

EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Newsletter No. 509 — Saturday 17th January 2015

As we move in to a new year and start our 5th year at Roydon Village Hall, we wonder what will happen in 2015 to our cartophilic searching. The club has enjoyed a successful few years, with a continued good attendance at every meet and a strong auction every month providing us with financial security, long may it continue for all our loyal members.

After a heavy sharp frost on the Friday night, it was a careful drive to Roydon on a slippery icy road; my thinking was it was going to be a quiet meet. Snow was falling in the North and Midlands and said to be coming our way but the forecast didn't put off the enthusiastic card collector, even those with the longer drives made it a January to be remembered.

The hall was in full swing when we pulled into the car park and as usual the early birds were searching and seeking, nice to see Mike Heard with us and John Shaw with his complete family of dogs. Neville Proctor was standing in for Peter Beer who is away in sunnier climes. We spent the first 10 minutes wishing everyone a happy new year and catching up on the Christmas festivities. There was plenty of positive feedback about the dinner especially when it was understood how difficult it had been for Kate and her team, I passed on the compliments later in the day. No Joyce on the door this month and I was very grateful to Doreen Broderick when she offered to sit in and sort it out for us. As the day progressed more and more members ventured in through the door, and the final number was 54 members with 6 dealers and 9 visitors, another good attendance. The visitors were from Colchester x 2, Norwich x 2, Burton on Trent x 1, plus 2 vendors who came to see their cards redistributed, and even two visitors from the big capital city. A new member joined this month Barry Andrews from Lowestoft, I'm sure he will enjoy his membership that gives us a total membership of 103 at the moment. Alan has a postal distribution list of a further 112 collectors. The other member news is Alan Huggins has moved house in Stowmarket, an updated membership list will be available later in the year... I have had another lovely letter from Vera who sends everyone her very best wishes for 2015. Her health is improving slowly and she has been to see Bill and Muriel.

I have done my usual 'calculations' for the year and can report that 13 members made it to all 12 meetings last year, another 12 members missed only one meeting - well done to all them, a tremendous achievement. At the other end of the scale we had 11 members who didn't find their way to Roydon and a further 9 who made it an annual visit. As teachers are renowned for saying 'they must try harder' next year.

The morning progressed well, the girls in the kitchen were kept busy, with several tasty looking breakfasts being served and many other delights for the hungry collector. My main job was to stop Alan eating all the cherry bakewells for which he has an addiction! Despite the fervour of card collecting and searching the back room has become a regular 'chat room', must be the free drink everyone gets. We had a little panic on when we thought we had lost all the drink vouchers but eventually found them, when I settled up with Kate later in the morning.

Les confirmed the hotel booking in Worcester for the convention in April; the club will be well represented in numbers again this year. I did find it worrying for the hobby in the 'Club report' section of the latest Card World all the club's except ours seem to be struggling with numbers again this year. The convention in 2016 will be in Peterborough - at a venue still to be found - as it is on the periphery of our area, I have offered to host it jointly with the Boston club, I hope that is acceptable to members. The 2017 convention is going south and Bournemouth is being investigated.

It was soon the magic hour of 1.00pm and we were soon ready to redistribute the cards on offer. There were a lot of the more common cards on offer this month and no less than 3 sets Churchman Boxing Personalities. The final figure over £4k was a surprise but it was helped by lots 2, 4 & 5 which made up more than half the final total. I am unable to give you the normal figures because Alan's computer is not allowing us to share information. This month saw the final lots of John Myatt's collection go through and also the Southend collection. Next month we start the Bob Scott collection from Northampton and the Alex Ferguson (no not THE Alex Ferguson) from the Highlands of Scotland. Alan has completed the March listing (it is enclosed) and has enough for April, but none after then. Both the aforementioned collections have cards for us but we do not have them in hand just yet. So if you have any to sell now would be a good time.

Our next meet is a whole 5 weeks away - Saturday 21st February 2015

Usual time, usual place.

We have only 4 dealers booked in Martin Toms, John Haddon Silver and Ken Courtney and making debut as a dealer Mike Plant - SO SPACE FOR MORE - RING ME TO FILL THE HALL. Apparently every big dealer is going to Shepton Mallet. Our Club table will have all shapes and sizes of Albums and Pages for sale plus 'of course' member's cards to find homes for.