

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.

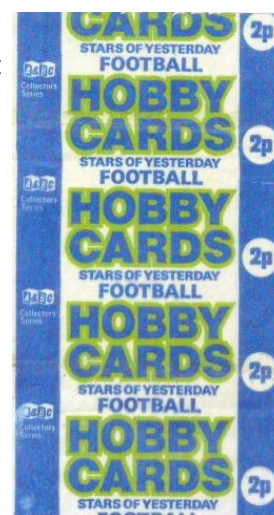
Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to all football card collectors. Thanks to all those collectors and website visitors who have contributed card images, views and expertise to help this site continue to expand through 2011. My aim with this website (now in its 12th year on the World Wide Web) has always been to try to provide a place where fellow collectors can work together to help record the history and images from the football cards from our childhoods. As time passes it becomes increasingly difficult to dig up the fading history of some of these cards, so let's try our best in 2012 before some of this history is lost forever. The internet gives us a chance to record history in a way that has never been available before. I write these newsletters, and update my website, with the hope and expectation that Google (or someone else) will continue to store them long into the future.

A&BC Chewing Gum Hobby cards

Frank sent this wrapper image from an A&BC Collectors Series, Hobby Cards, Stars of Yesterday - Football. The pack cost 2p, which dates it to after February 1971. This seems to fit in with the conjecture that towards the end of their company life A&BC Chewing Gum, or someone associated with them, did some strange things. In [Newsletter Edition 5](#) I covered the Lucky Bags, which some people remember contained apparently random, old A&BC cards (though perhaps only the 1971/72 Purple Backs). Were the Hobby Cards another way to get rid of old stock?

Frank remembers *'The Hobby cards wrapper I think may have contained the purple back crinkle cards from 1971..., but time has dulled the brain cells I'm afraid. There is a similar wrapper bearing red wording but I've only got a photocopy of it and I don't think it mentions football, unless it has white wording which has merged into the b/w photocopy. I remember buying the lucky bags which contained allsorts including the Scottish World Cup souvenir.... So this hobby wrapper is a bit of a mystery, also its size is a bit puzzling'*.

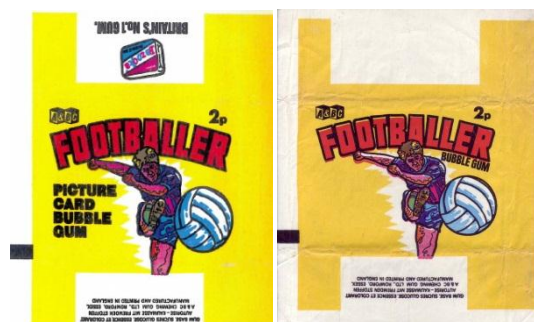


I have seen these Hobby Cards wrappers before, but they are very rare. Did you ever buy them in the 1970s? Do you remember what you got in them? The wrapper raises some interesting questions – were there other items in the 'A&BC Collectors Series', and were there any other 'Stars of Yesterday' other than football. The Coakley brothers have never mentioned these Hobby Cards to me, so who issued them? Did Topps perhaps take over old A&BC stock and think of a way to make some quick money?

Stop Press: It has been suggested that the Hobby Cards wrappers, known to exist in only very small quantities, may be fakes. Can you help unravel this mystery? If you own one, please [let me know](#) where you got it from. Many thanks!

A&BC Chewing Gum mystery wrapper

The other mystery that Frank has posed involves the wrapper at the far right hand side. The wrapper on the left is from the [1971/72 purple backs](#), series 1. It features the words 'Picture Card Bubble Gum' and the normal advertisement for Bazooka Bubble Gum. The wrapper on the right says 'Footballer - Bubble Gum' but does not mention cards and does not feature either a gum advertisement or the usual offer of a gift. Does anyone know how this wrapper fits into the history of A&BC Chewing Gum?



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A&BC Chewing Gum club badges?

Alan kindly tipped me off to this [Badge Collectors Circle website](#) which offers a picture of a set of badges believed to be A&BC Chewing Gum club badges. The site acknowledges that the badges are not marked as A&BC, so it's hard to know for sure. Douglas Coakley once told me that the [player badges](#) produced by A&BC were produced as giveaways for company staff at trade shows, and were used to promote the football card sets. The player badges clearly mention A&BC and the Football Gum cards, but these club badges do not. It is therefore hard to see how these badges would have played a similar promotional role, but that does not mean that they were not produced by or for A&BC. Does anyone know anything more of them, or remember how they were issued?



FKS bronze medallions

In my [Newsletter Edition 13](#) I made the following statement: *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? Well, someone did. Steve provided this image of his coins in presentation case, and I'm very grateful that he has done so. The box is clearly marked 'The Football League, but I can't see any mention of FKS, so it is likely that not many people will make the association between these coins and FKS stickers.*

The coins themselves are hard to come by, so having them all in the original wooden presentation box is rare indeed. Now that we have all seen one, we know what to look out for, so hopefully another one or two will pop up one day. Until that time, Steve has the only one that I know of.



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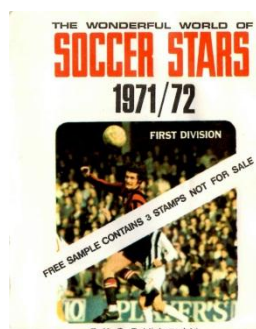
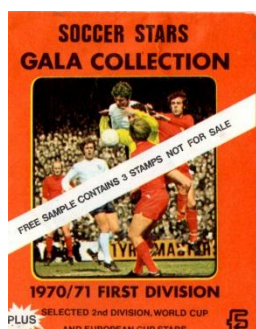
Topps Scottish wrappers?

Barry, an avid collector of wrappers, has sent in the left-hand Topps 1978/79 wrapper image. You will notice that the wrapper is missing the red player, shown in the 'normal' image to its right. Barry has been told that the wrapper without the red player was used to issue the Topps Scottish set. Does anyone remember this, particularly those of you from Scotland who might have collected these cards? This

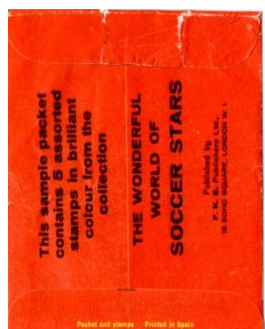


is the only Topps wrapper for which this kind of 'adjustment' could have been made (the others have much more standard images which, in my opinion, would look ridiculous without the central image), so why would they do this for 1978/79 only? Has Barry been given the correct story, or is this just a misprint wrapper?

FKS sample packets - Wonderful World of Soccer Stars



Barry (a different Barry from the one mentioned above) sent in these excellent FKS packets from 1968/69, 1970/71 and 1971/72 which contained sample stamps, not for sale. These were obviously either included in comics or otherwise given away to promote a new set of stickers, so perhaps given away in June, July or August each year.



The 1968/69 packet contained 5 stamps, with 3 stamps in each of 1970/71 and 1971/72. I'm sure that there would also have been sample packets for 1969/70, and perhaps for years after 1971/72. Do you own one of these special FKS packets? Did they start you off on an FKS collecting hobby? Do you remember which comics they came in? Many thanks to Barry for

providing these images.

Newsletter feedback

I'm always keen to receive feedback on these newsletters. As we enter 2012 I'd like to know whether you find them interesting, whether they cover the right topics, or whether you have other things that you would like covered. Please drop me a line via the website <http://cards.littleoak.com.au>.

Until next time...**Nigel**