

EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Newsletter No. 511 — Saturday 21st March 2015

I always knew today was going to be a day, very few of us would forget. The club meeting was energetic, busy, well attended, had a great atmosphere but was totally over shadowed by the news we had all known was coming but hard to accept when we heard it. Our popular Honorary President Mr. Bill Peck had quietly passed away on the Friday night. I have done a separate tribute, to the newsletter, about our good friend. I know it took the 'wind out of a lot of our sails'.

I had a call from Barry Allen the night before ringing in sick so it was an early start for me and after a frustrating journey behind 5 lorries for 20 miles, I eventually reached Roydon at a quarter to eight. No one was waiting but it wasn't long before some dealers arrived and Kay in the kitchen had the kettle on and the smell of bacon was wafting around the hall before I had all the tables and chairs out.

We had a good turnout of dealers this month, nice to see Mike Heard with us again, both Alan and I booked our places with him for the pre-Convention Golf Challenge (kindly sponsored this year by Tim Davidson Auction). Geoff McMillan was with us and reliable Peter Beer and his assistant Neville were back in the corner of the hall. Nice to welcome Peter Russell from the Welsh borders back with his tremendous selection of cards. All the dealers seemed busy for most of the morning. I did find five minutes to do a bit of card hunting but with the convention coming up I'm hopeful of clearing most of my wants list there.

There was a good attendance today – some members came just to pay their subscription and I think the final number was around 68. There were just a couple of visitors this month and a new member. Welcome to the club, Richard Christmas, 16, New Park Ave, Bexhill on Sea, Sussex TN40 1QR. It was really nice to see Alan Utting this month, his wife is very poorly and he has found it difficult to attend, but he tells us he thinks about the club, he surprised me when he told me he is 90 this year, he certainly looks good on it. If you haven't paid your subscription, it is only £6, send it to me or bring it to the April meeting. I will produce an up to date membership list for the June meeting. Next month is the AGM at 12.55, a financial highlight sheet will hopefully be available. Any member who would like to receive the club newsletter by email rather than via the Post office and thus saving the club money, can do so, just tell me your email address. As stamps are going up at the end of the month I have bought 2000 to save the club about £200.

We had four visitors today from the Royal British Legion Diss branch, they all came at our invitation to receive a cheque from the club for £300. This was the proceeds of our Christmas raffle. They plan to use the money to buy a commemorative bench on Diss Mere (subject to planning permission). A local club helping a local cause , can't be bad.

Wheeling and dealing done, presentation made, lunch consumed (with several interruptions) and the magic hour of 1.00pm – auction time soon came round. I counted 28 hopeful faces with their auction cards at the ready. Today Ann had a new helper to show off the lots and a brilliant job she did as well, thank you Gemma Moyse. If she enjoyed herself and would like to do it again I propose we make her an honorary member and official helper. A badge will be available for her next month. The auction had some interesting lots this month and as usual the regular trouble makers soon made themselves obvious, testing Alan's patience to the core. Still I suppose none of us are getting any younger. I reckon we might need to think about a speaker system soon.

It was a satisfactory auction with a final figure of £3609. Top spot went to Lot 125 a nice set of Gallaher Great War 1st series in very good condition for £110. There were 19 successful in house bidders spending £2664 and 16 postal bidders spending £945 and only 21 went unsold.

Some one left a blue sweater in the hall it will be on the door awaiting collection next month. Also next month I will be bringing about 20 used albums and slipcases for sale at a greatly reduced price. First come first served.

We do it all again next month on the 18th April, a week ahead of the Worcester convention. Roydon Village Hall 8.30pm to 3.00pm. Dealers booked in are Ken Courtney, John Shaw, Peter Beer and Martin Toms.

