

EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Newsletter No.490 --- Saturday 16th June 2013

It was, once again, with a sad heart that the club meet came round again and I had to report the sad death of our good friend Harry Bullock to the members. Harry lost his fight with cancer on Wednesday last, another loyal, helpful, friendly member gone, the fourth in 9 months. It reflects the type of club we are, ageing 'grey tops' who use a sales gimmick (that's all cigarette cards were, something to put in packets to increase sales of cigarettes), to remember days gone by. Harry was a 'salt of the earth' character, who was a very popular member, No.25 in the auction, he could always be relied on to bid for 'old reference books' and cards to do with railways. As an ex merchant seaman he also collected shipping cards another good one gone, he will be missed by many members. Harry lived near Gorleston so his funeral will be in that area, I hope there will be club representation although I haven't any details when that will be.

The club was in full swing early on this month, with a good turnout of dealers, plenty of cards were on display for those tempted to try and complete their 'want's list'. Nice to welcome Mike Prior back with us after a too long gap and along with the regulars had a good day. Apologies to Peter Beer, I missed him off the dealers list last month, (I will put him on first this month!). Gary Colman's stand was busy all day being looked after by 'good old Mum and Dad' while he spent most of the day looking for cards and spending the money they were taking. Sounds a familiar story!

The final subs have been collected, the membership list is complete and the new members number is 110, I'm sure a couple more will send me a cheque when they realise they haven't had a newsletter this month (more likely the auction list). Copies of the members list with up to date contact details will be available next month on the reception table.

Les and Anne were away this month, but there is always time to catch up with members. I had a nice chat with John Haddon-Silver (albeit very briefly) and Mick Plant. Nice to see Alan Wilde again (he is a true supporter of East Anglia's finest football team). Alan is an autograph collector as well and can often be found at Sprowston Manor Hotel or the Norwich Airport lying in wait for the next City opponents. Talking of City had an interesting discussion with Tony Colman and new striker with the tongue twisting name. I wonder what the terraces will call him. Anyway I digress (as usual).

Alan and I had a long discussion about the auction and how it has developed. We have a lot of items unsold each month simply because we have had many good quality cards go through in the past few years and with a limited collecting field, everyone has simply got what they need particularly among the more common cards.

We have managed to find a few new Postal bidders but the new collectors are not around. This doesn't bode well for the hobby in the future particularly as there is a plethora of cards available to sell at the moment. A lot of people want to dispose of their cards, and there is no new blood to buy them. I have been busy this last month sorting through the Surrey collection we picked up in April, we are limiting this to 150 lots a month (starting in July) and so far I have done 10 months with at least another 6 to do. Some lovely cards, much duplication - I opened a box last week with 12 sets Wills NZ Lighthouses in - not too much common stuff but 1000's and 1000's cards all totally unsorted. By limiting this collection to 150 lots a month means there is still room for members to put cards into their auction. We don't want to get into VAT territory so will have around 250 lots a month. Alan is currently Lotting up October.

This month's auction was the start of the Dennis Towler collection and at 1.00pm with a good number in the audience, Alan was ready to begin the long job of disposing of the many wonderful cards on display. We had to begin with 50 Lots of types that began last month and will finish next month, all from the same vendor in one album. As usual the rarer sort after cards sold well. For the number crunchers among youTop spot went to Lot 223 a set of Carreras Turf Famous Footballers uncut slides for £100. There were 12 vendors, 19 postal bidders who spent £1137, and a final total of £2198 with 104 unsold.

For the future - we need to decide what we want to do for Christmas, this year; Les would like your suggestions so we can begin planning.

The hall committee have managed to freeze the hall rent for a further 12 months - very nice thank you - so I have paid for the rest of the year and booked all next year's dates. They are 18th Jan., 15th Feb., 15th Mar., 19th Apr., 17th (our 500th meeting) May, 21st June, 19th July, 16th Aug, 20th Sept, 18th Oct, 15th Nov., 13th Dec., all 2014, make a note now. I'm not sure a calendar will be available or the credit card size date cards but we will see...

Dealers seem keen to come our way and I have a full hall for most of the rest of the year - it's Catch 22 really - dealers will only come if they think they will make enough money to cover their costs, members will only come if a significant number of dealers are present. Thank goodness we are well supported by both, long may it continue.

Next month we meet on Saturday 20th July -- same time - same place -

Dealers committed to attending are Peter Beer, John Haddon-Silver, John Shaw, Ken Courtney, Martin Toms, from the Welsh borders Peter Russell and the Yorkshire lad himself Neil Daniels (he'll like that - being called a lad) and Geoff McMillan.

The members table is always well supported each month, Bob and Jill do a great job on behalf of the club. We have a significant number of second-hand Albums to dispose of, so get in there early next month, I can only get a couple of boxes in my car each time so we are limited but for half the price they have to be a bargain. For those members who are particular about the colour get in there early.