

# EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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You would think that after an 8 week break, card hunting would be a priority and the hungry collector would be raring to get back on the trail of that elusive last card, but not for me this month. Yes, I was keen to get to Roydon and 'chew the cud' with the many friends this hobby brings together but the journey wasn't one I was looking forward to. The reason was, for the past few years I have enjoyed the company of Denis for the hour's drive to and from Roydon but not this month, after a very short illness Denis had lost his fight against cancer and had died on the Thursday before club. I knew I would miss him, we talked about everything and everyone and between us, and we could easily have solved all the problems in the world (well it seemed that way). He wasn't feeling to well at the Christmas Dinner, saying his shoulder hurt and over the Christmas period it got worse and in January he was told he had the dreaded disease cancer. I saw him just before he died and we chatted about the good times we had had at Roydon and he was always so pleased to see his many friends. We will miss him, I will miss him.

Sorry about the mournful start but as we get older, death seems to be more around us, none of us get any younger, that's the third card collecting friend we have lost in the last 6 months. With the snow enforced break, there was every possibility that this could be a busy day, everyone needed to get out and meet up. We had a good number of dealers booked and as usual they were kept busy all day. Is it me or does John Shaw's stock seem to be getting bigger and bigger, I'm sure he could fill the hall on his own. Nice to see his good lady and the dog with him for the family day out. I had a nice chat with Mike Heard (yes I will be at Convention golf this year) and was even able to go round and collect some CSGB subs. A great number of EACCC members are also members of CSGB and I was very pleased to accept an application from our Chairman and Anne to become members. There was a lot to talk about this month, and my card hunting time was virtually non-existent but I did leave a friends list with Mike who found a few for him.

Chairman Les and I had a good chat about the future and we both recognised that a few decisions had to be made. As we have had a break for a few weeks, the bank account has not been touched so I was able to share a figure of just under £4k in the account with nothing owing and nothing owed, which was useful to know. The membership subscriptions are due in April and the recommendation is there should be a small increase to £6 for the next year and try to hold it for at least 3 years. The auction income hasn't been so good this past twelve month's but does look brighter for the future. We also discussed the Christmas dinner which most people felt was better than last year (although 6 members didn't like it as much) and only 42 members sat down, the rest were guests and friends. So what do we do in December this year, tell us please?

It's nice to sit down together, we know it doesn't work away from Roydon; it is difficult for outside caterers to provide a consistently hot, quality meal in a kitchen they don't know. The buffet we had a couple of years ago was well supported but we want you to tell us what you want? We know it is impossible to please everybody all the time but we will work with the majority. We also discussed our 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary but more of that in future newsletters (it is after all May 2014; we don't want you to get too excited about it too early).

There was a good number of members with us this month (75 the girls reported), including some rarely seen. Alan Utting and his good lady paid us a visit (did you know Alan was responsible for the photos of the East Suffolk Churches in the new Butterworth set. Good job Alan. Tony Debenham was spotted in the hall, probably still looking for that elusive very rare cricket card, also I saw Darren Moyse with us again, and you have been missed. The members table was busy all day with Bob and Jill raking in the cash for the club. I have been given a considerable number of good quality used albums and slip cases to sell, and these will be on the members table for the next two months at least at only £2 per album and £1 per slipcase. I can only get two boxes full in my car each month so will be sold on a first come first served basis.

Val was busy in the kitchen providing us with Rolls, Cakes and Coffee, I think she completely sold out, well done, I hope your new volunteer will be with you next month. Now for some, quick bits ....

- 1 The long overdue new Murrays catalogue will be with us next week - believe it when you see it. I have two boxes on order so might have them next month.....
- 2 There are 48 dealers booked in for the forthcoming Convention at Woking with at least 6 more expected, plus millions of cards, can you afford to miss it. 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> April 2013.....
- 3 a member with considerable computer skills has been approached to produce a calendar for 2014 -- watch this space.

The morning just flew by (4 hours seemed like 10 minutes) and at just after 1.00pm Alan was ready to wield his gavel. This was the January auction list being sold in February. The first 45 lots were single silk cards and with no postal bidders, it was always going to be difficult to sell them. The rest of the auction went well with a final figure of £3300 being very respectable. There were 124 unsold, but top price went to Lot 62 a nice set of African Tobacco Co. Types of Railway Engines for £270. There were 12 vendors and 17 postal bidders who spent £1400. Don't forget we will be selling the already circulated February auction list, that's why there is no auction list with this newsletter. We have a good stock of cards to sell for the next few months and Alan is currently listing May and June (when we hope the sun will be shining). Stars in the May auction both Taddy Wrestlers making a first ever appearance at our Auction. Start saving now

Next month we meet on the 16<sup>th</sup> March with the following dealers booked in John Shaw, Ken Courtney, John Haddon Silver, Peter Beer, Martin Toms, Paul Lynch and Geoff McMillan plus our great Members table.