



Why Training is a Must

When you form a ShareClub with a ShareClub philosophy, you are saying to potential members that we, the members, will all benefit through sharing and learning. While we know it to be the case, some members have nil or very limited investment skills and are wary about such a promise. That is why they chose to seek out a Club where they can learn. Now, the onus is on you, as much as on new members, to provide the environment to learn.

In the absence of some quasi-formalized training role, a member with low skills will quickly find that he/she is not gaining any new skills, or not quickly enough given the high interest in doing so. If that situation remains a stalemate, the obvious next step is to withdraw in disgust or just frustration. So, who is the aggrieved party here?

It is true to say that “formalized” training is more difficult to provide because it is a sizable effort to undertake. But the alternative of using the “osmosis” process is not a very reasonable Club option either. It is the point at which the question should arise: Is it our mandate to train new members? The fact that you and others did not receive “training” is not a valid response as it is true to say that you, as a club, accepted the individual as a new member to assist in their attaining a better skill level in investing. Both have an unstated obligation; it’s a partnership. We, who may be self-taught might argue that it is a personal undertaking. If that were possible for all, there would not be a need for ShareClubs, but it is not.

Should a potential member apply who is more skilled than most of your current members? Would you oppose his/her membership? It would be hypocritical to suggest that this applicant be admitted but others denied solely on the basis of skills. Other skills and personal factors, plus a determination to learn, make for as good or better members than those with high skills.

The equalizer in a Club is some training, starting with the fundamentals. It may be basic but that is where we all once started. Later, when followed up by a continuum of graduated higher level skills that build on prior offerings, the recipients will soon feel like there is value offered in Club membership. Modesty aside, most of the training required for new members is within the realm of average members, not professionals or experts. It is another way to “involve” the fringe members who otherwise will not participate directly.