



UKNOF Annual Report

UKNOF 2020 Annual Meeting
20th January 2021

UKIF Ltd Board

Summary



- The pandemic compounded existing stress points in UKNOF's sustainability
- This has challenged UKNOF to evolve
- We have learned, innovated and improved, mostly successfully
- Our viability is being sustained, but is not guaranteed
- Our mission remains relevant and our community resilient

Agenda



- Operations Director's report (Denesh Bhabuta)
- Communications report (Leo Vegoda)
- Treasurer's report (Willie Black)
- Managing Director's report (Keith Mitchell)
- 2021 Strategy (Keith Mitchell)
- Questions/Discussion
- Future Meetings



Events and Operations

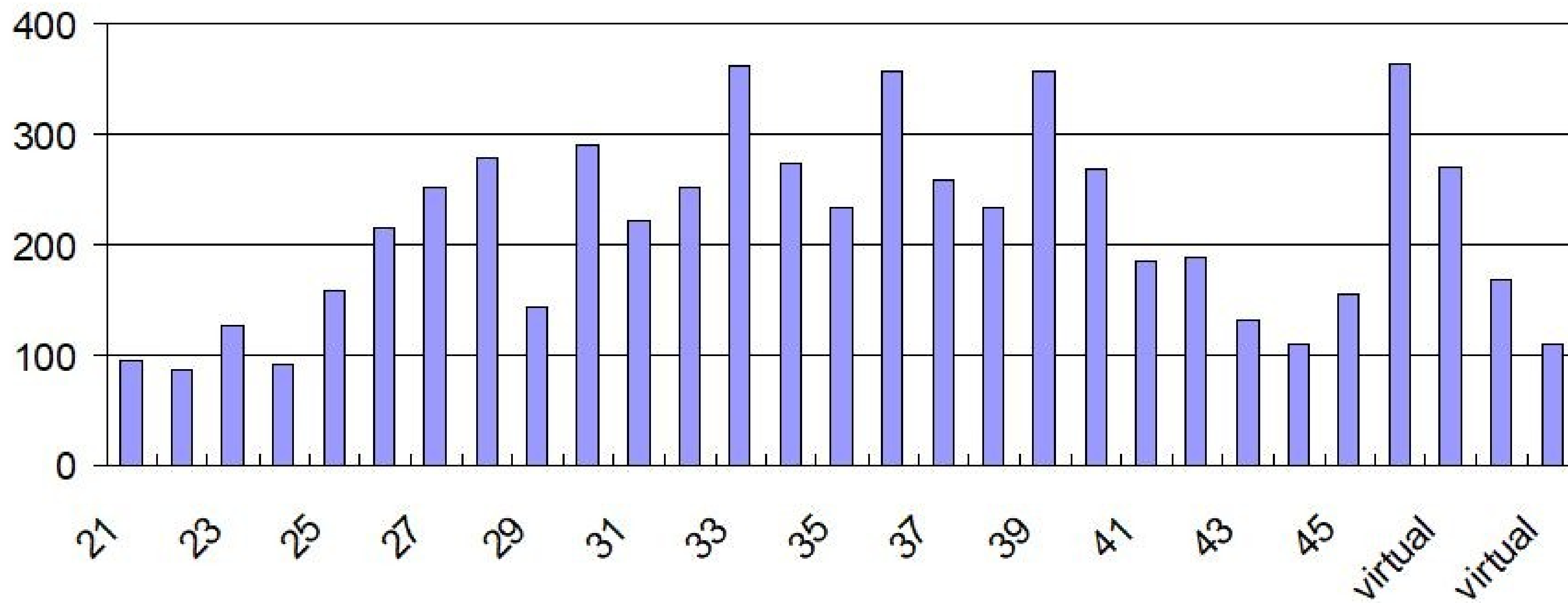
Denesh Bhabuta

Events during 2020



- Last physical meeting, UKNOF45, Jan 2020
 - 155 attendees, broke even, low no-shows
- Original Apr 2020 venue, Manchester Central, has been flexible and helpful with moving and refunding cancelled events
- Short-form *virtualUKNOF* events held successfully during May/Jul/Sep/Nov:
 - attendance ranged 110-363 people
 - 2-month frequency a bit demanding on team
 - co-hosting with partner organisations

Registrations



Event Operations



- Many changes and improvements physical→virtual migration
- Online events need extra effort:
 - tasks less easy to delegate/share among volunteers
 - more back-end activity needed to support a smooth, safe and professional attendee experience
 - one-off effort and costs of managing pandemic-driven changes
- Much, but not all, of these changes and new automation will see us in good stead for the future

Event Impacts



- Zoom fatigue decreasing participation overall
- Engagement from wider range of countries
- Lack of volunteer time
- Guest Patron/partner co-hosts have worked well
- Zoom is not ideal for social events, we're trying to find a better alternative
- Reduced direct costs, increased indirect costs



Communications

Leo Vegoda

Communications Committee



- Created in January 2020
- Leo Vegoda contracted as CC Chair
- 6-10 Members (*under review*)
- Draft charter being reviewed
- Managed new logo design and re-branding process
- Handles social media, mailing list, outreach, and comms processes
- Will be reviewing and updating UKNOF Mission Statement

UKNOF Media Presence



- Mailman list: 1,590 subscribers
- Twitter: 2,328 followers
- LinkedIn Page/Group: 826 followers
- Facebook Page/Group: 646 followers
- Instagram: 127 followers
- Increased postings via improved social automation significantly helped event registration

New Mattermost Chat Platform



- Modern replacement for previous use of IRC
- We wanted something appealing/familiar to new industry entrants
- Requirements:
 - event remote participation
 - meeting place for community, particularly during lock-down
 - co-ordination of UKNOF's volunteers and activities
- Open-source, cross-platform, provider-neutral, cost-effective
- Introduced in July: currently 286 users; 8,000 messages sent during 2020
- Hosted by <https://www.mythic-beasts.com/>
- Background at <http://uknof.uk/chatblog>

Website

- Slow process, much help from many people, we are nearly there !
- CC will complete migration and manage
- Thank You to everyone who has helped with this



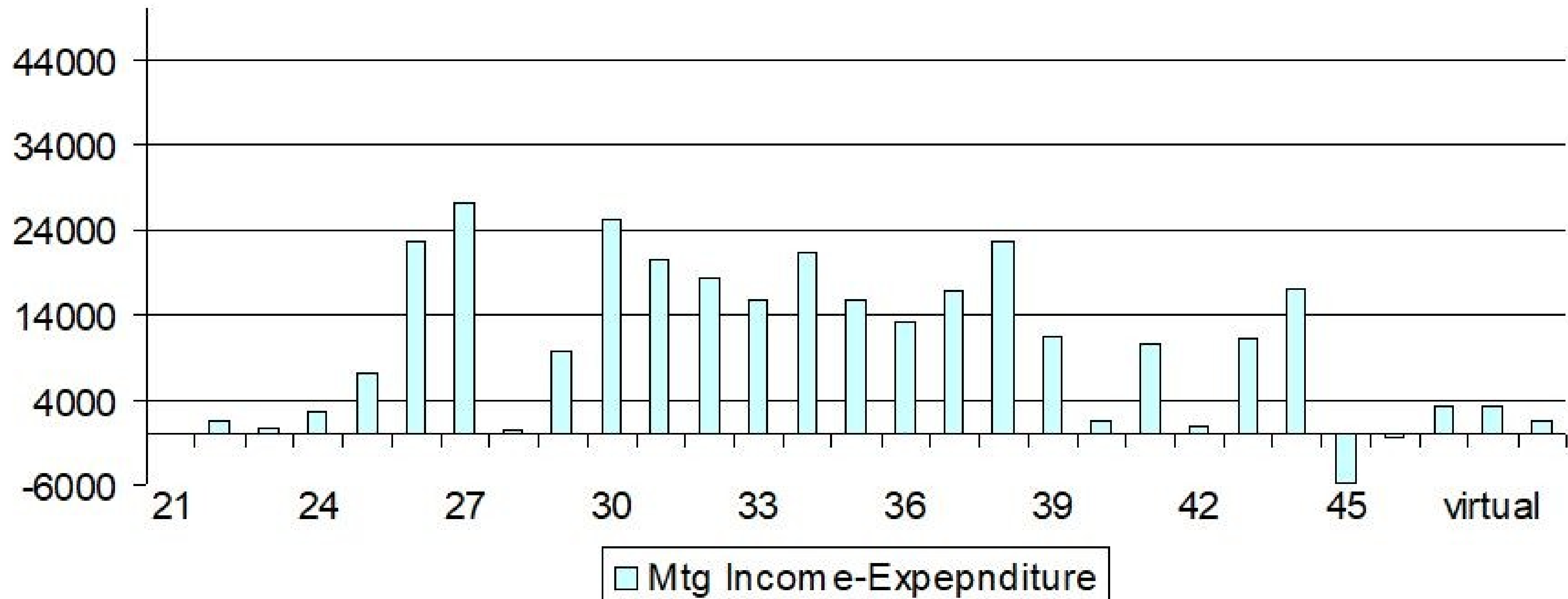
The screenshot shows the UKNOF website homepage with a navigation menu at the top: UKNOF, HOMEPAGE, EVENTS, SPONSORSHIP, ABOUT US, NEWS, CONTACT US, and NEXT EVENT. The main header features the title "Connecting People through Networks" and a background image of a networking event. Below the header, there are two columns: "UKNOF Objectives" and "Events". The "UKNOF Objectives" section lists three goals, each with a checkmark icon, and includes buttons for "What we do" and "Why we do it". The "Events" section includes a "View all events" button. At the bottom, there are three columns: "Speaker Information" with a "View guidelines" button, "Respect Policy" with a "View guidelines" button, and "Subscribe to UKNOF" with a "Find out more" button. The footer contains copyright information and a "Follow Us" link.



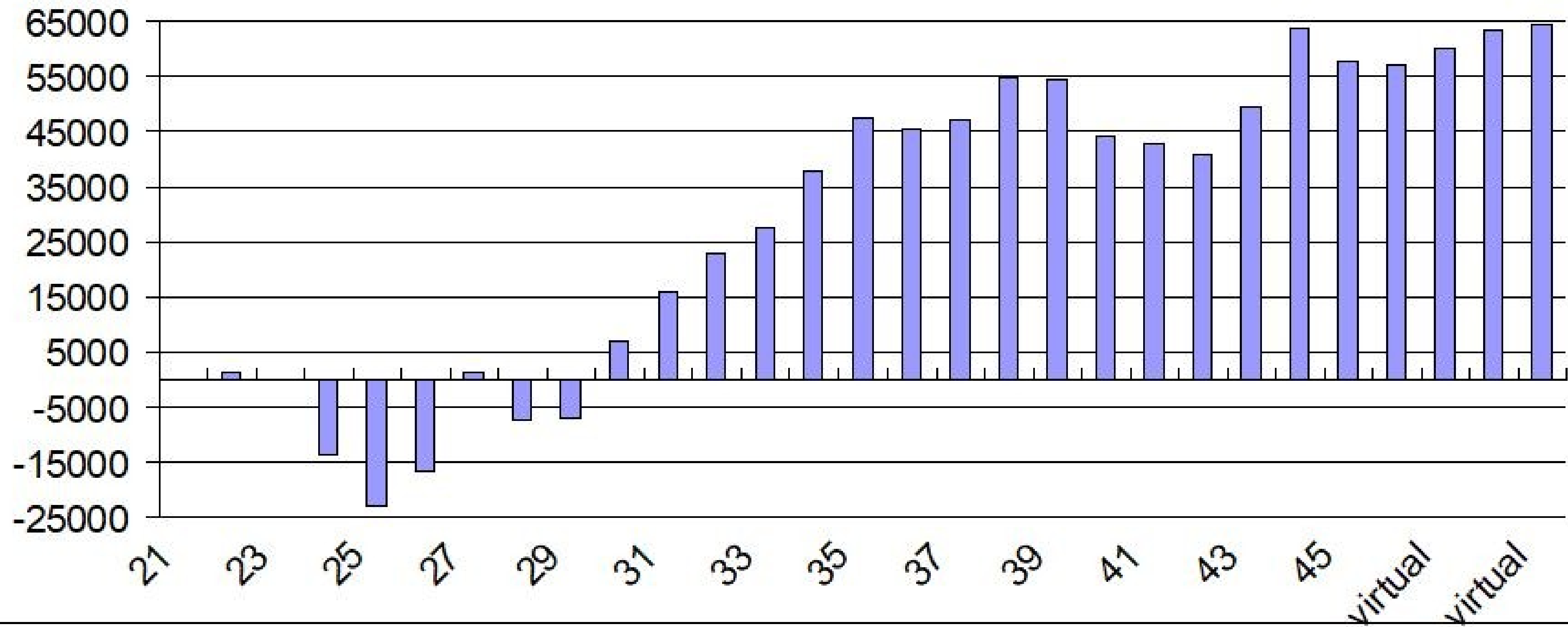
Finances

Willie Black

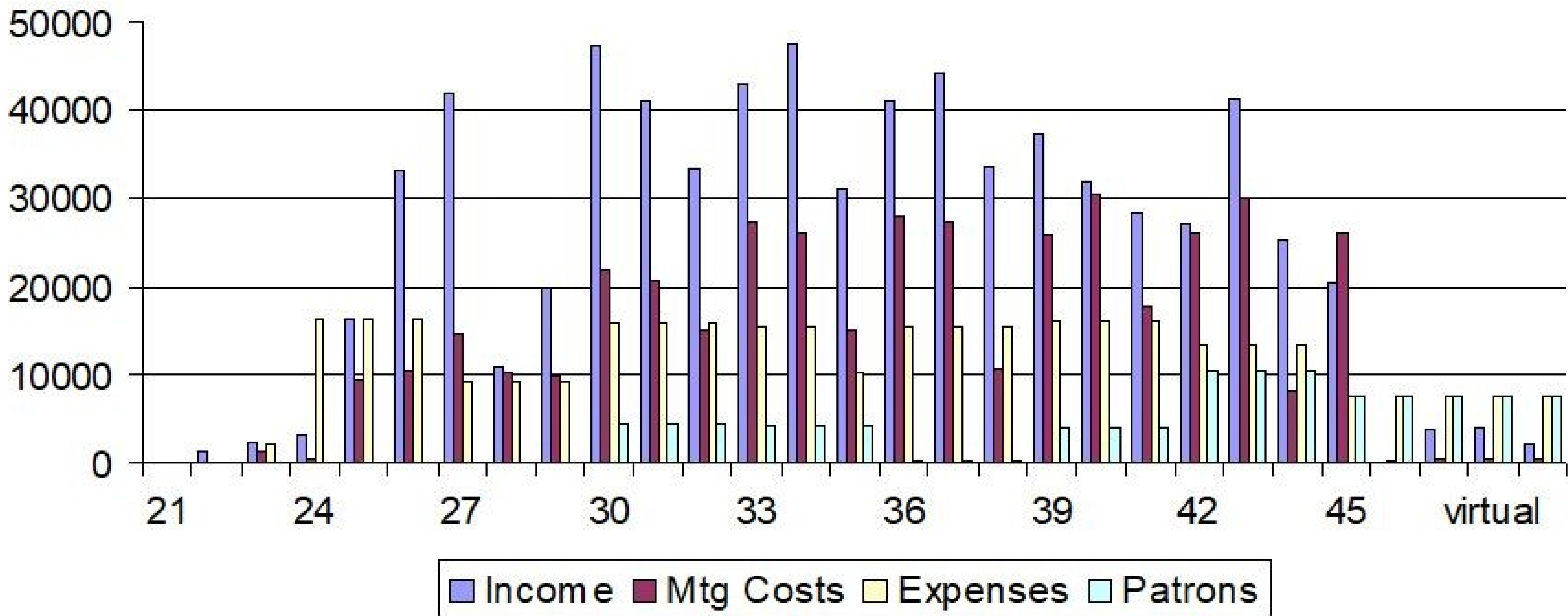
Meeting Income less Expenditure



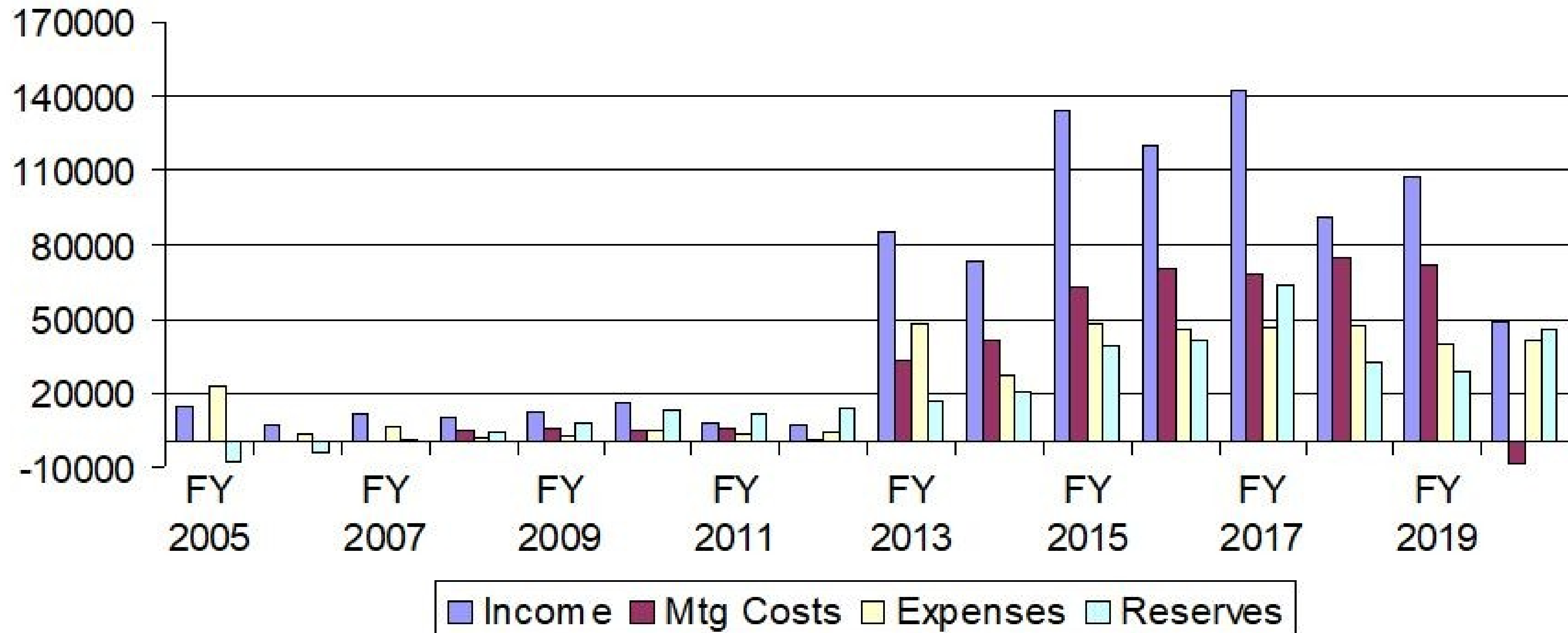
Impact by Meeting on Reserves



Income and Expenditure



Company Accounts





Governance

Keith Mitchell

UKIF Ltd and UKNOF



- The UK Internet Forum (*UKIF Ltd*) was set up as an Internet industry association in 2005:
 - Public company limited by guarantee
 - Operated on not-for-profit basis
 - UKIF legal entity dedicated to supporting UKNOF
- Hosts UKNOF secretariat:
 - Book-keeping, invoicing, holds bank accounts, resources
 - Events operations
 - Supporting UKNOF its only activity for past ~15 years
- Some Directors contract their time to UKIF Ltd, at a fixed rate of £30/hour, quotes for time are submitted and approved at start of each year

Board Powers and Duties



- <https://uknof.uk/board>
- The Board:
 - can appoint and remove Board Directors and Committee members
 - signs off finances
 - can be natural persons only
 - has usual Company Director fiduciary duties
- Lightweight governance model - UKNOF does not operate critical services, big budgets, nor essential resources
- 1/3rd of Board step down for re-appointment at UKIF Ltd AGM each year

UKIF Board



Denesh Bhabuta
(Events and Operations)



Dr Willie Black
(Treasurer)



Keith Mitchell
(Managing Director)



Liz Stevens
(Company Secretary)



Nigel Titley
(Chair)



Steve Dyer

Board Composition



- Denesh Bhabuta and Liz Stevens re-appointed in Nov 2020 for further 3-year terms
- PC & CC Chairs (Chris Russell and Leo Vegoda) have non-voting participation in Board meetings
- Board meetings are now monthly with reports to committees
- We are seeking new Board Directors
- Appointments will be in consultation with committees
- Board thinking about long-term succession planning

Programme Committee



- 14 volunteers
- <https://uknof.uk/pc>
- Chair:
 - Chris Russell
- Co-Chairs:
 - Cathy Almond
 - Fearghas M^cKay
- Ensures supply of interesting presentations and content quality control
- Provides session chairs, Q&A/chat moderators, social media posting etc during online events
- CFP process being documented for 2021

Advisory Committee



- <https://uknof.uk/ac>
- Comprises the following non-profit organisation representatives:
 - BBC: Brandon Butterworth
 - IXLeeds: Andy Davidson
 - ISC: Ray Bellis
 - LINX: Kurtis Lindqvist
 - LONAP: Will Hargrave
 - JANET(UK): Rob Evans
 - RIPE NCC: Hisham Ibrahim
- Attend UKNOF Annual Meeting and have Board/Fiscal oversight

2020 Committee Changes



• Departures:

- Stephen Morris from AC (for ISC)
- Bob Sleight from PC
- **Thank You** both and Best Wishes !

• New AC members:

- Ray Bellis (ISC)
- Hisham Ibrahim (RIPE NCC)
- Kurtis Lindqvist (LINX)

• New PC Members:

- James Bensley
- Ben Cartwright-Cox

• New CC Member:

- Portia Rabonda
- Steve Jones (from PC)



2021 Strategy

Keith Mitchell

UKNOF Long-term Sustainability Challenges



- Declining meeting sponsorship revenue
- Revenue diversification, including Patronage, is helping but a work-in-progress
- Physical venue size is a step-function
 - >70 attendees limited to paid-for venues, (though this may be helpful for hybrid meetings)
- Venue/catering costs continue to increase

Pandemic-Specific Challenges



- Less opportunities for, and hence revenue from, sponsors
- Harder to share the work for online events among a team of volunteers
 - results in more paid work
- Absent social element less attractive to attendees & exhibitors
- Change and uncertainty makes planning difficult

Strategic Principles



- Funding must remain diversified and relevant to those paying
- Subscription model should be developed
- Possibly limit some content to subscribers
- Content should be available as widely and as cheaply as possible, if not free
- Widen audience by maintaining online access and hybrid meetings long-term
- Aim to return to physical & social meetings as soon as situation permits
- Meetings should be aimed at the online participant
- Focus should not be limited to the UK

2021 Budget and Planning



- UKNOF has enough funds to sustain operations without further income:
 - on a virtual-only event basis for 2021
 - for a shorter period for any hybrid virtual/physical meeting format
- We will plan 2021 budget on a 6-month basis and review mid-year
- There should be no registration charge for non-interactive online meetings
- There should be some registration charging for:
 - physical meetings
 - interactive hybrid online/physical meetings
- Consider 2 types of hybrid meeting:
 - *interim* - speakers to an audience of many: roll-our-own
 - *full* - many to many audience/speaker interaction: outsourced

2021 Meeting Plan



- **UKNOF47**

- will now be **online**, 15th April 2021
- <http://uknof.uk/47/>
- booked venue willing to migrate commitment to later in year

- **Rest of 2021**

- lower meeting frequency than 2020
- possibly a virtualUKNOF event or two
- **UKNOF48** provisionally November 2021
- may be online and/or hybrid virtual/physical depending on situation
- format migration will require planning and cycles
- we want everybody to be able to participate safely

Thank You !!



- Patrons
- Co-Hosts
- Participants
- Individual Friends
- Production Crew
- Speakers
- Sponsors
- Committee Members
- Volunteers

& the entire UKNOF Community for their encouragement and support



Questions Discussion ?