

EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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You never just know what an August meeting is going to be like. A few years ago it was always our busiest month mainly because few other clubs meet during the summer, but more recent years it has been one of our quieter months. This year looked like being the latter, with two dealers cancelling late, apologies from Dave Scuffham / Jack Norman and Ted Wareham all the signs were there before hand for a quiet meet. When we got to Roydon at the usual time the room looked bare – empty tables, few people, the regular early birds could be spotted ‘wheeling and dealing’ but with only three dealers spread around the room there was plenty of space for everyone.

Nice to welcome Neil Daniels to our meeting, all the way from Leeds he told me it took him 3 hours leaving at 5.00am. We do, at the East Anglian appreciate the efforts these dealers put in to satisfy our collecting needs and I know all three dealers in the main hall had a good day. Because he only comes once or twice a year Neil has a mass of members round his stall most of the day.

Among the members who came along this month were George and Eileen Smith from Peterborough. George has been ill for several months but looked well now and was welcomed back. He gave me his subscription for the year which he posted to me at my old address it had been returned from the Post office ‘not known at this address’, it was over 2 years ago I moved. How soon people forget. George assured me rumours of his death are completely unfounded ‘his words’. Welcome back anyway. Also paying us a visit this month was Derek and Cynthia Bradshaw – they have downsized house recently and have moved into an apartment on Kings Lynn waterfront although they assure me theirs is not facing the water. No sooner had they moved in than they had to be evacuated because of a fire in a neighbour’s apartment and had to spend a night in a hotel. Don’t some people lead exciting lives’?

The morning warmed up at the club as more members appeared and I am told by the girls on the door that 62 eventually passed through the portal of the hall, add to that 10 visitors, dealers plus a few others (more later) and it must have totalled 80 people eventually. The visitors number was high this month, the two guys from Sussex must have enjoyed last month because they were back. One of them told me at the end that he has a policy of not paying more than a third catalogue for any cards, and he missed out on 12 lots in our auction. I don’t see the logic of travelling all that way and missing out on quality cards because of his policy. I know you have to be strict sometimes and not get carried away with auction fever. Never mind each to his own! Other visitors came from Cambridge, Nottingham, Grimsby and Colchester. I had an email from Gary May our Lincoln member telling me he was coming again but he only got as far as Blickling Hall and never made it to Roydon after all. Nice place to visit.

I had a visit from a local man who didn't know what to do with his Dads precious collection of cards and other ephemera. After looking through them, there were a few items worth including in our auction but as usual I had to disappoint him as to their true value. Les was telling me about a recent Flog it programmes that had two stuck in sets, Player Air Liners/Wills Road Safety which Paul Martin valued at £30-£50, they didn't sell 'of course we could have told him that!!! So much for him being a cigarette card expert.

Les and I had several issues to sort out this month, primarily the Christmas bash. He has obtained a menu from the caterers for a Christmas themed buffet, and it looks very good. So we agreed to go for that. Not sure yet whether we will be able to afford a free buffet or whether a small charge will be necessary, see how club funds are later in the year. Remember December 14th is the date. Sorry it clashed with North Kent, very little we can do about that. Paul Lynch is the dealers agreed to come to us. It was soon time to get the auction organised, Anne had distributed the bidding numbers out and Alan was ready sitting in front of his machine (hoping it was going to behave itself this month), ready to find new homes for the quality cards on offer. At the allotted time we were off, a good number of regulars were in their usual places, bidding cards at the ready. It turned out to be 'a good one' – quality always sells – this month the basic number were 275 lots, made £3386, of which £1825 went postal, there were 78 unsold. Top spot went to Lot 212 an album of Gum cards for £110, there were 9 vendors, 16 in house successful bidders and 10 postal bidders. Alan has an abundance of items to sell at the moment, many more choice items were brought in this week, and so unless you are desperate to get 'rid of' or 'hard up', we don't need any at the moment. He is currently lotting up January 2014 and has enough to complete February as well. It is certainly a buyer's market with a plethora of cards available.

Five weeks until we do it all again ...

Time and place unchanged, September 21st the date.

Dealers booked in to be with us are John Haddon-Silver, John Shaw, Martin Toms, Ken Courtney, Peter Beer, and Paul Lynch – room for one more, give me a ring to book in. Our club table is very popular each month – I have only 1 very large box of s/h albums and slipcases left – 24/28 albums – at only £2.00 an album and £1.00 a slipcase they are very popular. I saw a member with four tucked under his arm and a big smile on his face, he knew a bargain when he saw it. Until next month!