

East Anglian Card Collectors Club

Newsletter No. 568

Saturday 14th December 2019

It is always something to look forward to, our Christmas meeting and as always it was well supported. The weather report was good – well no snow anyway – and hopefully everything would go to plan. We had a lot to look forward to.

Everything started to happen around 8.00am, the boys had done a great job as usual and set us up. The hall was nicely decorated for our Christmas event. Peter Beer and Paul Lynch were soon set up and selling and I could smell the coffee from the kitchen so I knew Kate and her team were with us. We had the basis for a good day.

The early birds were soon evident all laden down with gifts for the raffle, the two tables were soon flooded out with prizes. The morning was busy, I found a few cards on Paul's stall and when the deal was done I soon got enveloped in the many things that need to be done to make our club happen. We did find time for our coffee and chat and sausage butty which set us up for the early 11.00am auction.

Without a doubt Ken Courtney won the best dressed Christmas outfit again this year especially as he wore his reindeer horned hat all day. It was great to see so many Christmas sweaters in evidence. I counted 9 at one time. The main topic was 'of course' the recent election and the Ipswich result but as always cards dominated the chat. There were 64 members present and 4 visitors.

As we complete our 11th year at Roydon Village Hall, I am able to report that there were 575 visits made by members to the club in 2019, that equates to an average of 48 a month. Of this 14 members made all 12 meetings, with a further 10 missing only 1 meeting. Unfortunately there were 8 members who we never saw all year. If you add the visitors on, we have averaged 50 to every meeting. I am not aware of any other card club who are higher than this figure. Well done to everyone.

When Ann and Les arrived, the raffle tickets went on sale, plenty of tickets this month and Les did a tremendous job selling them, members chasing him around the hall to get some tickets, Doreen did her usual excellent job of folding and tearing the 100's sold. More later on the outcome.

As it was our Christmas meet, we reduced the auction to just 200 lots and at 11.00am we were ready. There were some lovely cards in this month and hopes were high for a good result. The final figures read 200 lots sold for £2190. There were 4 vendors and 46 unsold s. There were 25 successful in house bidders who spent £1474 and a further 9 successful postal bidders who spent £716. Top lot was number 122 a nice almost complete set of Godfrey Phillips Football League Colours silks selling for £205.

It didn't take long for everyone to pay up and us to cash up and then everyone was ready for the buffet but first it was the time for Chairman Les to play his Father Christmas role and dish out some goodies to the members who make our club happen. Those thanked included Bob and Jill for doing the club table every month, Doreen for her 'door duties', Ken and Barry for setting us up and for Albert for clearing up. Thanks were expressed to Graham for keeping our website up to date, Ann for her assistant auctioneer role, myself for all my work on behalf of the club, Alan for his time consuming work on organising the auction and finally Alan thanked Les for his support and help.

That done and it was buffet time and a very orderly queue formed to sample the many delights on offer and what a feast it was, full of Christmassy fare. Most people went back at least once and the compliments were flying around, everyone had there fill. We had cleared up and by quarter past one, that meant raffle time.

We didn't make my ambition of 100 items in the raffle, but 81 was very very good. Over the years we have fine tuned how we share out the large raffle and while Les and I draw the numbers, the members rush forward and collect their prizes. First prize kindly donated by a member went to Peter Beer, who told me afterwards he would give it to his local school. Most prizes this year went to Chris Bree, we stopped counting when he had been to the prize table 10 times. As we sold some tickets in November to members there were a few unclaimed prizes so Mick Plant, Derek Golson, Mick Ruff and Barry Andrews have to pick them up in January along with white ticket 460 and 498. This years selected charity is the Air Ambulance and I'm pleased to report a club record of £419 will be passed on at our January meeting. Sincere thanks to every member who donated the prizes and to those buying the tickets. A truly great effort. We have discovered a lovely format for our Christmas meeting and the members make it a very memorable day.

Next year we will do it all again, starting on **Saturday 18th January 2020**
at Roydon Village Hall. 8.30 to 3.00pm

Dealers booked in to come are Peter Beer, John Shaw, Mike Heard, Brian and Charlie, Ken Courtney and Robert Butterworth.

Room for one more if any one would like a go at selling

Chairman Les Woolnough 01473 743794

Secretary/Treasurer Colin Fawcett 01553 674358

1, Levers Close, Kings Lynn PE30 3UU

Auctioneer Alan Worthington 01473 714411

East Anglian Card Collectors Club

Meeting Dates

2020

**Saturday 18th January, Saturday 15th February, Saturday 21st March,
Saturday 18th April, Saturday 16th May, Saturday 20th June,**

**Saturday 18th July, Saturday 15th August, Saturday 19th September
Saturday 17th October, Saturday 21st November, Saturday 19th December**

All at Roydon Village Hall, nr Diss, South Norfolk

from 8.30am to 4.00pm