

Nigel's Webspace News

A newsletter distributed by [Nigel's Webspace](http://www.nigelsswebspace.com), a website dedicated to the history of English football cards 1965/66 to 1979/80.

FKS Publishers – bankrupt in 1987!

Eagle-eyed Jon has provided proof that [FKS Publishers](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/50871/pages/4035/page.pdf) went bankrupt in 1987. The link is <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/50871/pages/4035/page.pdf>, dated March 25th 1987. The article in the London Gazette states:

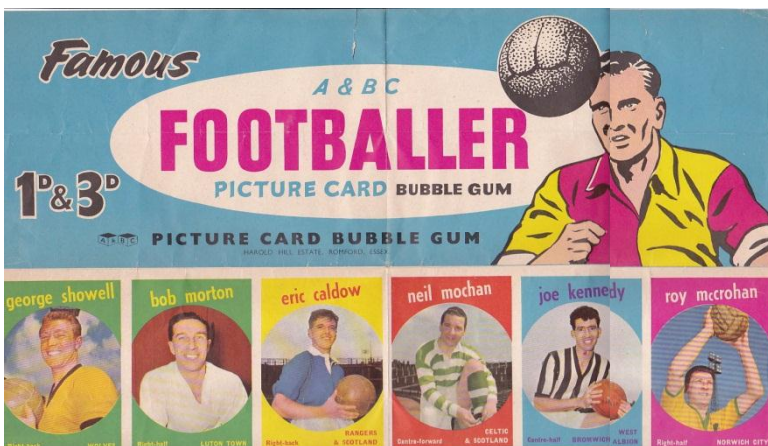
FKS PUBLISHERS LIMITED

Notice is hereby given, in pursuance of sections 595 of the Companies Act 1985, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the abovenamed Company will be held at Friary Court, 65 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2NP, on 24th April 1987, at 11.30 a.m. for the purpose of having an account laid before them showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and the property of the Company disposed of, and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Liquidator and also of directing the manner in which the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator shall be disposed of.

J. B. Atkinson, Liquidator, 20th March 1987

I have always assumed that FKS Publishers was the English company associated with the Spanish printers FHER of Bilbao, so does this mean that only the English subsidiary went under? Many thanks to Jon for hunting down this historical reference. We know that FKS struggled from the early 80s onwards, with the stickers business apparently being sold to or taken over by Quadriga in 1983/84, but this date confirms the winding up of FKS.

A&BC Footballer 1960/61 shop posters



A couple of very rare and interesting [A&BC Chewing Gum](http://www.nigelsswebspace.com) posters have appeared on ebay recently. Both appear to date from the 1960/61 season based on the cards shown on the poster (only the top portion of which I've displayed here). The posters are interesting as they confirm that the cards were available in two different forms, costing 1d and 3d each, perhaps for different numbers of cards.

The two posters are similar in design and style, but feature different cards underneath the header.

Working at the A&BC Gum Factory

I was fortunate recently to make contact with Del and Ken, both of whom worked at 'The Gum', their name for the A&BC Chewing Gum factory at Harolds Hill. You can [read their stories here](http://www.nigelsswebspace.com).

Having made contact with Del and Ken I pestered them with questions. Understandably they don't have many of the answers, partly because both of them only worked for A&BC for short periods of time, partly because they worked on production of the gum rather than the cards or the packaging, and partly because all of this happened over 45 years ago! Nonetheless I am very grateful for their contact and am trying to slowly piece together more parts of the A&BC story.

I really wanted to know whether the football cards were printed in the A&BC factory, or whether they were printed offsite, probably by a specialised printer under contract. Ken replied '*I don't recall there being any printing done at The Gum, I suspect cards came in from a printer and were then wrapped/packed on site. Certainly the loading bay sent out complete packs of gum for direct delivery to retailers*'.

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Letraset SPLAT page

Tom Vinelott is dedicated to the preservation of Letraset Action Transfers. Such is his enthusiasm that he created SPLAT, the [Society for the Preservation of Letraset Action Transfers](#), a group that you can join if you share Tom's passion. The reason that Tom and I have corresponded in the past is because the [A&BC Chewing Gum 1970/71 Action Transfers](#) (also known as Transparencies) were produced for A&BC by Letraset. The SPLAT enthusiasts have created their own image gallery of these transfers, [shown here](#). I recommend that you visit the SPLAT and Action Transfers pages as I'm sure you will have many happy memories of all those action transfers that we enjoyed in the 1960s and 70s.

Topps rack packs

In the [previous Newsletter](#) Brian Fleischer from Beckett.com filled us in on U.S. Soccer Cards. In reply to the feature about Topps cellophane packs Brian then provided the image below. Brian advised 'Another popular distribution method was something called "rack packs" – I'm assuming because they hung on the



racks in stores. I wonder if they used this method in the UK for the football products?' I'm not aware of any, but Topps did use many of their U.S. techniques when they began issuing football cards in the U.K.

Ged then provided this image of a Topps counter box for the 1977/78 Red backs set. Each box contained 144 cellophane packs with two cards per pack. On the bottom of the box it states: 'Manufactured in Rep. of Ireland by Topps Ireland Ltd, Cork.

Distributed in Sweden by Gunhager Import AB, Malmo.' Ged has suggested, and I agree, that these boxes were probably produced for the Scandinavian market, hence they have no price on the box or packs as they were probably sold in Sweden, Norway, Finland. Thanks to Ged for providing this information.



BAB Huddersfield sticker



Roger Pashby runs his own [Huddersfield Town football cards website](#) which, if you have never visited it before, I recommend you do. Roger recently sent in the sticker pictured here and wondered if anyone knows who might have produced it and when it might have been issued. Roger wrote 'It is very reminiscent of the BAB stuff but unusually it is made of PVC. It has a brown paper backing and is exactly the same size as the BAB stickers. I would place it as 1970 or 1971 as it would surely only have been produced whilst Town were in the top-flight. Any ideas?'

Until next time...**Nigel**