

Coddenham County Club: Annual Council Report: 2024/25

Coddenham Country Club is a volunteer run organisation headed by a volunteer Committee elected yearly by members. A minimal family or individual membership fee is charged on an annual basis which along with the surplus from the bar supports our overheads. The operational management committee hold monthly meetings to ensure the smooth running of the club, evaluate sales and membership engagement of our events programme as well as assessing how to encourage new and existing memberships and ensure we are securing the clubs future profitability and sustainability within the village.

2024/25 for the club has been a successful year in relation to membership numbers, at present we currently have 150 memberships (including single, family and concessions), this is an increase of 17 memberships from the previous financial year. Within that number, there have been an influx of new members since February of this year, many of which have been single memberships, predominantly aged between 18-22 and live in or have connections to Coddenham. These members are new to the club, and have no previous family links, thus showing that our current focus to improve our facilities and attract a younger clientele has been successful and continues to be so.

This success is partly due to the recent refurbishment of the games room which houses our pool table and dart board and was made possible with the support of the District Council's locality award. We were also able to purchase a new glass washer to aid the bar staff in their work from the locality funding. Thank you to John Whitehead and Dave Penny for their continued support with funding for this project. The games room has been repainted, had new carpets, a new dartboard with halo and a new sound system including portable speaker and wireless charging with USB docking. We have just sourced some new furnishing, soon to be finished and we shall be having a grand opening once completed. This space is now being used most nights that we are open and has become a social hub and safe space for the younger generation of the local area. The games room accompanies our previously renovated Snooker room, which houses a very special snooker table; donated by Lord De Saumarez of Schrubland Hall to the men of Coddenham upon returning home from World War 1. It was for this purpose that the club was created. The snooker room is available for hire at an hourly rate.

Aside from recent refurbishments, our yearly social calendar has been full and extensive including Karaoke nights, Good Friday Ploughman's Lunch, beer festivals promoting local beers and ales, annual half way to Christmas party, sports coverage including the Euros 24 and Six Nations Rugby, monthly poker and darts nights, Rounders on the Rec, quizzes, Halloween party, Children's Christmas party and annual Charity fundraisers including the Pink Party. Many of these events have

included a food van, such as a mobile pizza and gourmet burger van, both of which were also used by non-members and parishioners on the evenings they were in attendance. For the year ahead we are planning to increase our food van and take-away offerings from different cuisine outlets - we have recently had a successful Indian take-away night to support one of the karaoke evenings. The committee has just set up a monthly darts competition for members which has proven to be very successful with old and new members alike, and we are looking to roll out a monthly pool tournament once the games room is complete.

The Country Club is deeply rooted in Coddendam's rich history and we are proud to continue to be a vital asset which helps to sustain a cohesive and supportive community environment where people can build friendships and their support networks and reduce their social and rural isolation.