

East Anglia Card Collecting Club

Newsletter No. 635 Saturday 21st June 2025

It was the summer solstice today, along with the longest day (17 hours of daylight), it also turned out to be the hottest day of the year (32 degrees). I'm sure the heat was a factor for some and the result was a very quiet morning and a final overall attendance of just 47 with two visitors. One of these all the way from Newcastle upon Tyne.

As usual all the dealers received good support , unfortunately two dropped out (one at very short notice), Malcolm Parsons and Richard Buckle (bad back) but it was nice to welcome Colin Weston and his 20 pence cards. I bought 4 wooden boxes of Odds along with 8 boxes of mixed Odds all from the John Haddon Silver collection -- 1000s of cards and after the members had sorted through them and taken what they wanted (at 20p a card !) I did manage to sell every single card that was left, for a good deal, and was grateful to go home with a lot less boxes than I came with. It was nice to welcome Frank Eyles to the club for his first visit, Frank has been a member a good few months and has regularly bid in the auction but is unable to drive, his daughter bought him to the club for the first time. I hope the club lived up to your expectations.

Future of the club - as Alan nears his 80th birthday he has decided it is time to 'step back' from club auctioneer duties from April 2026. He has been Auctioneer since 2005 and organised and overseen well over 240 club auctions. He would like to pass on his responsibilities to a new member. You may well remember the mistakes we have been making recently and although we have put this down to our age they are becoming more and more difficult to remedy. We do have a volunteer and we will be talking to him in the next couple of months and hopefully induct him properly into the key club role. I did also say that I would like to stand down next year but my wife disagrees and thinks I should carry on, after all my predecessor was 96 when he passed it on to me. So I will carry on for at least one more year to help oversee the change. Alan will still be involved in the club , in fact we have talked about a new responsibility for him if the change over goes smoothly. To be honest the time commitment is as much as you want it to be, it is only when we have really big collections to sell and store that it can get time consuming. You do have to work at it to make the club strong and healthy that will support the needs of a devoted collector. If you compare us to other clubs we have been very successful as we have been able to adapt to meet these expectations of our members. Cigarette card collectors are becoming less in number every year and we believe a new set of officers can take us a new direction. Our chairman Les will be continuing in his role and will help us to induct a new auctioneer.

The time soon reached 12.30 and it was auction time, Alan was ready, Ann and Dave were ready so off we went. We had 400 lots to sell this month and Alan rattled through them at a pace and although we were missing 40 lots (both Alan and I had left a box at home !!) everyone was happy to bid blind on them, with settlement next month for the missing lots. So the results make interesting reading, the 400 lots (from 10 vendors) sold for £5257 with only 42 remaining unsold. There were 17 successful in house bidders spending £1275 on 200 lots. The 34 postal bidders spent £3982 on 158 lots. Top lot was a lovely set of James Taddy VC Heroes (21 - 40) being knocked down for £450 (under a third current catalogue price).

With this auction we completed the selling of the Gus Garrod collection, it has taken over 18 months and was made up of over 3000 lots. A total of £64k has gone to the family solicitor for his three children, the club took its usual percentage. Alan and I spent hour upon hour sorting the cards out, listing them for auction, storing them so the club and its members could all benefit from the work. To be honest it has been a labour of love, and a pleasure to do it for our good friend Gus. I'm sure he would have been very happy with the outcome. Two of his children (and their partners) arrived in the hall to see the last of his vast collection find new homes. For the first time in a while we are completely up to date with our listings, with all complete now to February 2026. We will complete March and April and then hopefully the new auctioneer will take over. It is good to be able to see in my garage again.

Next month we meet on Saturday 19th July at Roydon Village Hall

from 8.30am to about 3.00pm Auction at 12.30.

Dealers booked in to attend are Peter Beer,

Richard Buckle, Brian Pentelow, Colin Weston

and for the first time for a long while, Mike Towersey

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