

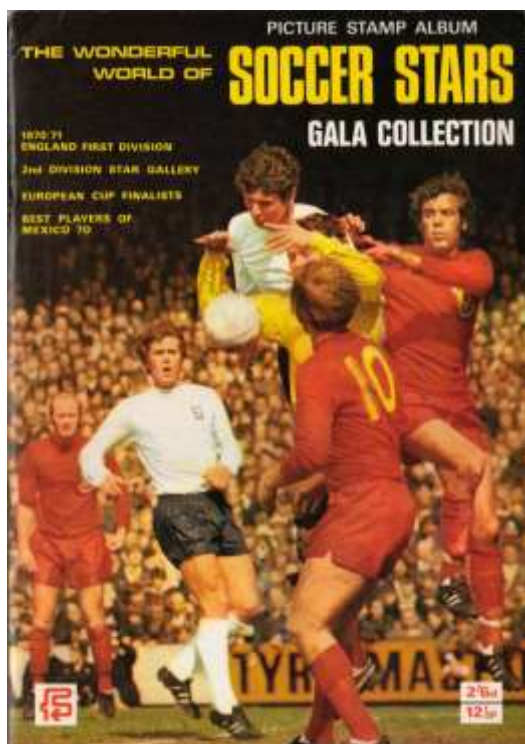
Nigel's Webspaces News

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

FKS Publishers produces a gem – the 1970/71 gala collection

The FKS Publishers 1970/71 Wonderful World of Soccer Stars album represents a high point in the development of the modern football sticker. Following on from the more basic sticker and album designs of 1968/69 and 1969/70, FKS clearly put a lot of thought and effort into the 1970/71 set.

FKS referred to the set as a 'gala collection', suggesting a very special presentation. Perhaps surprisingly for our modern day cynicism, the price hadn't been raised for this new edition, still 7 stickers in the packet for 6d or 2½p, the same price as the 1969/70 collection. There were a total of 420 stickers to collect for the set. The stickers were not pre-glued, but had 'Apply adhesive here only' printed on the sticker and album to guide you. Many stickers were stuck in this way, only to be later removed, leading to the still collectible 'ex-album' classification of some stickers sold today.



The album was designed and edited for FKS by Jack Rollin, a man more famous in later years for editing the Rothmans and Sky Sports Football Yearbooks. Pages 2 and 3 of the album summarise the 1969/70 season. Page 4 details the 1970 World Cup, which helps to date the album. Most of these albums were printed in July/August for distribution for the new football season in August/September. Since the World Cup Final was played on June 21, 1970, it shows how little time was available to finish the album before printing.

Pages 5, 6 and 7 provide excellent coverage and analysis of the European Champions Cup (Feijenoord), European Cup Winners Cup (Manchester City) and European Fairs Cup (Arsenal) winners.

Pages 8 through 29 cover the 22 First Division teams. You can see galleries of these teams via my website, starting here -

http://cards.littleoak.com.au/197071_fks/arsenal.htm.



FKS moved away from their 1969/70 'action shots', moving to 'upper body' player images, and managed to get good photos for most players, avoiding the last resort use of paint to cover late transfers or training strips (though Jack Whitham, sticker 179 from Liverpool is an obvious exception, transferred from Sheffield Wednesday in May 1970).



The innovations for this album begin on page 30, where FKS presents a Second Division Star Gallery, with 44 stickers featuring two 'star' players from each of the 22 teams. Jack Rollin notes in his introduction to these pages that *'The Second Division has played a full part in the development of the game in this country and it is an acknowledged fact that the strength of the clubs in it compares favourably with many Continental First Division teams'*.

Page 33 provides one of the most imaginative ideas, a space for your favourite Second Division Team sheet. The whole page in the album is left empty with the instructions to use the Order Form on page 38 to order your favourite Second Division team on a single, large sheet. The team sheets cost 2/- (10p) each, but postage and handling was a whopping 1s 6d (7½p). These sheets could be ordered up until June 30, 1971.

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They now form one of the rarest of football item collectibles, since probably not many were ordered, and most that were ordered would have been stuck inside the albums on page 33. If you are in the market to purchase an FKS 1970/71 album you should always check page 33 to see if it is still blank (most are), or whether you have a team sheet stuck in. Collectors of specific teams will often pay top dollar to get these team sheets. My website shows a few of these, for example: http://cards.littleoak.com.au/197071_fks/team%20sheet%20code/Norwich%20City.htm.



Pages 34 and 35 of the album features 15 player stickers each from Celtic and Feijenoord, the two teams who competed for the European Cup in 1970.

Page 36 has 16 player stickers of 'Star Players of Mexico 70', reproducing a number of the stickers from the FKS Mexico 70 album.

One final area of interest for this album is the notice on page 38 stating that *'None of the players depicted on the stamps, nor the clubs to which they belong, have assisted in or received any financial or other reward in connection with the production of either the stamps or this album'*, which today seems amazing that you could get away with this sort of thing, but it was 1970! One of the more interesting aspects of this is the inclusion of a George Best sticker (number 197), whereas I had always understood that Bestie was very carefully managed by his agent who tightly controlled his image rights. Perhaps not?

Page 38 continues *'Furthermore, in order to maintain authenticity, some of the players have been photographed in clothing which is not necessarily their official club colours'*.

FKS 1970/71 spawned its own fansite for a while, with Bob Dunning running a popular website for many years featuring news and 'where are they now'. Now sadly no longer maintained, you can get a glimpse via the Wayback Machine: <http://web.archive.org/web/20081201145233/http://www.bob7071.co.uk/news.aspx>, showing a 2008 snapshot.

Despite all of the innovation, the FKS 1970/71 album and stickers were perhaps too far ahead of their time. By the time of the 1971/72 album Jack Rollin's expert analysis had been replaced by a one-page introduction from Derek Dougan. The Second Division Stars Gallery, Second Division Team Sheets and World Cup Stars had all gone, though they were replaced with Club Badges, a list of transfers and a fixture grid (for you to fill in). Second Division players would never again feature as prominently in a sticker album.

And, in spite of the attention to detail and excellent production standards, FKS made a number of errors between the album and the stickers on pages 30, 31 and 32. There was a mix-up between the album numbers and the actual stickers so, for example, the album has Peter Shilton as sticker 347, but his actual sticker has number 348. This tends to cause understandable confusion, and can influence the way albums were put together. Some young collectors stuck the stickers in the 'correct' place by name i.e. the Peter Shilton sticker in the place in the album where his name appears, while others have stuck the stickers in correctly by number i.e. in place 348 in the album. In the table below I've recorded the known errors for these stickers:



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Team	Sticker	Album	Sticker	Match
Birmingham City	Trevor Hockey	331	331	Same
Birmingham City	Phil Summerill	332	332	Same
Blackburn Rovers	Billy Wilson	333	334	Different
Blackburn Rovers	Roger Jones	334	333	Different
Bolton Wanderers	Roger Hunt	335	335	Same
Bolton Wanderers	Charlie Hurley	336	336	Same
Bristol City	Chris Garland	337	337	Same
Bristol City	Dickie Rooks	338	338	Same
Cardiff City	Brian Clark	339	339	Same
Cardiff City	Don Murray	340	340	Same
Carlisle United	Allan Ross	341	341	Same
Carlisle United	Graham Winstanley	342	342	Same
Charlton Athletic	Graham Moore	343	344	Different
Charlton Athletic	Alan Campbell	344	343	Different
Hull City	Ken Wagstaff	345	346	Different
Hull City	Terry Neill	346	345	Different
Leicester City	Peter Shilton	347	348	Different
Leicester City	David Nish	348	347	Different
Luton Town	Malcolm McDonald	349	350	Different
Luton Town	Roger Hoy	350	349	Different
Middlesbrough	Hugh McIlmoyle	351	352	Different
Middlesbrough	John Hickton	352	351	Different
Millwall	Barry Kitchener	353	353	Same
Millwall	Derek Possee	354	354	Same
Norwich City	Albert Bennett	355	355	Same
Norwich City	Ken Foggo	356	356	Same
Leyton Orient	Dennis Rofe	357	358	Different
Leyton Orient	Mark Lazarus	358	357	Different
Oxford United	Ron Atkinson	359	359	Same
Oxford United	Colin Clarke	360	360	Same
Portsmouth	Nicky Jennings	361	362	Different
Portsmouth	Harry Harris	362	361	Different
QPR	Terry Venables	363	364	Different
QPR	Rodney Marsh	364	363	Different
Sheffield United	Alan Hodgkinson	365	366	Different
Sheffield United	Tony Currie	366	365	Different
Sheffield Wednesday	Tommy Craig	367	367	Same
Sheffield Wednesday	Sammy Todd	368	368	Same
Sunderland	Jimmy Montgomery	369	369	Same
Sunderland	Colin Todd	370	370	Same
Swindon Town	Don Rogers	371	371	Same
Swindon Town	Rod Thomas	372	372	Same
Watford	Barry Endean	373	373	Same
Watford	Stewart Scullion	374	374	Same

Until next time...**Nigel**