

EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Newsletter No. 500 --- Saturday 19th April 2014

Congratulations - everyone - we finally made it - 500 meetings of our club. Quite a milestone, not many clubs make it but we have. How pleased our forefathers would have been, could they have reckoned at their meeting, way back in March 1970 we would still be going strong in 2014. Sure it's changed a lot and will continue to do so but haven't we all over the years. Checking the records no one from the first meeting is still with us but will be looking down on us with some pride 'thinking' I started all that for those Neolithic cartophilists. Mike Reeve was with us today and he attended the 2nd meeting. I know everyone likes to reminisce so I have included a copy of the first & second meeting for you to read + the first membership list.

The preamble to this meeting was like no other, the village hall has undergone extensive renovation (well, new doors and windows) and there were fears that the builders wouldn't be finished but as it was Easter they put their best foot forward and came in on Good Friday and cleared up. The consequence was I had to pick up a new key from the booking clerk at 8.00am in the morning. This was far too late for some members and dealers and no less than 9 were waiting for me. Colin Gamble didn't fancy a before 7.00 start but I was pleased to see he made his own way over to Roydon.

The other major issue this month was that our good friend and loyal supporter Vera decided for personal reasons to stop coming. She has been finding it difficult to drive these last few months with her bad knees and on her doctors telephone advice (isn't it disgusting that you can't get to see a GP nowadays and they have to do a telephone diagnosis) sorry I digress, she has given up all her club's I know all the members will miss her, I know I will, but we all wish her, most sincerely, the very best and I hope that one day she will make her way over to Roydon to see us. She will be able to keep in touch with us via the newsletter. As a result of this decision other decisions had to be made, it was agreed with Bill that he and Muriel could not do the door together so it was decided that we would need to reorganise that aspect and responsibility. Bill has wanted to give up for several months' only Muriel has stopped him. As a result of that decision Muriel became very upset. They both wanted to come to the 500th meeting and with the blessing and help of their carers spent over two hours at the club. I hope they will come and see us again when they feel up to it, they will be very welcome. Several members offered to help them return in the future. Okay, so this month, Les, Ann and I did the door, the welcoming and the general 'hallo's, but we don't want to do it every month - we spend a lot of time every month making sure everything runs smoothly - so we need two volunteers to take over the door for the club. It is a vitally important role, so come on fellow members offer your services. Volunteer NOW please. Speak to me or Les soon.

It was our 500th meeting and I reckon we had over 80 members, dealers, visitors and a dog present. The caterers did us proud with a great spread, just right and plenty of it. Les spent most of the day gathering in the yearly subscriptions and over 50 members duly paid the modest £6 membership fee. What value.

I don't think anyone noticed, if they did it wasn't mentioned but April is our AGM month, we all forgot. I will prepare a financial statement to go out with next month's newsletter, all our officers are happy to continue, so if anyone wants to say anything or recommend anything please speak to us. I won't be at the May meeting (first one I've missed for 12 years) but a family wedding in Scotland calls. Les and Alan will be present to ensure everything runs smoothly. Les has his operation at the end of May so will probably miss the June/July meeting.

Among the members who don't get to often I was pleased to see George Smith and his good lady with us. He bought with him a lady who has inherited a collection and was amazed at what she saw at our club. Alan Wilde was keen to get away to go chasing autographs at Sprowston Manor, he was after Louis Suarez as Liverpool were visiting.

Words on the grapevine - I hear - Card Times has a new editor/owner, John Devaney has bought the franchise and will be taking it over in June. To take on that challenge he has had to give up editorship of the Cartophilic Notes and News. The new editor of CNN will be Gordon Howsden. Both magazines will have a new title, watch this space. I have also heard that a new Murray's catalogue is being prepared. Gary Arkell of SAS Auctions in Newbury is putting it together, just as I have managed to get used to the LCCC guide. It's off to convention next week, sunny Southport awaits. Alan and I have entered the preconvention Golf competition at Hesketh Golf Club and will spend two days card searching and exploring the delights of this North East resort. Hope to see some of you there but will understand it's a long way. Next year it's in Worcester, then coming our way in 2016, Cambridge or Peterborough is being explored. The members who came to the meeting collected our Commemorative card and if you weren't able to be with us, one is included for you with this newsletter. It is a limited edition (only 300 printed) so who knows it may well be a collector's item by 2055. Who will be the first to put one on Ebay?

The auction came round soon enough and the ever present 'A' team were soon ready to swing into action. The final figure of £2942 was very encouraging, as we had only 195 Lots and 44 unsold. Final figures of 3 vendors, £1793 was spent in the room, £1149 bought by postal bidders. Top spot went to Lot 148 a lovely set of Churchman Footballers (coloured) transferred to Wales for just £300 (obviously not Ipswich players, you could buy the whole team for that price).

And so we move on to the next 500 meetings, will we make a 1000, well we might not, but future cartophilist's might, if there will be such a thing. My estimate is December 2055 (give or take a few month's). As to the 501st meeting, it's on Saturday 17th May 2014, usual place, usual time. Dealers booked include John Haddon Silver, Ken Courtney, Peter Beer, Martin Toms, John Shaw and John Taylor (making his annual visit).