

East Anglian Cigarette Card Club

Bill Peck
Treasurer/Secretary
01379 642792

Colin Fawcett
Chairman
01945 583656

Alan Worthington
Auctioneer
01473 714411

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Report of a meeting held at Roydon Village Hall on Saturday 19th March 2011

What a lovely day it was for our meeting after a frosty start, the sun broke through and it became a perfect spring day, Colin Gamble and I set off for yet another meeting of the club, picking up Dennis Towler on the way and we spent a enjoyable hour reminiscing about the games we used to play as kids. Right who holds their hand up to doing "card flicking" against the wall – where would we be today if we all had done it. The club was in full flow when we arrived, dealers all in place and raking in the cash, members were glowing about their purchases and there was much talk about all things cartophilic. Eleven dealers were booked in today so, how we were going to get them all in, was a logistic problem Bill had been working on since last month. As it turned out Ken Courtney didn't make it because he was ill and Geoff McMillan never turned up (we will find out later why). So the nine left were extra busy, nice to see Peter Durrell dealing not often he comes but he is always welcome as is Peter Russell from the Welsh marshes and Mr. Murray and his wife with us again from the great metropolis of London. Get well soon Ken, I understand Alice is poorly as well also Alex couldn't make (ill) so we were grateful to Les for starting the collection of the subscriptions. Fifty four members were collared so already nearly half the membership has renewed. You can pay next month or send it to Bill. Nice letter this month from Jack Chilvers who sent us his subscription and a nice donation to the club, plus regards to all members. After some discussion we do not plan to circulate to everyone a copy of the membership list this year (usually about June) but copies will be available on request from the girls on the welcome table.

Several members have asked me about our man in Japan (member didn't rhyme) David Manning, and I'm glad to report he is fit and well and hasn't been affected by the terrible things going on in the north of the island. When the earthquake struck he was on his way to Tokyo and the train was stopped and he was able to return to his home. His email finished "yours glowingly" bit worrying that in view of the nuclear problems. On a personal note we have just celebrated our Ruby wedding and believe it or not I discovered today that Les & Anne have also celebrated theirs and they were married the same day as us, 6th March 1971, how about that for a coincidence.

Meanwhile back at the HQ things were strikingly busy, Kelly and her daughter were busy providing satisfaction to our inner selves, no cheese straws this month for Dennis ! Bad news I'm afraid about her father whose cancer has reappeared and spread, get well soon our thoughts are with you. No fewer than 84 members, 6 visitors and 9 dealers took our number to over 100 yet again. No other club can get anywhere near us for numbers as we now average over 80 for every single meeting. Thank you everyone for your continued support.

With this newsletter is a few thoughts I have had about the club and it's future, Alan, Bill Les and one or two other members have read it and it has been amended to take in there ideas – please read it carefully and let me know your comments. As it is our AGM in April I will bring it up then. It is not written 'in stone' but if we are to maintain the current level and incorporate the wishes of Bill we need to 'tweak' the current structure. Nobody likes change but none of us are getting any younger.

A lot of excitement in the hall about the forthcoming convention in Stratford upon Avon, plans are well ahead of schedule, several members will making the short trip up the A14 to enjoy two blissful days of cigarette card wheeling and dealing. We have been asked about the possibility of running a minibus but our membership is so spread over such a wide area that it is impractical, several cars will be going. Alan (Bobby Jones) Worthington, Bob (the hacker) Newby and myself will be representing the club in the pre convention Golf Challenge at The Welcombe Golf Club on the Thursday.

The auction started just after 1.00pm and Alan just got us through the 220 lots before his voice gave out. It was a struggle for several minutes and it took a constant supply of liquid to keep it flowing. It wasn't a high total auction just over £3100 was the final figure but 10 lots selling for just a pound coin and only 28 unsold, only 5 lots made the £100 figure. Interesting though was that 45% went postal. The inclusion at the end of 5 lots of 4 albums and slipcases were snapped up for £10 a lot, plenty more to come over the next few months, these have come from the Roy Wilson collection. His cards start in May and form the first 155 lots, the list is included with the newsletter. Alan estimates it will last until August/September.

Three changes of address this month – Ken Short has moved in Thetford to Keats Close, Mike Brewster has left the market town of Halesworth for the rural retreat of Salters Lode near Downham Market, and yours truly' will be moving on the 24th in to the great metropolis of Wisbech. Don't believe anyone who tells you moving is not stressful, it is believe me !My address will be " 'Sherwood', Trafford Road, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 2EJ ", telephone and email address will be unchanged. I can't wait now to get the boxes unpacked if only to see how the 6 bread trays and 4 boxes of cards that make up my collection have survived the traumatic experience. "Oh happy days"

Dealers at the next meeting..

Ken Courtney, Dave Norman, Jim Reynolds,
Martin Toms, Peter Beer, Jim Jackson,
John Haddon–Silver, John Shaw

Club table is back for all those cheap albums and pages and bargain cards,
bring a album and sell some of your spares..

***Next Meeting Saturday 16th April 2011
from 8.30am – 3.00pm – Auction at 1.00pm***