

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 newly documented set of Northern Tracessories stickers?

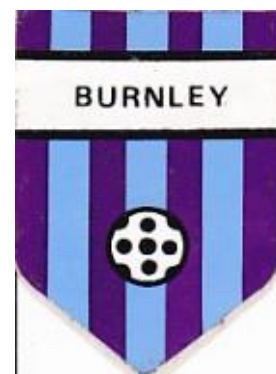
It's not very often that you come across stickers from over forty years ago that appear to be undocumented. The pictured stickers have appeared in a shop display for [Northern Tracessories](#), that mysterious company from Leeds that was previously known to have produced at least two other sticker sets. What is also interesting about this set is that the shop display is for First Division Soccer Clubs, the same shop display and name as another Northern Tracessories set.



The set already known as the [First Division Soccer Clubs](#) is believed to have had 24 stickers, representing the 22 clubs in the First Division in 1968/69, plus stickers for the clubs promoted from the Second Division (Derby County and Crystal Palace). I was going to assume that this new set has the same number of stickers and for the same teams (since the shop display has 24 pockets), which would also date it after the end of the 1968/69 season (so perhaps June 1969), however Alan has already pointed out to me that he has a sticker from this set for Huddersfield Town (promoted at the end of the 1969/70 season), so perhaps Northern Tracessories carried on for a second year and produced an update?

The stickers pictured were recently rediscovered in a loft and interestingly there were three stickers from the [First Division Soccer Stars](#) set in the pockets of the shop display, which seems to confirm that these were sold alongside the other Northern Tracessories set.

Nigel's Webspaces' new gallery includes 16 of these new stickers, though I can't confirm whether Derby County and Crystal Palace were included. Note the price at which they were last sold via this shop display – 7d each! In 1969 you could buy a packet of the FKS Wonderful World of Soccer Star stickers for 6d, and you got 7 stickers for your money. [Click here](#) to see the new gallery of these newly discovered stickers. If you own any of these, or remember them from your childhood please be in contact via the website.



Alan Jenkins' [Football Cartophilic Info Exchange](#) blog recently featured two of these new stickers, plus images of very similar stickers (featured overpage) which suggests that there may be yet another Northern Tracessories set.



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Another new Northern Tracessories set?

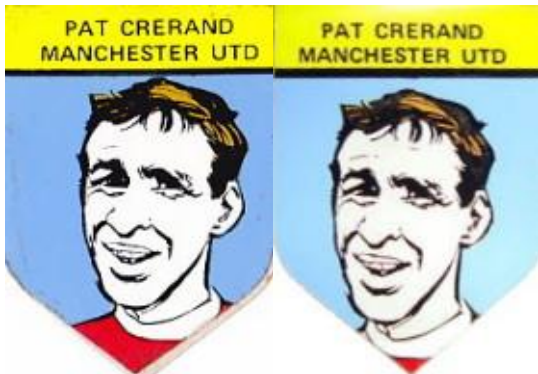
Roger Pashby's [Huddersfield Town website](#) features an 'unknown' sticker (shown at right). Alan Jenkins' [blog](#) recently displayed nine of these badge stickers, including two versions of the Huddersfield Town badge. What is most interesting is that the club badges are identical to the set shown above, with the exception of the strange gold centres rather than the spotted footballs (see the Wolves example below). It is therefore reasonable to suggest that these gold-centred stickers are also Northern Tracessories.



This raises more questions than it answers. A few years ago Northern Tracessories was virtually unknown, not recorded in football card catalogues. Then it emerged that they produced at least two sets, and now we are considering that they produced perhaps four (or more, read on!). This makes them a more significant manufacturer than previously considered. Since there is so much mystery about a few different BAB stickers, it is possible that some or all of the unallocated stickers from this era may be Northern Tracessories rather than BAB.

Another interesting badge in Alan's display is Glasgow Rangers, a club which could only be sold under the heading 'First Division Soccer Clubs' if you accept the coverage of the English as well as the Scottish First Divisions.

Northern Tracessories Soccer Stars variants



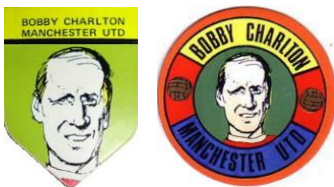
As mentioned above, emerging alongside the new club badges were three of the [Soccer Stars](#). However, there are some subtle differences between the previously recorded images and the new



ones. This is most obvious in the Pat Crerand stickers where the head position is different, and the John Fitzpatrick stickers where the colours are different and the shirt on the leftmost sticker does not appear to have been coloured.

What do we have here? Some sloppy production work (perhaps unlikely), or maybe a slight redesign for a new print run? As the website gallery shows, the Alex Stepney stickers have two quite different images for the same player so this suggests that there was at least an initial design followed by an update.

Northern Tracessories or BAB?

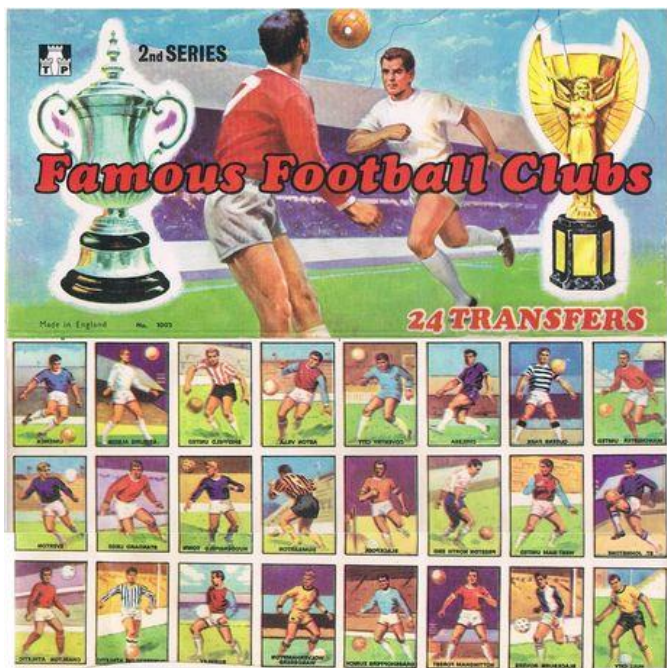


[Newsletter Number 16](#) included a discussion about the similarities between the images on stickers known to be Northern Tracessories (left), and those thought to be BAB (right). As you can see from the Bobby Charlton stickers, the player images are the same. The Northern Tracessories shield is thought to date from around June 1969, and the round stickers are known to date from after March 1970. In the Newsletter I simply noted that the same image appeared to have been used by the two companies, so perhaps BAB acquired the images after Northern Tracessories had folded as a company. Given the evidence that stickers from Northern Tracessories went through at least one print run, and also perhaps appeared in 1970 (Huddersfield Town as evidence), then it may be time to re-evaluate the round stickers and assign them to Northern Tracessories instead of BAB. I have yet to see any evidence that the round stickers are BAB (given that the company name never appeared, and I've yet to see a shop display for these stickers). Too early to call, but worthy of consideration.

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Tower Press, Transfers Series 2



My [Tower Press page](#) features an image of Series 1 of these 1966-era transfers, and wonders whether Series 2 was ever produced. A recent ebay item proves that it was, complete with shop display. To the best of my knowledge it was the only football-related item produced by Tower Press, a great pity as they are lovely images.

I will update my webpage soon with an image of the new stickers. These very attractive little transfers were printed in reverse, obviously for application to school books and the like. It is great to see that at least some have survived intact for almost 50 years.

A lot of these sheets get cut up into individual stickers and sold to club collectors. While I fully understand this, as it is the best way for the seller to increase the value of the sheet, I still like to think that some sheets will be left intact as a record of how they were originally sold.

Recent ebay prices

- 12 cards from the set of 24 [Admiral England Soccer Stars](#) from 1975/76 sold for £26.
- A [Top Sellers](#) Football 73 album with 70 cards inside sold for £48.
- An [FKS Publisher's](#) World Cup 1974 album, complete, sold for £63.
- A [Barratt & Co.](#) Famous Footballers A12 card of George Best sold for £124. Now that's what I call star power!
- An original sheet of stand-up footballers from the 1965 Victor comic sold for £20.
- A 'complete set' of 45 cards from the [A&BC Chewing Gum 1958/59 Series 1](#) set (perhaps without the checklist) sold for only £26. A bargain?
- The [Tower Press](#) Series 2 stickers and shop display sold for £21.

Until next time...**Nigel**