

East Anglian Card Collectors Club

Newsletter No. 574

Saturday 18th July 2020

We were back ! The long awaited reopening was on us and who knew how many members would turn up. I have had several members contact me to say they didn't want to risk it, but also several say 'see you on Saturday'. As we were the first club to reopen a few members from other clubs made the trip to see us.

It's been a long spring this year, I hope everyone has survived the lock down, many were raring to get back into the collecting mode. The village hall gave us the 'all clear' to resume, with a few new restrictions so we (the committee) felt it right to go ahead albeit with a certain amount of trepidation. The members who came enjoyed a good day and soon got used to sanitizing their hands regularly and maintaining social distance. Thank you everyone for keeping to the new rules. There was only one time when more than two members were observed looking at the auction and they soon dispersed. The hall committee had limited the number at any one time in the hall to 30 people, I counted several times throughout the day and never got passed more than 28. We put a limit of 4 dealers on the meet and got caught out by Gary Challis turning up, not booked in.

In all 34 members were present and 3 visitors, the furthest from Lincoln. It was lovely to catch up with everyone, many tales were shared of different experiences during the 12 week lock in. Most people keeping busy with their well sorted out collections.

It was great to see Granville back with us after a pre lockdown fall, he was in good spirit and still looking for those elusive odds. One of today's visitors was from Downham Market and new to cigarette card collecting, he had found us on the website, I think he will soon become a member, he certainly enjoyed his visit and picked up quite a few lots in the auction.

Les was busy all morning collecting the overdue subscriptions and along with those posted to me means 44 members have renewed. You have a few more weeks before you will be removed from the list so come along in August or even September (cut off date). Remember it is only £15 for nearly 2 years and it will last until April 2022 – remarkable value as at least two members told me. Alan Wilde has resigned his membership as he feels he has completed his collection as far as he wants to take it. Alan joined the club in the early days when we met at Thetford. I saw Derek and Cynthis Bradshaw in town a few weeks back, they don't think they will get to the club again, Derek finds driving more difficult nowadays, of course, those that remember, Derek was club secretary back in 1982/83.

Updates – the rearranged October convention in Salisbury has been cancelled again so it's Southport in April 2021 before the biggest card fest in the country happens. Don't forget we changed our October date to enable members to go – we have **NOT** changed it back, we meet Saturday 31st October 2020.

Paul Lynch tells me the new Murrays catalogue, due out in April has been delayed because of the virus and will now be out in October and run for an extra year so it will be 2020 to 2022. I will be getting some for our club members.

One of the best things to come out of the meeting was our new 'al fresco' dining outside on the back lawn, this could become a regular feature, weather permitting of course. We had a short committee meeting over a cup of coffee to discuss whether or not we should invest in a card machine to take payments to the club. As our country moves ever closer to a cashless society we need to be ready for the change, it appears that the card machines cost between £70 and £250 to buy and then you pay a percentage every time it is used. What do you think, would you use it.

I had forgotten how the mornings seem to 'fly by' and I soon noticed Alan and Ann gathering up the lots for our 1.00pm auction. Remember we are selling the March circulated list. Luckily all the postal bidders wished them to be carried forward and with a few extra helped boost the final figure considerably. The 250 lots had been supplied by 8 vendors and only 39 remained unsold. There were 16 in house bidders spending £1151 and a further 15 successful postal bidders who spent £1677, giving us an acceptable final total of £2828. Top spot went very late to Lot 247 a lovely set of Imperial Tobacco Silks Animals with Flags selling for £95.

At the August meet we will be selling the previously circulated April list - ring Alan if you can't find your copy or collect from the chair on the day. Alan has completed the September listing (enclosed) and the October listing and has just picked up another collection so has enough to complete the year. Please continue to bring items in but remember they are unlikely to be sold until 2021.

I hope members will feel more confident to venture out for our August meeting. It is planned for **Saturday 15th August**, same time and same place.

Dealers booked in are Mike Heard, Brian/Charlie, Robert Butterworth, Peter Beer, Ken Courtney, Darren Moyses John Taylor and Gary Challis

Remember to maintain social distancing and stay safe.

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