

EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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You have to be an optimist to be a member of a collectors club, a day out, meeting fellow like-minded people, hoping you can find either that elusive much sought after card or set, that will spark a little interest or maybe it's a lot in the auction. I was optimistic all the way to Roydon, I knew certain things were stacked against us - a big cartophilic meet in the North had attracted the 'bigger' professional dealers so we were always going to be short (or so it looked), I only know of one of our collecting members who ventured up to the northern wilderness (says a lot for next year's convention in Southport!!).

Val had rung me at 6.30pm on the Friday night, saying they weren't going to be with us because of illness so it was slowly building to be a disastrous meet but did it turn out that way - not at all.

The members came in their droves, the girls checked in 70 and two late dealer bookings helped build the day and the atmosphere. One member thought it was the best meet of the year. You can always rely on EACCC members to rally round and make a good day of it. You just have to be optimistic.

The boys were great at the start, Barry and Ken had all the chairs/tables out by 8.30am and the dealers all sorted to their allocated space. Nice to welcome back John Haddon Silver after missing the last couple of months, I had a nice chat with him, Ken Sandeman was with us for his yearly visit and had spread himself out with his vast stock. He did show me a nice 'Space' set from Topps (A&BC America), priced just a little short of £1000, but I left them with him, promising to have another look at them when my lottery numbers come up. Two late dealer bookings but very welcome, Jean Dixon with her vast array of cards and ephemera, and our young friends (doesn't seem appropriate to call them old friends) Derek and Cynthia Bradshaw, bringing their selling skills to the fore, trying to sell their huge mass of cards built up over many years of collecting. All in all I think all the dealers had a good day. Once the boys had got the room and everything sorted, they went down to Morrison's to buy drinks and cakes for the members. Thank you Ken and Barry everyone appreciated what you did for us. Thanks also to Anne for taking over the responsibility when the boys had to go.

The dealers are a crucial element to the success of our club and it seems to be more and more difficult to 'lure' them to East Anglia, after a chat with Les we have agreed to offer 'Free' table rent for the first six months of 2014. So come on dealers, get your diaries' sorted out and ring me with your bookings.

There were several 'lesser spotted' members present this month, very pleased to see Ron Newstead with us again after a long absence, thanks to Peter /Margaret McGough, he hopes to be with us regularly now. He hasn't changed at all. Our most distant member was with us from Japan for his yearly visit, he tells me he books his annual holiday to England to coincide with our meeting date. A true EACCC member. It's always nice to chat to David, he had me and Alan totally enthralled with his adventures in the Far East, I know the girls on the door gave him an all hugs and kisses welcome. I also spotted this month the 'Pages' from Essex, the 'Wareham's' from Norfolk and two of the three 'Colman' clan. Welcome to one and all.

Les was busy this month collecting names and £5's for the Christmas dinner, 33 have said they will be with us (so far). The December auction list is enclosed with this newsletter. I know a few people will come early just for the auction and dealer booked in (Paul Lynch) but a truly scrumptious feast is planned, so let's get the numbers up to 80 or 90. Don't forget also our 'big' (and only) raffle, last year we had over 100 prizes and passed over £300 to the selected charity, this year it will be given to McMillan Nurses. Let's try to set a new club record. You can bring your raffle prizes in to the November meeting (or 'of course' December), raffle tickets will be available from next month. We have been given a very generous donation again this year for the first and second prizes (probably M&S Vouchers) and you know the saying, you have to be in it to win it, so get your tickets and perhaps you will take home the first prize. It doesn't look like a Club Calendar will be available for next year, I have been trying to contact John Smith who agreed to prepare one for us but he is not answering his telephone or emails. Does any other member have the necessary computer skills to prepare one for us?

- Don't forget next April will be our 500th meeting - we are preparing a special feature for Cartophilic Notes and News and Card Times, and a limited edition card will hopefully be available to all members. Maybe we can put together a really special auction as well; any other idea's most welcome.
- It's the Cartophilic Society 75th Anniversary Dinner in November and our branch will be well represented, at the last count 10 members and partners will be going.

As always the morning seemed to fly by, I really should chatter less and card search more but no the social is as important as the collecting. The auction was a good one, facts and figures below but I'm always amazed how Alan keeps his concentration when several members of the audience seem intent on distracting him. This month, number 84, had several silly offers for starting prices, to accept them would be in detriment to the vendor, for example £2 for a £80 listed set. Everyone seems to wait for Alan to come down, especially when there are no postal bids but some offered this month were too ridiculous to accept. It was all taken in good fun and resulted in a nice income for the club.

Total Income £3686 13 Postal bidders spending £1571 19 In house bidders spending £2115
3 Vendors 60 unsolds Top spot Lot 8 Old album with 10 Lea Pottery & Porcelain in, sold for £140

Next month we do it all over again on Saturday 16th November, dealers due to be with us are Ken Courtney, John Haddon-Silver, John Shaw, Peter Beer, Martin Toms and Geoff McMillan. Our club table will be up on the stage, stacked full of cards, albums pages and much more. Bargains galore