

East Anglian Card Collectors Club

Newsletter No. 524

Saturday 16th April 2016

Today was to be a memorable day in the history of our club, why well read on, if you haven't already noticed above. The day started well enough, snowing in Wisbech as I left, not settling but none the less cold. It was an indifferent journey, usual Lorries, no tractors for a change, but I did see a little Roe deer in Thetford Forest as we travelled through I bet he never felt the cold.

Barry had done his brilliant setting up the job; on his own this month apparently Ken was on holiday. Three dealers were in and set up, Peter and Neville showing their huge selection of cartophilic wonders. Did anyone see Peter Beer on television last week? Mike Heard was nicely ensconced in his corner, Nigel Mann with his eclectic collection of collectable goodies and John Haddon Silver was with us after missing last month for birthday celebrations. John Taylor and Alan Wilde followed me in and were soon set up and selling. Alan was showing a great selection of Norwich City autographs. Nice to see Ken and Alice Courtney with us again. Alice was looking well but has had a very difficult few months.

There was a good attendance again this month, with 50 members checking in with Joyce, in addition 4 visitors, one checking us out for selling his brothers collection. Alan is on the case and hopefully it will be in the auction later in the year. A few stragglers came in and paid their subscriptions, just a few more to come. If you have a **GREEN** dot on your envelope, it means we haven't received your (incredibly cheap) £6.00 membership subscription (May 21st next meeting – final opportunity). A new member joined us this month Richard Spurgin from up the road in Harleston, primarily a collector/dealer of postcards with an interest in cigarette cards, he is most welcome.

I did get some time to do a bit of card searching and found quite a few and also sold a few, my 10p box on the members table proving a irresistible draw to a few members, especially Gus, who had to be dragged away for the auction. Bob and Gill do a great job for us every month, providing a warm welcome and a convivial chat and an opportunity to find a few cards. There is every size of pages available on this table with a vast selection of pockets sizes as well as old and new albums. Why not pop up and say hello next month.

The morning seemed to 'fly' by (as usual) with our regular intake of coffee and snacks, we all had time to catch up and chat and solve all the problems of our cartophilic club world.

- We are just a fortnight away from our annual trip to the world's biggest cigarette card convention. This year at Bracknell (Berks) Leisure Centre, Saturday 30th April/Sunday 1st May, I know of quite a few of our members who are going to this card fest. Little bit of forewarning next year the convention is to be in Manchester.
- If any member is able to offer any advice/help/information on the issues of Monty Gum, they are a 'minefield' for a collector, no numbers, different colours, different shades and other minor differences. A real nightmare even in the reference books.
- The new 'Murrays' price guide will be available next month – retail at £10.00, I have bulk bought 50 for our members and can sell them to you for £8.50, first come first served.

As it was the April meeting we had our AGM and as usual the normal apathy was present. I had drawn together a few of the highlights of the financial aspects of the club for the past year. The significant points were the auction was down on the year from £38k to £31k because of the quality of items we have been asked to sell. The club's balance of £6k at the end of March needed the March auction vendor's payments to come off meant we have about £4.5k in the bank still a healthy position. The other item for discussion and decision was the proposition to change our name to **'East Anglian Card Collectors Club'** After a short debate and vote it was agreed unanimously. Peter Beer and Dave Turnbull thanked the officers on behalf of the members for all their hard work and dedication to our club. A round of applause followed.

It was soon 1.00pm and Alan was ready with his 255 lots which needed new homes. There was an interesting selection this month quite a few unlisted items. Top spot went to Lot 212 a smashing set of Pattrieuex Sporting Events and Stars for just £80. The rest of the facts and figures were total sales £2288. There were 14 in house bidders spending £1173, and 12 postal bidders who had £1015 to spend. A further 53 lots were unsold and returned to one of the 6 vendors (or sold on the internet depending on their instructions).

Next month we meet on the **21st May** – five weeks to wait – same place same time, and a 237 lot auction at 1.00pm. Highlight lot has to be 128 a smashing set of 70 Mitchell River and Coastal Steamers. Dealers booked in are Roger Mann, Martin Toms, Mike Heard, John Shaw and Ken Courtney. Don't forget to support our Club table, you will be surprised what you will find. I have a few used Albums left and they will be available on a first come basis.

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