

# EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Mr Colin Fawcett      Mr Les Woolnough      Mr Bill Peck      Mrs Muriel Peck      Mrs Vera Summers      Mr Alan Worthington  
01945 583656      01473 743794      01379 642792      01379 642792      01842 753292      01473 714411

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It was time, once again for the monthly trip to Roydon and I was expecting a big turnout and wasn't disappointed. This meeting started for me at 9.00pm on Thursday night when Val (the caterer) rang me to say she couldn't make it. What to do became the question, we couldn't do nothing 80+ members 'couldn't go without' nourishment and refreshment all day, as before my good wife Sue and daughter Gemma, came to the rescue, a shopping trip to Tesco's, followed by 2 hours filling rolls and cutting up cake and the problem was solved.

Colin Gamble was ready at the appointed hour, my car laden up with food/ drink/ albums and pages and we arrived to find a busy lively atmosphere with members in good early numbers. Dealers were busy and I was pleased when Ken Short offered to sort out and sell the food and took complete control of it all. The boiler was on so coffee swiftly followed. Alan had the auction out so after a brief chat and a little sort out and it was good to see it being eagerly devoured over by the enthusiastic members. One of the nice things about our auction is that even if you are financially tight (hard up) one month, you can at least come along and take a look at the lovely cards on offer. With the final 100 lots of Ken Short's amazing silk collection on offer there was some very rare, never before seen silks for all to see. More about the auction later.

Birthday boy Bill (97 years young, we will have to call him 'Sir 'soon) was keeping the girls on the door in order and a sterling job they all do with the steady flow all day, they are welcoming to all who venture through the door. We had four visitors this month from Nottingham, Barking (Essex) 2 and Northampton, the girls recorded 68 members but there seemed more than that. Is every one checking in?

I am an optimist by nature and I have to ask that the two members who picked up a Brooke Bond Album from Geoff McMillan's stall and a Cohen Weenan Football Captain from the Members table, but forgot to pay for them hold their hand up and square up with me at the next meeting. I do hope we haven't got a 'tea leaf' within the membership.

I have it on very good authority that there will be no Murrays catalogue this year or ever again, Mr Epstein isn't able to produce one so Alan will be using LCCC for our auction prices. I think there is a need for a price guide within the hobby that is realistic and comprehensive and reflects possible selling prices not silly prices based on what dealers want for them. It has to have input from collectors who buy regularly and dealers that sell regularly.

It has to take in to consideration auction house prices and Ebay prices (60,000 lots of cigarette cards on last week). With commercial auction houses selling cards in bulk for less than 10% current catalogue, how do you bring all these influences together to produce a realistic Price Guide? Collectors will only pay what they consider to be a fair and reasonable price to do the deal for any cards. I have noticed a more willingness from dealers to do a deal (!), how often do you pay what they ask, with the influence of television programmes that contain bartering, we can continue to create a deal if we are bold enough. You must remember that dealers have expenses and costs and we need to be aware of them as we try for a good deal.

It was a multi task day today, when Ken left for home Alan and I took on the challenge of making drinks and selling the rolls, as the time for the auction approached, we cleared up, disposed of the last few rolls and got ready for the big sale.

Quite a few of the Lots this month had reserves on so we wondered how many would still be with us at the end and the unsold totalled 107 of the 213 lots (well that's half isn't it). As always quality sells, final figure was £3100 and top price was £160 for lots 6 and 10, two Turmac silk sets. Other figures useful to know, there was 6 vendors, 16 postal bidders who spent £1954, and 15 in house bidders. Next month we are selling the March list (already sent out) and then we are back on track. Enclosed with this newsletter is the May list containing the two extremely rare Taddy Wrestlers, this list will also go in the Doggie bags at the forthcoming Woking convention to try to attract more postal bidders. Alan has plenty of cards to sell at the moment, with some cracking cards coming up. We have heard that Jim Reynolds son is going to start collecting so his collection won't be with us but some of his stock is available on the members table, and we are collecting the very big collection from Surrey just after Easter so will be busy sorting it out into saleable lots for most of the summer and the rest of the year

Next month we meet on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April, (just one week before convention), and we will hopefully have the catering sorted out by then, bring back the Bacon Butties is all I've heard. April is also AGM month, so please allow 5 minutes before the auction for this to happen. Subscriptions are due in April so please bring along your £6. Les is collecting them this year

Dealers booked in are Mike Heard, John Haddon Silver, Ken Courtney, Peter Beer, and Martin Toms. Space for one more, let me know if you want to stand. Don't forget to check out the Club Members table, still plenty of used albums to sell at £2 each and £1 for the slipcase.