

# **UKNOF Annual Report**

UKNOF 2021 Annual Meeting  
19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

*UKIF Ltd* Board

# Agenda

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

# Position at end 2020

- The pandemic compounded existing stress points in UKNOF's sustainability
- This challenged UKNOF to evolve
  - [https://indico.uknof.org.uk/event/49/attachments/990/1418/UKNOF-Strategy\\_2021.pdf](https://indico.uknof.org.uk/event/49/attachments/990/1418/UKNOF-Strategy_2021.pdf)
- 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

# **Events and Operations**

**Denesh Bhabuta**

# Events during 2021

- UKNOF46, Jan 2021, our first full-day virtual event
- UKNOF47, Apr 2021, full-day virtual event
- virtualUKNOF, Aug 2021, short event
- UKNOF48, Nov 2021, our first hybrid Manchester/virtual event !
- Attendance ranged 100-180 people
- Registration-free attendance for all 2021 meetings
- Tried Spatial.Chat as alternative for virtual event socials

# Programme Committee

- 10 volunteers
- <https://uknof.uk/pc>
- Ensures supply of interesting presentations and content quality control
- Provides session chairs, Q&A/chat moderators, social media posting etc during online events
- Draft of Charter for PC being worked on

# Programme Committee

- Cathy Almond  
*(Co-Chair until Feb 2022)*
- James Bensley  
***(Chair)***
- Denesh Bhabuta  
*(Board Liaison)*
- Ben Carter
- Ben Cartwright-Cox
- Tim Chown
- Marek Isalski  
*(Incoming Co-Chair)*
- Steve Karmeinsky
- Fearghas M<sup>c</sup>Kay *(Co-Chair)*
- Keith Mitchell  
*(Board Liaison)*
- Hal Ponton
- Nick Ryce
- Leo Vegoda *(CC Liaison)*

# Events during 2021

- Original April 2020 venue, Manchester Central, had been flexible and helpful with moving and refunding cancelled events
- We could not however slip venue commitment further beyond Nov 2021 without financial penalty
- This date fortunately coincided with willingness to return to in-person events in the UK
- Lack of registration fees, and limited sponsorship from online-only events depleted the cash reserves we had at end-2020



# Hybrid Events

- Everyone's pandemic comfort/safety remains different, so essential to allow hybrid participation options for foreseeable future
- Industry conference practice has been to use out-sourced 3rd-party platforms, essentially beyond our budget
- We decided to try keeping costs down by using our existing virtual and webcast platforms
- Also important to establish clear covid-safety policies and protocols for in-person meeting elements

# **Communications**

**Leo Vegoda**

# Communications Committee

- Created in January 2020
- Leo Vegoda contracted as CC Chair
- Handles social media, mailing list, outreach, and comms processes
- CC Charter signed off
- Will be reviewing and updating UKNOF Mission Statement

# Communications Committee

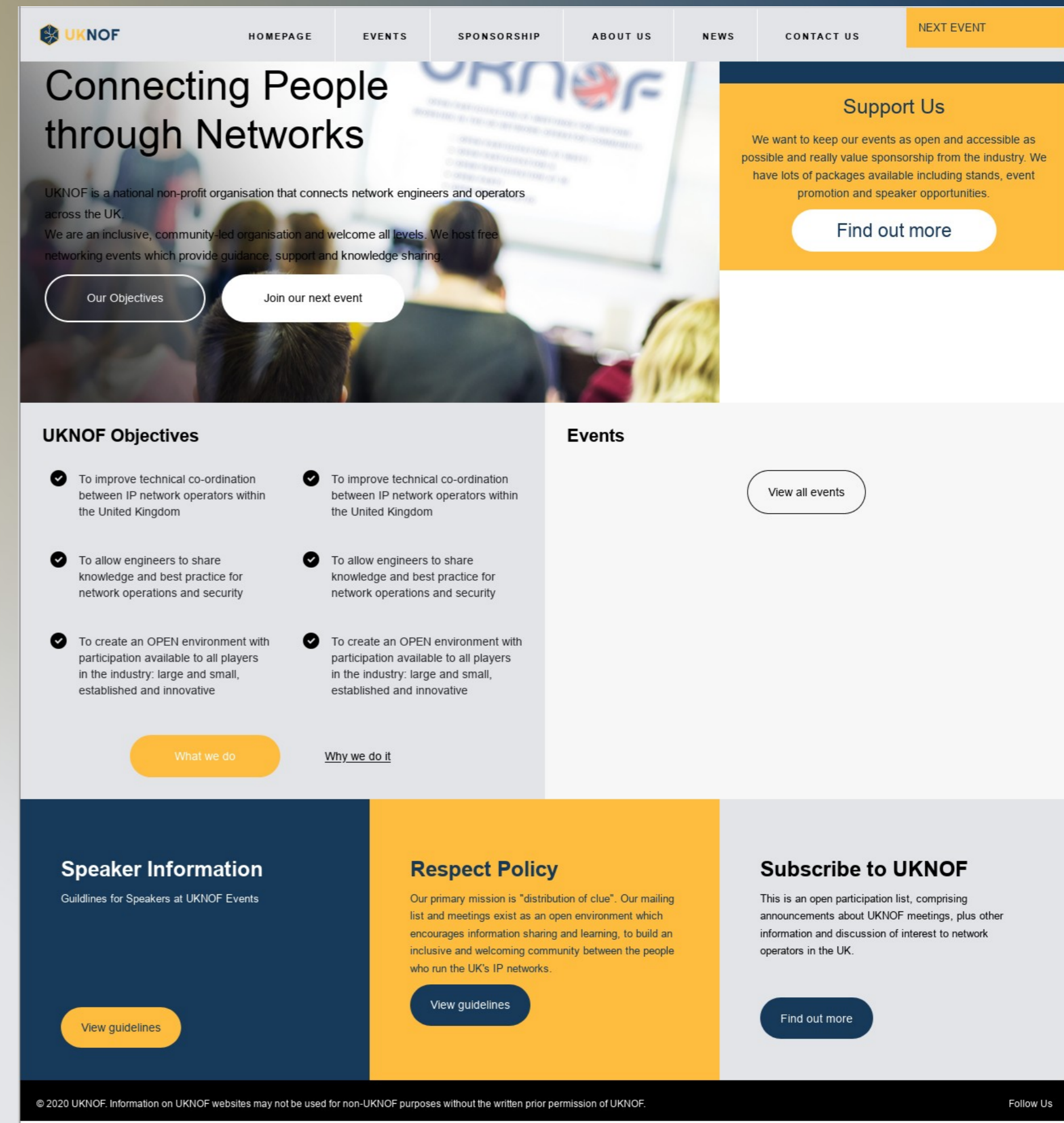
- Cathy Almond  
*(PC Liaison)*
- Denesh Bhabuta  
*(Board Liaison)*
- **Rebecca Class-Peter**
- Steve Jones
- Fearghas M<sup>c</sup>Kay  
*(PC Liaison)*
- Portia Rabonda
- Leo Vegoda  
*(Chair)*

# UKNOF Media Presence, Platforms

- Mailman list: 1,606 subscribers
- Mattermost Chat: 360 accounts
- Twitter: 2,328 followers
- LinkedIn Page/Group: 855 followers
- Facebook Page/Group: 778 followers
- Instagram: 350 followers

# New Website

- Finally !
- CC completed migration and is managing
- Contractor taken on to fix some template issues
- THANK YOU to Mike, Chris, Leo for making this happen !



# 2022 Communications Plans

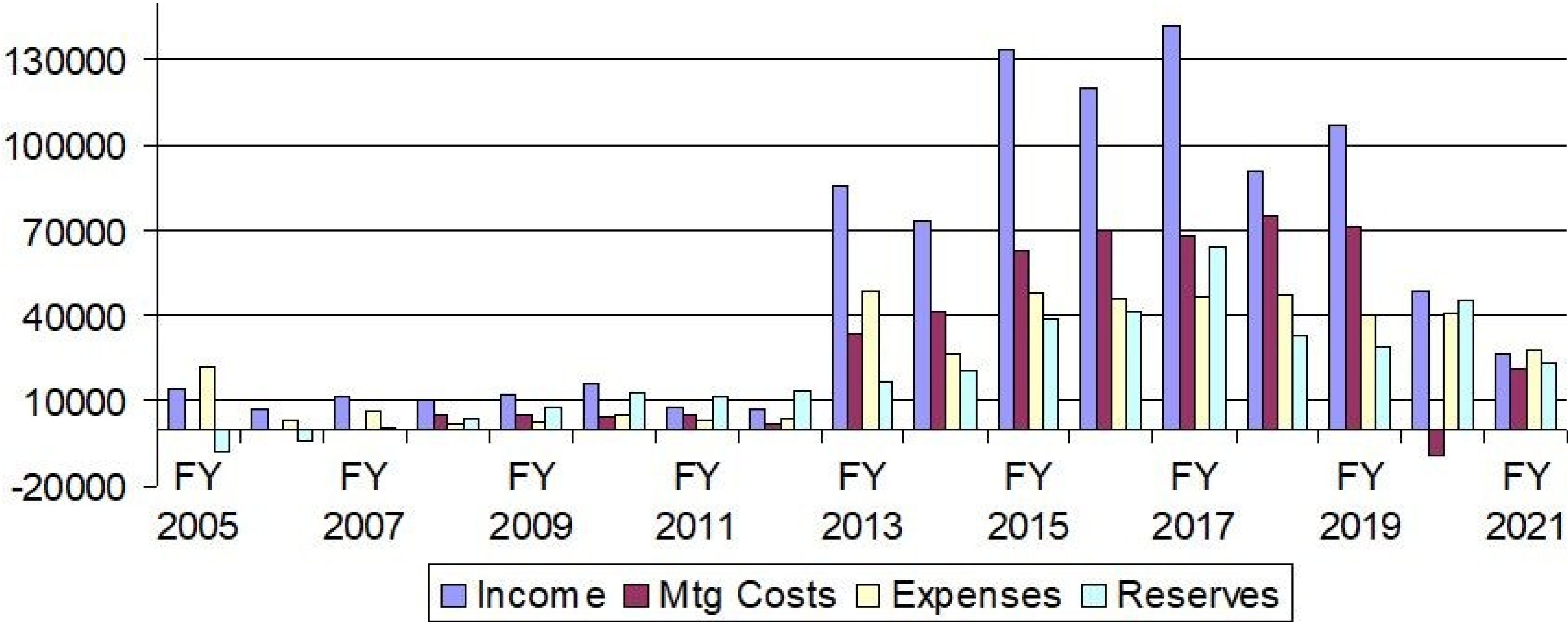
- Review and update UKNOF Mission Statement
- Review mailing list archive visibility
- Improve communications processes
- Investigate additional outreach:
  - attracting people at start of their careers
  - helping them develop their careers
  - improving communications between UK Internet stakeholders

**Finances**

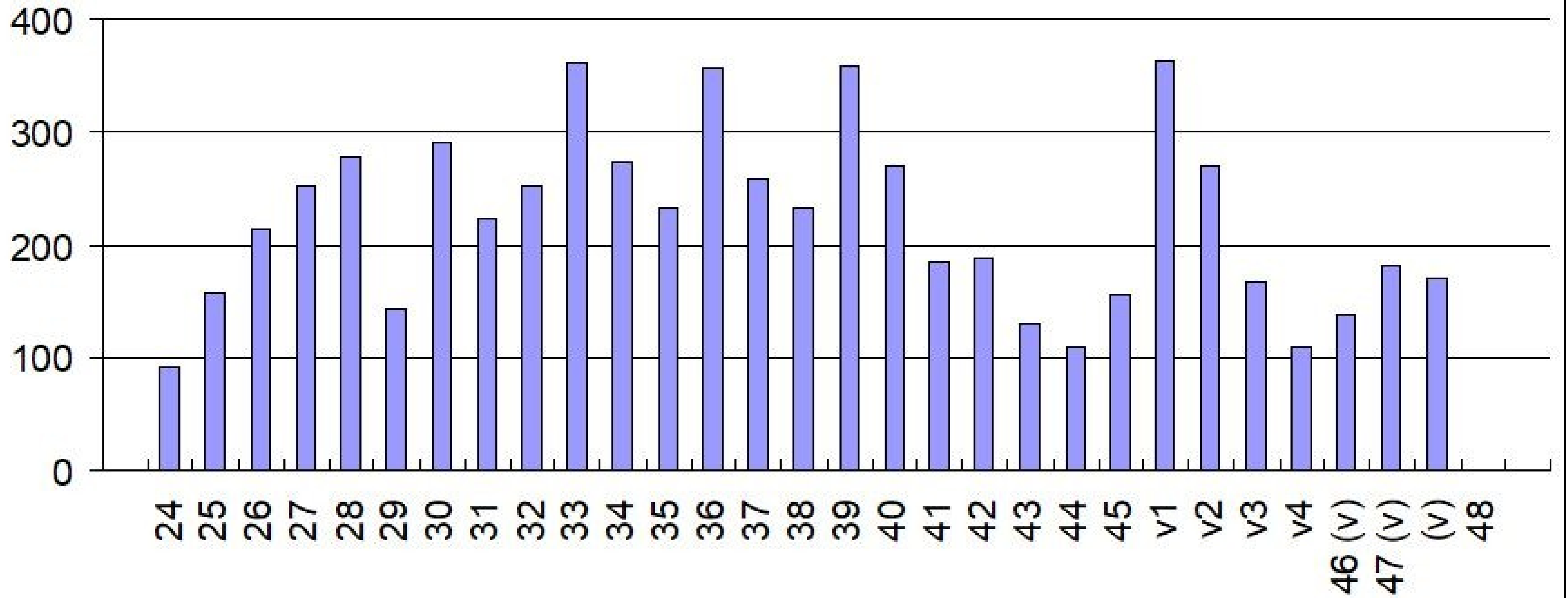
**Willie Black**



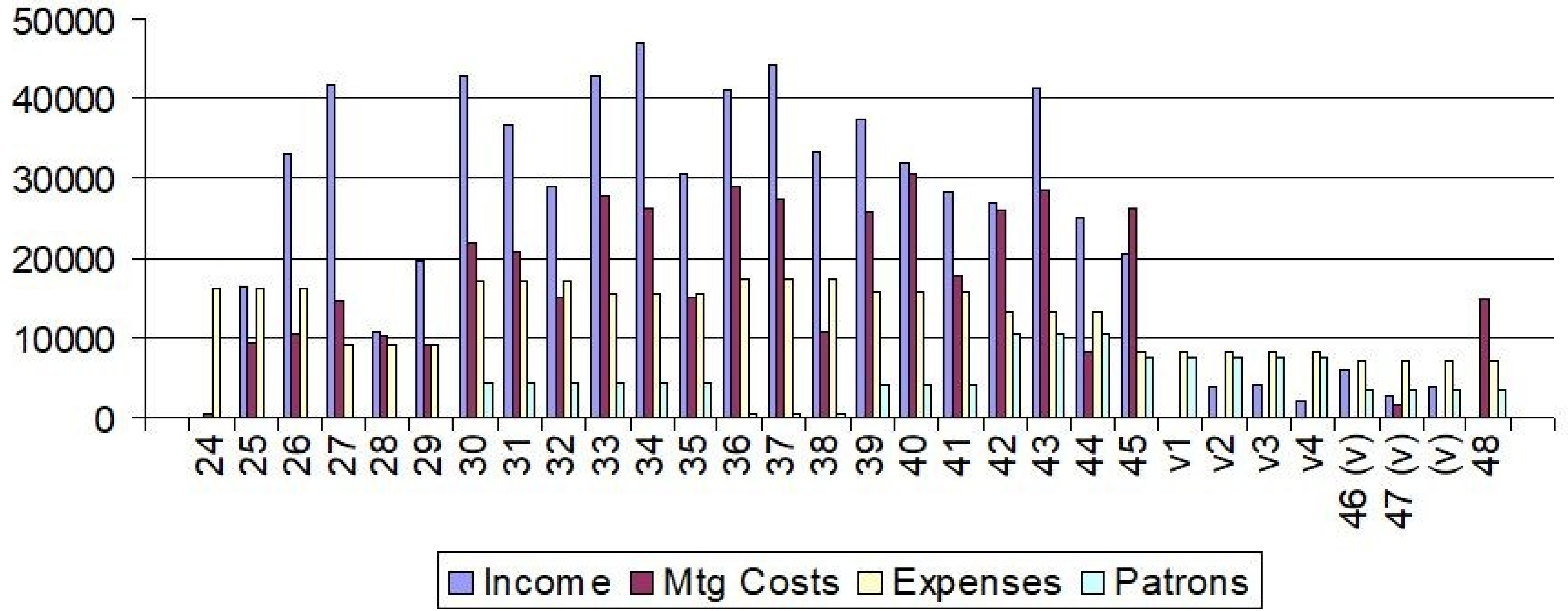
# Company Accounts



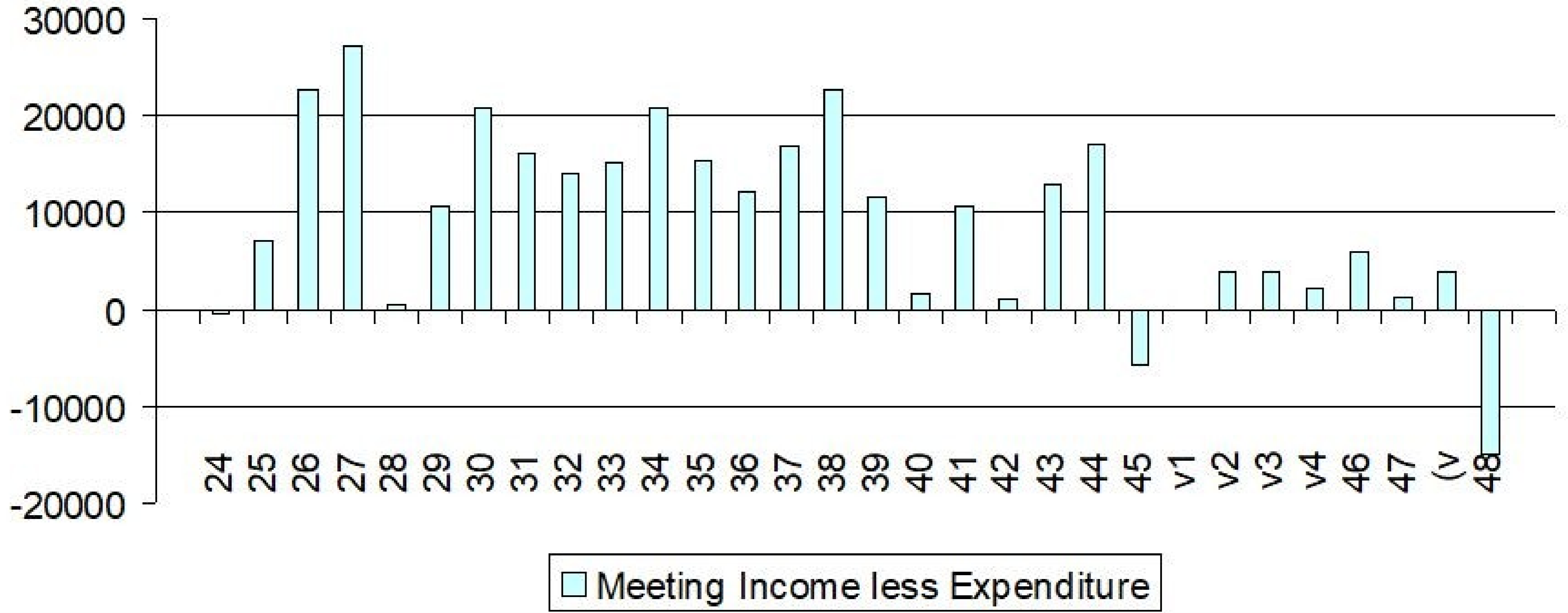
# Registrations



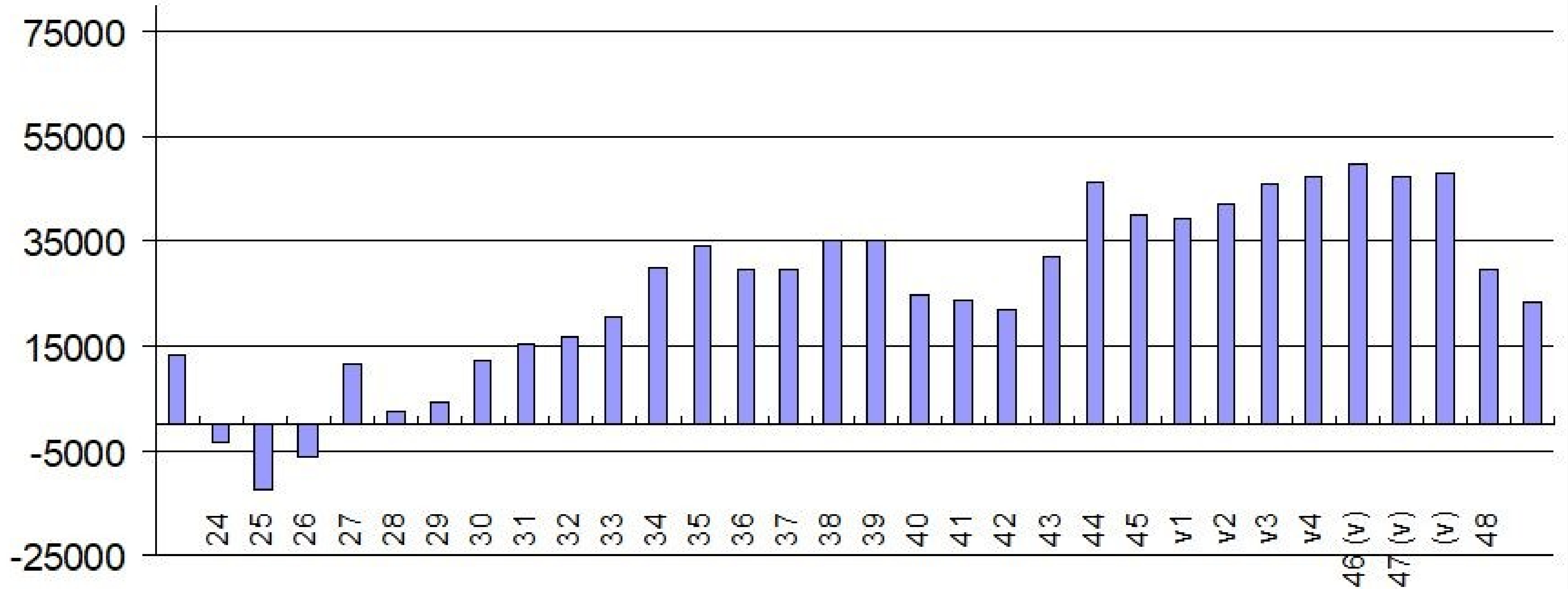
# Income and Expenditure



## Meeting Income less Expenditure



# Impact by Meeting on Reserves



# **Governance**

**Keith Mitchell**

# UKIF Ltd and UKNOF

- The UK Internet Forum (*UKIF Ltd*) was set up as an Internet industry association in 2005:
  - 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, Secretary)



**Keith Mitchell**  
(Managing Director)



**Laura Winters**



**Nigel Titley**  
(Chair)



**Steve Dyer**

# Board Composition Changes

- Steve Dyer and Willie Black re-appointed in Nov 2021 for further 3-year terms
  - willing to step down sooner if successors come forward
- Liz Stevens has stepped down from Board
- Laura Winters is new PC-nominated Board Director
- PC & CC Chairs (James Bensley and Leo Vegoda) have non-voting participation in Board meetings
- Reports to committees from monthly Board meetings

# Communications Committee

- Cathy Almond  
*(PC Liaison)*
- Denesh Bhabuta  
*(Board Liaison)*
- **Rebecca Class-Peter**
- Steve Jones
- Fearghas M<sup>c</sup>Kay  
*(PC Liaison)*
- Portia Rabonda
- Leo Vegoda  
*(Chair)*

# Succession Planning

- Board continues with long-term succession planning
- Keith would like to step back from Exec/MD role to non-exec by Oct 2022
- We are seeking new Board Directors
  - please talk to us if you are interested in serving
- Appointments will be in consultation with committees

# 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

# **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

# 2022 Budget and Planning

- UKNOF had enough funds at start of 2021 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 have not charged registration for non-interactive online meetings
  - some of community and sponsors opposed to registration charging
- We are nonetheless going to finish 2021 with one hybrid physical meeting, and some cash reserves
  - mainly due to running UKNOF48 on a low-budget basis
- Sponsor interest has re-kindled with return of physical meetings, and we believe we can raise funds for April 2022 meeting



# 2022 Meetings Plan

- No January meeeting due to shorter gap and pandemic-caution
- Short virtualUKNOF event planned end February/early March
- We want everybody to be able to participate safely
- **UKNOF49**
  - in-person/virtual hybrid, in Manchester 12<sup>th</sup> April
- **UKNOF50**
  - aiming for September 2022
- London meetings are more expensive, but we would like to get back there during 2022, possibly with a smaller venue

# Thank You !!

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

- Mike Hughes
- Chris Russell
- Liz Stevens

& the entire UKNOF Community for their encouragement and support

**Questions  
Discussion  
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