

East Anglian Card Collectors Club

Newsletter No. 544

Sunday 10th December 2017

This was one of those meetings when you never know what is going to happen – the big issue was would anyone be daft enough to turn out with heavy snow, cold and rain forecast - well - 43 people did!

I very much doubt I would have gone if I hadn't had so much to do, but it was just getting light and snowing when I left the capital of the fens (Wisbech is, in case you didn't know) and it was a very careful drive for most of the way. Further East I travelled it was rain not snow I went through. The hall was set out, the dealers in place, the food being prepared, the raffle looking good, the main topic of conversation was the great British weather of the cold and snow. As more and more hardy souls arrived so did the snow and it continued for most of the morning, settling on the vehicles outside. Did we have visions of being snowed in – no not really, but there was plenty of cards for us to look at. We need to develop a strategy for how we cancel a meeting if the need arises. I seem to remember we did have to cancel one because of heavy snow 2 or 3 years ago. I will work on it over the holiday.

As this was the Christmas meeting it was also the 'big' charity raffle and by the time we got round to it – 65 prizes adorned the tables. The selected charity this year is Prostrate Cancer and a cheque for £310 will be given to them in the New Year. More about the raffle later.

As we run a very flexible timetable at the Christmas meet, we moved things around a bit. It was decided it would be a good idea to try to finish a bit earlier to allow members the opportunity to get home before it got dark and the ice reappeared on the roads. Also we heard that the boys from Sussex were on their way but stuck in accident traffic on the Colchester by pass, so we decided to swap things around a little. Santa Les and his words of thanks went 1st, followed by the raffle, then the auction and finally the buffet.

Santa Les thanked the club's helpers for another years support, I know he said it and he's quite right we wouldn't have a club without everyone pitching in together. A couple of regular helpers couldn't make it through the snow so they will be seen in January.

The raffle was a tremendous success once again, thank you everyone who gave a prize or two, thank you if you bought a few tickets, we distributed the prizes in around 30 minutes. Top prize of a luxury weekend away in a top hotel went to a ticket sold in November to Ken Courtney. Have a good time Ken, and don't go on a club weekend!! There are prizes to collect in January for Peter McGough, Colin Gamble, Tony Debenham, Alan Wilde and Alice Courtney.

The boy's from Sussex hadn't arrived by 11.45 so we decided to start the auction and Alan sailed through the 195 lots in about an hour. The final totals were the 195 lots sold for £1386, there were 12 successful postal bidders spending £629, a further 13 in house bidders, who spent £757 and only 25 went unsold. Top lot was No.1 a lovely set of Churchman Wild Animals of the World being bought by Chairman Les for a round £100, That's his Christmas present sorted Ann.

The food was ready by the time the auction finished and while members paid and we cashed up a disorderly queue formed to experience a buffet to behold. It was quite magnificent with all manner of delicacies to be sampled, both sweet and savoury. Wine and juice as well. We had 4 'better half's join us and 2 new members sign up as well. This brings our membership number up to 114 now.

We have assumed most members have read the notice I sent out last month and all the comments / feedback have been positive, as members do appreciate the tremendous value of their low cost membership fee. Even Gary Colman who dissected the numbers to a fine degree had to agree it was remarkable value. Membership fees are not due until April 2018.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the February Auction list and the first 131 lots are all Silks, many rare, expensive and even some unlisted. I have some very good quality Used Large albums to sell and will bring them next month, along with a box of smaller second hand albums and pages. Alan has picked up the collection from Reading I mentioned last month and there is some really fantastic cards, all in Excellent / Mint condition. All Film Stars, trade and many not listed in any reference book. We have got to sell these for the very best price, it is only fair to the vendor so some will have a reserve on which will be strictly adhered to.

I usually include a picture or two from the Christmas party but although I took our camera, I forgot, so apologies for not taking any, perhaps another member would like the responsibility next year.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer for the 2018 convention in Kings Lynn, as co-hosts we need to get our head round our responsibilities in the New Year. In the meantime put the date on your calendar, book the time off work, it is an event you will never forget.

Just as we finished the buffet and started clearing up, the boys from Sussex turned up after a 6 hour journey through snow, rain, sleet, ice and past many accidents. There was plenty of food left for them and after looking through the unsold's (and buying four) they began their trip home. Such dedication, if we had medals for enthusiasm to give out I would give them both one. Although everyone who turned out for this meeting deserved a medal.

Over the years I have been to many many Christmas do's at our club, this meeting will go down in the history books and will be remembered for many years ahead – and not only for the weather.

Next month – we begin the New Year and our 10th year at Roydon Village Hall
on **SATURDAY 20th JANUARY 2018**. Usual place, Usual time.

Dealers booked in include John Haddon Silver, Ken Courtney, Peter Beer,
Roger Mann, Charlie Springer and Mike Heard.

Space for at least two more, just give me a ring.

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