

EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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As seems to be the case most months, there was a great anticipation for this month's meeting, probably the thought of watching the two extremely rare Taddy Wrestlers go under the hammer. With a full house of dealers, members keen to share collecting stories and knowledge, all the signs were there for a good meeting. I thought we were running a bit late this week, the boys were opening up so I didn't have to be at Roydon early, but we pulled into the car park at ten minutes to nine and realised we were there before Alan and more importantly Val, who was running a little late. Alan brought his good lady wife Gill today and I think she even enjoyed herself; we had a good chat over a coffee, while Alan worried about a rash that had appeared on his neck. A trip to the Health Centre was very quick, they were closed, but it was not too much to worry about, as he discovered on his return home.

There were a good number of members with us today, I saw Mick Plant making a rare visit and 'ex' members Peter and Sue Nash called in, visiting the area from their home in Market Rasen and catching up with many friends. The girls tell me that 67 members checked in along with 6 dealers and 6 visitors making the day a great success. Furthest visitor this month came from Stilton near Peterborough (he never brought us a cheese though). It was nice to welcome John Taylor and his cohort Colin Weston to the club again, they had a good day, as I think all the dealers did.

The coffee bar (back room) was busy all morning, lots of chat, lots of friendships being renewed and tales shared. The club was well represented at the recent Woking convention, I made it 18 members attending either days. For most it was a good convention and great to see dealers from all over the world, I even found a few cards. I had a nice chat with Bill Lee from British Columbia in Canada who came to convention with two suitcases of cards to sell at the event. Next year we are off to the seaside at Southport in Lancashire.

Thank you everyone for supporting the Club Table every month, Bob and Jill do a great job on behalf the club. All the second-hand albums I bought were sold, can't resist a bargain can you. There will be more available soon. A member asked us to order for him an Extra-large album and pages, which we have done, but we have forgotten who asked us! Whoever it was, please collect it next month. Why don't you bring an Album of cards along for the table, you will be surprised what sells.

I have been contacted by a collector from 'up north' who wishes to sell his collection, mainly Gum cards but includes a number of American and English Cigarette cards. Quite extensive and with a conservative book price of £175k. I offered him the opportunity to sell them through our club auction but he has this idea of selling them as a total collection. If anyone is interested in seeing them give him a ring - 01274 772851, his name is Tony. He seems to think someone may be interested or maybe a consortium of collectors, personally I think he is dreaming. He will not split them; I do have a more comprehensive list of what is available if anyone is interested.

I had a call last week from Harry Bullock, he is undergoing chemotherapy and is awaiting the results, he misses the club and all his friends, and I told him we miss him as well. Get well soon Harry and we hope to see number 25 at the club very soon.

I have been given a huge quantity of Cartophilic magazines -- 3 boxes full -- they never sell in the auction but any member who would like them can have them by just telling me. They take a lot of room up in the car and I will only put them in if I know I won't have to bring them back. First to ask, can have them.

This is the last call for membership renewals, if the dreaded red spot is on your envelope then I haven't received your £6.00 yet, this could well be your last newsletter (if you haven't paid).

It was very soon 1.00pm and Alan was ready with his gavel, Anne was ready to show the gems and deliver them to their new owners. The two Taddy Wrestlers now reside in Essex and made a respectable £205 each but they weren't top spot, this went to Lot 55 a smashing set of FJ Smith's Boer War series coloured, knocked down for £450. Overall the auction was much better and cleared £4000 for the first time this year. There were 10 vendors, 19 successful postal bidders who spent £2391, still 104 lots went unsold.

Watch out the next few auctions we are going to do roll over auctions, remember them, we have done them before and we start them next month. We have instructions from the vendor to sell whatever they make, unsold lots rollover to the next sold lot. Great fun, great bargains - some lots will sell for just a pound -- don't miss out, see you there.

Next month we meet on Saturday 15th June 2013, usual place, usual time. Dealers booked in include Mike Heard, John Shaw, and John Haddon-Silver, Ken Courtney, Paul Lynch and making a rare appearance Mike Prior. Making his debut as a dealer is Gary Colman