

East Anglia Card Collecting Club

Newsletter No. 619 Saturday 17th February 2024

Everyone knows this was going to be a good meet when you get 10 dealers booked in, a lot of members will turn up. And so it was to be, 53 members and 5 visitors, our best turn out for quite a while. The first thing I always noticed is the atmosphere, the hall is always buzzing when there is a good crowd in it. Great.

I knew we would have a problem getting all the dealers in and so arrived early to see them all settled, unfortunately Rob Butterworth had to drop out as he wasn't feeling too well and Sean Coafield kindly stepped down and decided to spend his money rather than make some, so with two dealers in the backroom, everyone was accommodated. It did help with some of the dealers bringing their own tables. Nice to welcome back John Shaw and Mike Murphy with their extensive range of cards. The types I bring in from the Gus collection were as popular as ever, they will make their last appearance next month prior to be sorted for listing in the auction later in the year, unless 'of course' any more turn up. Gus's son and daughter in law visited us today and liked what they saw, we will be selling his collection well into 2025. It is great fun sorting out his cards for auction, very time consuming but at the end of the day the club will benefit, We are looking at ways of moving some of them on a bit quicker, watch this space, I have also, sent some to Boston, Lee Valley and the CSGB, all groups Gus enjoyed being a member off.

There were a few lesser spotted members around today including Peter Workman who has been ill and was brought in today by Phil Lane, Mike Prior and Mavis made it albeit very late and believe it or not both Kenny boys showed up very briefly as they have to rely on the trains. I hope we see more of all the members this year.

Subscriptions are due on April 1st so Chairman Les will be begin collecting them next month -- £12.00 each -- and visitors go up in April to £3.00. You have March and April meetings to pay them or send them to me, (my address is at the end of the newsletter). It is without a doubt the best value you will ever get for such a small outlay. There was a lot of 'wheeling and dealing' going on today and it always surprises me how much we can get in, what in reality is only 5 hours.

Our Chairman Les halted proceeding's for a few minutes to introduce Kate Johnson from Breast Cancer Now, the lucky charity this year to receive our Christmas Charity Raffle proceeds of £500. She was able to tell us how the donation would be used and how much it was appreciated. We have received a lovely letter from the charity thanking us for our donation. It was all made possible by the generosity of all you members, many, many thanks.

Our caterer was rushed off her feet all morning and rapidly sold out of many items. She forgot her mugs this month and we had to use cups and saucers, how civilised ! Then came the bad news ... Sally is on holiday next month, sunning herself in Tunisia, so we have to improvise, It is very unlikely that any hot food will be available - filled rolls, tea and coffee with perhaps cake, may be possible. Any offers of help would be greatly appreciated.

I think many members will be making the trip to Salisbury for the CSGB National Convention so we have changed our meeting date in April. We will be meeting on
Saturday 27th April.

I still have the 'Only Fools & Horses collection to sell. There are 40+ items, a list I sent out in November, I don't think it is worth a huge outlay so please consider making a offer on it. I will bring them to the March meeting and I don't really want to bring them home. First reasonable offer secures. Rob Butterworth has a new set of cards out and a preview of them is enclosed with this newsletter.

It is amazing what a difference increasing the auction numbers to 300 and starting earlier at 12.30, has made, everyone seems better organised and ready for the earlier start. We really don't mind the dealers continuing their selling if they want to and can do so quietly. It can be very distracting to Alan if there is a lot of noise and believe me he does a great job of maintaining his concentration. Believe it or not we finished earlier than usual today ! The 300 lots sold for £3749, there were 11 vendors and only 24 remained unsold. There were 16 successful in house bidders, who spent £1138 on 139 lots and a further 28 successful postal bidders (the most ever) who spent £2611 on 137 lots. Top lot was Lot 129, 500 Gallaher Irish View Scenery selling for £145.

We do currently have many items to include in the auction (I am at present preparing December listing) and have enough for many more months. We have Ken Short's collection to include when it can be fitted in and a further 40 albums coming in the next few weeks from a regular seller. We don't really need any more items at the moment but we realise we are a members club and need to offer members an opportunity to sell as well as buy. Alan and I are in discussion about the issue and are looking at our options. Watch this space !

Next month we meet on Saturday 16th March at the usual time 8.00 to 3.00pm and usual place Roydon Village Hall. Dealers booked in are Peter Beer, Gary Challis, Mike Heard, Richard Buckle, Brian Pentalow, Sean Coafield, the return of Geoff McMillan and making the trip up from Surrey Mike Towersey.

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