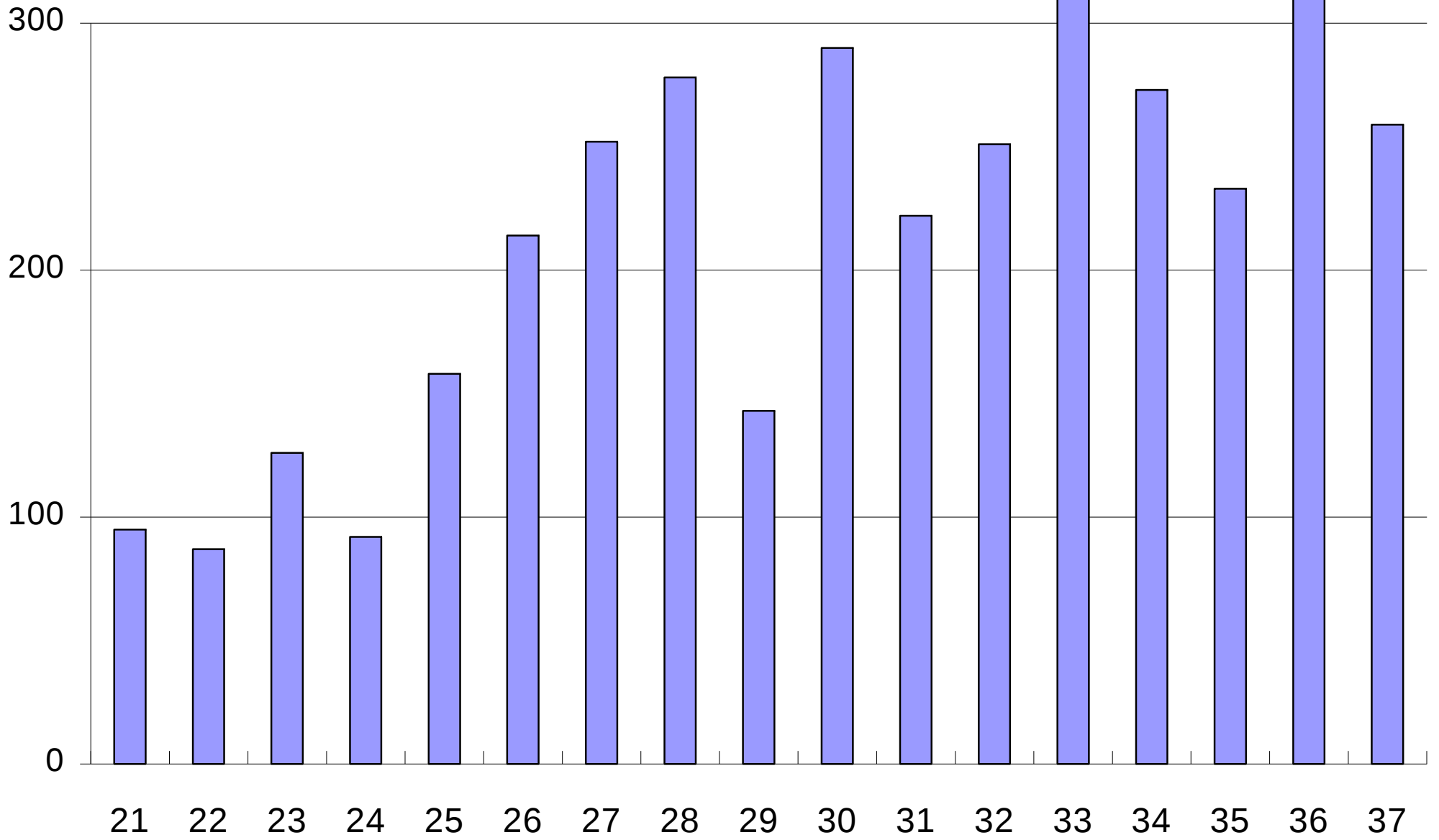
- We have run 38+ successful meetings 😊
 - ~40-350 attendees each time
- Mailing list of ~1400 people
- Programme Committee
- Advisory Committee
- Board
- Committed regular volunteers
- Secure ongoing financial base

UKNOF Activities



- 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 discussions
- LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube/Google+ groups

Registrations



Funding Model



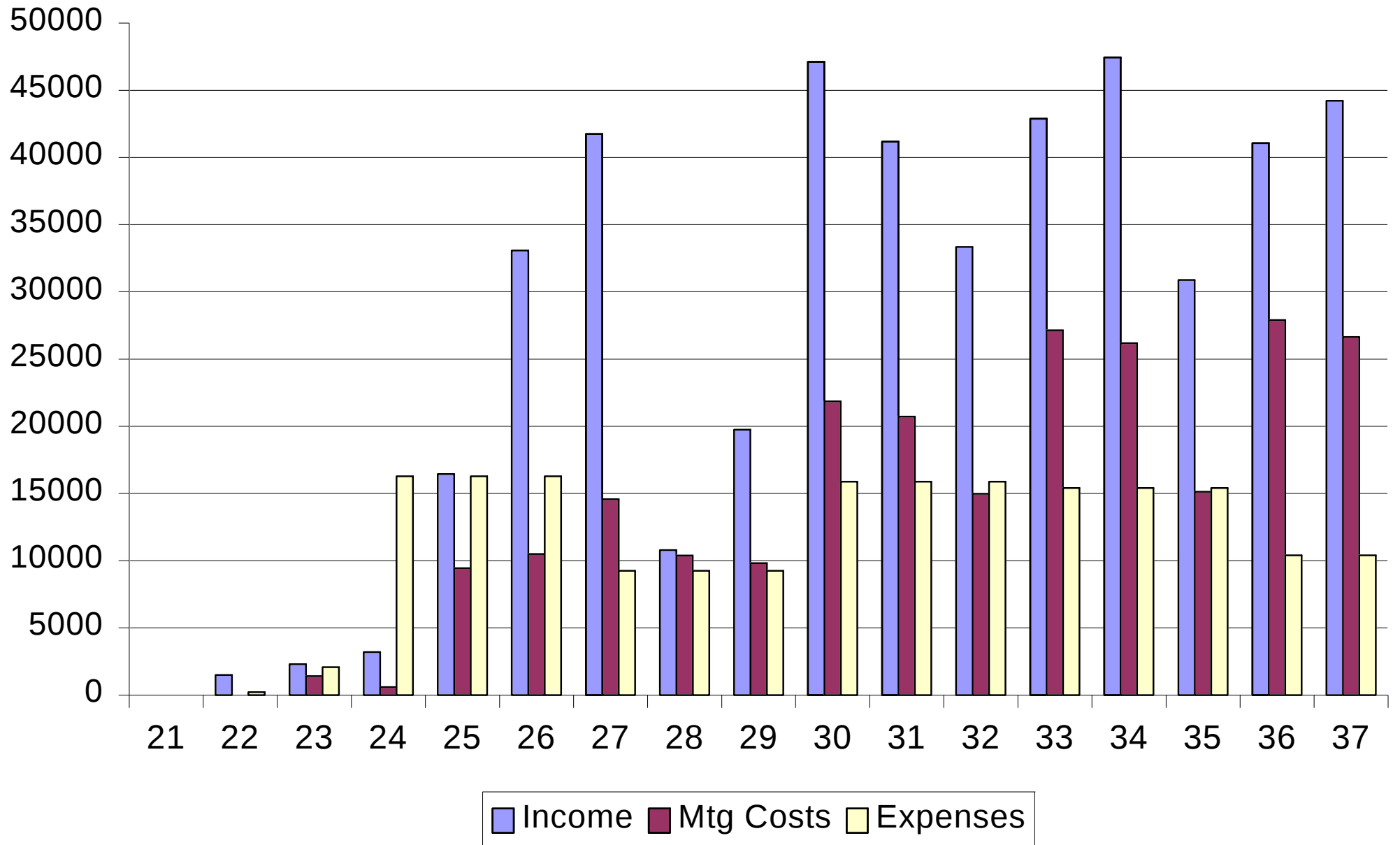
- Non-profit
- We prefer to avoid charging meeting registration fees
- This has been possible through regular committed meeting vendor sponsors
- Please talk to Denesh if interested in sponsoring
- Paid-for registrations to discourage late registration *only*
- Contributions welcome via Patrons
- We have a good operating cash buffer, building this towards 2-meeting reserve

Sustainability



- Venues for 100->200+ attendee meetings (& catering) need to be paid for
- Keeping attendance free means raising sponsorship funds
- Raising sponsorship funds needs dedicated professional approach
- Funds raised need to pay for individuals' time to do this, as well as cover meeting costs
- UKNOF reimburses the time of individuals who make significant time commitment

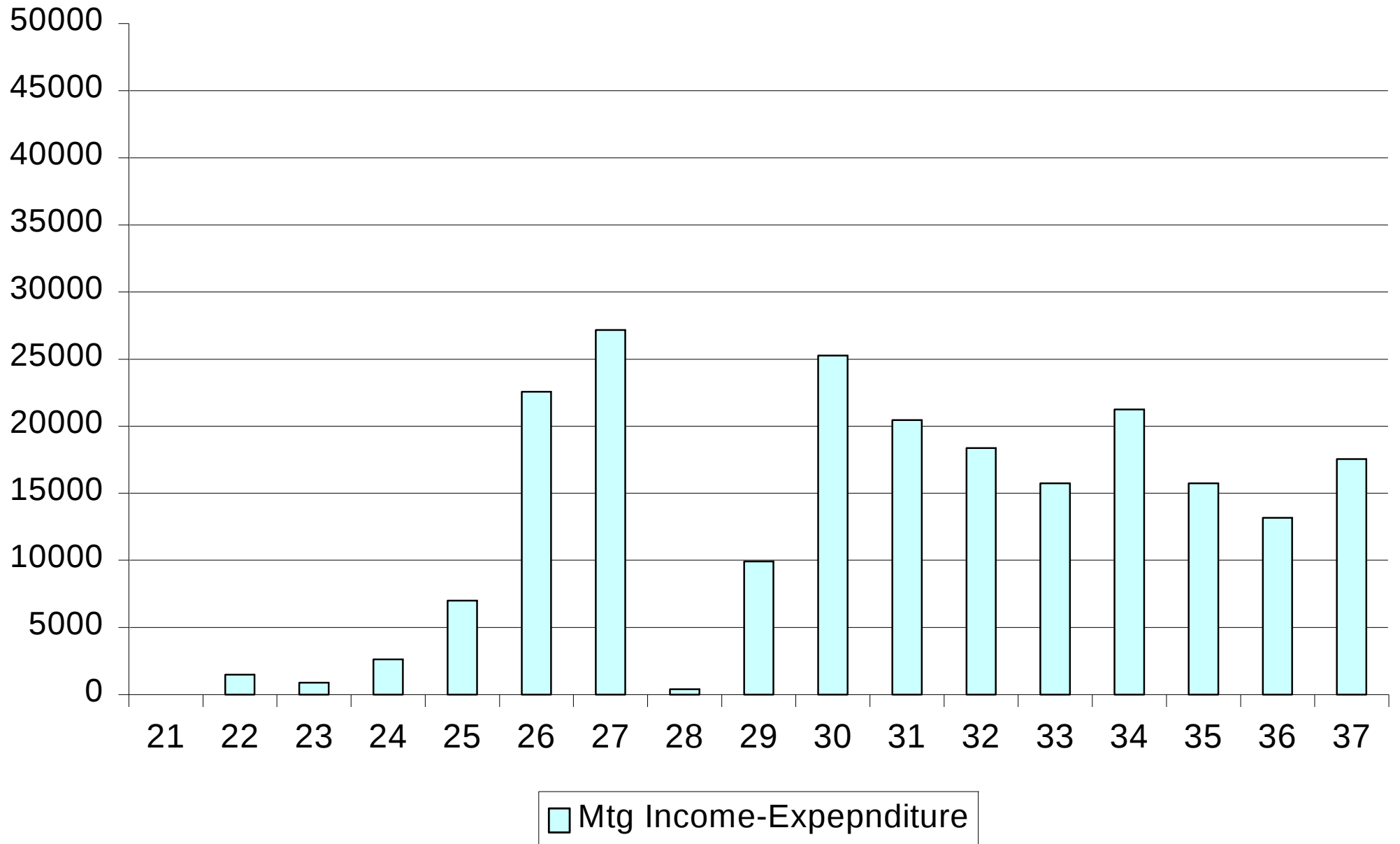
Income and Expenditure



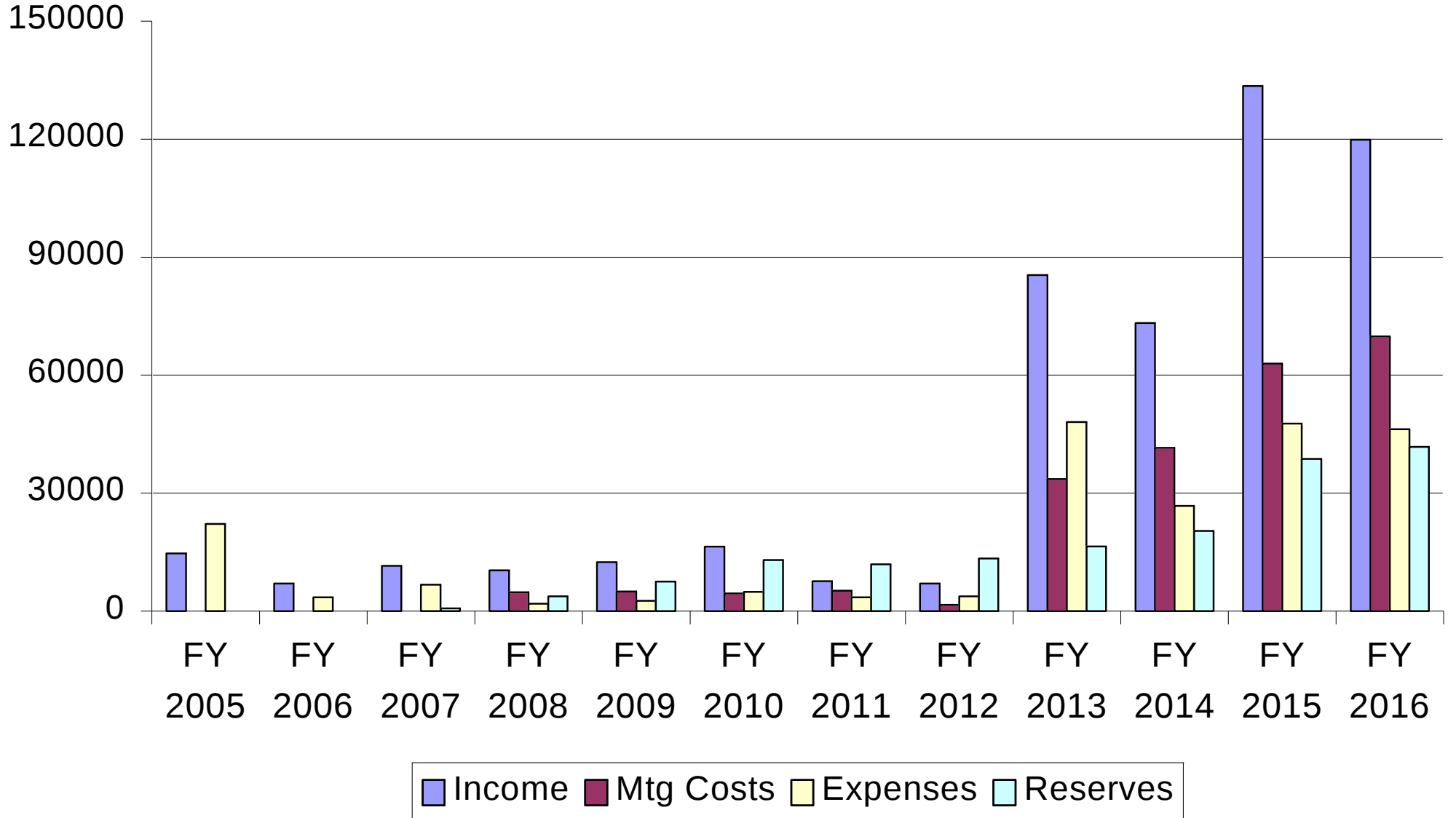
UKNOF Running Costs

- Typically about £15-30k per meeting:
 - At least £150/attendee/day
 - venue, catering, A/V hire
 - varies by city
 - also admin, badges, connectivity, travel, misc expenses
 - plus re-imbursed time:
 - 4 months @ ~100hrs/month of some Directors' time
 - aim to compensate these at £30/hour as we can afford it
 - compensated Directors submit fixed quotation for services at start of each year as input to Budget
- Detailed accounts (including per-meeting P&L) are presented at Annual Meeting, and always available on request

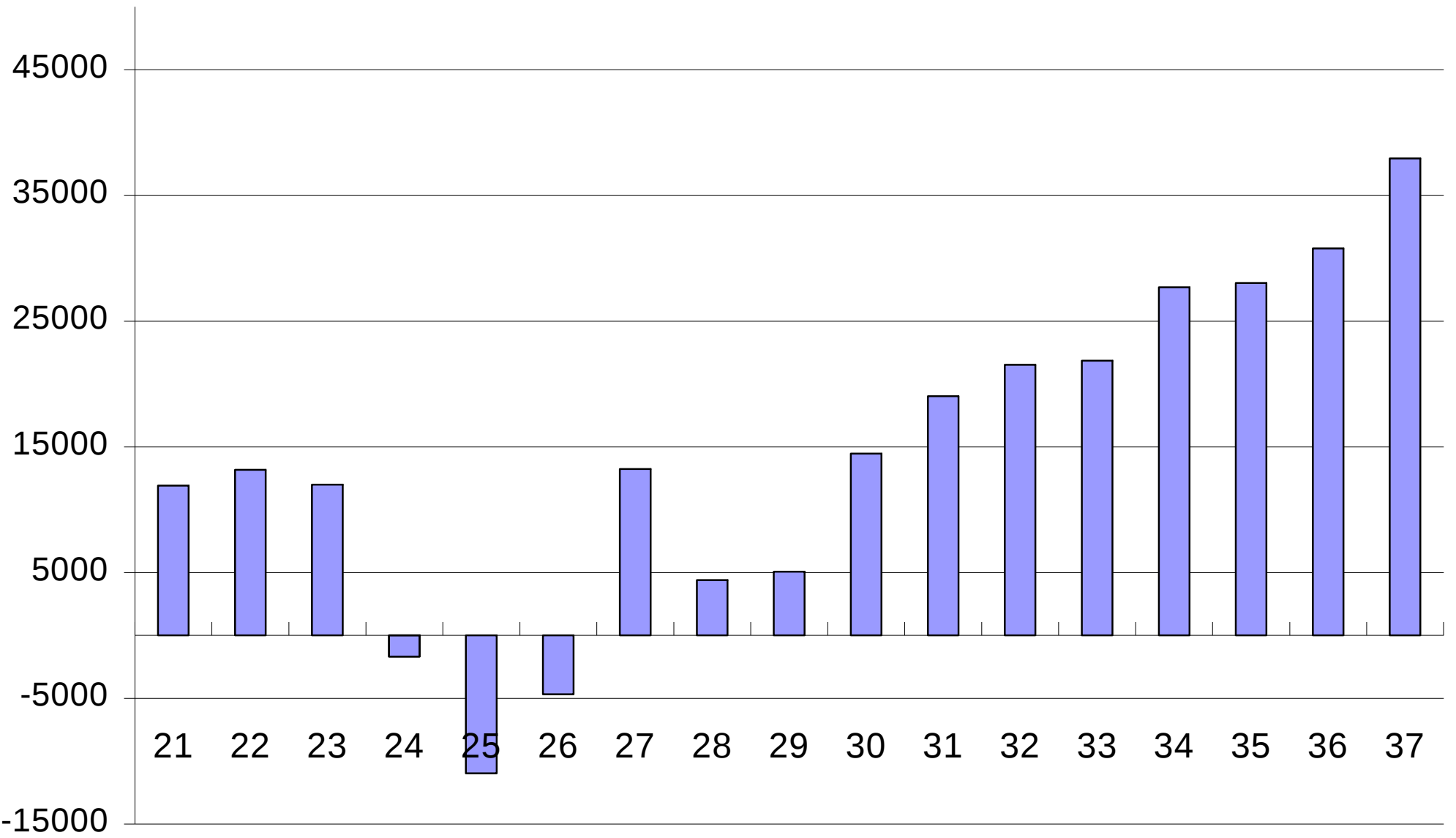
Meeting Income less Expenditure



Company Accounts



Reserves



UKNOF Systems



- Website, Indico, Mailman, Wiki and DNS have been hosted under managed contract with Mythic Beasts for past year – seems to be working well
- Partners Portfast and Bogons provide meeting connectivity and webcasting
- We could do with some volunteer help to freshen up site content

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UKNOF Governance



- Principle has been to put things on a stable 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 Board

UKIF Ltd and UKNOF



- The UK Internet Forum (UKIF Ltd) was set up as an Internet trade association in 2005
 - Public company limited by guarantee
 - Operated on not-for-profit basis
- Hosts UKNOF secretariat:
 - Book-keeping, invoicing, holds bank accounts
 - Supporting UKNOF its only activity for past 10+ years
- UKIF legal entity dedicated to supporting UKNOF

UKNOF/UKIF Board



**Denesh Bhabuta
(Executive)**



**Dr Willie Black
(Chair)**



**Keith Mitchell
(Managing Director)**



Mike Hughes



Nigel Titley



Steve Dyer

Board Powers and Duties



- https://wiki.uknof.org.uk/Board_of_Directors
- 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 step down for reappointment at AGM each year

Advisory Committee

- Comprises the following organisation representatives:
 - BBC: Brandon Butterworth
 - IXLeeds: Andy Davidson
 - ISC: Stephen Morris
 - LINX: John Souter
 - LONAP: Will Hargrave
 - JANET(UK): Rob Evans
 - RIPE NCC: Serge Radovcic
- Attend AGM and have Board/Fiscal oversight

Programme Committee

- 14 volunteers
- Chair: Chris Russell
- Co-Chairs: Cathy Almond, Fearghas McKay
- Ensures supply of interesting presentations
- https://wiki.uknof.org.uk/Programme_Committee
- We are **always** looking for interesting, topical, relevant speakers and presentations
- Call for abstracts issued at end of previous meeting to promote quality of material
 - <http://uknof.org.uk/cfp39>
- Ideas and suggestions to: <pc@uknof.org.uk>

Programme Content

- We take seriously ensuring high-quality content at UKNOF
- All submissions are scored by the PC, these scores are compared to survey feedback
- Submissions slightly down in 2017
 - contributions encouraged !
- Sponsor and Submitted talks are accepted on very different criteria
 - meeting sponsorship and talk submission are not generally permitted by the same organisation at the same meeting
 - the PC does however give feedback to sponsors to help them tailor their talks for our audience

UKNOF Crew Changes



- Nat Morris has stepped down from Board
- Charlie Boisseau, David Farrell have stepped down from PC
- Welcome Nick Ryce and Marek Isalski as new PC members
- Serge Radovcic replaces Jochem de Ruig on AC for RIPE NCC
- Looking for 1-2 new PC members
- We could do with some volunteer help for our site content

UKNOF Governance Evolution



- UKNOF has grown its *own* community, overlapping with other UK “*i-orgs*”, but now distinct
- Is Advisory Council model/role sufficiently well-defined ?
- Is current model best way for future ?
- Is there some way to have more direct accountability to those who contribute and participate, without heavyweight governance approach ?

Improving Board/ AC Interaction ?



- Quarterly/per-meeting reports from Board to committee(s)
- Timely per-meeting P&L to AC
- Documented terms of reference for each committee
- Documented and transparent remuneration as well as expenses policy
- More regular Board meetings
- Regular AC calls/meetings
- Explicit service contracts for Contractor roles

Possible Evolution



- Develop a structure which improves accountability to UKNOF's community directly
- Migrate over time to having a mixture of elected and appointed Board seats
- Elected via some *simple* mechanism by physical attendees at an annual UKNOF (open AGM) meeting

Other Considerations



- Approaches to UKIF from other orgs to run their affairs
- What is UKNOF's role in addressing industry-wide diversity issues ?
 - conduct policy well-received, but is first small step
 - successful experiment with student travel grant
 - no quick fixes or magic bullet, this will require work and commitment

Next Steps



- No discussion/feedback of governance proposals to date
- Lack of cycles to work on them in 2017
- Status quo seems to be mostly working
- What are UKNOF's 2018 priorities ?
 - Mission or structure ?
 - Growth through diversity ?



Questions Discussion ?