

EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

Best Card Club in the East.

Run by Collectors for Collectors. A Branch of the Cartophilic Society of Great Britain

Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Peck
81 Roydon Road, DISS
IP22 4LW: Tel: 01379 642792

Chairman: Colin Fawcett
5 Common Road, Walton Highway, WISBECH
PE14 7DG: Tel: 01945 583656

Auctioneer: Alan Worthington
161 Colchester Road, IPSWICH
IP4 4SH: Tel: 01473 714411

Newsletter No. 451

Report of a meeting held at Roydon Village Hall on Saturday 20th March 2010

This was to be a truly momentous meeting in more ways than one -- 40 years, 451 meetings since our founders first met. What club can record that magnificent occasion, we can and have, as a member commented to me if we do another 40 years we will all be over 100. The champagne and celebration cake went down a treat..

Unfortunately Bill and Muriel didn't make the meeting as poor Muriel was still feeling 'jet lagged' after a gruelling 24 hour flight from their holidays, but they will hopefully be fully fighting fit for the next meeting. I arrived at 8.00am to find Barry Allen had set out the tables and chairs and three dealers already setting up. His faithful helper Ken Short had reported in sick, Vera was soon ensconced in her place and felt sure she could cope on her own and by 9.00am the place was beginning to buzz.

There was soon a smell of coffee and bacon in the hall so we knew Kenny and her daughter had arrived and were soon busy. Thanks for making the two Celebration cakes Kenny, they were great. We had a full complement of dealer's, nice to see Mike Heard back after a 2 month break, Mike Fineron was down from the wilds of Yorkshire on his yearly visit and our good friend Peter Russell had made his way to Norfolk from the Welsh marshes. Ken and Alice Courtney were back and in their usual spot -- wheeling and dealing, never known them to miss three meetings before. A warm East Anglian welcome to you all. The auction on the stage was creating a lot of interest 216 lots of goodies to be shared, more of that later.

I had done a 'phone in' the previous week on Radio Norfolk and as a result several listeners called in to see what was going on. I feel new members may be imminent. When I was telling Ann Woolnough and John Varden about my experience and being called an expert, I was soon brought down to earth when they told me a expert is a 'past it drip' Thanks, my moment of glory had passed. I had also written an article for the Eastern Daily Press on our club and cigarette card's which had been published on Saturday 6th March. Copies are now in the club archive, thanks to Tony Colman.

As most people know at our club we spend the morning, buying, selling, searching, chatting, drinking (tea or coffee, of course), sorting, renewing friendships and generally having a good time, and as the members and visitors poured in to our hall this got better and busier as the day progressed. When I decided to go off in search of that elusive card to complete yet another set I was soon drawn to the back room for lunch. The morning had flown by.

As it was a special meeting I had invited some special guests and it was nice to see Mike Reeve put in a very rare appearance (he was at the clubs 2nd meeting) also it was nice to welcome David Davis from the Cartophilic Society- that was him in the coat, nobody recognised him he looked so smart (that's not implying you don't normally look smart David) I had better shut up before I dig myself in to a grave. Apologies were received from Brian Sweet, and Alan Maclean-Pratt whereas we have not heard from John Knowles for some time.

We had to start the Auction on time as I had a phone bidder lined up for lot 19 at 1.10pm. It seems every mobile in the hall went off between 1.00 and 1.15, 'all hell seemed to break loose' as Alan was trying to conduct the auction. I blame that Dave Norman / Darren Moyse duo. We were soon in the swing and flowing through the Lots nicely, resulting in a grand total of £4500 plus. Along with the 75 members present 10 visitors and 9 dealers and friends a good result for our club..

Now to the future .. Next month it's our AGM so everyone has to attend – it's compulsory (maybe I will start a fine system – well, maybe not). There are some changes a foot, as Bill and Muriel have decided to stand down from some of their responsibilities. That's why I'm doing the newsletter for a couple of months. They still want to be involved and cannot give it up (that's me saying that). We have invented a new job responsibility – a Membership Secretary – and Alex Woollard will step into that role from April. Subscription's are due so please see Alex, we will find him a table and a chair for him to receive your offerings for the April and May meetings. Bill will remain as treasurer and he has told me to reduce the subscription this year to £5, I agreed, of course. Also from the April meetings Alan Worthington will take on the awesome responsibility of lotting up and grading the Auction. I have done until September (as we have this large collection going through) so please continue to bring in your cards or ephemera or whatever you want to sell. I know how much everyone enjoys our club but we are strong because of the enthusiasm and commitment of all our members, your support is what makes us the best and biggest club in the country. If anyone feels they would like to get more involved we need more volunteers - a newsletter writer and a Organiser of the dealers is needed. Full details are obtained by speaking to Bill or me, we will not be interviewing for these jobs and the pay isn't very good (in fact it's non existent) but if you feel you have the time, the skills, the interest we want to hear from you. Who knows we might even reform the committee or is that a step to far.

Dealers next month. Local -- Peter Beer, Ken Courtney, John Haddon Silver,
Dave Norman, Jim Reynolds.

National -- Neil Daniels (Leeds), Mike Heard (Derby) Jim Jackson (Manchester),
Mike Pryor (Spalding)

Next meeting to be held at Roydon Village Hall on Saturday 17th April
from 9.00am.