



Association of Ukrainians in Victoria Golf Club

President's Report 2011

And so ends another year. The Club continues to operate professionally and in a financially responsible manner for the benefit of all members and in keeping with our vision.

Having said that, there is something I need to get off my chest. It has been a somewhat unusual year and not because of all the rain we have had recently. No, I am talking about something deeper.

In talking to many of you, I get the impression that we, as a group, are going through a transition phase. I don't want to overdramatise the issue, but it feels like we are collectively tired and looking for something different from our club. We want to simplify the way it works. Most common words I hear are "Why can't we just play golf..."

The reasons no doubt are many and varied, but for me two things stand out. Firstly, most of us are close to and either side of retirement, with new grandchildren arriving on the scene. Our world is changing and some of us need time to adjust and to understand how best we can enjoy it.

Secondly, our club format is fundamentally the same as it was 24 years ago, and on top of that our membership has not changed much over the years.

We want a change, so long as it is not too big of a change. We want something different, but we are not sure what.

Our club as it stands, its operation and its structure, are the envy of other 'Social' clubs – golf and other. We are strong and organised and things just work, even though sometimes we grumble. Organising regular events for potentially 65 members throughout the year requires organisation, discipline and structure. It would be very easy to 'simplify' our structure and move to a 'social club' style, but in my mind that would be the beginning of the end.

So I urge you all to think carefully before wanting to de-construct our club, from moving away from the strong structure we currently enjoy and let's keep our club strong for future generations. Let's work through these unusual times to capture some new members and enjoy the same club into the future.

In terms of our monthly games, over the past five or so years, some of our games have been moved in the fixture calendar to the point where the fixture including the annual presentation does not make much sense. The committee are currently reviewing this situation and will propose some minor adjustments soon.

I take this opportunity to thank all the Committee members, for their hard and thankless work and for all the time they have given up, not just for the marathon monthly meetings, but also in preparing the various events that we enjoy. I also thank their wives. Last but not least thanks to Gerry and Wally, for their continual support with our BBQs.

The AUVGC is very privileged to have the support from our sponsors, Golf World in Moonee Ponds and the Dyson bus company.

Slawko Kohut