

# EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Newsletter No. 508 — Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2014

For the first time in a few years, we made the trip to Roydon on a Sunday. It was a beautiful crisp (well freezing) morning and as we drove through the Fens, we appreciated the fantastic horizons as the sun came up into a cloud formation that was quite spectacular. We even stopped and took some pictures. Keen as I was to get to Roydon the sight had to be appreciated. As we approached one of the villages on the Thetford road we saw police lights and the Air Ambulance in front and we were diverted through the back lanes, some poor victim of the black ice on the road.

There was a keen anticipation in the air today, everyone was looking forward to the dinner but we had many issues to sort out before we could relax and enjoy it. Panic was afoot in the kitchen, the gas cooker had been removed since our last meeting so how could the girls prepare the food, the heater cabinet wouldn't light (that took a bit of working out!) but Katie and her team did have the coffee brewing. They sorted it out, eventually, I'm not sure how, but it's an issue I will have to take up with the village hall committee.

I made the trip down to Orpington on the Saturday for the North Kent clubs Christmas 'do', it was busy as well, all the 'well known' from the cartophilic world were to be seen along with I believe 18 EACCC members. For me it was a great day, I found a few cards and saw a few dealers who are not seen at Roydon. Had a nice chat with Mike Towersley who said he will come up to us in the New Year.

Alan was sorting out the auction quite early and doing well until he realised about 15 Lots were missing and still on the shelf in his garage back in Ipswich, rather than disappoint, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> month running he got in his car and went and fetched them, with the heavy traffic, it meant a 30 minute delay to the auction start.

With 50 booked in for the meal and three dealers available several members came to snap up the bargains, we didn't do a number check but I should think at least 20 members came just for the dealers and the auction. There were some nice unusual Lots this month and although only 150 of them, we did set a new club record (I think) only 9 unsold. As the hall filled up, the buzz created the atmosphere, Anne and Les were busy selling raffle tickets, Joyce and Bridget Haddon Silver were busy folding them in anticipation of a long draw.

At 11.30am we were just about ready to start the auction and Alan got through them at pace, if you moved your hand the lot was knocked down to you. (Or very nearly). Albert and Anne distributed the cards to their new owners quickly and efficiently. I even noticed Ken Short and Barry Allen buying lots this month; someone should have told them they needed bidding numbers. Final figures were: 150 Lots from 10 vendors. There were 23 in house bidders spending £1539.00, 12 postal bidders spending £770, a total of £2309 and as I said earlier only 9 unsold. Top spot went early to Lot 16, 180+ ATC Blanket Flags of various sizes for £140, a real bargain.

The girls started serving the starter at 12.45am and after we had sorted out one or two auction issues we were able to finally sit down and relax and enjoy the food. In view of all the difficulties the girls in the kitchen experienced I think they did us proud, everyone seemed to have enjoyed the opportunity to chat and relax and taste the delights on offer. Maybe the wine helped as well. From a 'treasurers' viewpoint I think the final cost will be just a little over £1000, so although it will make a dent in our bank balance, we still remain healthy (money wise).

As coffee was served we moved on to the presentations, our way of thanking everyone who make our club happen. First up were the furniture 'putter uppers' (as Alan called them) Barry and Ken, then 'of course' the furniture 'putter downers', chief putter downer Albert ably assisted by Peter and John Kenny. Then it was time to thank Joyce – our new door lady and chief welcomer, new this year and doing very well. We had to thank our steadfast club table chaperones Bob and Jill who do a tremendous job for us every month. Anne was next up for all her work she does on behalf of the club and also her 'other half' (notice I didn't say better half) Les our esteemed Chairman. Alan and I were both very grateful for the bottles of whisky for our efforts. Presentations over and we moved on to the Big Raffle, with the proceeds going this year to the Royal British Legion. With the raffle tickets being sold in November and at today's meeting they will receive £300. We are trying to arrange the presentation at our January meeting. The first two prizes donated by a member, were Marks and Spencer vouchers. The first prize of £100 went to a November ticket buyer Cliff Waller, he will receive it with this newsletter. The 2<sup>nd</sup> prize a £50 voucher went to one of our Sussex members, then we were off into the remaining 67 prizes, I think Peter Beer won the most, not sure how many because he kept giving them away but there were quite a few. Thank you everyone for donating the prizes, it was a cram packed prize table with a good variety of different prizes.

That's it for another year, we have 2015 to look forward to now and let's see what that will bring. We meet for the first time in 2015 on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January at Roydon Village Hall (same place) from 8.30am to about 3.00pm. Dealers booked in include Ken Courtney, John Haddon Silver, Martin Toms, Peter Beer and Mike Heard.

Finally some pictures .....





It is with regret that I have to report to members the sad death of Aubrey James, a very well respected member. At the close of the meeting on Sunday his daughter was waiting for me to tell me that Aubrey passed away quietly the previous week. Although he has had several heart attacks he very rarely missed a meeting of our club. He joined us in the late 1980's. He can be remembered from the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of EACCC Personalities reproduced below.

A lovely, quietly spoken man with a rich lilting West Country accent in his voice. A couple of days before he died he dictated a letter to me asking me to transfer his membership to his daughter Anita, which, of course, I have done. What remains of his extensive collection is all to go through the club auction in 2015, Anita will 'of course' keep any cards that she particularly likes.

There will be a private 'family only' service and cremation in Ipswich, in the next fortnight and a memorial service in Otley near Ipswich (where he lived) in March 2015. I will put the date in the newsletter when known as I'm sure many members will want to go to that.

Another cartophilist moves on .....



15. AUBREY JAMES

