

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.

A&BC Chewing Gum – Scottish printer's proofs

Three printer's proofs of [A&BC Chewing Gum Scottish](#) football cards sold recently on ebay. The proofs are interesting, not just for their rarity but for what they can tell us about the production of these cards. The selling price of the proofs, averaging around £140 each, also shows how much collectors value these items of ephemera. If you were the lucky purchaser of these proofs please feel free to get in touch with [Nigel's Webspaces](#) as I'm sure other collectors would like to know more about these sheets.

Two of the proofs were for the [1971/72 purple back](#) set of 144. Both of these sheets had 4 rows of 15 card pictures, and 2 rows of 7, making a total of 74 card pictures on each. The proofs are double-sided i.e. the player image is on one side with the card back on the other. One of the proofs (image below), which sold for £137, has Series 1 cards plus an additional card. I don't have access to the proof, but I suspect that the additional card is actually the Series 2 checklist, issued as card number 115. Below the image I've provided a 'map' of the proof sheet, which shows that the cards were laid out in no obvious order within the Series.



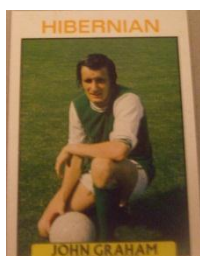
The sheet does not provide any dating evidence, so it is not clear whether this sheet was produced before the season began i.e. in June or July (the 1971/72 Scottish Football League season began on 14 August 1971), or was printed for A&BC Chewing Gum to allow corrections to be made before a re-print of the cards. One of the interesting aspects of this proof sheet is the pen amendment to the Quinton Young card, number 6, where his forename is changed from Quenton (on the proof) to Quinton. Does this mean that the Quenton Young card was ever published, or was it corrected at the proofing stage and therefore never issued?

Scottish 1971/72 Purple Backs - Series 1 – printers proof layout															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1								49. Ferguson	37. Wallace	29. Fitzpatrick	34. Hickson	13. McCulloch	42. Dickson	56. Collins	
2								41. Mann	33. McKinnon	53. Wilson	6. Young	66. Harper	32. Anderson	59. Setter'ton	
3	45. Henderson	11. Rolland	51. Burns	43. Buchan	30. Ingram	3. Rooney	27. Rough	4. Busby	67. McLean	31. Edwards	8. McLintock	16. Cooke	65. Miller	57. Checklist 1	115. Checklist 2
4	2. Sorenson	54. McQuade	22. Wilson	52. Deans	62. Ford	55. McHugh	15. McPhee	63. Moncur	20. Bremner	1. Mathieson	21. Stanton	39. Jarvie	58. O'Hare	10. McGarr	5. Gemmill
5	72. McMillan	44. Mulheron	35. Rankin	25. MacRae	17. Hunter	61. Connolly	24. Graham	19. Donaldson	26. Hall	38. Hartford	23. McNeill	69. Robertson	50. Baker	18. McKenzie	36. Watson
6	28. Murray	40. Smith	70. Johnston	46. McCalliog	9. Clark	64. Hood	68. Scott	47. Johnstone	12. Miller	73. Callaghan	48. Stewart	71. Stevenson	60. McBride	7. Cruicksh'k	14. Greig

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A second proof sheet from the same set sold for £122. This sheet is the Series 2 cards, in the same layout as the Series 1 sheet with 74 card pictures. What is initially interesting about this sheet is the inclusion of 73 cards plus a checklist. The Scottish 1971/72 purple back was an interesting set because it appears to have been issued as uneven series i.e. 73 cards in Series 1 and 71 cards in Series 2 (including one checklist in each Series). If Series 2 does have 71 cards, including a checklist, which ones are the three extra cards on this sheet, and were they ever published? Also, was the Series 2 checklist republished via this sheet (since it appears to have also been on the Series 1 proof sheet), and therefore might there be more than one version of the Series 2 checklist in existence?



Another interesting aspect of this sheet is a correction made by the proof reader. The John Graham card (number 123) is pen-amended at the top of the proof sheet to replace Hibernian with Ayr United. Graham was transferred to Ayr United in September 1971, which neatly dates this sheet. Pictured at left is the John Graham, Hibernian card (perhaps a very rare football card), and at right is John Graham in Hibs kit but with Ayr United at the top of the card, which is the card normally associated with this set. I'm grateful to a website visitor for the



images of both of these cards, proving that both were actually issued.

One of the areas of conjecture about A&BC Chewing Gum football cards is the production dates for Series 2 and 3 cards. It is reasonable to assume that Series 1 cards would be produced in June/July, ready for an August season launch. Were Series 2 cards produced at the same time, or were they produced some months later? Douglas Coakley has previously told me that A&BC produced series in order to keep the sets 'fresh' i.e. so that they could issue new cards later in a season. The existence of a John Graham, Hibernian card suggests that Series 2 cards for this set were produced early in the 1971/72 season. It also strongly suggests that there was a re-print, to which this proof sheet perhaps pertains.

The third proof sheet was for the set of 28 1970/71 pin-ups. This proof sheet sold for £155.

Pepys, Rex Pitts, and unknown German or Austrian football cards

One of my personal favourite football card games when I was growing up was [Goal by Pepys](#). It was produced in two editions, one around 1959 and the other after 1964. They were beautiful cards, well made and stylish. I created my webpage for Pepys even though they do not technically fit within the coverage period of my website.



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Having created the Pepys page I found some other card games which Pepys made, though from much earlier times. I used the teams on the cards to try to date them (including It's a Goal, now dated to 1939). Recently I was contacted by Rex Pitts, who has produced a large work of reference titled *'Castell Brothers Ltd. of London, Pepys - the story of the company and its games'*. Rex kindly provided me with some more accurate dating for these cards, based on his knowledge of the dates that the games were registered at Stationer's Hall in London (the home of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers). I am most grateful to Rex for his contact and for providing some of his data.

Rex then provided me with scans of the cards pictured below. Rex's note says *'The attached game which I have had for some years has no box or rules. The only clue about it is the photo of the footballer on one of the cards (which could well be the title card from the pack). The signature is hard to read and the only thing I could decipher is Liudilar'*. So, does anyone recognise the player, the country (Elfer is apparently 'penalty' in German), the time period or the actual set? If so, please get in touch via this website.



Until next time...**Nigel**