EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Unusually for me I saw the weather before I left for today's meeting and it was sunshine all the day, well that didn't bother me I was going to the card club. After missing the May meeting, I was ready and as usual I picked up my travelling companion Colin Gamble at ten minutes to eight o'clock for a casual drive to Roydon. It was a busy hall that greeted us and we were soon sorted out and ready to take on the challenge of the meeting. Some subscriptions still needed to be collected and I had a collection to value, very early on. There was nothing too exciting in it but it may come our way eventually.

The boys (Barry and Ken) had done their usual excellent job of setting the tables and chair's up, the dealers were in full swing, nice to see Paul Lynch from Nottingham smiling away in the corner and our good friend Neil Daniels from Leeds (who told me he left at 4.00am to be with us) sorting and selling. John Haddon Silver couldn't make it and Martin Toms also never made it.

We have a new face on the door to welcome everyone to the club; her name is Joyce and will hopefully be with us every month. She was soon able to sort out what needs doing and nobody got in without saying 'hallo' to her. Well done. I've bought the badges home this month with the intention of sorting them out and taking out those that don't come now. On the matter of membership we have had exactly a 100 members renew their subscription with still one or two more to come? I have updated the membership list and will leave a few copies on the reception desk for those members who would like a copy.

The morning seemed to be very quiet but by 11.00am it was beginning to get busy and we finished up with 52 members and 4 visitors. The furthest was the Taylors from Redhill in Surrey and the Boston regular Richard Green from Nottingham was also with us. I knew the Boston boys weren't coming as they were on holiday but all the usual suspects were present, Gary and Adrian after the football cards, Graham the gum cards (I'm sure he gets to all the bargains before I do, oh what a sacrifice I make). Alan was busy setting out the auction lots and then we had to catch up on last month. Two coffees and a bacon roll solved all the problems of the world.

We have some lovely members, some heroes to – I had a lovely chat with Aubrey James, he has been ill recently and hasn't been able to get to the club. However his health has improved of late and his doctor gave him the all clear to go over to France for the D-day celebrations. He had a wonderful time and even shook hands with the Prince of Wales, Aubrey is a real veteran, and we owe them so much. Les had his operation a few days after the last meeting and it has been successful, he is now in recovery and feeling sore. He wanted to be with us this month but had to ring his apologies through on the Friday, his target is to be with us next month.

Some snippets

Someone has left a page of Ogden Cricket 1926 cards on the members table I have them, so if they are yours ask me next month.

We will have 10 copies of the new magazine 'The Card Scene' for sale next month, I will put them on the door – ask Joyce if you want a copy £3.00 – as its issue no.1 it could become a collector's item. Our good friend Peter Beer is organizing the auction in it. If it's like his well-organized table, we should have some fun. I have a large quantity of secondhand LCCC albums (the longer variety) if anyone can use them you can have them with our compliments. I will bring some next month, first to ask.

It soon got round to the magic hour of 1.00pm and Alan soon got the auction off to a fast pace finding new homes for some great cards. The facts and figures equate to 184 lots, 5 vendors, 16 in house bidders paying out £1312, 19 postal bidders spending £1604, grand total £2916 with just 47 unsold lots. Top spot this month was shared, lot 87 the ERB Klondyke miner (a one card set, very rare) made £200 as did lot 152 a FJ Smith Shadowgraph set. We have had some tremendous cards go through our auction in the last few months (and still more to come) and members have been able to enhance their collections. It appears one or two dealers are not happy because some members are 'saving' their money for the auction and not spending it at their tables. I'm not sure what we can do about that situation, we do give dealers free tables (and will continue to do so for the rest of this year), and they do buy stock in the auction (so the price must be right for them). The result is that it appears to get harder and harder each month to persuade dealers to come east. When they do come they all seem to want to come the same month! I try to keep it to two large main dealers a month. We really appreciate their input to our club and hope they will continue to support us.

Next month we meet on Saturday 19th July at Roydon Village Hall from 8.30am. Barry can't make it so I will be opening up, I will try to be at the hall by 8.00am, so it's a very early start for me. Dealers booked in are Ken Courtney, John Haddon Silver, Peter Beer, Martin Toms and the return of our good friend Mike Prior (it's been over a year since he came east). Room for at least one more, ring me if you would like to fill the space. Our club table has a full stock of Albums and Pages so if you need to fill up your albums, pop up and stock up.