

East Anglian Cigarette Card Club

Newsletter No. 519

Saturday 21st November 2015

After all these years, I always wonder what to expect at one of our club meetings, after a 5 week break, my expectations were high even if the torrential rain and gale force winds were a bit of a dampener. I still hoped we would have a good attendance and successful meet. Was I to be disappointed, not one iota?

The journey down was slow, not because of the traffic but because of the heavy rain, I felt sure it would put some members off coming but it didn't – well not many anyway. Doreen had offered to do the 'greeting' for us this month and she welcomed in 52 members and ensured everyone had a 'drinks' voucher and a name badge. Three visitors came along, one was from New Zealand (that's got to be a first for us), I never got to speak to him but I'm sure he had a good day. Conspicuous by their absence were the Sussex boys, first meeting they have missed for over a year, also the Kenny boys had a no show. Otherwise all the regular faces were present and enjoying the opportunity to seek out those elusive odds.

Among the dealers was John Shaw with his vast array of cartophilic collectables to satisfy every need and whim. John Haddon Silver was recovered from his car accident and was with us fighting fit, also nice to see Mrs H.S (Bridget) with him this month. Peter Beer was on his lonesome today in his usual corner, his assistant and co-conspirator Neville was visiting his son in Australia. Graham Convey was back again selling his and Adrian's cards, he was assisted once again by Ray Huggins. Martin Toms had rung Alan in the morning apologising for not making it but he wasn't feeling too well, he has booked in for the December meeting, see later in the newsletter. I do seem to have had a few mixed messages from Mike Heard, I had him down to attend but he didn't arrive, we must try harder to sort our dates better next year. The club table was busy for most of the day; I bought two big boxes of used Albums and Pages and went home with only a few Albums more will be available in January (I have about another 50 to share for club funds). There will be no members table next month. I did get time to have a look around and picked up some nice gum cards to add to my collection.

I had a short meeting with Les and Alan over a cup of coffee to tie up the final arrangements for the Christmas party next month. Kate has the food sorted; Alan has the drinks sorted so everything looks good. More details later.

The morning seemed to pass quickly; Les got into selling raffle tickets for those not coming in December and sold £89 worth. Many members bought raffle prizes, which we are grateful for, and I'm hoping to have around 80 prizes overall. This year the cause who will be receiving the income from the raffle is EACH (East Anglian Children's Hospice), helping support families and young people with life threatening conditions. Don't forget to bring a raffle prize next month; one of our members has once again given us a significant donation for prizes this year. He wishes to remain anonymous and we are extremely grateful and I have bought some Marks and Spencer vouchers for the main prizes.

Some members have asked me about LCCC price guide this year, although a new one is out, I haven't bought any but you should be able to get one from Paul Lynch next month. I will be ordering the new 'Murrays' price guide in April when it comes out

I have recently paid the hall rent and have booked our dates for 2016 / 2017 / 2018 so it looks like we are here to stay. 'No need to change if it's not broken'.

It was soon auction time and Alan had 250 delectable lots to tempt our collectable palates

with this month. The facts and figures were – final total £3209, 18 inhouse bidders spent £1603, 13 postal bidders spent £1607, there were 4 vendors and 65 remained unsold. Top spot went to Lot 155 a nice set of Gallaher Useful Hints for £85.

We had a chat about the auction and Alan is considering reducing the number of lots to 200, several reasons for this, the main one is lack of a collection to sell. We have the Scott collection to finish off (estimate this will be April/May) and although more will be coming, we don't know when or how many. So now would be a good time to have a sort out of your excess cards and give them to Alan for our auction. We do seem recently to be recycling cards which make them difficult to sell to our members. Over the past few years we have been very lucky to have some very fine cards to sell and the collections of members have benefited tremendously. It does mean that the more 'common' cards are not selling. I believe we have raised the threshold for 'common' and as a consequence more expensive cards have become common and not required by our members. We need new members, who unfortunately are not forthcoming. However the market remains strong to sell cigarette and trade cards.

Next month it's Christmas party time – Sunday 13th December 2015

Christmas meeting -- Sunday 13th December 2015

To give members an idea of how our Christmas meeting will take shape here is the day's programme.

8.00 – 8.30am Hall set up – dealers arrive and set up

Dealers coming are Paul Lynch, Martin Toms, Peter Beer and Peter Russell

9.00 am Members arrive – Auction available for viewing,

Tea/Coffee available,

Raffle Tickets on sale, prizes made ready

11.00am 170 Lot auction = usual format

**12.30am Kates wonderful Christmas Buffet with Crackers Mince Pies,
Wine and lots more**

2.00pm 'Father Christmas' aka Chairman Les has word of thanks

**2.15pm Giant Christmas Raffle – all proceeds to EACH –
a local Childrens Hospice charity**

**4.00pm or thereabouts == clear up and go home to celebrate another
Christmas Festival.**

Christmas woolly jumpers at the ready, funny hats are optional
(but we would like to see them)
Christmas spirit is essential

Chairman Les Woolnough 01473 743794

Secretary/Treasurer Colin Fawcett 01945 58365

Auctioneer Alan Worthington 01473 714411