

EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Newsletter No. 507 — Saturday 15th November 2014

It was with some reluctance I dragged myself out on the road by 6.30am on a foggy November morning. The boys were not available this month, my regular partners didn't fancy the early start (nor did I really) and as I had made the early effort thinking, well at least the roads would be clear, I forgot it's sugar beet season and they all start early. At least I had my car back this month (minus the dent) so it was a comfortable ride to Roydon. The predicted fog was not all that thick (so Carol the Breakfast weather girl got that wrong!) bit patchy but no problem. I think it certainly affected our attendance only 52 members making the trip to our club. Drawing into the Roydon Village Hall car park at a quarter to eight, I was followed closely by Kate (the coffee bar) then the solitary lonely figure of Peter Beer without his faithful assistant Neville who was not feeling too well. It didn't seem to take me very long to put the furniture out, I have had a little moan at the Village Hall committee, as we need every table they have and at the moment at least three of them are broken. It was alright this month but it will be an issue next month. Let's hope they get it sorted.

We were very low on dealers booked in this month, nice to welcome Mike Prior who is always helpful in filling the spaces when we are short. With four dealers in the main hall and Ken & Alice in the back room everyone seemed busy for most of the day. It was great this month to just go around the room chatting to all and sundry, Graham (soon to be retired) Convey did his usual and showed me some rare A&BC football badges, so that is my search pattern for this year. Not to be found in any reference book there are two theories about how they came about. Graham reckons they were given out by Reps to the shop owners to encourage sales, I heard they were in bubble gum vending machines. Whatever 12 in the set, I have 8, 4 to find, watch this space. Graham wouldn't sell me his 12.

Alan rolled up his usual time on his own, no Derek Lugo in tow, after circumnavigating a road accident on the A140, but we soon had the 192 lot auction out on display, ready for close inspection. Coffee and bacon rolls were soon the order of the day and we spent the next ½ hour catching up and planning. It seems I wasn't to venture very far from the coffee bar for the early part of the morning, following Dave & Jack wanted a coffee and a chat, then Les wanted to finalise the Christmas dinner plans. I did get round to searching out cards later in the morning. It seemed quite quiet for the first couple of hours but we gradually built up the numbers. Nice to see Derek and Cynthia Bradshaw with us again and it was great to welcome

Ted Wareham back to the club after his recent illness (his son bought him over), the Kenny boys were with us and they were very helpful in clearing up at the end along with Albert, I really appreciate that help. Some lesser spotted members this month Cliff Waller was with us, as was Richard Corby buying all the odds in the auction.

It has been suggested that Ron Newstead (no.76) have a chair on the stage with me and Alan next month so he can hear and see the auction, who knows he might even be able to keep up with us! I'm glad he comes regular now (thanks Peter) he is very successful with his bids. The boys from Sussex were up for a bargain always trying to get the lots for next to nothing. We can do that sometimes but not always depends on the vendor's instructions. I have taken delivery of the first of the Bob Scott collection from Northampton this month, 400 lots (with at least another 1000 to follow). Some very nice cards, they start in February and will be the first 100 every month for a little while. Alan tells me that the John Myatt collection will finish in January as will the Williams collection from Essex. He has enough lots now to last to at least May and as he now has his garage back (it's been temporarily full – not of cards) he can catch up with his listing. More about the auction later.

Other snippets - LCCC have taken the dramatic step and published 4 of their catalogues into one book and made a very good job of it. The new book has a comprehensive listing of Cigarette, Trade, reprint and Liebig cards in one easy to read price guide. I was impressed with it and ordered 20 copies for the club members. I got them at 6.00pm Friday night and had sold all of them by midday Saturday. They retail at £12.50; I got a generous discount and sold them for a tenner, which still made the club a profit. I know Paul Lynch will have some next month if you're looking for that late Christmas present.

Christmas dinner is all ready to go, 50 members have booked in and will hopefully enjoy a friendly Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. A timetable for the day is at the bottom of the page. Don't forget to bring at least ONE raffle prize, the dinner is not costing you anything so you can be generous with the prizes, all proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion. I'm hoping for at least 80 prizes – 1st/2nd prizes are M&S vouchers for £100/£50 have already been bought after a generous donation from a member. If you don't want the meal you are still more than welcome, we have three dealers and a 150 lot auction.

This month's auction was underway on time, the 191 lots all searching for a new home. We had some real bargains this month, some just making a £1 coin, only 19 remained unsold. Final figures were total £2560, 11 postal bidders spent £1101, 17 in house bidders £1459, and there were 6 vendors. Top spot went to Lot 116 all 8 sets Gallaher The Great War VC Heroes for a nice £250.

Next month **SUNDAY 14th December 2014** Paul Lynch, John Shaw and Peter Beer are the dealers – doors open around 8.30am, **Auction at 11.00am**, lunch at 12.30 and the giant raffle from about 2.15pm or thereabouts. Festive hats are essential wear for all, so come and join us; get in the spirit and a very Happy Christmas to all our friends.