

East Anglia Card Collecting Club

Newsletter No. 642 Saturday 17th January 2026

Another year and we all wonder what 2026 will bring for us in the way of collecting, this was the start of our 17th year at Roydon Village Hall and next month (February) is the 57th year of our great club. We seem to have been favoured by the weather, no snow, no ice almost a lovely spring day, still very dark for the drive to Roydon. The hall was all set up when I pulled into the hall car park knowing my first job was to get the fresh cream cake into the fridge. We had no caterer this month, (Sally was still on holiday in India) so it was down to volunteers. Ray offered to look after the kitchen and did a splendid job providing drinks and sustenance for all. Thanks to everyone who did something to make it happen.

We had a couple of dealers drop out this month, Gary Challis had some family issues and Brian Pentalow's wife wasn't well and most surprisingly Richard Buckle never turned up (no idea why), hope he's back next month. It was great to welcome Darren Moyse, who made it, he has had a difficult time of late, with one thing after another but today he sold well and had a really good day. He plans to be with us next month.

There was a significant drop in numbers this month only 42 registered attending, which is our lowest for quite a while. The bargains were none the less snapped up. One member who we haven't seen for a while was Kevin Rudkin, nice to see you back. I expect we will be back up in the 50's next month.

During the past month I took a cheque (the proceeds from the Christmas raffle) to Tapping House (our selected Charity this year). We gave them £568 which with Gift aid went up to £710, and to say they were appreciative is a understatement. Pictures, certificate and a Thank You letter will be put on the reception table.

Can I remind everyone of our extensive stock of New albums and pages if you want any please ask, I don't always get them out of the cupboard but they are there in stock. I do have several 'used' but VG XL albums (Blue & Green) and 100's of XL pages, size 15 & 25. They vary in quality but are generally Very Good.

There was a lot to discuss this month and some decisions to be made, so Les, Alan and Ann and anyone else who was around talked about : Raffle for club funds .. we normally have one when our meeting falls on Easter weekend, but it doesn't this year so we decided to have a Summer raffle at the June meeting. Subscriptions - unfortunately they have to go up this year (the hall rent is going up again to £140 per meeting) and we do have a few less members and the auction income hasn't been as good this year. Those £2 sales only make 20 pence for the club ! So after a lengthy debate and not total agreement we decided to raise it to £15 a year. It is still remarkably good value. This will cover all our expenses and probably ensure we don't have to put it up again for a couple of years. We did discuss other alternatives like removing free drinks but it is popular and a essential source of income for Sally and we don't want to lose her. Les will start collecting the subscriptions in March and April.

Convention time is rapidly approaching and plans are now well advanced. There are currently 23 dealers booked in using 78 tables so plenty of room for our local dealers to fill up the room. Let me know if you would like an opportunity to clear some of your space. We have coming this year by invitation 6 'Pokemon' dealers so it looks like we will have a lot more collectors. It will be interesting to see if the two types of card collectors can mix. As hosts we have some tasks, firstly 'staff' the door and collect the entry fee from visitors (on Saturday only) and also look after our club table,(Saturday and Sunday), so I will be putting together a rota of volunteers, the more members that offer the shorter the door or table shift. Ideally it is better to work in pairs. It is our intention to have 'Albums and Pages' and two month's auction (May & June better lots) to view. We did think we may have a few sets to sell on the table but have to develop this idea (especially the practical side). I will begin to draw up a rota list, please offer to help.

This month we had planned to start the auction at 1.00pm but traditionally timings meant nearly everyone was seated and ready just after 12.30, so Alan made the executive decision to start early. If members want a 12.30 auction it's not a major issue for us. I did have a word with all the dealers present and they didn't mind so for the next few month's, we will have a 12.30/12.45 auction time. That's called hedging our bets. This month's didn't look a great auction a few stand out lots, but looks can be deceiving and with many postal bids it proved a good result. The final total was £3526. There were 18 successful in house bidders spending £1646 on 155 lots. A further 27 postal bidders spent £1880 on 89 lots. There were 6 unsold and 8 vendors. A member who came but couldn't stop for the auction asked Alan to bid £2 on every 'nearly unsold' lot, we sent him a huge box to sort out, thus reducing our returned lots. Top spot this month (and way ahead of the rest) was 233 a absolutely superb set of Gallagher Footballers scoring £620 goals. Alan has completed our August auction list and has enough for September, as long as you don't mind the wait he will take any lots you may want to sell.

Next month we meet on Saturday 21st February (a whole 5 weeks away)

Usual time 8.30 to 3.00 at Roydon Village Hall.

Dealers booked in are Peter Beer, John Shaw, Darren Moyse,

Brian Pentalow and Richard Buckle.

Room for one more if anyone fancy's a go.

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