

President's Report to VRCBC Annual General Meeting, January 11, 2011

As I complete my third year as President, I look back on 2010 as a very fine year in the growth and development of the VRCBC.

Meetings: Wes Stinson continued his role of arranging most of our meetings, getting a great combination of member sites, spots of particular interest, and what has become our standby, the Burnaby Lake Clubhouse where we are today. Jim Ratsoy and his staff hosted us in April - what a remarkable collection. And the October meeting at the TBC kart track brought out many members and guests; we made money on that one! Thanks for making our meetings fun, Wes.

Vantage: Few clubs have even one fine historian/ journalist with both deep knowledge and exceptional writing skills. The VRCBC enjoys two such gentlemen, Mike Tate and Tom Johnston, who produce three or four editions of the Vantage annually that easily match the publications of clubs many times our size. Each issue is in itself a collector's item. Thank you both for helping to give us such a professional image.

Membership: With over 130 members at the end of 2010 we have more than doubled in 3 years. This is a result of leadership by the Executive, in particular Stan and all the members who have passed the word on that we are a club that wants new members; that has standards but is very inclusive at the same time. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to our growth.

REVS: We wondered what would be the impact of the rule change that prevented Open Wheel/Sports Racers from running with Closed Wheel cars. But with those cars being allowed to run as Vintage within the regular SCCBC OW grids, we had even greater involvement from that group than before. The overall number of entrants was the best ever and the 16 at the final event was the largest grid I can recall. Thanks to Ann Jeffrey and Stan Guy for keeping track of the large and semi-complicated points process. And thanks to Al Harvey for his leadership as Competition Director. Mark Brown was a very worthy champion; he was the only racer to complete the whole season; usually very near the front of every race he was in.

BCHMR: We had another excellent BCHMR despite many entry cancellations. Grid adjustments created excellent competition in each group. The wonderful program produced by Patrick Stewart will be a cherished keepsake along with the regalia organized by Bruce Jamieson and his team. The Car Corral and parade organized by Wes Stinson provided wonderful photo-ops. Highlights included the visit by Mayor Atebe, the Harvard fly past, the marching pipe band, the welcome barbecue, Gio Coletta and Ed Clements flipping burgers, the commentary by Vince Howlett and his team, and the Saturday night barbecue coordinated by Leigh Anderson, with visits from "Don Cherrybomb" and "Red Greenflag". Great weather and a strong publicity campaign led to a large gate. As always, our sincere thanks to CACC, SCCBC, META, SOVREN and the Volunteers, who made it all possible. This was Ian Woods "swan song" as the BCHMR Chair. He can look back proudly at the six years he has chaired what is now one of the best overall events on the SOVREN and vintage schedules.

The Rules Debate: The rules debate, focused primarily on eligibility, provided the greatest discussion within the Club in some time. I learned that we needed to have had that discussion in greater depth than had been provided, but we also learned that using email enabled us to involve far more of our members than in any other way. This will provide the means to get good input from all members on any significant issue, whenever required in the future.

Gala Banquet and Dance: Once again, Bob Smith did a fine job with the arrangements and Leigh Anderson ensured we had great entertainment. But the biggest star was Mike Tate, who did a masterful job as MC. At my request, he took over the whole evening, completely eliminating the load on me personally. My sincere thanks Mike.

Kudos to the Executive: Volunteer organizations such as ours cannot operate without a strong executive. Much of our success continues to be due to the leadership and support of the executive group. As I pass on the gavel after three years, I am very confident that the executive will continue to ensure that the VRCBC and the BCHMR only increase their status as a first rate club and an exceptional event.

It has been my pleasure to have had the opportunity to provide some leadership, with the rest of the executive over these past years. I am looking forward to my continuing role as Past President.

Sincerely

Jim Latham, President