

East Anglian Cigarette Card Club

Newsletter No. 520

Sunday 13th December 2015

The Christmas meeting is always something special and different from our usual affair. It was a much better day this year (weather wise) than last year (remember the snow and the ice), cold and wet but more acceptable. There were 56 members booked in and with four dealers also booked in, it promised to be a good day.

Things were well under way as I walked in around 9.00am, many members already buying and sorting through the stock of dealers in search of those elusive odds. It was nice to welcome Paul Lynch to the club and he bought his vast stock of cartophilic wonders. I think he had a good day. I did suggest to him he should thin some of his albums out a bit, twice I picked one up and the pages fell out! He told me the new 'Murrays' price guide was progressing well and was on target to be completed and printed in time for the Convention next year. Peter Beer had his accomplice with him this month and seemed busy most of the morning. Nice to see Martin Toms back with us and 'of course' Peter Russell is always welcome in the east. I had seen all four dealers the previous day at Orpington.

The members drifted in as the morning progressed, many thanks to my wife Sue for 'doing' the door and handing out the badges and drinks vouchers. There were one or two regulars conspicuous by their absence (it's funny how you miss some people when they are not present!), where was Albert and Gus, Graham was at a christening, the Kenny boys never miss a Christmas do but did this year. Where was Ken and Alice, no doubt I will find out eventually? Also missing Stuart B. and Ron N. In all 45 members made it and there was a further 6 visitors. The question was asked why we move to a Sunday in December because it clashes with the Kent club meeting at Orpington, about 20 of our members were there this year including the dealers. Alan has suggested that we consider having it on the 3rd Saturday of December as usual – the problem with that is some years it will be just 4 days before Santa comes a visiting. I had to feel sorry for Tony Brown who had the journey from hell to get to us this month with cancelled trains, over running track repairs, he missed the one lot he wanted in the auction.

We decided to put the auction back to 11.30am and Alan had 176 nice lots to find new homes for. The final figures were, total sold £2162, where 15 in house bidders spent £918, and 13 postal bidders spent £1244. There were 3 vendors and 44 lots remained unsold. Top spot went to Lot 136 – 346 types of ATC Flags of all Nations a bargain at £220.

Several members like to dig around in the unsold/postal boxes at the end of the auction; this has caused us a big problem this month. Lot 113 a set of Mickey Durling Fabulous Footballers has been picked up by mistake. It was definitely sold (for £90) and put in the postal box but wasn't there when Alan went to post it off. We know sometimes the pages stick together and can only assume this is what has happened. Please let us know if you have it and please return it to us.

No sooner than the auction was complete than Les announced that the buffet was ready and an orderly queue soon formed to sample the wondrous delights of a Christmas themed buffet. Among the delights on offer were turkey/cranberry sandwiches, pate brochettes, sausage rolls, smoked salmon, prawns, quiche bites, mini eclairs, Christmas pudding bites and raspberry/chocolate cups to name but a few. It was a feast to remember and plenty of it, enjoyed by all. Kate has told us that she is closing down her mobile catering business in the New Year and that our January meeting would be her last. She did however offer to find a new caterer for us.

Then it was time for Chairman Les to officially welcome everyone and a special welcome to John Devaney from Card Scene to our club. John was busy all day with his camera so watch out for some embarrassing pictures in a future newsletter. There will be a special mention of our club in his next issue. Les as usual concluded with his Christmas gifts for members who make our club happen every month. I really appreciate my whisky and thank the members on behalf of all the recipients.

Then it was Giant Raffle time -- 75 lovely prizes all generously donated by our generous members, many thanks to everyone. The first prize of a £75 M&S voucher was won by Ken Short's daughter; the 2nd prize went back to Nottingham with Paul Lynch. Particular thanks to our anonymous member who gave us the 1st three prizes. It was great to see everyone sitting down with their raffle tickets laid out before them in expectation. Alan and Les drew the numbers to all the hopeful members. I think the most prizes went to Ray Warnes who took home 6 prizes. The proceeds this year will be given to EACH East Anglia Children's Hospice, who will be invited to the January meeting to receive a cheque for £350.00

Well, that's about it for 2015 – may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and may 2016 be everything you wish it. This year has seen us lose 4 of our most enthusiastic members (Club President Bill Peck, Adrian Scarf, Aubrey James and Jack Norman) they all loved our Christmas 'do' and are very much missed by all of us.

Finally congratulations to EIGHT members who attended every meeting in 2015 – Chris Bree, Keith Glancy, me, Alan Huggins, Dave Jones, Peter McGough, Ray Warnes and Alan, closely followed by 14 members who missed just ONE meeting.

Next year we start on Saturday 16th January 2016 with a full 250 lot auction a bulging Club table and the following dealers booked in -- John Haddon Silver, Ken Courtney, Martin Toms, Peter Beer, John Shaw and Mike Heard.

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Secretary/Treasurer Colin Fawcett 01945 58365

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