



Starting a ShareClub

1. **Get the philosophy right, i.e. that it's about the sharing of skills and knowledge. Dispel any belief that it is an investment club, that making money is the key.**
2. **Organizational Structure: keep it simple with no constitution and only a few rules (President, Treasurer, Membership, Trainer, Game Statistician, etc); establish Club communications protocols; for e-mails; meeting agenda; etc.**
3. **Get to know the skills, attributes and knowledge base of each member. Build around those skill levels. Share the workload. Share the worry too! Encourage those with special skills to share through the training of others.**
4. **Establish early the collection of annual dues. It establishes a level of commitment to attend, plus gives the Club some legitimacy and continuity of effort. Training costs money...but differentiate between user-pay events and Club training events.**
5. **Factor into the Club's mandate the role and purpose of in-house training. If at all possible institutionalize training as an integral part of the Club's affairs. Initial training may be simple as a 15-30 minute explanation of the TSX sectors. Later the Club members could provide 2-3 hr seminars, computer lab training courses, and workshops.**
6. **Develop program(s) based on member needs but also on base requirements. The basics of investing come first, the secondary skills to follow. Offer progressive skill enhancement options and continuity to program contents.**
7. **Engender opportunities for member camaraderie. Start a weekly coffee clutch and consider one social function in the course of the year, e.g. a summer picnic.**
8. **Initiate an in-house stock selection game. The game provides member training opportunities plus a form of competitive rivalry that generates member interest.**
9. **Do not fixate on the Club size. Instead stress quality, sharing, participation, and contributing as a member requirement. Consider that capping the number of members may limit entry of new skills into the Club.**
10. **Accept the fact that there will be resignations. But also accept the inevitable that new members will require orientation and a venue to learn, as you did. Some natural rotation is healthy. Accept the challenge of new ideas and members.**

Alex Kobelak, Challenge Game Trustee, Founder of the Mid-Island Club