

East Anglian Card Collectors Club

Newsletter No. 592

Saturday 18th December 2021

This month was going to be different, after all it was only a week before Santa's visit. For one EACCC member Santa came early again (for the 2nd year running) but more of that later. There were a lot of influences on today's meet, what with Covid, or the newest threat Omicron, dare we travel, should we meet, there was no legal ban, the hall committee were happy for us to go ahead, so we did, leaving individual members to make their own decision. I had three apologies beforehand but there were 48 members and three visitors who came and had a great day.

Unfortunately I had misunderstood a message from Barry – who was unable to open up – and I just drifted over to Roydon and found all three dealers waiting to get in. I was only a few minutes after 8.00 am so it was alright in the end. Seemed strange driving there and back in the dark but the shortest day was only a couple of days away.

We were all soon set up, keen to get going, Ron Smith was the first member to arrive and he was soon 'wheeling and dealing'. We had three dealers today, Mike Heard, Peter Beer and Paul Lynch, I think they had a good day although there was a much shorter dealing time. The members drifted in, many dressed for the season, with many Christmas jumpers in full evidence, it was optional whether they wore a mask or not, some did, some didn't but I think most people had been double and booster jabbed.

Some sad news to share, I'm afraid, our good friend from Sussex Granville Elliot has died, although he has been poorly a while he took a turn for the worst. He made the trip up almost every month for the past 4 years. Unfortunately he died intestate with no will and no relatives so goodness knows what will happen to his excellent collection of cards. I liked Granville he was a loyal and conscientious member with a great knowledge of cards. He would often buy a lot in the auction to stop it being unsold, a nice man.

Everyone should have received their Club Calendar by now, I hope you enjoy it and use it. All the club dates are in for 2022 and 2023. There a few copies spare, I will put them out on the reception table next month, please help yourself.

The caterers were busy all morning and coffee with a bacon butty went down very well before the start of the auction at 11.00am. They 'shooed' everyone out of the back room at 11.00 so they could prepare the sumptuous feast that the members could enjoy later.

Everyone was ready for the 200 lot auction and despite one or two 'hiccups' Alan soon found new homes for the majority of lots. I must record our sincere thanks to Chloe – Les/Ann granddaughter – for delivering all the items to the new owners. I hope we will see her more often, who knows she be able to persuade Ann to buy more silks. The final figures were total sales £4778, there were 18 successful in house bidders spending £1211, a further 12 successful postal bidders who spent £3567, This figure is an enhanced total as Alan sold a Stamp collection that the club had been asked to sell to a member. There were a total of 7 vendors and only 26 remained unsold.

Luckily the computer was in full working mode and we were able to cash up in pretty smart order, even the card machine worked this month. I think we have mastered it and hopefully it will work without any issues in future month's. A few members responded to Alan's plea for more items for the auction and he has enough for March 2022, please keep them coming in, we still need lots to sell. Small amendment to next month's (January) listing, Lot 45 The WG Grace card is 1901 not 1896.

Following the auction. Les gave us his annual address, thanking everyone who helps make the club happen each month. The gifts are much appreciated and enjoyed by all. A special presentation was made this year to Bob and Jill Jennings who have been looking after the Club table for over 30 years, hardly missing a month in all that time. A well deserved Gardening voucher for £100 was presented by Chairman Les.

Then it was buffet time and what a spread was laid out before us, Katie and her team had once again done us proud. A 'well ordered' queue formed and members were soon coming back into the hall with plates laden with food of all shapes and size, and very nice it was to. Almost everyone went back for a refill some members several times and then it was out with the 'doggy' bags to take home and savour later in the day. And all this was free to members.

Les. Ann and Chloe had spent the morning selling raffle tickets, this year our selected Charity was the Air Ambulance. Well done to everyone for providing the prizes (95 in total) and for buying the tickets. I have banked £445 which will be presented to a representative from the charity at our January meeting (we hope). It is always a long protracted raffle but great fun, the most popular winner (if you use the 'jeers' to judge) was Chris Bree again who made 14 trips to the table to collect a prize. Well done Chris and everyone for our best ever raffle. I can categorically state the every one who bought a ticket, won a prize. As our April meeting is on Easter Saturday we are considering having another raffle at that meet.

It was helpful to see everyone involved in clearing up at the end of the day and that was it for another year. We only managed to meet 7 times this year because of Covid, lets just hope we will make all 12 next year. Pleased to report 15 members made all 7 meetings, while a further 12 missed just the one. Where as 17 didn't make it to even one. But they have all kept in touch one way or another.

We hope to start 2022 on Saturday 15th January, it will be the beginning of our 14th year at Roydon Village Hall. The omicron variant is ravaging the country as I write this and there are signs of a 2nd lock down or at least restrictions coming into play very soon. We are working on the principle we will meet if we legally can and it is safe to do so. Please don't hesitate to ring any of us if you have any doubts, telephone numbers are on the bottom of this newsletter. If we can't meet, the auction will go postal again. Dealers booked in are Peter Beer, Mike Heard, Brian Pentalow, Darren Moyse, and Robert Butterworth – room for one more, ring me if you would like to stand. The club table will be open from 10.00 to 12.00 with many bargains and our extensive stock of new Albums and Pages, plus any cards you bring in to sell.

Stay well, very best wishes to all members for a very successful collecting year in 2022.

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