

EVENING COURIER 1 JULY 1994

Club set to close

LAST orders could be called at a working men's club after 125 years.

Members attending a crisis meeting tonight at Luddenden WMC will be told closure is the best option.

The secretary Mr Jim O'Dowd said the club was saddled with large debts and owed the bank £48,000.

"We are in trouble and can't buy any more beer from the brewery because we owe it £3,000," he said.

"Some nights only four or five people attend the club and weekly takings of £500 does not cover the cost of paying bar staff.

"People are not attending the club

and there are only five committee members left.

"The best thing to do is to close down and let the bank have the club."

Trustee Mr Arnold Crapper, aged 75, who has been attending the club, on High Street, for more than 30 years said: "Older members have been lost or died and the younger people don't want to come into the club as they prefer pubs."

The club, a former chapel, opens on Saturday and Sunday lunchtimes and every night except Tuesday. The meeting starts at 7.30 pm.

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DEBT RIDDEN CLUB TO CLOSE

TIME has been called at a 125-year-old working men's club saddled with large debts.

Members of Luddenden WMC decided last night the club should close.

"It was a very sad occasion, especially for older members but it is just not viable for us to carry on. The club used to have between 400 and 500 members and we are now down to 80," said secretary Mr Jim O'Dowd.

The club owes the bank £48,000 and the brewery £3,000. It is hoped the sale of the building, a former chapel, will cover the debts.

Loyal members will have the chance to buy a memento of the club at an auction.

"We will be selling off all the fixtures and fittings of the club and it will be a last chance for a knees up and a bit of a sing-song as well. It will probably be a bit of a party to say a final goodbye to the club," said Mr O'Dowd.