

East Anglia Card Collecting Club

Newsletter No. 617 Saturday 16th December 2023

Our December meeting is always a little bit special and this year was no exception, with the weather good it was a pleasant ride to Roydon, with only the odd interference from a 'beet' lorry to hinder us. I was a good hour later than usual and the hall was in full swing, the three dealers all set up and selling, the early birds were looking, seeking and buying, Alan had almost completed putting the auction lots out. Barry had arrived early and set out the tables, unfortunately his usual assistant Ken has had a stroke and is in hospital. Get well soon Ken. I knew a few members were just 'popping in' because of the local derby that was happening but that was fine, they bought raffle prizes and tickets and I'm sure everyone was happy with a draw -honours even.

Les and Ann arrived nice and early (with granddaughter Chloe along to help) and were soon set up and selling raffle tickets by the score with Sue and Barry doing the folding (I have a doubt whether they put mine in because I didn't win a single prize this year). The sales came thick and fast with members digging deep into their pockets to support this year's chosen charity Breast Cancer Now. Everyone hoped to win one of the 80+ magnificent prizes on offer. A really big thank you to everyone who bought a prize in and then bought a few tickets.

Sally was busy in the kitchen preparing our buffet along with a bevy of helpers (granddaughter and friend I think ?) and even Kate turned up despite not feeling very well. I did spot Mrs Butterworth, Dula, doing the washing up, thank you most sincerely.

Hope the members who couldn't make it this year are soon well, Doreen and Ken, we look forward to seeing you next month. I had a Christmas card the other day from Cynthia Bradshaw who wished the club continued success. In all 58 members attended today of which 49 were present for the buffet and raffle along with 4 visitors.

We were ready at 11.00am to start the auction, Alan was hoping his voice would hold up - after having a cold all week - but once he got settled in he soon rattled off the 250 lots. The other incentive was kick off was at 12.30, he only missed the first few minutes ! It was a better than expected auction with the final figure a respectable £3199. There were 17 successful in house bidders spending £1370 on 135 lots, a further 22 successful postal bidders who spent £1829 on 89 lots. There were 26 unsold and 11 vendors. Top spot was shared this month by Lot 20 a Societe Job set and Lot 91 a Hignett 1938 Cricketers set, both selling for £100.

Several people have asked when they can bring items in for the auction again but our issue is storage at the moment, with so many of Gus's collection being stored prior to sorting, listing and selling. His first lots appear in the January auction. He has many interesting cards many of which I have never seen in my 50 plus years of collecting, so it will be something to look forward to in the months ahead. After chatting to Alan we have agreed that 'quality high end' cards can be brought in from February and common cards perhaps later in the year. We are both very busy sorting and listing Gus's cards and although we haven't 'made a hole' in the collection yet, storage will continue

to be an issue until we start to sell them. This will be in January, then a few in February then 150 lots a month from March. Remember we are increasing the number of lots in each auction up to 300 from January.

After the auction Chairman Les and Alan did their presentation of gifts to the many helpers who make our club happen, it is all voluntary and very much appreciated by all the members. We have a great club with a tremendous atmosphere every month, all made possible by the combined efforts of everyone involved. Long may it continue. After the thanks we had an extra presentation to make. I discovered a few weeks ago that our December meeting date was Mike Prior's 80th birthday, we couldn't let that pass without recognition so Sally baked a cake, everyone present signed a card and we all sang Happy Birthday. Mike joined the club in the early 70's so is one of the original early members. Hope you had a good day Mike, liked the badge !

Then it was buffet time and what a spread, Sally laid on for us, plenty of it and all quality (mostly home cooked) fare. It was noticed that most members made at least two trips to restock their plates or glass, many made more but there was plenty to go round.. I'm sure 'docky bags' were full at the end. A veritable feast for all participants, there were 4 visitors who were happy to pay the full price for the buffet so once again members got tremendous value for the small membership fee. The buffet cost the club over £500 and this was paid from club funds mainly profit from the auction.

After the buffet had been cleared away it was raffle time, always a fun event with over 80 prizes to distribute. It did take a long time but we had a good laugh, it was strange this year how many prizes went to so few members. It was a close thing but Richard Spurgin and Richard Buckle took over 10 prizes each. I hope they bought a lottery ticket on the way home they would be sure to win that as well. We have a cheque to present to a representative of Breast Cancer Now for £472 at our January meeting. A truly great result.

After the raffle it was clear up time and then time to return home, extremely satisfied after another great club meeting with many friends. Next month I have quite a few used Albums and Pages to move on at a very cheap price so if you need any, just ask. I can reserve some for you if you are unable to get their early. They will be Albums £2 Slipcases £1 and Pages (about 100) £2, most are in VG condition.

We start our 15th year at Roydon Village Hall (the longest we have been at any of our venue's) on Saturday 20th January 2024. Usual time 8.30 to 3.00pm. Dealers booked in are Mike Heard, Peter Beer, Robert Butterworth, Richard Spurgin, Richard Buckle, Sean Coafield and Brian Pentalow.

Stop Press .. Next year's April Convention has had a change of venue and date - it is now Salisbury Wiltshire, Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st April. More details as they become available

Secretary/Treasurer, **Colin Fawcett** 1, Levers Close, Kings Lynn,

Norfolk PE30 3UU clnfa@aol.com 01553 674358 07544701922

Auctioneer **Alan Worthington** 01473 714411 07710026054

Chairman **Les Woolnough** 01473 743794

