

# Nigel's Webspaces News

A newsletter distributed by [Nigel's Webspaces](#), a website dedicated to the history of English football cards 1965/66 to 1979/80.

## FKS medallions

**ONLY 50p EACH**  
**SPECIAL OFFER**  
**TO READERS OF**  
**SOCCER STARS '80**



Actual size

**Magnificent  
Bronze Medallions  
of all 22 English  
First Division Clubs**

Here is a fantastic offer that no real soccer enthusiast will be able to resist – a collection of 22 bronze medallions, each representing an English First Division Club from the current 1978/79 season, can now be yours. The front of each medallion is artistically embossed with the team's club badge, and the reverse shows the honours and cups won since formation.



**£ 1.49 OFF each one**  
**Available singly...** Each medallion, 1½" in diameter, 3/16" thick, is minted from solid bronze, polished the colour of a bright new copper coin. The Price List is £1.99, but you can order each one for just 50p AND 15 empty packets of SOCCER STARS 80.

P.T.O.

One of my personal favourite sticker producers is [F.K.S. Publishers Ltd.](#) I still don't know what FKS stands for, though I think that it might be an English company name for the Bilbao company [Editorial FHER](#). According to Wikipedia FHER is an acronym for the 'Fuentes Brothers' (Herman and Jose Fuentes Lizaur Villabaso) who started the publishing company in 1937. Most of the FKS albums over time were printed in Spain.



As my [FKS page](#) records, the company entered the U.K. market in 1966 with a rather strange sticker album distributed through World Distributors (Manchester), before forming F.K.S. Publishers Ltd. in London, beginning a long period of sticker production to rival the offerings from [A&BC Chewing Gum](#). In 1968/69, the first year that FKS produced a full set across the whole of England, you could either buy a pack of A&BC gum with yellow-back cards for 3d (and also receive a [pennant](#) or an [emblem](#)) or pay 6d for 7 FKS stickers (and no gum, or pennants, or emblems!). Perhaps then it is surprising that FKS caught on as they did (and it now makes me wonder why I spent most of my pocket money on



FKS stickers rather than A&BC yellow back cards).

However, FKS seemed to prosper, continuing to offer high quality stickers and albums which are still very collectable today. Unlike A&BC, who seemed to want to keep innovating and tempting young buyers with new offerings every year, FKS stuck to their guns of producing paper stickers for 6d. By 1970/71 A&BC had moved to '6 giant cards for

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6d', though their cards were only slightly larger than the previous year's, and shrunk back again to normal size the following year.



In 1971/72 FKS tinkered with their stickers for the first time, showing a black and white 'head shot' on the back of the stickers, though this experiment lasted only one year. In 1972/73 they produced a wallchart and 26 round stickers to stick on the chart. Once they had started tinkering FKS didn't seem to know when to stop. Perhaps it was the 'competitive marketplace'. Now to get to the whole purpose of this little missive...

In 1979/80, alongside their Soccer Stars 80 set, FKS offered the opportunity to purchase bronze medallions. The offer was included in the Soccer Stars 80 album, but strangely noted that the medallions represented 'an English First Division Club from the current 1978/79 season'. The Soccer Stars 80 album offered these medallions for **only 50p** each, £1.49 off the 'list price' if you also included 15 empty packets of Soccer Stars 80. This suggests to me that FKS had previously tried to sell these medallions (for £1.99) and failed, and were then trying to offload them via Soccer Stars 80. I've not found any previous references to these medallions, but perhaps there were advertisements or other inducements in Shoot or other magazines in 1978/79. The medallions were described as being '1½" in diameter, 3/16" thick, minted from solid bronze'.

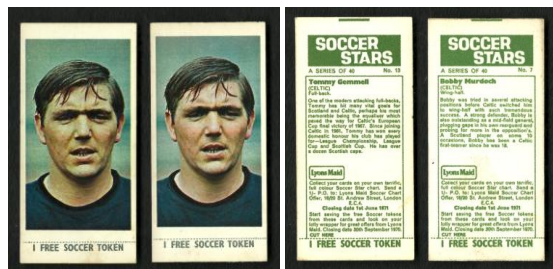
The most interesting aspect of this whole medallion offer is a tantalising offer at the foot of the reverse of the order form which notes '**Full set of 22 medallions with presentation case available on application**', with an accompanying photo of the medallions in their case. The big question is, did anyone ever order one? I've asked a few people, and have yet to talk to anyone who has ever seen one. Have you? If you bought the medallions for 50p each that would be £11, plus a few bob for the box and postage, perhaps £15 for the set. Quite a lot of money in 1980? If anyone does own the set in the box it is surely one of the rarest of all football collectibles.

## FKS 68/69 printing

Andy wrote and said '*I have a 1968/69 Wonderful World of Soccer Stars album. Your site indicates that this is printed in Spain. My copy is printed by Briant Colour Printing Co Ltd, Old Kent Road, London SE15*'. I checked six different 1968/69 albums and mine are all printed in Spain. Does anyone else own a Briant copy? The 1968/69 album seems quite common, reflecting the popularity of these stickers at the time. Would Briant have been an initial print, with a reprint in Spain to meet demand, or the other way around?

It's interesting where research takes you. In Googling the Briant Colour Printing Company I discovered that they were the scene of a major labour dispute in the early 70s. Read the article [here](#).

## Lyons Maid error card



Andy (a different one) sent through these images from the 1970/71 Lyons Maid Soccer Stars set, where both Card 7 and Card 13 have a photo of Bobby Murdoch on the front, though the backs have the correct biographies.

Are there any other error cards in this set? This is the only one that I am aware of.

Until next time...**Nigel**