RIPE69 NOFBOF

Keith Mitchell
UKNOF

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."*
- Or:
  - *"Distribution of clue"* ☺

"NOFBOF"

- During UKNOF's evolution, we have learned some things about what works and what doesn't for national Network Operator Groups (NOGs)
- Many ccNOGs thriving in RIPE region
- We thought it would be helpful to share best practice amongst the community
- <u>Self-organising</u> agenda at:
  - https://etherpad.uknof.org.uk/p/ripe69-nofbof
 - please join in !

Current Status

- We have run 29 successful meetings ☺
  ~40-270 attendees each time
- Mailing list of ~1100 people
- Programme Committee
- Advisory Committee
- Board
- Meeting Commitee
- 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
  - at least one per year in London
  - at least one per year outside London
  - notionally 3rd Thursday of every Jan, Apr & Sep

Meeting Attendance

UKNOF Per Meeting Attendee Growth
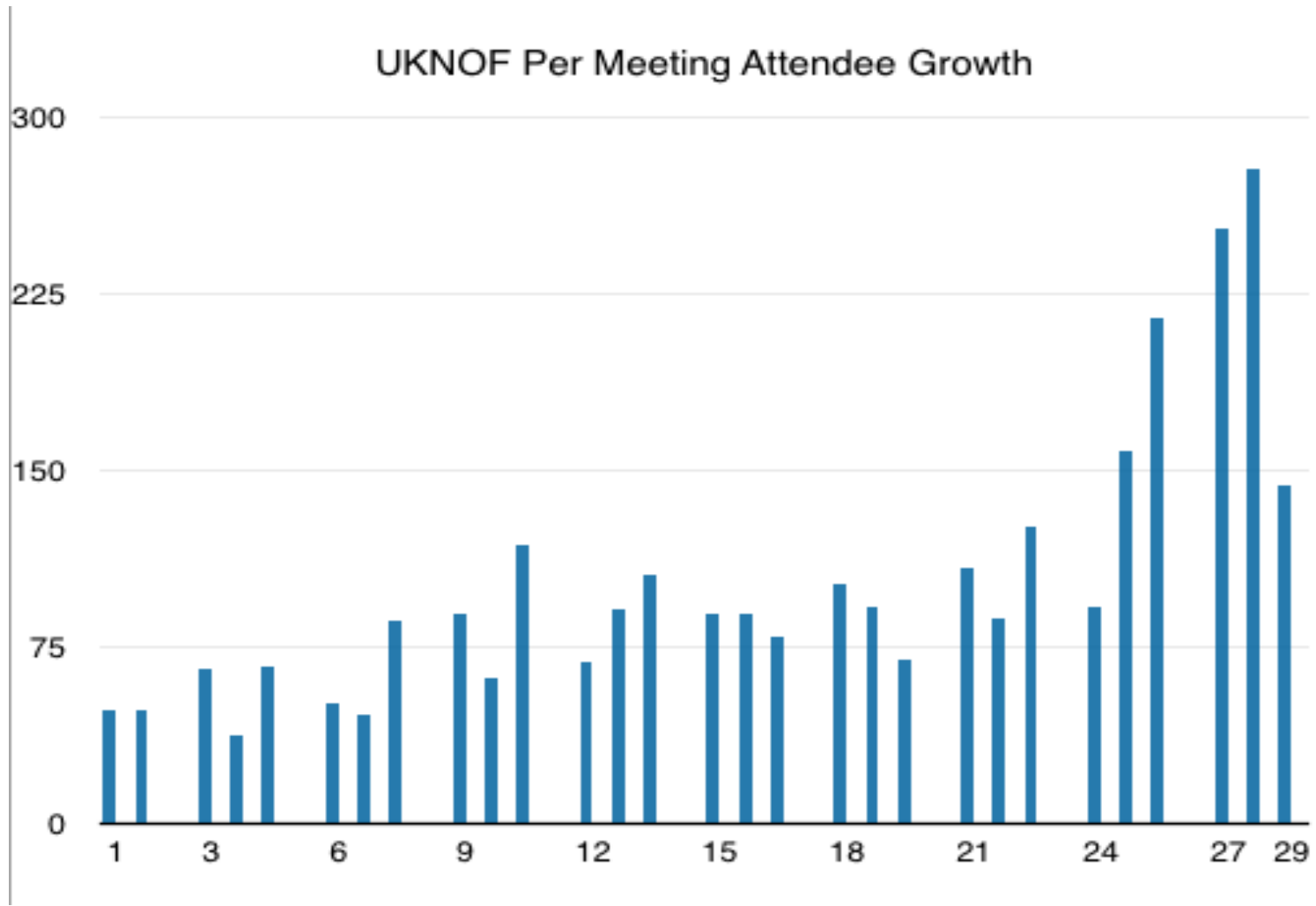
UKNOF Facilities

- Indico and Wiki VMs hosted by Bytemark
- Home Page, DNS and internal e-mail being migrated from Keith's server to VM hosted by Jump Networks
- Mailman mailing list VM hosted by LONAP
- Etherpad (v. useful !) hosted by DNS-OARC
- Video archive on YouTube channel *"UKNOFconf"*
- Various parties help with VoIP, videoconf, 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 !
- Paid-for registrations to encourage early registration *only*
- We have a good operating cash buffer

Growth Approach

- Bigger venues/catering are more expensive per head
- Keeping attendance free means raising additional sponsorship funds
    - pursuing all sponsorship opportunities needs more dedicated professional approach
    - funds raised need to pay for individual's time to do this, as well as cover meeting costs
- Remove logistic and funding barriers to provide enough spaces for *anyone* to be able to attend
- More professional, scalable organisation
- Distributed collaborative in-cloud team-working tools, less reliance on SPoF individuals
- Build operating reserve of ~2 meetings' costs

UKNOF Running Costs

- Typically about £30-40k per meeting:
- Around £100-125/attendee/day
  - venue, catering
  - varies by city
- Also admin, badges, connectivity, travel, misc expenses
- Plus part-time staff re-imbursement
- Raise most of this through sponsorship
- Host, Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Supporter and Social Recognition levels
- http://wiki.uknof.org.uk/Sponsorship/Overview
- So far achieving/exceeding annual meeting cash costs

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 and approval by existing company members
- UKIF legal entity now dedicated to supporting UKNOF

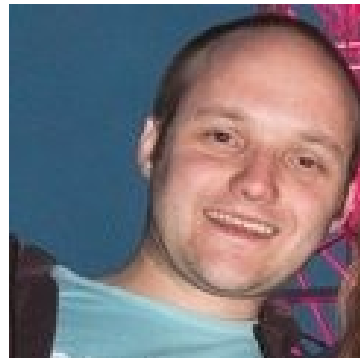# UKNOF/UKIF Board

Denesh Bhabuta (Executive)

Dr Willie Black (Chair)
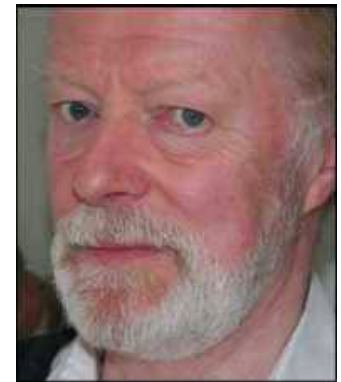
Keith Mitchell (Managing Director)

Mike Hughes

Nat Morris

Nigel Titley

Steve Dyer

Advisory Committee UKN⊛F

- 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: Jochem de Ruig

- *Other possible candidate member organisations might include ISPA, ISoc, Nominet...*

- Attend AGM and have Board/Fiscal oversight

Programme Committee UKNOF

- 17 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=32
- Ideas and suggestions to: <pc@uknof.org.uk>

PC Members

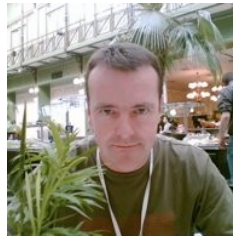**Bob Sleigh** **Cathy Almond** Charlie Boisseau **Chris Russell** David Farrell
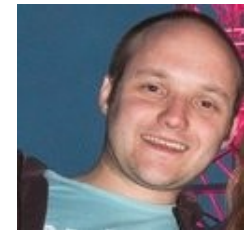
Denesh Bhabuta Fearghas McKay **Ian Meikle** **Keith Mitchell** **Mike Hughes** **Nat Morris**
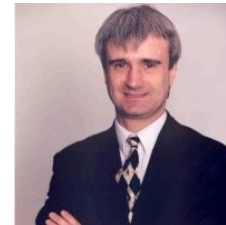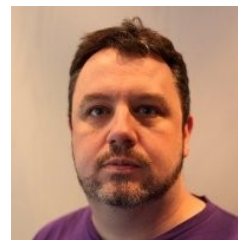
Neil McRae Nigel Titley **Ray Bellis** **Rob Evans** Steve Karmeinsky **Tim Chown**

"Editorial Balance"

- We made a decision to raise all meeting costs via sponsorship
- This creates some agenda tension:
    - high-value vendor sponsors like to have speaking slots
    - but too much marketing content detracts from programme techical focus
    - Sponsors prefer to pay for socials rather than real meeting costs
- Solutions:
    - Limit number *(max 3)* and duration *(total 45 mins)* of sponsor talks
    - Rigourous screening of submitted presentations
    - Re-educate or upsell sales pitchers

Conference Management Platform

- Indico: https://indico.cern.ch
- Open-source platform maintained and used internally by CERN
- Feature-rich "soup-to-nuts" solution for running a conference
- Other OSS solutions available:
  - Openconf, OSEM, ….
  - YMMV, this is about our experience
- Have been using for DNS-OARC too

Indico Strengths

- Automates most of what you need:
  - registration, badges
  - abstract submission and scoring/selection
  - excellent flexible timetabling
  - content upload and publication
  - attendee communication/mailshots
  - enables virtual team collaborative working
  - easy microsite template, look & feel
- Actively maintained code base
- Mostly stable, scales well
  - slightly more so on native vs VM platforms

Indico Shortcomings

- Maintainence and development mainly by interns
  - some UI inconstencies
  - no contracted support available
- Huge haystack of documentation
- Installation a little non-deterministic
- Non-trivial learning curve for sysadmins, meeting admins and speakers
  - brief HOWTOs help here
- Arcane permissions
- Rudimentary survey capabilities
- Non-standard internal-only database
- Forms/templates not programmatic

Meeting Conduct Policy

- We want everyone attending UKNOF meetings to enjoy a respectful and encouraging experience at which they feel welcome and equal

- Board working on formal policy to be published shortly

Next Meetings

- **RIPE69 "NOFBOF"**
  - London Hammersmith, Nov 2015
- **UKNOF30**
  - London Bishopsgate, 22nd Jan 2015
- **UKNOF31**
  - Manchester Central, 20th Apr 2015
- **UKNOF32**
  - Sheffield, 16-17th Sep 2015
- Always looking for speakers and sponsors !

Recent Achievements

- Record 280 attendees at UKNOF28 !
- 2013 Development Strategy proving successful, greater *"clue outreach"*
- Meeting Committee fully established
- Formal rating/approval process for submitted abstracts, improving overall quality of material
- New Programme Committee members
- Requests to help other ccNOGs
- Multi-day meeting experiment in Belfast