

East Anglian Card Collectors Club

Newsletter No. 532

Sunday 11th December 2016

I always think that our Christmas meeting is a bit special; it's not about card searching but more about socialising and having fun. I know moving to a Sunday for this meeting doesn't suit everyone and it is usually reflected in our attendance. It was an incredible journey to Roydon = the sun was low and shining bright = it seemed to be straight in front of me and 'blow me' if it wasn't shining straight at me on the way home.

Barry had done his usual great job, the hall was set out and up and running when I pulled into the car park at about 9 o'clock. I thought I was late on parade as Alan along with early birds Ann and Les were ready for coffee, as soon as we walked in the door.

My first job was to set out the raffle prizes and as usual everyone had done us proud, it wasn't long before we were looking for another table to put them on. The final total was 92. It was going to be a great raffle. We spent the rest of the early morning talking and welcoming everybody to this special day. Only two dealers, Peter Beer and Paul Lynch were present and I think they had a good day. We don't see Paul very often so his cards were eagerly looked through by the more fervent club members.

With Sue, Pat and Ann on the door everyone checked in and collected their badges. Final numbers were 46 members, 6 guests, 3 visitors and 4 caterers. A good turnout. Apologies from Graham Convey who couldn't be with us, he is recovering from a small operation and hopes to be back next month. If you have been reading the newsletters this year you will know that attendances have been high for most of the year, well I can tell you now that 9 members made it to every meeting in 2016, 12 members missed just the one, 17 members missed just two meetings and a surprisingly another 17 never made it to any.

It greaves me to have to mention this, particularly in this newsletter but we appear to have a 'tea leaf' in the club, once again Alan discovered that two of the lots had cards go missing during the course of the morning.

Now this must stop happening **NOW**. We need every member to keep their eye's open for anyone removing cards from their pages on the auction table. We can't sit at the tables all day because some idiot must take the cards, they are spoiling it for everyone else and if it is discovered who they are, they will be banned from the club for life.

The auction was timed for 11.00am and Alan soon whisked through the 177 lots. There were a number of postal bidders including two new ones, the furthest from Florida USA. He was successful and the cards will be with him before Christmas.

The figures this month were: the 177 lots sold for £1876 for the 8 vendors. There were 20 in house bidders spending £806 and 11 postal bidders spending £1073 and only 19 remained unsold. Top spot went to Lot 51 a lovely set of Churchman Wild Animals of the World. Unfortunately the star lot of Laws Types of British Soldiers failed to make its reserve of £450. We managed to tie up the loose ends of the auction swiftly, money paid and tidied up before 12.30 so Chairman Les took the opportunity to say a 'big thank you' to the array of helpers that make our club happen, a much appreciated gesture.

We got the signal from the kitchen the girls were ready so it was buffet time, so everyone formed a quite civilised queue for the truly delicious buffet. A magnificent spread of goodly delights. Sally and her team did a fantastic job. There was plenty of it – we asked her to cater for 60 – most members went back at least twice, several made it three times especially the desserts. Did you see the mountain of profiteroles! The caterers didn't want to take anything home so offered a cling film service for members to take home what was left, that was very popular.

It wasn't long before raffle tickets were soon spread out in front of all the members, thanks Ann for selling them and to Sue/Pat for folding them. The final total sales were £308, which will be presented to the Elizabeth Hospice at our January meeting. Hopefully we will take a few pictures and see if the local press can give us a bit of publicity. A truly magnificent effort. We were ready and the draw for the Star prize – a two night break for two people in a hotel of their choice – was eagerly awaited. The successful ticket was 372 (Blue) and was bought by Ray Warnes, we hope you have a good break. Then we set to sharing out of the other 90 prizes. I didn't note who came up the most, Tim Bloomfield, Ray Warnes and Chris Bree probably made the most trips forward to decide which prize they wanted. It seemed to go very smoothly and was the culmination of a great day for all.

Our next meet is Saturday 21st January 2017 -- a whole 6 weeks away – beginning our 9th year at Roydon Village Hall. The dealers booked in include Martin Toms, Mike Heard, John Shaw, Roger Mann, Ken Courtney and Peter Beer.

Same time == same place.

Have a good Christmas break and a fantastic and successful card searching 2107

Chairman Les Woolnough 01473 743794

Secretary/Treasurer Colin Fawcett 01945 583656

Auctioneer Alan Worthington 01473 714411

