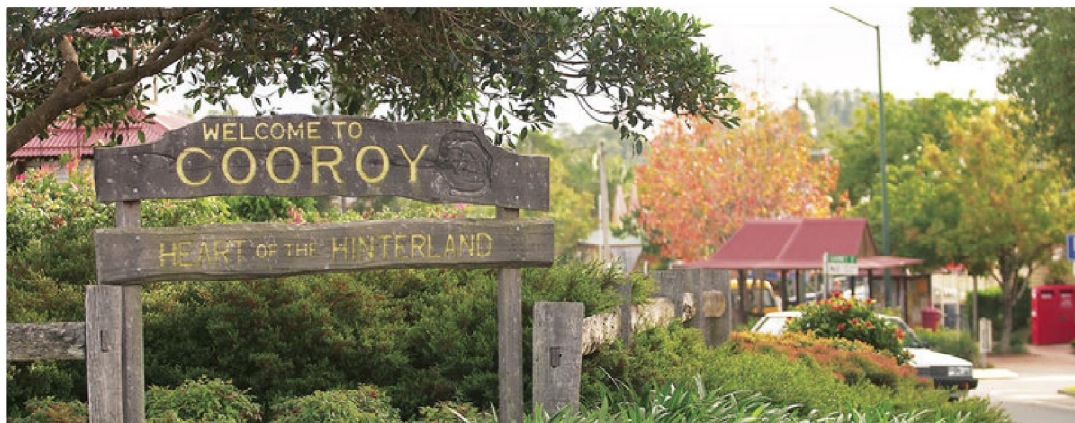




Club History



Cooroy Golf Club – Club History

The Cooroy Tradition

Golf, in the early part of the 20th century, was a game for the elite. Clubs tended to be exclusive in attitude with membership fees set at a level that meant only the most affluent could afford to play.

The cold and snobbish atmosphere often left visitors feeling unwelcome. This state of affairs was uppermost in the minds of the founders of the *Cooroy Golf Club* who were determined from the outset that their *Club* was to be for people from all walks of life – a club where all could play and feel welcome. Accordingly minimal nomination fees and annual subscription fees were set.

This tradition has continued over the years since and affordable annual subscriptions and green fees are aimed at encouraging local people, visitors and tourists, to play golf.

One of the outcomes of keeping fees so low was that, in those early days, there was very little money for the development of the golf course. The financial report for the first year 1934 to 1935 showed a total income of **£110.19.5** with expenditure of **£101.19.0** leaving *The Club* with a credit balance of **£9.0.5**.

Interestingly the *Club Secretary* was authorised to buy a *Casket Ticket* each month but it's not clear if this strategy made any meaningful contribution to *Club* finances.

This lack of finance together with the great determination of foundation members such as **Dr. M Outridge**, **Scott Murphy**, **Harry Spring**, **Mel Bonnel** and **Garden Grant** to make the finest 9 hole course in the State, spawned another of the great traditions of the *Cooroy Golf Club* – the tradition of getting the job done by voluntary effort. That tradition continues to this day.



Such was the dedication of these early enthusiasts that for many, working on the course was a daily ritual. It is no wonder that there was such an amazing transformation in such a short space of time and a new golf course was born.

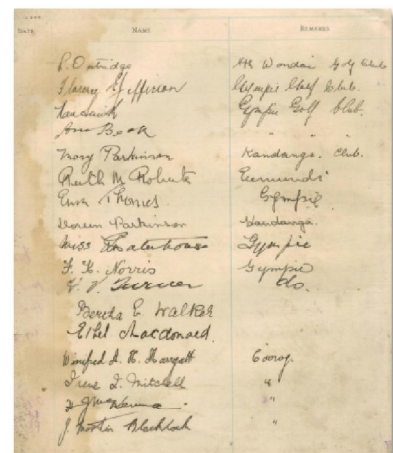
This tradition, also, has continued over the years despite the increasing tempo and demands of modern life, and many of the present members and Associates have given hundreds of hours a year in voluntary work for our club.

Helping to build something worthwhile generates pride and a desire to share, and this is how the 3rd Cooroy tradition of hospitality originated.

Visitors warmed to the involvement and enthusiasm of Cooroy Members with many returning year after year to renew friendships and enjoy the *Clubs'* hospitality.

All these traditions have helped give *Cooroy Golf Club* a rather special character and it is hoped this is still in evidence today.

Affordable golf in a friendly, relaxed hinterland village setting



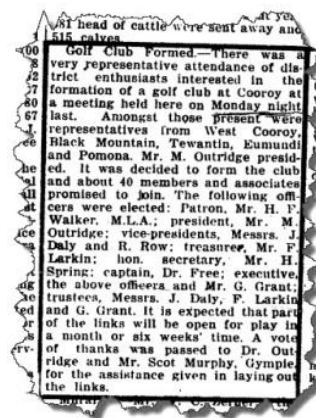
Cooroy Golf Club – Club History

The Early Years

All that existed in **1934** was a piece of partly cleared grazing land with interesting topography and a determination in the minds of a few local golfers to have a course of their own.

Thirty eight people attended the first public meeting on 15th October 1934 and the club was formed on the motion of **Dr Free** and **R Row**.

Dr M Outridge was elected foundation *President*, **Dr Free** *Captain*, **Harry Spring** *Secretary* and **F Larkin** *Treasurer*.



The meeting set the fees at: **Entrance Fee:** *Members* 10/6 and *Associates* 5/0. **Subscriptions:** *Members* £1/1/0 and *Associates* 10/6. **Green Fees:** *Members* 2/0 and *Associates* 1/0 per month.

At the end of the first year there were **18 Members** and **17 Associates** and several non playing members. An extract from the *Presidents' first Annual Report* is included at the end of this history.

The embryo course was designed by **Dr. Outridge** and **Scott Murphy** (the professional who visited from Gympie) by pushing their way through the undergrowth of an area of Crown Lease land (*leased for £8 per year for 15 years*) and what was called Mac's paddock – **Mr Ron Macdonald** later donated the land to the club.

The first rounds were played on a 6 Hole sand green course.

Due to the generous donation of time, money and equipment almost 25 acres of the course had been cleared and many fairways chipped and filled. All of the work had to be done with hand tools and the use of trucks lent by members.

A bank loan of £100 repayable over 5 years allowed a contract to be let to **S Sivyver** to clear and stump No 1 and No 9 fairways. The last large tree on No 1 fell to a charge of gelignite at first light one morning startling local residents.



EJ Bonnell had eradicated most of the bracken fern from the cleared fairways and the following members constructed the sand greens – **Larkin, Mitchell, Row, Bonnell, Krogh, Free, Spring, Daly and Grant**.

These sand greens were fenced to keep wandering stock at bay as the area was used for grazing until stock were banned in late **1936**.

In that first year two foot bridges were also constructed. Not to be outdone by the *Members* the *Associates* worked hard to raise £30 which was donated to the club.

Despite all the hard work golf in those days was played under some difficulty as the following extract from the Minutes on local rules indicates – “*If ball hits log, stump or telephone post player may at his option replay stroke without penalty.*”

Cooroy Golf Club – Club History

Players marked their ball and lost ones could be bought back for 3d.

Cooroy Golf Club and the course grew slowly and the original 9-Hole course with sand greens was officially opened during a carnival held on the King's Birthday weekend 27th, 28th and 29th June 1936. **Mr MH Walker (MLA)** officially opened the course on Monday **29th June 1936** at 1:00 pm. **Mr Spiller**, Licensee of the Victory Hotel, provided the licence and drinks for the Opening Carnival.

Mr Sivy was appointed full time as Greenkeeper at 30/- per week in July **1936**.

The outlay for horses and a fairway mower on top of the other development saw the club with an overdraft of £24.6.6 at the end of **1937**.

The decision to purchase pine trees from Imbil Forestry was taken at a meeting on 14th October **1937** and these were planted at the next working bee.

In **1938** a Local Rule was introduced to the effect that *"A player can pick up and drop if a ball rests within a hole over which the club can be placed without touching it"*.

In the same year *Associates* were granted equality in voting rights at Annual General Meetings.

The drive to improve the course continued in **1939** with the establishment of the first 3 grass greens. It is interesting to note that at this stage Tewantin Noosa had no grass greens.

As a concession to members enlisting in the AIF during the war a minute on the 27th June **1940** gave them Honorary Membership and waived payment of green fees for their wives. In **1942** the Club began employing bag boys on Saturday afternoon.



The club struggled for existence during this period. After the war there was an upsurge of interest and, from these early foundations *Cooroy Golf Club* as we know it today evolved.

The Course



The course began life in **1936** as a 9-Hole layout with sand greens with the original layout remaining largely in place until **1985**.

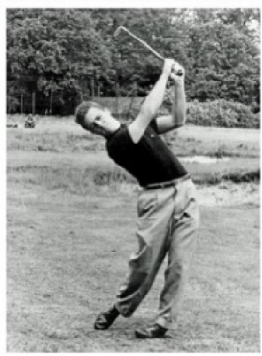
Designed by club professionals, **Scott Murphy** (Gympie) and **Jack Baguley** (Nambour) all course construction and development works were undertaken by volunteers.

A major tree planting of 800 pine trees (*which still frustrate golfers today*) was undertaken during **1957**.

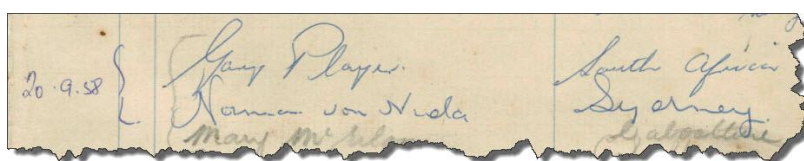
On Saturday 20th September **1958** Cooroy golfers, visitors and the local community were treated to an exhibition match between touring professionals **Gary Player** and **Norman von Nida** and club professionals **Scott Murphy** and **Jack Baguley**.

Cooroy Golf Club – Club History

The match was arranged through the President of Slazenger with a purse of £75 and drew a large group of eager spectators.



The following is an extract from the *Visitors Book* signed by Player (left) and Von Nida (right).



In **1964** Foundation Member, **Garden Grant** constructed a *Practice Putting Green* in front of the new club house. The photo shows Garden and **Alan Ferguson** at the opening.



The practice putting green was extended in **1966** and in **1967** officially dedicated as the *Garden Grant Memorial Putting Green* in memory of Garden.



1984 saw the construction of the Halfway Shed at the 6th Tee later upgraded and renamed **Marti's Hut** in recognition of *refreshment services* provided to members by **Martin Timothy**.

In **1985** the first significant changes to the original layout took place when works were carried out to reconstruct the 3rd, 4th and 5th greens and convert the playing surface from couch to 328.

At the same time 3rd and 4th holes were lengthened with the playing direction of the 4th changed from playing across the creek to playing parallel to the creek. The 5th hole was also lengthened.

In **1986** the Club successfully gained a *CEP Scheme Grant* which allowed significant works to be undertaken:

Extension of machinery shed, raising of weir, new bridge over creek near 3rd tee, stone pitching of 9th creek, dish drain across 2nd and 7th fairways, reconstruction of 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th greens, automatic watering system installed, new women's 3rd and 9th tees, safety fences at 3rd, 7th and 6th tees, removal of slash pine from course. Greenside bunkers were added to 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, and 9th holes.



Cooroy Golf Club – Club History



The purchase of Railway Land in **1992** resulted in construction of the network of dams that currently nestle around the **14th** Tee.

Subsequent purchase of Harry Springs block in **1994** and other land to the south of the then course in **1999** was the final step in securing sufficient land for the construction of the next 9 holes of the *Cooroy Golf Course*.

During early **2003** plans were developed by a *Club* Sub-Committee involving Directors **Bill Galvin** and **John Reilly** to (i) extinguish all existing Club debt, (ii) seek Queensland Government Grant assistance and (iii) proceed with development of the second 9 holes on the *Cooroy Golf Club* course. Following proper consideration of prevailing circumstances it was then determined that the entire course could be adequately established on the eastern side of Myall Street and the Harry Spring block was subsequently sold.

Later in June **2003** *Cooroy Golf Club* was successful in obtaining funding from Queensland Sports and Recreation for the first stage construction of the next 9 holes. **June 2004** saw the *Club* successful in obtaining yet another Queensland Sports and Recreation grant and that enabled further progression towards completion of the project.

The layout of the second 9 holes was designed by Professionals **Paul King** and **Charlie Earp** with construction works oversighted by Club Member and Director **Wayne Brogden** who volunteered his time and was appointed Project Manager for the duration of the works.

The first 4 holes of the new 9 were opened in **August 2004** extending the course to **13 holes**.

Construction of the second stage comprising the final 5 holes progressed relatively quickly with favourable weather a contributing factor and the course was ready for its' official opening in late **June 2005**.

Cost of Construction of new 9 holes:

Stage 1 cost – 4 holes	\$132,742
Stage 2 cost – 5 holes	\$215,888
Total cost	\$348,630

Funding:

Queensland Sports and Recreation	\$ 75,000 (2003)
Queensland Sports and Recreation	\$ 75,000 (2004)
Club Contribution	\$198,630



Cooroy Golf Club – Club History

On Tuesday **28th June 2005** the formal opening of *Cooroy Golf Club's* 18 hole course was marked by a tree planting and plaque unveiling ceremony with **Mr Neil Roberts MP**, representing the Queensland Minister for Sport, officiating. To further celebrate the occasion, on the following day, Wednesday **29th June 2005** (in very wet conditions) a well patronised 4-Person Ambrose fundraising event was conducted on the new 18 hole course involving members and VIP guests. The *Cancer Foundation* was the beneficiary on the day.

2008 saw a milestone in course maintenance with the appointment of Course Superintendent, **Kirsty Herring**, Queensland's only *Australian Golf Course Superintendents' Association* registered female Course Superintendent.

Kirsty started her career at *Beachmere Bowls Club* before moving on to *Horton Park Golf Club* for 4 years. She then spent some time in the USA working at a private golf course in South Carolina before returning to Horton Park and then coming to Cooroy.



Recent years have seen several small projects completed with the assistance of member volunteers. The men's **11th** tee moved and rebuilt, **13th** tee raised and the men's **7th** raised and extended and planted out with *Wintergreen* turf which will gradually become the turf of choice for all tees.



In **2011** the **6th** green was extended and reshaped and two turf nurseries were constructed.

2011 also saw the start of an ongoing program of construction of *strategically* placed concrete cart paths and upgraded creek crossings to assist traffic in wet weather.

The program also includes upgraded drainage to make the course less susceptible to the Queensland weather.

A large tree planting project has begun to assist properly defining the fairways of **11th**, **13th**, **14th** and other holes around the course with over 100 trees being *strategically* planted.

The Club will continue to make improvements to maintain our place as one of the most picturesque and enjoyable courses on the Sunshine Coast.

The Club House

A small timber and iron shed on Myall Street, affectionately known as the *Hen House*, served as the club house until the late 1950's.



Cooroy Golf Club – Club History

Apart from the two above, few, if any photos of the original *Hen House* exist so a replica was built by **Lofty Brogden** for the Golden Jubilee celebrations in October 1984.

The club applied for a liquor licence in **1947** and the first major improvements to the *Hen House* were carried out in **1952** at a cost of £100.

In **1957** The Club purchased a single room building from *Nambour High School* for the sum of £175 – it was to become the new club house.



The objective was to have the new club house ready for the long week-end carnival in June 1958.

With the help of volunteers and donated material the building was dismantled and relocated to Myall Street where it was reconstructed.

The bar was built from 3x1 and VJ pine with a big ice chest and temprite to keep the beer cold.

On Friday 13th June 1958, as the finishing touches were made, President, **Dr. Peter Bridgman** climbed the flag pole and nailed **Jim Caddells'** hat on the top of it. For every nail he drove into the hat Jim hit one of Peters' golf balls down the first fairway.

Every member and carnival visitor celebrated - it went on well into the night - Saturday golf, Saturday night dancing, Sunday golf, Sunday night off to the *bull ring* at **Alan Ferguson's** cow yard. This is a photo of the replica of '**Fergies Bullring**' built by **Lofty Brogden**.



With log fires burning to keep everyone warm people sat in the milking bails and on the yard rails, singing and dancing to music played by **Nev Sivyver** and his band. Nev played the piano accordion, **Keith Brady** the sax and **Tom Hinds** the drums. The back of Bonnells' truck was used for the stage; needless to say golfers were getting home at daylight, turning up Monday morning to hit off the first tee unable to lift their heads.

The new club house was officially opened on **16th November 1958**.

In November **1968** the Club purchased a cold room from *Swans Bowls Club*, Maroochydore.

In **1974** the club house was given a makeover and extensions completed.



Cooroy Golf Club – Club History

By **1989** a dramatic rise in the number of interstate golfers using *Cooroy Golf Club* persuaded management of the club to embark on its biggest renovation program in more than 50 years costing \$80,000.

Secretary, **Ted Thompson** and President **Ed Otto** said at the time they expected even more interest in the course following renovations designed to make the club house larger with a much better view of the course.



In **2011** secure storage to house 11 new electric hire carts was constructed below the practice putting green by volunteer labour. In recognition of the voluntary work done by **Brad Lavender** over a long period the new cart shed was named “*The Brad Lavender Shed*”.



The outside deck was re-laid in **2012**, bar area upgraded and internal stairs removed to provide an enhanced floor area - a great improvement.

In the same year furniture acquired from a golf club in New South Wales added a more comfortable feel to the clubhouse.



In **2014** hire cart storage facilities were extended to accommodate a further 11 hire carts, creating the ability to better cater for large golf events at *Cooroy*.

The long term aspiration is to build a new club house on the highest point of the course.

1935 First Presidential Report of Cooroy Golf Club

1935

FIRST PRESIDENTIAL REPORT COOROY GOLF CLUB 30th Sep 35

I am indeed honoured to present the first Annual Report of the Cooroy Golf Club.

From the inception of Golf in Cooroy, the Cooroy Golf Club has been exceptionally fortunate in its band of tireless workers and willing supporters. When one realises what the course was when first examined only at the end of July last year, and what it is at present one must feel that the C.G. Club has much to be proud of and also that the Club would be lacking if it failed to appreciate the HARD WORK that has been done so willingly by all concerned.

- (1) When the idea was first mooted the Club was lucky in having Dr. Outridge and Mr. Scot Murphy to lay out in embryo a Course which promises to be one of the best natural championship 9 Hole Courses in Australia.

- (2) In securing the site on such terms over a period of 15 years.

- (3) In having at the disposal of the Club an area such as Mac's paddock where the bug could be given a chance to collect converts.

- (4) In having such an enthusiastic set of members and associates whose only objective is Golf.

Summarising briefly. Firstly with regard to the lay-out. This stands as a monument to the designers - especially when it is realised that as the fairways improve, various slight alterations may be made to the betterment of the Course without interfering with the fundamentals set down.

Secondly, the site and location are ideal, being centrally placed to the whole district and within such proximity to the town itself, and served by Tewantin, Cooroy Mountain, Eumundi, West Cooroy, Mary River, Black Mountain and Pomona Roads.

Thirdly, One does not realise at first the advantages of Mac's paddock to the Club. During the initiation stages, it was of untold value and pulled the Club out of a hole while the design of the Course ~~present~~ was being finalised and the fairways cleared - even up to the present while the 1st and 9th are being prepared. Without it, it would have been difficult to maintain interest, to get the gist of the game and to find what were the local essentials of a course.

Fourthly, In elaborating on the good work of all members and associates I am at a loss to suitably express my appreciation of their combined and individual efforts. It is not within the province of this report to discriminate concerning any separate claim, but "the goods" to date bespeak volumes for the maintained enthusiasm in bringing the year's work to such a successful issue.

MEMBERS. The Club at present is in a strong position having 18 members and 17 Associates and several non-playing members. However there is room for improvement and it should be the aim of each member and associate to enlist one new member and associate before the Opening.

WORKS. The work on the links stands above everything else. Up to the present 5 sand greens have been laid down and neatly fenced, and when completed will stand comparison with any sand green anywhere. Almost 25 acres have been cleared mostly by working bees and have been in play for some time. These fairways are now being chipped and filled and are improving daily.

A contract for stumping and clearing Nos. 1 & 9 is well under way and should be finished and ready for play within the next few months.

A dish drain has been constructed through the rough and crosses No. 2 fairway to empty into the creek near No. 4. This is an undoubted success. Two bridges, prepared by Mr. W. Sivyver, were early placed in position and are a boon to members and associates alike especially when any fresh is running.

Tees have been constructed on the 6th and Associates 3rd.

Neat seats have been supplied by the Captain at 6 tees and are greatly appreciated during long rounds and at times of congestion.

FINANCE.

Treasurer's Report The Treasurer's Report, indeed a worthy effort, will be presented shortly. It shows that receipts amounting to £111 due mainly to Donation from Associates £30, Green Fees £31, Subscriptions £24, and Entrance Fees £18. Expenditure £55, Wages £30, part payment to contractor, £8 Rent leaving a balance of £9. A very creditable performance. However the contract is nearing completion and the Club wants to keep the men on wages as long as possible, and therefore it is necessary to have money- and money as early as possible. And so you can see that you can best help on the good work by paying your subs. at once. Green fees in advance if you like. It will save interest.

ASSOCIATES A detailed account of the Associates activities is contained in their Report. However, I cannot fail to stress those sections which are closely connected so closely with the welfare of the Club. Several are outstanding but the most meritorious is the supplying of afternoon teas on Saturdays and days of competition. Although a source of revenue, these involve more sacrifice and inconvenience than is at first estimated and the Associates may rest assured that their efforts are fully recognised and appreciated. Secondly, the Associates have handed over £30 to the Club. This money is separate from green fees, which are paid direct to the Club, and has been raised independently by afternoon teas, Bridge Parties and last but not least the Garden Party.

COMPETITIONS Numerous competitions were conducted among Members and Associates. For trophies kindly donated by members and outsiders - to these donors the Club owes its gratitude and appreciation. Great interest and friendly rivalry were manifest in these club competitions which did much to improve the standard of play. This was particularly noticeable in the Club Championship for handsome trophies donated by the Club Captain (Dr Free) and balls for the second prize donated by Mr. Skene. These were annexed by (Members) Mr. Skene, Runner-Up Mr. Larkin. (Associates) Mrs. Poulsen, Runner-Up Mrs. Outridge.

The Teams Match (Captain v. Secretary) created a pleasant diversion and resulted in a draw. It is to be hoped that more of this class of play may be adopted in order to inculcate "team spirit" - a side of golf which is apt to be overlooked.

Although at first members and associates were dubious about visiting, they overcame their timidity and quite a few visits were paid both officially and unofficially. Members and Associates visited Gympie Carnival and despite "stage fright" put up quite good performances. The best being Messrs. Spring and Skene who came third in the foursomes with a 74 to the winners 72.

Later the Club visited Gympie Golf Club officially in July when all were treated right royally.

Members and Associates also participated in Nambour Carnival on the 3rd June and met with varying successes and welcomes.

On Sept. 29 the Club visited the Mary Valley Club at Kandanga. Unfortunately the numbers were depleted due to the "flu" and we commiserate with those who were obliged to miss a very enjoyable day. Everyone is looking forward to the time when these visits can be repaid. While on the social side of Golf, I cannot let this occasion pass without digressing for a moment to point out the advantages of visiting. As far as Foreign Capital is concerned, it is all clear profit which is not even in the year's estimates. Therefore it is to be encouraged.

In conclusion I desire to add my tribute of praise and appreciation to my able supporters, the Committee, all members and Associates, the Captain, the Secretary, - in fact everyone (the whole darn lot) It would have been impossible for the club to have progressed so

Cooroy Golf Club - Club History

I must also thank the various outsiders who have given such valuable assistance particularly with "wire-pullers".

None of us are infallible. All of us make mistakes; but when these errors are errors of over-enthusiasm or inexperience rather than malicious gestures, I feel sure we may be forgiven. If this then is to be our outlook there is no reason why the succeeding seasons should not be as pleasurable and profitable as the one just past.

Roy Connolly in last Sunday's Mail wrote quite a lot about "When do we begin to live?" He's missed the point - If he played golf he'd know. It's when you start to play Golf.

COOROY GOLF CLUB.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ended 30th Sept. 1935.

<u>Expenditure.</u>		<u>Receipts.</u>	
Wages paid.	£255 4 6	Entrance fees.	Members £12:12:0
Part Contract paid	29 15 10		Associates 5:17:6 18 9 6
Insurance	1 12	Subscriptions.	Members £16 10 9
Stationery, Advertising etc.	1 13 3		Assoc. 8 1 6 24 12 3
Explosives	10	Green fees.	Members £19: 8:0
Affiliation fees	1 1		Assoc. 8: 7:0
Iron pegs	15	Visitors	3 3 6
Freight	16 8	Paid in advance	12 31 8 6
Petty Cash	1 5 3	Donations	1 15 6
Cheque book and Bank charges	8 10	Insurance refund	10
Grown rent	8	Competition entries.	4 2 3
Stamp duty and exchange	15 6	Associates	30 1 5
	£101 19 0	Discount	£110 19 5
Balance 30/9/35	9 5		
	£110 19 5		

Shaker