

# EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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You never know what a November meeting is going to be like, with the approach of the festive season and money being tight, will members have the inclination to search for those elusive cards and make the trip to Roydon for the monthly *get together of similar likeminded neurotic collectors*. Of course they will and they did. There is far more about our club than making up set's and card collecting, there is camaraderie, a friendship that draws friends together. I am forever being asked why we draw such good regular numbers and although it is a good auction, or a nice venue (?) or some good dealers, it is mostly the good spirit, the atmosphere and the friendship. Other clubs in the country have 'bits' of all but lack the fervour. Last month we had 70 plus members attending, the 'Northern Convention' in Darlington (where all the big dealers went) had only 24 attendees. This month the girls reported our attendance at above 80.

This month was different for me; my wife was on holiday so we came across to South Norfolk on the Friday morning, spent the day exploring the delights of the lovely market town of Beccles (no Colman's in sight) and stayed overnight overlooking the Oulton Broad. It didn't mean I arrived any earlier or later but when we got to Roydon everything was in full swing. The early birds were chatting, selling, swapping, buying, dealing and all kinds of other things to do with ciggy cards, but the atmosphere was buzzing.

The dealers were all with us; Alan Wilde was a late booking and most welcome (Norwich City must have been away). All the dealers were busy from the off. John Shaw was back with us his full stock, one or two member's ad mentioned to me the lack of 'Odds@' at the previous month, so I had asked the dealers to ensure they bought them this month. There is a limit to what they can get in their vehicles but there was plenty available this month.

I have been selling cards on EBay in the past couple of months and many of our members are regular bidders, what I have learnt is that there are many many more cigarette card collectors out there than attend clubs. I always enclose a flyer about our club in the hope they may visit. This month we had 10 visitors, the two from Sussex who have been the last four month's brought two other fellow collectors this month - one of them had the delightful appropriate name of R.Christmas -two other visitors from the wilds of Northamptonshire and also most welcome was David Eady - a past EACCC member who we see about once a year. Amongst the lesser spotted members was Graham Gower from Colchester ( I have his right address now), Tony Debenham was with us again and I'm sure many more I didn't get a chance to talk to. I was really pleased to see Colin Gamble made the trip on his own instead of riding in the Colinmobile.

I am disappointed to report to members that Val and Zowie have announced their intention to hand the club's catering over to someone else. Val is finding it very difficult to arrange Saturday's off from her full time job as a nurse. On behalf of the club may we thank you very much for all your hard work; it has certainly been

appreciated by the members. You have done 'Alex's memory proud. Any offers or ideas about the club's catering please speak to me or Les. Val still intends to come to the club most month's (when her work permits) because of the friendships she has developed.

I bought with me 36 copies of the new LCCC catalogues, they were soon devoured by our members and at £6 each or £10 for the two they is a considerable saving on the published price. I have ordered some more for next month. It is the only price reference book we now have. Other news to share...

The club has to dispose of a very large Photocopier, not used for a couple of years, any members who wants it just has to collect it, ring me to arrange (it is at Bill's house). Everyone who needs one nowadays has a small all singing all dancing machine. It will be taken to the tip if not wanted by anyone.

Also to dispose of to a member is the Club's computer, about ten years old but still works well. On its own table and will be useful for as a beginners machine for someone who wants to move into the electronic age. It has been cleared and reprogrammed, so it has a small resale value, offers to me, first come first served.

Nine members (and partners) attended the Cartophilic Society's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner in the depths of the great metropolis. A delightful three course meal was enjoyed by all. Reminds me our 500<sup>th</sup> meeting is coming up next April - isn't it a good reason for us to celebrate. Watch this space.

Is it me being over sensitive or is the Roydon hall looking scruffy, I've just paid the rent (£510) for January to June 2014. Is it time for us to move on, maybe somewhere that offers catering.

It was soon the magic hour of 1.00pm, Alan, Anne and I were ready, a good number of new card owners were eagerly anticipating the many wonderful cards on offer and after a hesitant start, and the 284 lots were soon disposed of to new homes. It was always going to be a good auction and it didn't disappoint. Good cards attract good prices and there are always bargains to be had.

*Facts and Figures of the 284 lot, 79 remained unsold; there were 25 in house bidders who spent £2264, 15 postal bidders who spent £1819, a total of £4083. 10 Vendors. Top spot went to Lot 209 nice set FJ Smith's medals for £235.*

Next month it is our Christmas shin dig - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Rough timetable (very flexible after all it is Christmas) Doors open around 8.30am only one dealer Kimberley Cards (Paul Lynch) with his vast array of cards and ephemera. Auction at about 11.00am, lots of quality cards, followed by a magnificent hot Christmas buffet with wine, crackers and festive fun. Yohoho and all that. At 2.00pm (or thereabouts) words of wisdom and thanks by our good Chairman Les Woolnough. About 2.15/2.30pm our bumper Christmas Raffle - 1<sup>st</sup> prize a £100 M&S Voucher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize a £50 voucher next 90plus prizes you come and pick your own.

DON'T FORGET to BRING US A PRIZE,

McMillan Nurses will be the beneficiaries this year.

Finishing the festivities and clearing up about 4.00/4.30pm.

This year has been a very good year for EACCC; we have established ourselves as the premier cigarette card meeting place in the country, better supported with the friendliest membership. What we do to maintain the traditions and develop the foundations of our great club, answers on the back of a plain back cigarette or trade card.