UKNOF Annual Report

UKNOF Annual Meeting
12th September 2018

**Keith Mitchell
UKNOF**

Current Status

- We have run 41+ successful meetings ☺

  ~40-350 attendees each time
- Mailing list of ~1500 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

2018 Key Points

- Created process for PC appointment of Board Director
- Steady growth in attendance
- Core of regular loyal sponsors
- Challenges to our sustainability model
- Slight decrease in reserves
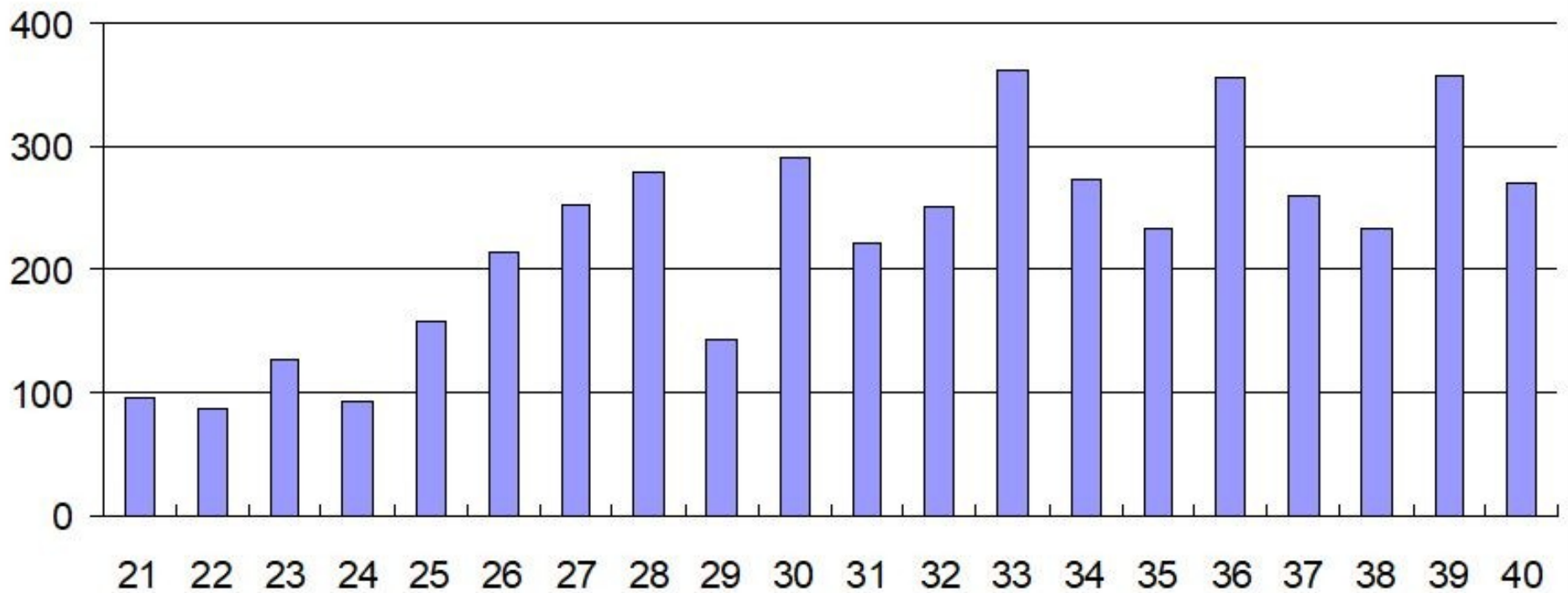- GDPR compliance

Meetings in 2018

- Growing numbers in London and Manchester
- Roaming meeting attendance more variable
- First time attendees remaining static around 30%
- Attendee diversity fairly static
- Cancellations and no-shows increasing

Attendance

Challenges in 2018

- Industry consolidation and re-structuring making sponsorship challenging
- Costs increasing across the board
- Need to encourage new blood, community participation, junior staff attendance
- Working on "Meeting Funding Strategy" to address this:
   - mixture of sponsorship, patronage, registration fees

Sustainability

- Venues for 200->300+ attendee meetings (& catering) need to be paid for
- Keeping attendance mainly free so far meant 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

UKNOF Running Costs

- Typically about £15-30k per meeting:
    - At least £100/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 are presented at Annual Meeting, and always available on request
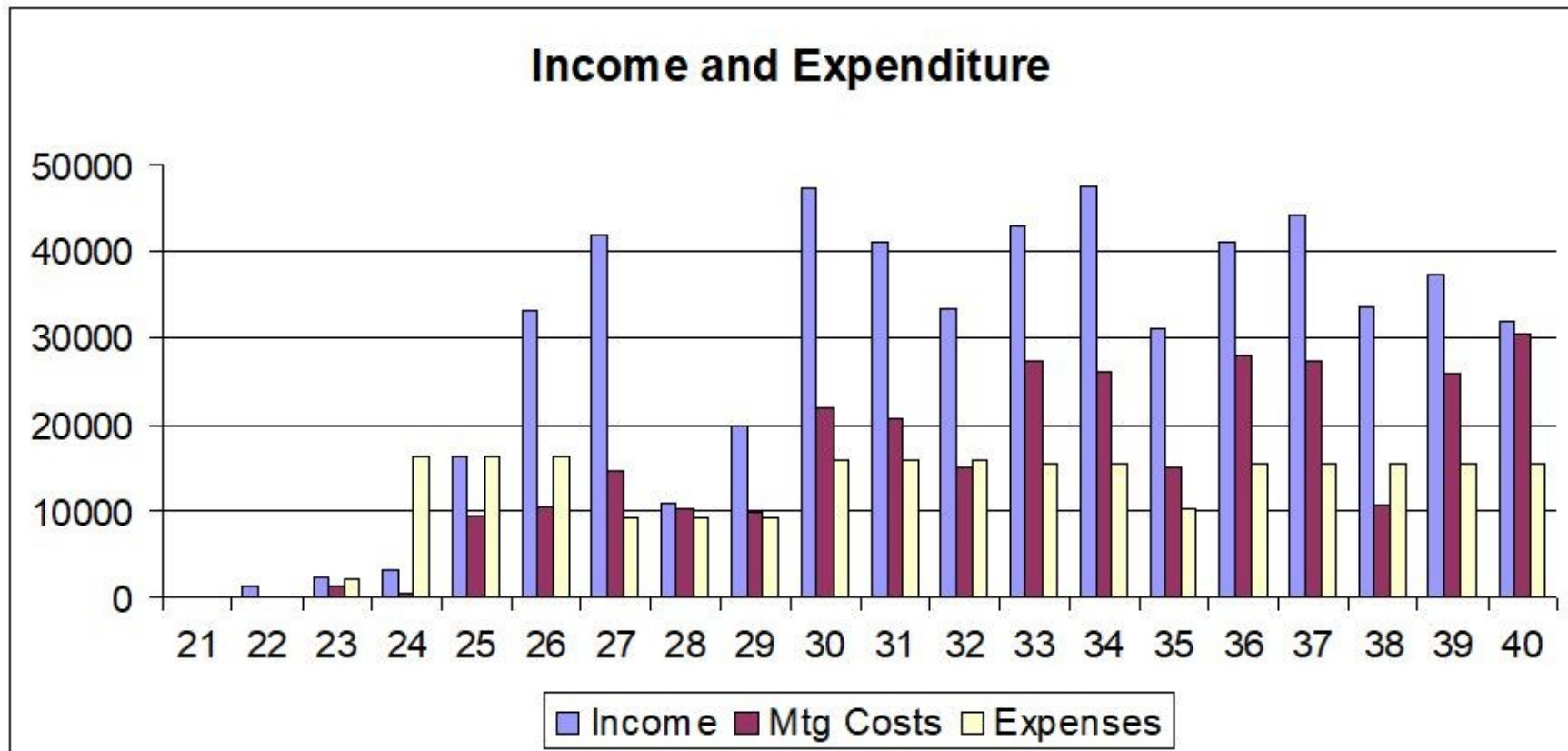
Funding Model

- Non-profit
- We have to date avoided charging meeting registration fees
- This has been possible through regular committed meeting vendor sponsors
- Sponsorship has been getting more challenging
- We have a good operating cash buffer, 1-2 meeting reserve, though slightly depleted in 2018
- Introducing nominal registration charging (from £50) for UKNOF42
  - we will continually review the charging scheme for future meetings
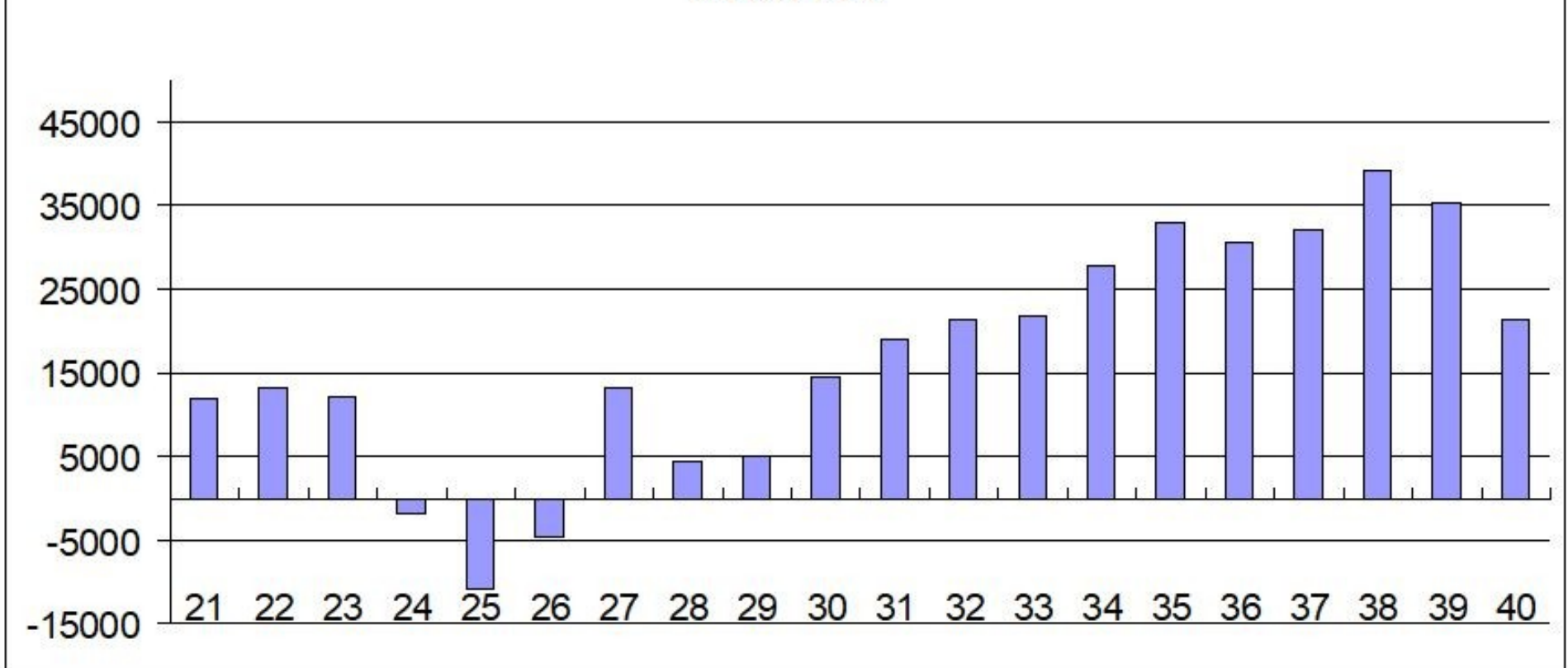
Per-meeting Margin

Company Accounts
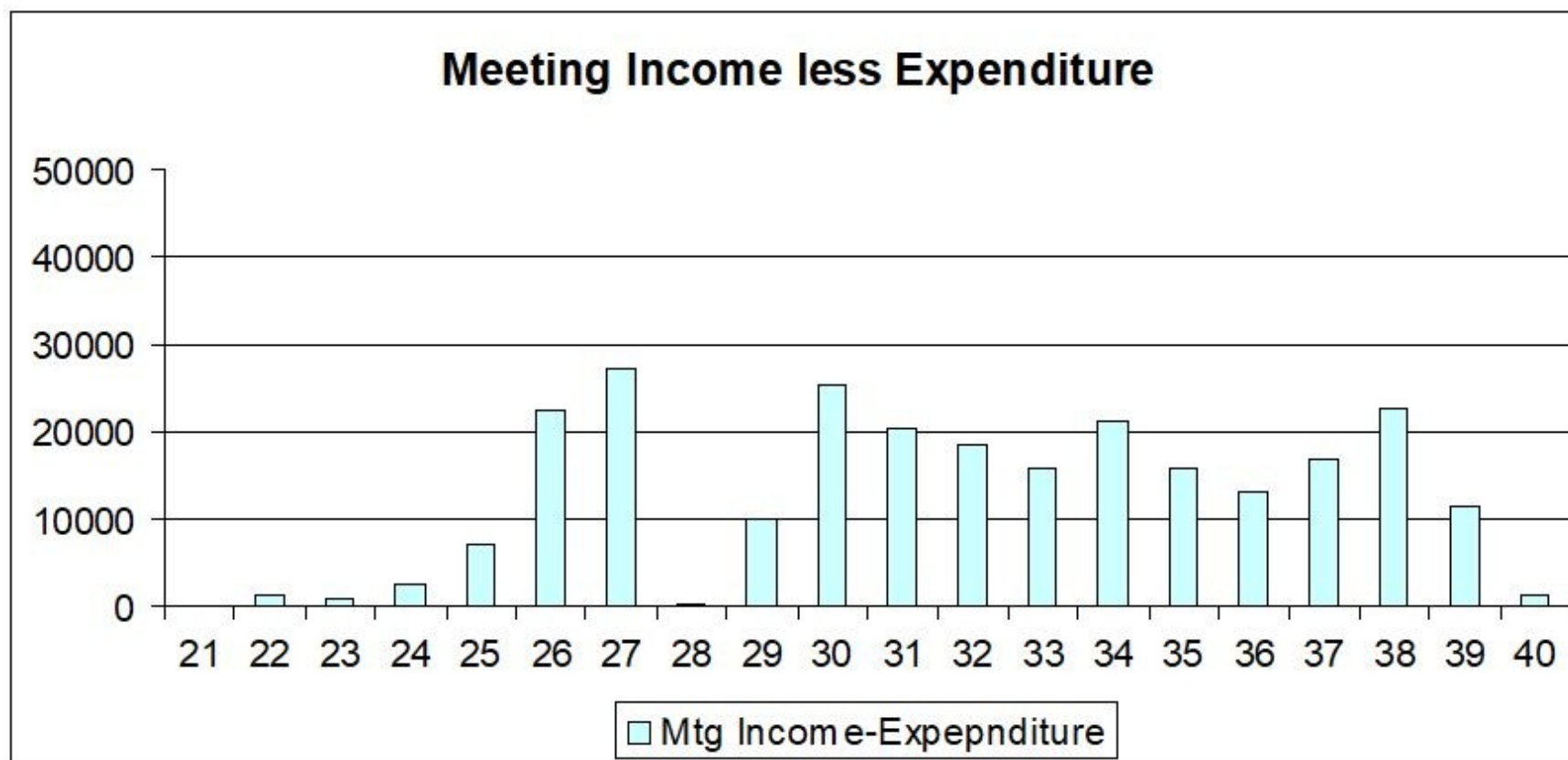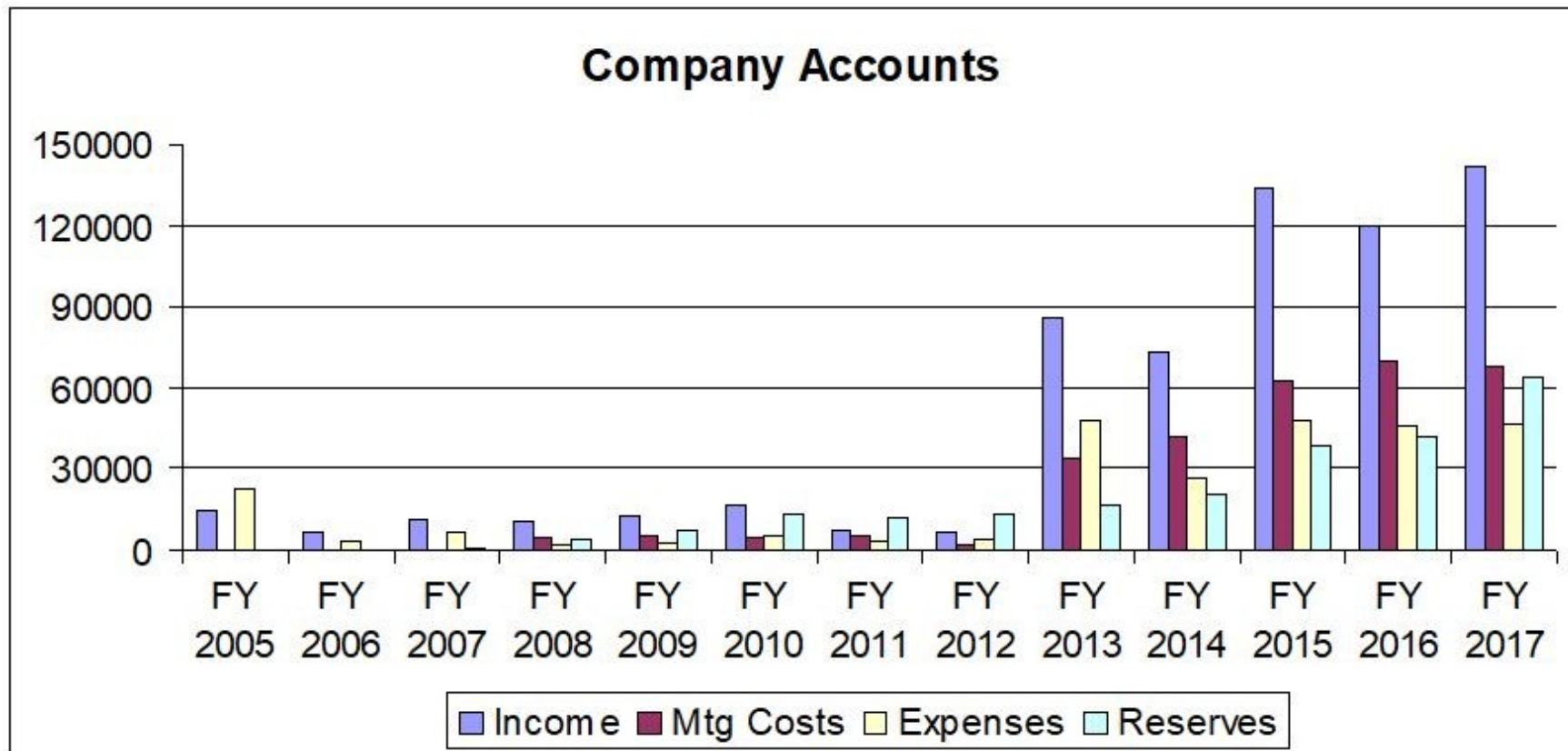
UKNOF

Cash Reserves

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

- Strong submissions in 2018

  - 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

Programme Committee UKNOF

- 14 volunteers
- https://uknof.uk/pc
- Chair:
  - Chris Russell
- Co-Chairs:
  - Cathy Almond
  - Fearghas McKay
- Ensures supply of interesting presentations
- Appoints Board Director *(new)*
- Ideas and suggestions to: <pc@uknof.org.uk>

UKNOF Systems

- Website, Indico, Mailman, Wiki and DNS have been hosted under managed contract with Mythic Beasts for past 2 years – seems to be working well
- New (overdue !) website design has been commissioned from Bamboo Mcr, live by year-end
- Major upgrade to Indico v2 is in pipeline, ideally before UKNOF42
- Board has created Data Protection Policy to ensure we remain GDPR-compliant
  - some minor changes to registration process
- Partners Portfast and Bogons provide meeting connectivity and webcasting
- We could do with some volunteer help for e.g content updates, moderation

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 !

- Board accountable to community through stakeholder *non-profit* Internet organisations

- Implemented to date via *Advisory Committee* of individual representatives appointed by these organisations

- AC 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 12+ years
- UKIF legal entity dedicated to supporting UKNOF

UKIF Board

UKNOF

Denesh Bhabuta (Executive)

Dr Willie Black (Chair)

Keith Mitchell (Managing Director)

Liz Stevens

Nigel Titley

Steve Dyer

Board Powers and Duties

- https://uknof.uk/board

- 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 UKIF AGM each year
  - Steve Dyer and Willie Black in 2018

Advisory Committee UKNOF

- https://uknof.uk/ac
- Comprises the following organisation representatives:

  - BBC: Brandon Butterworth
  - IXLeeds: Andy Davidson
  - ISC: Stephen Morris
  - LINX: Kurtis Lindqvist
  - LONAP: Will Hargrave
  - JANET(UK): Rob Evans
  - RIPE NCC: Serge Radovcic

- Attend UKNOF Annual Meeting and have Board/Fiscal oversight

Governance Evolution

- UKNOF has grown its *own* community, overlapping with other UK "*i*-orgs", but now distinct

- Is there some way to have more direct accountability to those who contribute and participate, without heavyweight governance approach ?

- Strategy is to enhance UKNOF accountability to the community without heavyweight structures/process

- e.g. migrate over time to having a mixture of elected and appointed Board seats

Governance Evolution

- First step during 2018 was for stakeholder appointment of one Board seat

- Programme Committee put in a lot of volunteer effort, hence recognised as key stakeholders

- Board created process, in consultation with PC and AC, for PC to appoint Board Member

- This resulted in Liz Stevens' appointment

- This appointment is in an individual capacity for a 2-year term, *not* as a representative of the PC

- Additionally, PC Chair now has non-voting participation in Board meetings

Thoughts & Questions

- Status quo seems to be mostly working
    - what could we do better ?
- Addressing sustainability challenges through Meeting Funding Strategy
- Do we want to create further paths for stakeholder Board seat appointments
    - if so, what/how ?
    - succession planning considerations
- UKNOF's role in addressing industry-wide diversity issues ?
- What should be UKNOF's 2019 priorities ?

Questions
Discussion
?