

# EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Traditionally most club's take a summer break but not the hardy souls of East Anglia, and consequently this month is usually one of our better attended months. You cant keep an enthusiastic collector down. I think we had about 72 through the door and a great atmosphere was present all day. I was very grateful to the boys for opening up and when I got to Roydon the club was in full swing. It seemed very quiet initially and after we had sorted out the auction lots and said a few cheery good morning to whoever we passed by, Alan and I had our first coffee of the day and took the time to catch up.

We had a full house of dealers, Mike Heard was with us and busy most of the morning, John Shaw had filled his corner and hadn't even bought all his odds with him. JHS occupied his usual centre spot and it was good to see Martin Toms busy selling most of the morning. I'm sure he checks out other dealers stock regularly and always has new stock for us members to look through. Peter Beer has threatened to sort out his sale stock to make it easier for us to find those elusive odds but I think it is just a threat. I wouldn't know where to start, well maybe it might be 'Ask Neville'. Great characters who make our hobby interesting and worth looking forward to seeing each month. Our back room dealer Ken, was only moderately dressed this month, he is the only person I know whose dress reflects the weather conditions. Good thing he didn't come from Wisbech this month he would have been wearing wellies.

Joyce has settled into the door responsibilities very competently and provides a warm smile and welcome to everyone who crosses the threshold. I had a nice chat with her and discovered she found out about us online and really enjoys coming to our club every month. The girls in the kitchen were busy all morning, I saw several breakfasts being devoured with great enthusiasm. Unfortunately no cake was available this month as they have been extremely busy all week, but they have promised me a diabetic cake next month, I can't wait. They did a lovely line in pasties this month, hope they will be regular inclusions.

I had great fun this month searching out cards for collectors who don't have the opportunity to visit a club. One of them John, lives in the highlands of Scotland and regularly sends me his wants list and I have been able to complete many sets for him. Joe in North Wales is house bound and is very disillusioned

with the service offered postally by some dealer's, he is another who sends me his list. I'm happy to look for him and I know it gives some of our dealers a little income, so everyone benefits.

We had three visitors this month, the furthest was Dave Williamson from Gloucester, he regularly bids postally in the auction and wanted to see what we all looked like. Most welcome he was as well. It was good to see many Boston members with us (they don't meet in August and the members needed a fix), Dave Scuffham, Jack Norman and Gary May, the boys were up from Sussex again looking for those auction bargains.

No news on the illness reported last month, Bill is out of hospital and settled back in his home. We will have to see if he would like to come up to the club one Saturday maybe Christmas. Les, Alan and I had a chat about forthcoming meetings. We agreed that the Christmas meeting this year will be a three course sit down extravaganza. More details in the coming newsletters, the girls are preparing a menu for our perusal. We have also agreed that besides the usual Giant raffle, we will have three dealers present and a limited 150 lot auction.

I had a long chat with Alan about the auction, as the big collection from Surrey, we have been selling, is coming to an end in October and he has masses of cards to see us through to March 2015. We have John Myatt's collection starting next month, and a Essex collectors lots coming up starting in October, something a bit different in this lot as he collected many other things (some cigarette related) as well as cards. Alan has been to view a collection from a lady in Suffolk (she found us on the website), he valued it and is confident it will be in the auction in the new year. So things continue to look healthy. We have to be very realistic with the vendors as everyone knows what the guide book says is not what they are truly worth. As usual the morning flew by and after an early lunch, it was time for the magic hour and the 'A' team were ready(Ann, Alan and Albert)( I will leave you to decide who is Face, Hannibal, Murdoch or Mr T). For me this auction will always last in my memory for what happened towards the end. First though, the facts ... of the 220 lots, there were 60 unsold's, 18 in house bidders spending £1872, 13 postal bidders spending £1257 and 5 vendors. Top spot went to Lot 68, a part set Taddy British Medals and Decorations sold for £220. Towards the end of the auction I heard my mobile going off behind me and when I caught up with it after the auction I discovered I had a new grandson (my second), so went home looking forward to seeing him later in the day.

Next month we meet on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014, same time and place. Dealers booked in are Ken Courtney, Peter Russell, John Shaw, Peter Beer and Martin Toms