

East Anglian Cigarette Card Club

Newsletter No. 515

Saturday 18th July 2015

This month started early, Paul Lynch rang me at 7.00am before I even left home to say he had broken down on the A14 and was not likely to make it, Martin Toms emailed the night before to tell me his wife was poorly so he was also unlikely to make it. So the writing was on the wall, it was going to be a thin meeting. Barry was at the Open so he couldn't open up and I couldn't get there early so it was John Haddon Silver who did the honour's this month – thank you John, it was much appreciated. Everyone got their own tables and chairs out this month and when I got there at 9.10am everything was in full swing.

Peter Russell had made the trip from Market Drayton and Geoff McMillan was with us from Melton Mowbray. Along with regulars Peter /Neville, John HS and Ken /Alice everyone was kept busy all day. Joyce was waiting for the badges and was soon busy checking all enthusiastic members in to begin their card searching.

I had an early visitor this month a collector from Essex who was looking to sell a few cards and after we chatted, he became a member and will be with us most month's. We also had two other new members this month John and Lynn Sarton from Debenham in Suffolk. They were seen visiting the dealers throughout the day and increasing their collection at the auction. The interesting thing they told me was they had found out about us from our bench on Diss Mere.

Unfortunately I have to report to members yet another member has died, our regular early bird Adrian Scarff collapsed and died a couple of weeks ago. Adrian was a fanatical football card collector and has told me on many occasions about his immense 'Pinnacle' collection. A lovely man, very loyal member he rarely missed a meeting. His funeral is on Thursday 23rd July at Stowmarket church, I know at least three members going to represent the club. That makes 5 members in 5 month's please let it end there.

Katie was missing from the kitchen this month and the two ladies recruited by her were kept busy all day feeding us, I heard many compliments about the breakfast, I will have to try one soon.

I can report 57 members made it this month and a further 9 visitors – four of these were our wives – my Sue, Alan's Gill, Dave Scuffham's Diane and Alan Neales wife. They all went up town for a couple of hours to explore the delights of Diss. The furthest visitor was from Burton on Trent, Richard Wood, he comes 3 or 4 times a year, I will have a word with him about joining.

I did find time this month to complete a few sets and was able to support all the dealers, it is obviously a main part of each members collecting patterns to look at the many cards on offer. It does cost the dealers money to travel to our club and although we don't charge table rent (all other clubs do) I feel it is important that we as members support them, it is also great fun looking for those elusive odds. I do expect to see a good turnout of members at Wood Green Animal Centre in Huntingdon on Friday 6th August. It is always a good day out, most of the big cigarette card dealers will be there plus a few postcard dealers with cards. One of the things I had to do this month was pop round and see Muriel, unfortunately she was out, I will try again next month. I met Ted Wareham and his good lady on Friday, as I was up in North Norfolk, I called round to have a chat with them. He gave me some cards for the auction and we spent the best part of an hour reflecting on the club, its members and all things cartophilic. A fascinating, very knowledgeable man who misses his trip to Roydon. He is hoping his doctor will give him the all clear to drive very soon so he can come and see us again.

The membership lists I put out soon vanished and I will bring a few more next month. The members table took a record £152 for club funds, most of this being the used Albums I took, another box will be available next month, on a first come first served basis. I have also been asked for secondhand pages and have found a few and will bring them next month.

It was soon time to gather everything together for the auction, Ann and Les spent a good deal of the day explaining why everyone had a new bidding number, only one member wanted to keep his original number (I think he was hoping someone else would pay for what he bought) but Ann soon sorted him out. Alan took his time getting used to the new numbers but with a lot of card waving it soon became clear.

We had 190 lots to find homes for some quality cards and more unusual items. The facts and figures were 190 Lots sold for £2495 (our best total since March). There were 13 postal bidders spending £747, 20 in house bidders spending £1748, and 8 vendors. Of the 39 unsold, 10 had reserves on. Top spot went to Lot 174 a very rare set Thomson Skipper pin lapel badges of Flags, Football players and colour's selling for £140.

Next month we meet on Saturday 15th August from 8.30am to about 3.00pm – Auction as always at 1.00pm. Dealers in attendance will be Ken Courtney, John Haddon Sliver, Peter Beer, Mike Heard John Shaw and Martin Toms.

PS hope you like the new design newsletter ?

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