

East Anglian Card Collectors Club

Newsletter No. 587 Saturday 17th July 2021

The sun was shining and a hot day was promised as once again the club date come round and I set off for Roydon, just me and Tony Blackburn blaring away. The boys had done their usual excellent job of setting up the hall and John Shaw along with his trustee helper Colin Weston, were just completing their very large set up and it was only 8.00 o'clock. Must have been a very early start for them. John did tell me he is cutting back on his 'club/fairs' dealing for personal reasons and will be with us a lot fewer times each year, he is not booked in again until January. He is always welcome at EACCC with his huge selection of cards, he said he will welcome any enquires about cards from his website or by phone.

We all knew the covid safety measures were still in force and masks and social distancing were important and needed to be in place all day, but we are a mainly double jabbed, sensible lot and as everyone was keen to meet, that had become a minor disruption. It wasn't long before all four dealers were in place and the members in their usual relaxed way drifted in. We did have an extra dealer turn up – Gary Challis – and he was quite happy to set up outside in the sunshine. As Gary works a night shift he doesn't always know when he can come so we have a loose 'turn up if you can' arrangement and we will find you a space. It was great to see Peter Beer and Robert Butterworth with us as members and not dealers. Peter told me Lea Valley club is opening again on the 25th July. As we are the only club open at the moment we had 5 visitors today, 2 from Colchester, 2 from Lowestoft, and 1 from Grantham. We had a new member join us, Ron Smith from Lowestoft, apparently he was a member in our Park Hotel days, nice to have him back with us., Several regulars were missing today Ann/Les (our chairman) had a family reunion, plus the Grimsby and Sussex contingent. No Tim Bloomfield either he had to work, which I think is a very poor excuse to miss our club ! They missed some tremendous bargains in the auction – more about that later. We still had 39 members come along. With everything reopening very soon, next month is our first opportunity to be back to near normal as possible.

There was a great atmosphere at the club today, most people are relieved that restrictions are being removed, virtually everyone is double jabbed and although feeling safer are still very wary (especially as the covid number is increasing). We are a hardy bunch and all very much in need of social interaction.

The caterers turned up and provided food and drinks for us all, despite having their 'A' team at Lattitude. I did remember to have lunch this month, a bit early but none the less welcome.

I had brought a large number of ephemera reference books and John Shaw gave me an equally huge number and they were soon snapped up for free by the members.

I brought 8 full boxes and took them all home empty, obviously members appreciate free gifts. It is great that members can benefit from the many reference books that are available to our hobby.

I can now confirm that everything is in place for the CSGB annual convention – if your looking for a nice weekend away why not come to Salisbury Five Rivers Leisure Centre on either / or both Saturday 9th / Sunday 10th October. EACCC members regularly support this tremendous event. If your looking for an elusive card or two/three then that's the place to find them. Every dealer in the country will be there with their quality stock and over 1 million cards are on view. Alan and I are booked in for the annual pre convention golf tournament at the Salisbury & Wiltshire Golf Club.

Come the witching hour of 12.00 and everyone was seated for our early auction, I did a quick room check and 29 were present in the room so we didn't exceed the regulation capacity or break any social distancing. We knew this wasn't going to be a record breaking auction and we weren't disappointed / surprised, when the final figure eventually came up on the computer, well let's just say it was okay. Everything went well, Alan flew through the lots in his customary manner. We were very grateful to Peter and Gill for offering to be the 'shower's and runners' . At the end the computer decided to throw in a gremlin and didn't give us the individual total for payments and as we couldn't let anyone go home without paying, we had to do it manually. I think there were one or two minor errors and we will be after you next month if we added you up wrong. The final figure was £2816, there were only 2 vendors and only 8 remained unsold. The members in the hall spent £901, there were a further 23 successful postal bidders who spent £ 1915 . Top spot was (as I predicted last month) lot 232, a lovely set with all the variations of Somportex James Bond Thunderball being knocked down for £120. Next month check out lot 38 a very rare set Tyson & Co. Semaphore Signalling, this will attract a lot of interest. Never had a set before in our auction.

We will try and get back to normal next month (Boris permitting !) - dealers booked in are Darren Moyse, Peter Beer, Brian Pentalow and Robert Butterworth. Gary Challis maybe! Mike Heard is booked in but has had a new knee and is not sure at this stage whether he will make it for the August meet.

This will all happen on **Saturday 21st August 2021** at Roydon Village Hall from 8.30 to 3.00. **Auction at 1.00pm**

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