EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Newsletter No 466

Report on a meeting held on Saturday 18th June 2011 at Roydon Village Hall

It was a very early start for me again this month, Barry Allen and Ken Short couldn't make it so Dennis and I left early and opened up. I would really appreciate a volunteer to open up the hall on the few months' a year Barry can't make it. As we drove in to Roydon we saw posters for 'Comedy of Errors' at Roydon Village Hall on 18th June, were our biggest fears about to be realised. No the Shakespearean epic didn't start until 7.30pm and we would be long gone.

Once again our President had rung up to say he couldn't make it as his tablets were making him very tired and lethargic, he is seeing the doctor this week to try to relieve the pressure behind his recently operated eye. Our best wishes are with him, c'mon Bill we miss you; I know he misses coming each month. While I'm on the sick report our good friend Ted Wareham is in hospital with two aneurisms in his leg.(telephone call Monday after meeting to say he is home and getting better and hopes to be with us next month).

Seemed very quiet this month, slow to start and only 54 members, 7 visitors and 8 dealers reporting for action. Nice to see Mike Heard back with us, Peter Beers newly acquired stock was attracting great interest, like bees to a honeypot. The EACCC faithful were digging and delving for most of the morning. There was a lot to do this month Alec had brought the first draft of the next year's calendar and although this year is good next years is even better. We met and discussed with Kelly the Christmas dinner and confirmed the format, menu, price and method, watch this space in future months for more details. Nice to welcome John Varden back after a period of pursuing other interests, among our visitors this month was Gary Daynes from Essex a football card collector and Richard Wood from Burton on Trent.

We welcome another distant new member this month Les Cassidy from Ottawa Canada, Les has been bidding in our auction for a few months and has now joined us. The membership list is just about complete and we are 130 strong. Copies will be available next month to collect from the reception table if you want one. We will not be sending them out this year.

It wasn't long before 1.00pm came round and auction time. The bulk of The lots were from Roy Wilson's collection and were all good quality items including Players, Wills, and a good range of Brooke Bond cards. In all 260 lots made £5479. Top price went to Lot 93 £200 for a nice set Wills Animals of the World PC Inset. A total of £2771 went to postal bidders and 63 were withdrawn.

For the first time we had technical problem with the computer – maybe the Comedy of Errors started early – and although the buyers figures were all correct, the vendors needed sorting out which Alan took home to do. We are seriously considering reducing the number of lots per month to 200, there is always a noticeable lull in the bidding towards the end of the auction and it is difficult to concentrate for long periods as our age catches up with us. We still need items for the auction; Alan took home some material today that will reappear in the September auction remember it is only 5% until Christmas.

I have made some progress on the 'history 'of the club and although I'm behind schedule, I am really hopeful that it will be available later in the year. I need some help to complete it, I want to put some cards in the booklet of local scenes, just a few, but if you have any, can you bring them next month, we can scan them on the clubs computer and I can resize them to fit in the final production.

I heard some news today that Martin Murray is closing his shop and disposing Of his stock later this year, he has had a significant influence on cartophily for us and for collectors all over the world. I wonder who could take his place, makes you think where our hobby will be in 30 years' time.

We seem to be doing alright in East Anglia but we mustn't be complacent, we have a lot going for us, enthusiastic members, dealers who want to come to us, a great atmosphere every meeting, friendly and social interaction all with one purpose. We have been lucky in so much, that we have had some extremely good collections to put through the auction to the benefit of all members. The introduction of postal bidders means that not all cards are staying in the club membership but we do receive generous financial income from the postal bidders and therefore all members benefit. How long will this continue, as long as we want it to?

On to the future and our next meeting is on Saturday 16th July 2011, From 8.30am to about 3.00pm.

Dealers booked in to come are Jim Reynolds (Woodbridge), Mike Heard (Derby), Ken Courtney (Bury St. Edmunds), John Haddon-Silver (Bury St. Edmunds), Peter Beer (Great Cornard), Geoff McMillan (Melton Mowbray) Murraycards (London), Dave Norman (Petts Wood) and Martin Toms (Ruislip)

Hope to see you all there.