

# EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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**Report of a meeting held at Roydon Village Hall on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

Our Christmas bash started off well and continued all day in the same vein. I was a little concerned before the meeting, how was it going to turn out, an unknown caterer providing us with a sumptuous Christmas sit down Dinner. Seventy five loyal souls booked in to give it a try, not sure how many were attracted by the 'free' offer but none the less a good turnout. With the 'other' members and two visitors who came to see the dealers and friends but didn't want the dinner, we were well over our club average attendance of 80 happy souls. Lorraine and Kelly were off to Morrison's as soon as it was realised that no drinks would be available until the meal at lunchtime and the kettle was soon on and most welcome it was too. One of the visitors was Mick Searle who came all the way from Nottingham to experience our warm welcome and friendship (and to pay his Cartophilic membership also – my other hat).

As the morning progressed the raffle table was soon two tables then three tables full and bursting at the seams with a wonderful array of goodies for our selection. Thank you to everyone who put their offering on the table – 92 prizes in all (maybe a 100 next year). The final total was £388 for the Air Ambulance; we will try to get someone to the January meeting to present it to them. Modesty prevents me from saying who won the first prize but let's just say two things ... there were several jeers of 'fix, fix' but I never drew the tickets out and secondly I've never won a first prize before. We have 15 unclaimed prizes which will be taken to the January meeting for collection so bring your tickets if you have Blue tickets 21 26 61 91 171 201 246 251 256 271 276 Orange tickets 16 56 216 Pink 76.

There was a very good atmosphere about the hall today (well there is every month really) but it was time to catch up with old friends (that's literally rather than physically). I saw Alan Utting and his good wife, making a not often enough visit to see us, Roy Kemp has been a member for a few years and was with us from Lincoln. Peter Brett collared me to talk about reprints and fakes being passed off as genuine old and sold on eBay as originals, not a thing I have experienced, certainly it doesn't happen at Card fairs, at least I hope not. The 50p collectors were present in force at this meeting fervently trying to complete an Olympic set – if you are not aware the Royal Mint have issued 29 different 50pence coins to celebrate the 2012 Olympics. There is a good swapping culture going but at least 6 of the coins have been held back by the mint – the pessimist in me says this is to encourage collectors to buy the missing ones from them for £2.99, we have experienced that in the cartophilic world haven't we!

The auction time rapidly approached and despite the noise from the hall, Alan valiantly persevered with the 158 lot sale on the stage. The final figure was £2233, with 61 unsold. Top price went to a club member from Boston; Lot 4 Wills rare set Kings and Queens for £330.

The meal followed and serving 75 hungry members turned out to be a long affair. It was a very good meal and everyone seemed to enjoy it, our Chairman Les got his wish for quality crackers and the sellotape Anne won was helpful in the raffle. I have never mastered the art of 'yo-yoing' so can continue to practise. The Christmas pudding was something to be remembered. Well done to the caterers on delivering a good quality tasteful meal in not the easiest of circumstances.

Our chairman then took centre stage for the traditional 'thank you' to members who have been particularly helpful this year. It takes a team effort to make our club happen every month; I believe that's why we are the best, the biggest and most successful club in the country. We must get Les a microphone for next year as we couldn't hear his every word at the back. No trouble with my big mouth for the following raffle. Vera was at her best drawing the tickets and although we had to pause a few times while people picked their prizes it was all over by 3.45pm. The most prizes went to Muriel closely followed by John/Margaret Haddon Silver. Anyway it was good fun, thanks to Anne for selling the tickets, thanks to you all for buying and donating them. The Air Ambulance is a very worthy cause.

There are a couple of snippets to share this month...

.... For those with access to the web, check out [cigarettecardcollecting.com](http://cigarettecardcollecting.com), it's a forum for cartophilic collectors to chat, ask questions, state views and generally put the card collecting world to right.

.... News from CSGB, next year's Convention will be at Lincoln Showground, the 2013 at Woking in Surrey and 2014 will be in Sheffield.

.... Apparently Mr.Murray has had enquires from 3 people with regard to taking over his catalogue – and no I don't want to do it although I bet I could get the prices right.

.... We have had a nice letter from Margaret Wilson thanking us for selling Roy's collection; she is very pleased they went to Roy's friends and fellow collectors.

As this is not going out until after Christmas, I hope everyone had a good holiday and all are looking forward to a good collecting year in 2012.

Our next meeting is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2012 --- six weeks after our last meeting --- 8.30 to 3.00pm Auction at 1.00pm

Dealers in attendance Peter Beer, Chris Bree, Ken Courtney, John Haddon-Silver, John Shaw, Mike Towersley and Jim Reynolds and for the first time at EACCC Paul Lynch – Kimberley Cards – from Nottingham plus our ever popular Club Table, don't forget to get your stock of Albums and Pages at the Club table at Rock Bottom prices.