

Nigel's Webspaces News

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

Monty Gum

Monty Gum was a company based in the Netherlands, which produced some interesting football cards for the English market in the 1960s and 70s. Most of what I know about Monty I've gleaned from Rik Buning's dedication site at <http://www.montyplaatjes.nl/>, which is in Dutch, but which Google will translate for you. My website's Monty Gum page is at http://cards.littleoak.com.au/index_monty_gum.html.

The history of Monty Gum, as Rik tells it, is that Canadian soldiers in the Netherlands started a craze for gum during WWII, prompting HFJ Mentink to begin importing Dandy Chewing Gum from the Danish company. The name Monty is a direct reference to Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery.

Monty's production of cards seems to stem from the early 1950s, including a set of football cards dating to 1951. The earliest football set that I am aware of relevant to the English market comes from the rare 1965/66 set which included 20 footballers (plus other sports stars, actors, singers etc.). Apparently this set was also issued by the Perfetti Gum company in Italy. I've only recently added a new gallery to my website, with the images kindly sent to me last year by David – the link is [here](#). I'm not exactly certain of the name of this set, though it has been referred to me as 'International stars' I can't find it under this name on Rik's website.

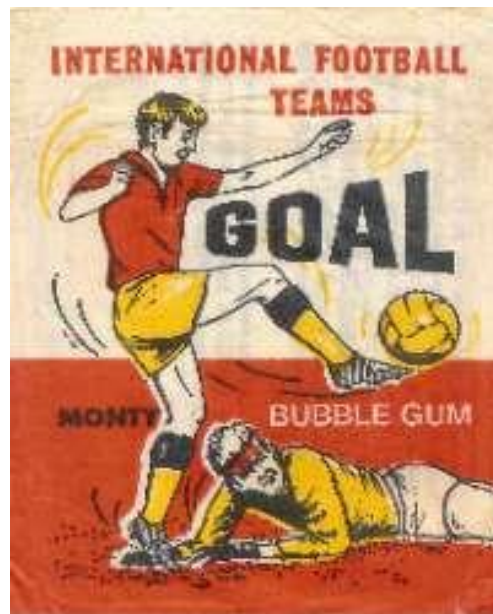


Four years later Monty Gum issued a set of 72 cards with the name 'International Football Teams', which included 12 English teams (Arsenal, Aston Villa, Crystal Palace, Fulham, Leeds United, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, QPR, Stoke City, Tottenham Hotspur and Wolves).

Fairly typically for Monty, there is nothing on the cards to indicate the company name, so often these cards go unidentified. The backs of the cards from this set are part of a picture which, when fully assembled, shows the same image as card 57 from the set, the Benfica team.

I am not sure that either of these early Monty Gum were ever issued in England, as they are not overly common. I suspect that they were issued in Europe and, over time, have been identified and collected by English team and card collectors.

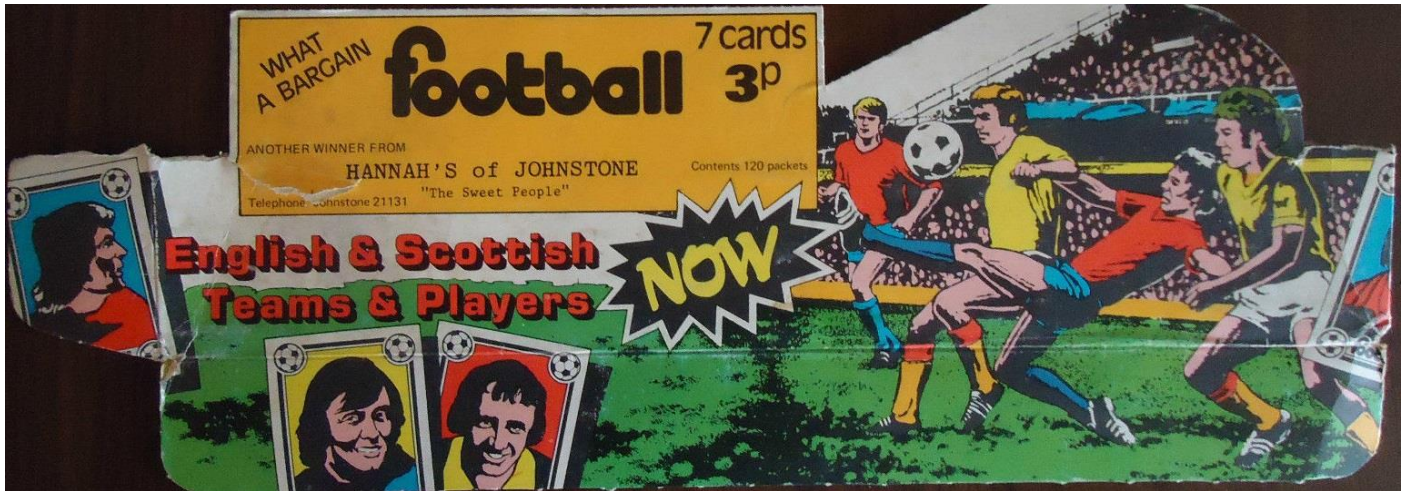
The first Monty Gum set obviously issued with a target of the UK market was the 1975/76 set of 193 cards known as Football Now. These poor quality cards covered 11 English teams plus Rangers from Scotland. For each team there were a number of player images, plus one team image card (for all teams except Manchester United). Again, the cards have no identification with Monty Gum, with plain cardboard backs. The image shown at right, of Roy McFarland of Derby County, is fairly typical of the quality control, with his surname shown as 'McFarlan'.



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The wrapper for these cards is not known to me, though my Monty Gum page suggests that it may be more in the style of a paper bag than a gum wrapper. A recent ebay listing from seller toy-toys was for a counter box from this set which provides an excellent detail of how these cards were issued in the UK. The edge of the box clearly states that the 'Football' set is 'another winner from Hannah's of Johnstone', 'The Sweet People'.

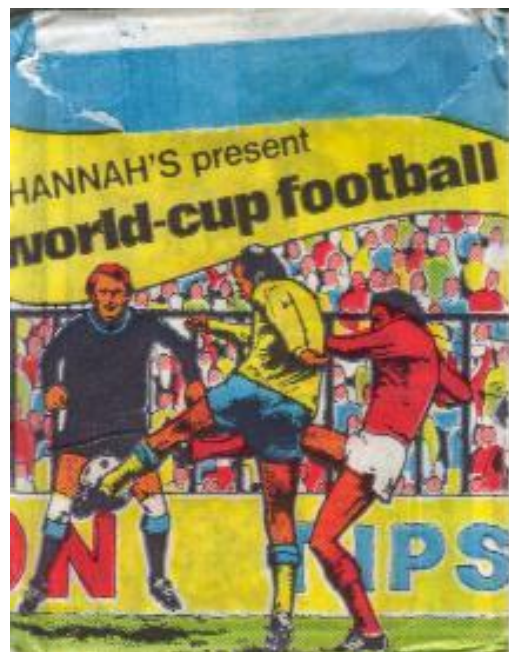


It seems as if this set was not a huge success, as Monty Gum didn't try another release of English and Scottish specific cards, and perhaps this is no surprise as if you didn't follow one of the 11 English clubs featured or Rangers then you would have been mighty annoyed if you kept buying these cards looking for players from perhaps Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham, Man City, West Ham, Celtic etc.

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Monty Gum did release another set of football cards, to coincide with the 1978 World Cup. This large set of 224 cards appears to have been a generic production for the European market, though released in the UK through Hannah's.



Hannah's is a company now known as Hannah's of Johnstone, still operating in 2014 out of Walkinshaw Works Walkinshaw St, Johnstone in Renfrewshire. I've recently written to Hannahs to see if they retain any records from the period, but after almost 40 years I'm not confident of success. Monty Gum ceased business around 1990.

The Sun Soccerstamps

The Sun newspaper issued their popular Soccerstamps in 1971, a set of 500 stamps. But did you know that there was a 'Duplicate wallet' to store those frequently acquired doubles? Inside the wallet are four rows for you to tuck your spares into and protect them in your school bags as you took them to the playground for some furtive trading. I'm not sure how you went about acquiring one of these wallets in 1971: perhaps you sent away to the Newspaper. If anyone ever comes across an advertisement for the wallet please let me know as it would be good to be able to date it and record just how and when it was available.

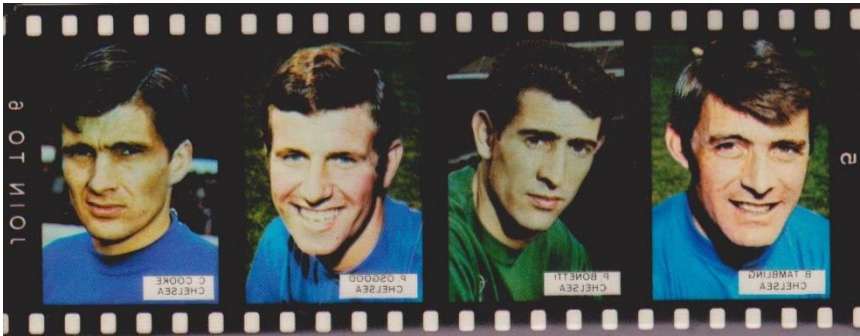
It's a pity that this style of 'soccerstamp' was never repeated. At the time the Sun advertised that they printed and distributed over 60 million stamps (suggesting 120,000 complete sets if all properly compiled), so it was a huge undertaking. Perhaps the paper found the effort greater than the reward?



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A&BC film strips, or something else altogether?



Can anyone help me identify what this might be? I acquired a few of these many years ago. They look like film strips, have a number at one end (in this case 5), and instructions at the other (Join to 6), which suggests that the aim was to create a long roll, though I'm not sure for what purpose.

I'm aware of 12 different strips, each one featuring players from an English club. The strips that I own have a backing paper, which may suggest that they were not really film strips – I'm not sure!

What is really interesting is the date and uses of the images. Below are the A&BC Chewing Gum 1968/69 yellow back cards, which have images remarkably similar to my film strip. So, do I have a strip used to create the A&BC cards? Any views or opinions, particularly from those who might know something about how old film strips were produced and used, would be much appreciated. You can email me via the website.



Until next time...**Nigel**