

EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Newsletter No. 512 — Saturday 18th April 2015

This past month has been quite difficult for the club and its members coming to terms with the sad passing of our esteemed President. Thank you to the members who mentioned they liked my tribute last month, there appears to be total agreement with the sentiments and many more were mentioned and although we tried to have business as usual at the meeting it was all with a heavy heart. Personally I miss Bill at our meetings and still glanced over several times during the meeting remembering him sitting in his chair next to the reception table usually dozing off or tucking into his favourite breakfast bacon roll. Happy memories of a lovely man.

We approached the meeting with a 'wonder' about what sort of day it was going to be, I knew several regulars weren't able to be with us for various reasons – why do weddings and table tennis championships have to clash with our date? I know a lot of members prioritise our date within their social calendar, many having holidays that don't clash, how dedicated and enthusiastic is that.

Only three dealers today but when we have John Shaw with us, we know he can fill the hall with his stock alone. Martin and Peter were kept busy most of the day. It was a 'funny ole meeting', number wise, there were times when I thought how quite it was but the final number was 53. There was a lot of coming and going. Among the regulars I spoke to Gary Daynes who has a new football book out (and he forgot to bring me a copy!), Graham and Adrian were searching out as always those elusive Gum and football cards respectively. Graham has agreed to take on responsibility for our website and all being well that could happen in May. There was a lot of talk and anticipation about next week's annual convention in Worcester, several members will be making the trip. Next year we will be in Peterborough but I will leave that until next month. The midmorning arrivals were soon seen to be arriving, Alan Huggins, claiming his regular auction seat, the Colman's Tony and Gary, in mourning (City had lost on the Friday night). Where is Margaret I ask, we haven't seen her lately. The Sussex boys were with us and soon seen to be 'wheeling and dealing', Albert and Gus, the Kenny boys were all seen to be present searching for that elusive last card in the set. I did have a little time to look for cards and found 4, which helps. I'm hoping to clear my wants list at Worcester next week, there I go dreaming again. Among the late arrivals were Derek and Cynthia Bradshaw very welcome as always.

I got collared by Graham Gower about his newsletter, he hasn't had one lately, I came back home and discovered it's been going to 164 and it should be 136, well it's sorted now. The girls in the kitchen must have had a slow time because they packed up early today and this meant no lunch for Alan and me, it will help us to keep our super slim figures !

Les and I had a few details to tidy up – several members were going to Bill's funeral on the Monday including all the Club's officers. Les has agreed to present the club report at the Cartophilic Society AGM next Saturday, it will be as always very positive.

Do you have a RED dot on your envelope, if so it means you haven't paid your subscription this year yet, please do so ASAP. Copies of the current membership list will be available at the June meeting.

Today was our AGM and as no one had any business to discuss or questions to ask, it was as usual over very quickly. Peter Beer thanked the officers for all their hard work this past year, the round of applause was appreciated. I had prepared a balance sheet which shows key aspects of income and expenditure (if you weren't present a copy will be in with your newsletter). We have a very healthy balance of over £5k., despite all our attempts to spend it.

The club computer which has been playing up in recent months and has been replaced with a brand new one and it is superfast, Alan had trouble at times keeping up with it but he had it up and ready for the auction at 1.00pm. It wasn't looking to be a big auction, in fact Alan only had a few postal bids so we struggled at times to get a bid but the final figures were : total sales £1447 (our lowest for over 3 years), with 50 unsold. There were 16 successful in house bidders spending £1185, and 9 postal bidders paying out only £262. Top spot went to Lot 32 a nice set of Churchmans Lawn Tennis for a modest £65. We are currently selling at 100 lots a month the 'Bob Scott' collection from Northampton and Alan is in need of more quality material for future auctions, we like to keep it at around 250 lots a month, so now is the time to sell off all your unwanted or duplicate cards and make yourself a little money – to spend on more cards – to keep the circle going round.

Next Month looks good, we meet on Saturday 16th May 2015, usual time and place with a plethora of dealers present including John Haddon Silver (Bury St Edmunds), Ken Courtney Stowmarket), Martin Toms (Surrey) ,Peter Beer (Great Cornard), Paul Lynch (Nottingham), Mike Heard (Derby). and John Taylor (Melton Mowbray).

Eight members made it to Bill's civil funeral, it was a sad but memorable opportunity to say a final farewell to our good friend.