

Newsletter No. 464

Report of a meeting held at Roydon Village Hall on Saturday 16th April 2011

Maybe this is the start of a new era for our club as we held our 42nd Annual General Meeting today and as usual the apathy and overwhelming enthusiasm of the members was apparent from the start and five minutes later it was all over. Full report later on.

It is always interesting to note that our club meeting's can generate excitement in 'mature' adults and as my full car stormed towards Roydon in it's usual sedate way (stuck behind a convoy of lorries and/or tractors) the feelings and expectations of my fellow passengers was in full flow. Will I find this card or that set was the talk of the trip. I'm glad to report the return trip conversation confirmed most expectations had been met and it was therefore a good meet.

Despite the apparent absence of many regulars still the faithful turned up and with 78 members, 5 visitors, 1 new member and 8 dealers a good turnout can be once again reported. The club was in full flow on our arrival and my first task was to have a chat with Kelly and her mum in the kitchen because I had heard on Friday night (previous) that her father had died in early April. Graham had been an instigator and great supporter of our club since our move to Roydon, two years ago, and despite his illness was regularly seen in the kitchen with his family, working hard on our behalf. His efforts were one of the main reasons we have settled into Roydon Village Hall so well. Our love and thoughts are with Kelly and her family during this difficult time.

The dealers were all in full swing from the early start, Bill and Barry got to the hall at 7.30am and found two dealers waiting for them, great to see Jim and Judy Jackson with us from the North West and John Shaw up from Derbyshire. I'm fairly sure they had a good day both financially and socially.

I had a visit from a young man from Dereham who bought his granddads collection to the club to find out more about them. His Mum and Dad turned up later and soon got involved in making the part sets up and buying albums and pages to put them in. Their initial thoughts were to put them in the auction but I think they may have caught the collecting bug and will be back in the next month or two to make up more sets. Also met a new member from Pulham Market and after one visit joined up, we welcome him. Incidentally they all found out about us from the website. Now a little moan !! the idea of the Tea and Coffee vouchers is that members will enjoy a free drink while at the meeting, it appears some members like to collect these vouchers (naturally we are a collectors club) and have several drinks at a meeting. When we introduced the system it was thought 'valid for the day of issue' and only 'one per person per meeting' --- enough said.

Val and Alex were busy collecting the subscriptions from members and those that haven't done so yet will have the 'dreaded red spot' on their envelopes, those that have paid should have their receipts in the envelope. Please pay as soon as possible, it's only a fiver and you get your money back several times during the course of the year and 'of course' receive this wonderful newsletter every month. One or two members have reported difficulty in receiving the auction list and newsletter via email so after lengthy discussions I have changed them to hard mail and will let the postman do the delivery.

For those members making the trip to Stratford for the annual convention there are now 49 dealers standing with millions of cards, so your elusive missing card is bound to be there, hope you will be as well.

As usual the morning flew by and we were soon checking the time for our 1.00pm auction but first we had the AGM to endure and after a lengthy debate (30 seconds at least) Neville Proctor proposed that 'my thoughts' be taken as proposals, this was seconded by Jim Reynolds (who had promised not to ask me any difficult questions, thanks Jim) and carried unanimously with the usual lack of interest. A full list of officers of the club with contact details is enclosed with this newsletter. In abbreviated form that is ... President Bill Peck, Vice Presidents Muriel Peck, Vera Summers, Chairman Les Woolnough, Secretary/Treasurer Colin Fawcett, Auditor Neville Proctor, Auctioneer Alan Worthington, PR/Publicity Alex Woollard, Members Reps Bob/Jill Jennings. All posts are honorary and for the uninitiated that means we don't get paid. Although a definitive financial figure was not available, the club has about £5000 in the bank and it was suggested from the floor that the members might like to think of ways to spend this money. Transfers in to personal bank accounts however good the reason or desperate the need is not acceptable or even going to be considered by your new committee.

Rather unusually the auction didn't start until 1.20pm but Alan was soon in full flow especially as someone had bought him a new gavel... boys and their toys ... say no more. The final figure was £3426 with the club banking a healthy £351, top figure was Lot 224 Kinney's Novelties £210. Only 30% went postal and 73 were unsold. Bidder number 35 took possession of most of the Barratt footballers.

One new member this month Mr. Daniel Browne from Pulham Market. A warm East Anglian welcome to you. Finally a story we have to share .. we had all finished doing what we had to do, Bill had locked the main door when a voice from behind a van asked if anyone had seen his wife, yes you have guessed it, we had locked her in the hall. Lesson learned when we do a final check, give a shout in the 'Ladies'. Coming up in June a minibus of visitors from the Nottingham area

Next month we have:

Peter Beer, Ken Courtney, John Haddon-Silver, Dave Norman, Jean Dixon, Jim Reynolds, Martin Toms, and Chris Bree standing, plus our great Club table, so bring along your books.

First 150+ lots of the next few auctions are from the late Roy Wilson's collection all rated Excellent / very Good

Next meeting Saturday 21st May 2011, 8.30am to 3.00pm Roydon Village Hall