

# EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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## Newsletter No.478

Report of a meeting held at Roydon Village Hall on Saturday 16th June 2012

My plans for this month were always going to be different but after a rain soaked break on the Cornish Riviera and an overnight break in beautiful Colchester it was almost mid-morning before I got to Roydon. Everything was in full swing, Alan had the Auction set out and was ready for his 2<sup>nd</sup> coffee and as I walked in, Bill was tucking into a big breakfast (best not to disturb him!). It was quiet number wise but as usual the members turned up as the day progressed. After a brief word with the girls on the door who should come sailing up in a wheelchair but Alex who was most welcome after being let out of hospital only the previous Wednesday, did he escape or was he released, maybe we will never know the truth. He is making steady progress and couldn't go another month without a trip to our club to see us all so he persuaded Val to bring him. He managed the whole day but has reported extreme tiredness since. Take it easy Alex its 5 weeks to next month meeting so get stronger and we will see you then. He did bring first draft of next year's calendar.

Nice to welcome Paul Lynch to our next meeting his warm smile is always welcome, the regulars Mike Heard, Martin Toms and Peter Beer could all be seen during the course of the day doing brisk business to satisfy the hungry needs of cartophilic collectors of a very discerning nature, seeking that elusive crock of gold that will complete that much needed set. Jim Reynolds had rung in telling me he couldn't make it as the sodium content in his body was down and he felt awful. He will however be with us next month all things being well.

The members were out in force chatting and everyone keen to learn a little bit more about our hobby, one thing is for sure we are a very sociable club and I spent all meeting talking to one and all - in fact I didn't even go searching for cards - but chatted about all things cartophilic to anyone who wanted to. Nice to see the Boston boys we had a lot to talk about and the time quickly passed and lunch was on us very quickly. The canteen was very busy all morning and I'm still trying to work out how the Boston boys and Alan got me to pay for their lunch! Several members were noticeable by their absence this month, Gus wasn't feeling to well so Albert never made it either, Les and Anne are in Norway visiting their daughter, Dennis/Alan/Colin G weren't with us this month but in all 66 members put in an appearance. Best dressed member of the month award must be given to Ken Courtney his bright Hawaiian shirt, shorts and sunhat told us he might know something we didn't. I did look out of the window but couldn't see the sun. I have closed the book on membership for this year and have removed 24 from our list. Two new members this month Brian Drake and Hazel Martin welcome to the fold. I hope to have a new membership list available for the next meeting, collect one from the girls on the table if you want a copy.

Alan and I had a long chat with Ken Short who has had no luck selling his unique silk collection as a whole so is now going to break it up and sell it through the club auction at 100 lots a month (except December) starting in November, this will be subject to review because we don't have many silk collectors as members. I have been told his collection has many rare and never seen before silks so we will be advertising this opportunity in related cigarette card magazines, hoping to attract interested collectors to bid and bring much needed money into our club. Alan is currently lotting up September and is in need of items for inclusion in future auctions. We do have trouble selling the more common items particularly Players and Wills 'between the wars', we do sell the more rarer cards for good prices and types have been doing well recently, but Brooke Bond are definite non sellers. I understand Derek Bradshaw has about 500 sets of BB to sell, ring him if you're interested.

This month's auction of 154 lots was a right royal mixture, of the 14 vendors submitting lots, 2 had instructed Alan to sell at any cost (they didn't want them back) so you know what happened many went for just a £1 coin. If you weren't there you missed some real bargains. Of the more expensive sets available particularly Smith's, only a few reached their reserve but the final total of £2791 was very respectable. Top spot went to Lot 74 a set of Venables very rare Actresses (catalogued at £2100) was knocked down for £525 to a postal bidder. We had 55 lots unsold mainly because of the reserve price placed on them by the vendor to protect them being sold too cheaply; we can't and shouldn't be giving them away.

Have you checked out our website lately, you can see all future auctions on it plus copies of this newsletter plus prices realised list for the past two years full of all good stuff. It has a 'wants' and 'for sale' section, I've not heard of too much success in this area but it must be worth a try. We will be updating it shortly but it has had 17500+ people look at it since we opened it less than two years ago.

I have been given to understand that 'Murrays' new owner Daniel Epstein will be producing a new catalogue shortly (July) we are eagerly awaiting to see its format, speculation is that it will just be a 'Sales' catalogue and not truly reflect current prices and trends which we as collectors need. We do need guidance on card prices but they have to be realistic and reflect trends and needs. They will only do this if Auction prices are included. If dealers are selling their 'odds' at ½ Murrays catalogue or less why can't we have a price list for this realistic price? Watch this space, that's my gripe over for this month. I will be getting a box of the new catalogue on behalf of the club so we will see if collectors take it up as their bible as they seem to do Murrays.

Next month we meet on **Saturday 21st July 2012** - when we hope the sun will be shining on our collecting fortunes. Dealers booked in to be with us are Ken Courtney, John Haddon-Silver, Martin Toms, Peter Beer (with Neville Proctor in charge), Jim Reynolds, John Shaw, Geoff McMillan and the return after more than a year of Mike Prior. Plus the return of our club table and Albums and pages at trade prices to keep your cards, nice, clean and fresh. See you all then, happy collecting.