

# EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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## Newsletter No.473

### Report of a meeting held at Roydon Village Hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2012

A new year had dawned and of we go into 2012, I wonder what the new year has in store for the enthusiastic cartophilist. As it was six whole weeks since our last meeting, everyone was ready for the monthly meet, greet and seek. As usual my car was loaded to the top, four lightweight collectors (?) and a boot full of albums and pages for the club table. The weather was with us, dry all the way and we never even noticed the heavy rain that passed through during the course of the morning. There was a high expectation within the car, cards urgently required to complete that much sought after set, even what type of cake would be on offer in the kitchen.

The room was in full swing by the time we reached the remote outpost of Roydon, the boys had done their work well; the tables were all out and stacked high with cards. We soon got ourselves organised and threw ourselves into the throng. There was a strong coffee smell coming from the kitchen and I soon gathered Alan up for our morning wake up coffee and bacon roll, then I felt more civilised. Bill and the girls were kept busy all morning with the comings and goings with 74 members and 6 visitors and 8 dealers. Bill collared me early on to tell me he has had some bad news, he has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and has begun a course of treatment. He doesn't want a fuss made and is very positive especially with regard to the club.

The main topic of the club was the Christmas dinner which received mixed reactions, it was good to return to the old sit down format but using a mobile caterer left a little to be desired. Not all their fault I hasten to add but working in a strange kitchen created a significant input to the issues. We had a committee meeting later in the morning and made some important decisions on behalf of the club. More later.

It was great to welcome a new dealer Paul Lynch – Kimberley Cards - from Nottingham who I have known for a few years and been trying to persuade to come East. He retired from the police force in November and plans to spend more time dealing. Needless to say he had a good day with us. Mike Towersley and John Shaw made up the big dealers all ably supported by the usual suspects of local dealers and friends. Some of the 15 unclaimed raffle prizes were claimed but 10 still remain so we will have a cheap 50p raffle in February to find new homes for them. The catering staff were busy all morning especially with their ever popular full English breakfast and all the fresh baked homemade cakes were sold (bought I believe by Dennis).

Now to the key points of the committee meeting.....

---- Subscriptions -- after some discussion it was agreed to retain the £5 membership fee – payable from April, what good value it remains.

---- Free drinks -- this is very popular with the members but after discussion it was decided to return to the token system (for a free drink) with all members being given one when they check in with the ladies. A second or more drink would cost 50p. This would start in February. Alec reckoned he washed up 400 cups at the November meeting and his hands have gone soft!

---- Christmas Dinner --- it was agreed to explore a Christmas dinner at a local restaurant/hotel with a view to having a club meet on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2012 then a meal at around 3.00pm on the same day. Les has checked out the Park Hotel (around £21 each) but they can't do that time as they want to clear up after us for their evening bookings.

I will be checking out other local possible venues including The Chequers at Bressingham which has just undergone a massive refit. Watch this space or even better let us know what you think.

Alec has made a start on the 2013 calendar – no people next year but concentrating on manufacturers. I have had a lovely letter from Mr Murray which I put in full “ Dear Colin, We have just concluded arrangements for the disposal at the end of January of all our remaining stock. One result of this is I will not be attending Fairs. I have always enjoyed the Diss Fairs and want to thank you and Bill Peck for being so helpful and hospitable during all my visits. I wish the club every success in the future Kind Regards “ maybe it is the end of an era but also the beginning of a new one.

At 12.45pm after a busy morning wheeling and dealing, we were ready to present the cheque to the Air Ambulance, proceeds from the Christmas raffle. Les said a few words and the £400 cheque was given to their representative Hannah Clay, who told us a little about their work. You never know when you may need them and it is comforting to know that they will be introducing a 24/7, all night service very soon. Alec (the flash) took a picture eventually which has been sent to the press.

The auction was soon in full swing with Alan crashing his gavel, lot after lot. It was a good one as well, of the 187 lots, 58 were unsold the final total was a respectable £2919. Top spot went to Lot 159 15 FJSmith Champions of Sport – all cricketers for £370. Plea from Alan, could members please ensure their name is included with any lots handed in for inclusion in the auction. The enclosed was handed in December with no name on, if the vendor doesn't contact Alan the income will go to club funds. We are putting together a 'Super Special Auction' for the May meeting so if you have some nice lots you would like to include bring them to the February meeting.

Here's some interesting Facts about our club ...

In 2011 16 members attended all 12 meetings, 21 only missed one meeting, others 13 - 10 meetings, 11 – 9 meetings, 8 – 8 meetings, 9 – 7 meetings, 6 – 6 meetings, 2 only came to 5 meetings, 7 only 4 meetings, 5 – 3 meetings, 18 - 2, 20 only came once and what about the 14 poor members who never got once, what they missed.

Watch **Eggheads** on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February a team of Cigarette Card collectors take on the Eggheads for £17000 - without spoiling the outcome I won't tell you they don't succeed.

Idea from member 1 - why not run a minibus to the Lincoln convention on 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> April – great idea who will organise it? The club could afford to subsidise it

Idea from member 2 – why not have a club tee/sweat shirt. Alex has a design in mind.

Idea from member 3 – could we have the auction at 2.00pm to allow more time for 'wheeling and dealing'. What do you think?

Only four weeks to go before we do it all again

Next meeting Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012 8.30 to 3.00 Auction at 1.00pm  
Dealers with us this time John Haddon-Silver, Ken Courtney, Mike Heard,  
Martin Toms, Peter Beer and Jim Reynolds. Space for one more if you know anyone.

Don't forget to check our members table out, a fine selection of Albums and Pages at trade prices and I did see some s/h albums on there for just £1, quite a few left so get up there fast next month.