

East Anglian Card Collectors Club

Newsletter No. 535

Saturday 18th March 2017

As we started our 536th meeting on a lovely March spring day you wonder every month what is in store for us regular members, will they find that elusive odd card that has been on their wants list for several years or will it be a day for chatting and socialising. We made good time and when we walked in the door at 9.0oclock the club was in full swing.

The dealers were set up and selling, Mike and John in their usual places, Roger and Peter (minus his most able assistant – more later) busy set up and enjoying a late breakfast. It was nice to welcome back John Haddon Silver with his extensive collection of odds and even some postcards. I must give a mention to Ken and Alice in the back room with their eclectic collection of the more modern issues. There was an empty space on the right hand side where Martin Toms should have been (not like him to not turn up unannounced) but we discovered later he had broken down on the M25 on his way to us and had to be RAC rescued. I hope it was not a too serious or expensive problem.

The early birds were in evidence shortly after opening and I was ‘bushwhacked’ as soon as I walked in the door by the members wanting to dig into my £1 box mentioned last month. They were mostly sold early, just a few cigar sets to take home but several very happy members with a bargain or two for their collections at home. Nice to see Garry Daynes back with us after a short break. It seemed rather a slow morning with members and visitors drifting in and out throughout the day. It was nice to see Ken and Barry still there and we had nice chat, I really appreciate the work they do in setting the hall up every month. Barry told me he is getting into his golf again now the weather is improving. I understand Neville Proctor is not too well and is in hospital at the moment. Get well soon, Peter needs you and the members need the bargains.

I spent the morning chatting, catching up with the members as they drifted in. We had 52 members and 6 visitors this month the furthest visitor was probably Gary May from Lincoln. One of the visitors joined us and paid a full year’s membership subscription, he is Richard Wood from Burton on Trent, and most welcome he is to.

----- We are on the last call for membership renewals. Check your envelope if it has a dreaded RED spot on, it means you haven’t paid your exorbitant subscription of £6.00. – almost certainly the best deal on the planet. This will be your last newsletter if we have not received it by April 15th (next meeting). We only have about 25 to pay.

----- I had a letter this past month from Vera telling me that our sole surviving founder member Alan McLean has died in Norwich. Alan with Vera’s husband Ritchie and Francis Pitt laid the foundations of our club way back in October 1969. I hope they would be pleased with how it has developed over the years. Vera wished to be remembered to everyone. I will do a potted history of our club for members sometime in the future (it is on the computer) it makes interesting reading.

----- I called into see Ted Wareham and his charming wife Margaret on Friday and we spent two hours talking cards. He has an extensive knowledge of many cards and I always come away feeling I've learnt something else new. He gave me another big box of auction items.

----- We urgently need some cards or cartophilic items to sell in our auction – Alan has enough to complete June – but then nothing. We don't have a collection to sell at the moment. So have a sort out, make yourself some money (to buy more cards!) and let us know. We will sort them in to saleable lots, grade them, price them and list them all you have to do is bring them in. We can even collect them sometimes if that helps.

----- thank you to those members who bought a raffle prize for next month – Remember it is on Easter Saturday – so we will be having a Raffle for club funds. Please bring a prize next month –it needn't be an Easter Egg but related to Easter.

----- plans are well advanced for this year's convention at Stratford on Avon April 29th / 30th. Over 35 dealers are booked in with over 1,000,000 cards on offer. It is well worth the trip. Alan and I will be playing the preconvention Golf tournament (sponsored by Tim Davidson Auctions) on the Friday. I hope to see lots of our members at this unique big event.

----- Bob and Jill were busy all morning on the members table and sold an enormous number of pages and cards. Charlie had bought some Beatrix Potter 50pence pieces (which are selling for huge sums of money on Ebay) and I don't think he took many home. He will bring some more next month (if he can get hold of some). I plan to reduce the stock we currently keep of pages in the coming months so will have a sale! The plan is to sell only the 'popular' sizes, they take a lot of room up in my garage and fill my car up every month. Watch this space.

----- next month is our Annual General Meeting and if any member wants to get more involved, we would welcome them volunteering. Our Auctioneer Alan (9 years), Chairman Les (5 years) and me (13 years) are all still getting great pleasure from the club and have all settled in to a nice routine and are all happy to continue on but none of us are getting any younger and maybe it's time for a change. I will try and find time to put together some figures so members can see how the club stands financially.

For some unknown reason Alan and Anne has the auction ready early this month, everyone was ready, and seated with their bidding cards at the ready by quarter to one. So it was a prompt start. We only had 200 Lots and with amazing speed and very prompt almost enthusiastic bidding soon found new homes for 183 of them. The facts and figures were 200 Lots sold for £2658. There were 5 vendors and only 17 remained unsold. Of the successful bidders, 17 were in the room spending £1904 and there were 12 postal bidders spending £754. Top spot this month was shared Lot 66 a nice set of Typhoo Nursery Rhymes and Lot 104 the Carreras Raemakers War Cartoons Black Cat both selling for £95. So although we had fewer lots this month (50 less) the final figures was around the normal final figure.

**Next month we meet on EASTER SATURDAY 15th April 2017, same time, same place,
Dealers booked in include John Haddon Silver, Mike Heard, Martin Toms,
Peter Beer, Ken Courtney and Geoff McMillan**

Chairman Les Woolnough 01473 743794

Secretary/Treasurer Colin Fawcett 01945 583656

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