

# EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Newsletter No.484 — Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2012

With great anticipation it was Christmas party time for EACCC and a sumptuous feast awaited us all and it was well and truly delivered. With my car boot loaded down with raffle prizes kindly donated by members who couldn't make it we ventured on towards Roydon and our monthly meet. In case most people think these days just happen, I assure you they don't! There is hours of planning, ringing, sorting and nowadays emails which brings everything together smoothly and efficiently. Lots of people are involved to make it a day to remember.

It seemed rather quiet on our arrival but our single dealer Paul Lynch was in place and selling to our enthusiastic early birds. Paul's van broke down a couple of miles from Roydon but he managed to limp in to the Village Hall. A telephone call and subsequent visit by the AA told him his 'turbo' had blown (whatever that is, but it sounds expensive). A tow truck was booked for 3.00pm to take him back to Nottingham. The bright side to the breakdown was he could have several glasses of wine with his lunch as he wasn't driving.

The caterers were in full swing in the kitchen and after a couple of telephone calls we got the heating cupboard lit and working. Val soon had the kettle on and coffee aroma joined the other wonderful smells wafting around the hall.

The girls on the door were in the party spirit and you only got your badge after a trip under the mistletoe with them both as is the usual Christmas tradition. Muriel was very pleased with the new register I gave her for 2013. It was a busy morning with the festive atmosphere really spreading all around the room. There was a lack of 'hats' this year (well until we popped the crackers), maybe make it a rule next year - everyone must wear a Christmas hat.

As it was Christmas party we had our usual shorter auction, only 116 lots. A good variety of many different items to tempt us to open our wallets. There were a few postal bids so we had something to work with. As the 11<sup>th</sup> hour approached Alan was ready, computer up and running, lots stacked and ready to go to new homes. Anne had distributed the bidding numbers and was encouraging a prompt start and by a few minutes past 11.00 we were off and selling. We whisked through the lots and was done and dusted by 12.15, cashed up and paid out, ready for our feast. For the purists, the top price went to Lot 48 Ardath Cricket Photocards for £130. Total unsold 29, total income £1699. Not much money in the hall over £1200 went postal. More about the auction later.

As we were ready for lunch at 12.15 I checked with the caterers and they needed another ½ hour so Les and I made an executive decision to do the raffle before lunch. The question was could we dispatch the 88 prizes in 30 minutes, we gave it a good try and it took 40 minutes - not bad.

Thank you everyone who was involved in the raffle, all the prizes were donated, I am always amazed at the generosity of our members, the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> prize very kindly donated by one member. Thank you to Anne for selling the tickets, thank you Muriel/Vera/Carol for folding the tickets. The final total of £207 will be given to EACH. They say 'there is nothing so strange as folk' and we have them in our club also, I removed two donated prizes - open bottles of Schlur/Martini (their seals were broken and some drink gone) - we couldn't give them away.

First prize an M&S voucher went to a very excited daughter of John Eaves, I'm sure they heard her shout down in Diss. The 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of a Curry's voucher went to our good friend from Market Rasen, Jack Norman. That will earn you a few Brownie points from your good lady. The usual process of drawing a number, identifying who had won, then coming and selecting a prize went smoothly; we had to go into super drive towards the end and had six people looking at the prizes at the peak. Good fun though and all 88 prizes found new homes.

Then it was lunch time and a full three course meal including wine and coffee was enjoyed by all. A couple of members had rung in sick and in total 45 members enjoyed the feast. It was a lot better this year, the caterers had listened to our comments and all the food arrived at the same time. Thank you Mr Chairman for the name labels on the table, they were very well done and helped the girls identify who wanted what. Early comments on the meal was very good, feedback from members is always appreciated and taken on board, don't forget we begin planning for December 2013 next month.

At around 2.15pm a silence descended on the gathered masses as Chairman Les went up on to the stage to deliver his words of wisdom and this year we all heard every word he said. He thanked everyone for their support this year and once again gave out Christmas prezzes to those members who do something to make our club happen every month. A great team effort. Being a member of our club is not just about cigarette card collecting it is far more, it's about friendships about fun and telling tales and sharing experiences, it's like an extended family. I felt very humble to be named 'Mr East Anglia' by our chairman.

A great day, a great meal, what could be better in life than to be with such good friends. Can't wait five weeks before we all come together again.

*Other matters ... Alan and I met up early this month to go and see a collection, the collector (not one of our members) had died earlier this year, and his niece had seen our website and contacted me. We travelled down to Surrey together and to say we were 'gobsmacked' is an understatement. We saw before us all laid out on a table was literally 1000's and 1000's of cards, all unsorted, in different shaped boxes, tins, in envelopes, in old albums (not a new plastic album in sight). We thought we had gone to heaven early! Well, they are all coming to our club auction after probate (probably March/April time). It is going to take us hours to sort them into saleable lots, ready to present to you hungry members but it is great news for our club auction and the club's income. We only looked through a few boxes but enough to make it worthwhile. Yes there are some common cards but you have to take the rough with the smooth but the quantity and quality is excellent. Don't forget we have been promised two other collection's as well, Herbie Nevill's, not heard lately but will be asked again shortly, and our good friend Jim Reynolds, which Anne has told us will be later in the year.*

... No news on the new Murrays catalogue yet, Alan and I have bought the LCCC edition.

... Enclosed with this newsletter is a leaflet on next year's convention.

... Did you know that May 2014 will be our 500<sup>th</sup> meeting, do we want to do something special, ideas on the back of a cigarette card now please !!!

Next year our first meeting is Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013 -- usual time and place  
Dealers booked in include Ken Courtney, John Haddon Silver, John Shaw, Mike Heard,  
Martin Toms and Peter Beer. Happy New Year to one and all.