

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.

Issue 6

The middle of the World Cup, little sleep (games in Australia are shown at midnight and 4.30am), but another Newsletter deadline approached. Thanks to all those who visit the website and send me emails, either with questions and/or answers. There are some people out there with superb collections of 60s and 70s items, and I am always gratified when you offer to share your expertise and/or images. After the discussion of the A&BC Chewing Gum Cup Winner Bag of Fun Nigel's Webspaces now hosts a partial gallery of the [Scottish World Cup posters](#). The mysteries of whether or not there were 'Lucky Bag's and whether or not they included crinkle-edged purple back cards remain.

In the last issue I sent out a request for Sugosa images, but received none. Am I the only person who collects them?

More BAB

BAB (the [BAB Souvenir Company](#)) has proven to be one of the most interesting manufacturers of stickers from the late 60s and early 70s. Since, unfortunately, they rarely included the company name on their products it is very difficult to identify what is and what is not BAB. The stickers below have popped up recently and are likely to be BAB stickers. There are two questions here - did BAB produce a range of quite diverse stickers in small numbers, since very few examples are known, and/or were there other (currently unknown) sticker producers around this time who also chose not to put their company name on their products. Does anyone else have stickers of these styles, and/or any information to confirm or deny that they are BAB?



The George Best sticker is almost certainly BAB, since it is of a similar style to known [BAB footballer circle stickers](#) (see George Best example below). The George Best sticker below was sold recently on ebay for £26. You can clearly see that this is the same caricature as the sticker above.



The Bobby Moore sticker also looks like the same style as BAB, with a roughly drawn caricature. The very basic style of printing suggests that if this is BAB then it is likely to be a very early sticker. Again, if anyone knows of any other stickers of this style I would love to know about it. Please [email me here](#).

The George Best sticker above was sold recently on ebay and the seller told me '*All I remember is that my parents once sold these in their Newsagents shop back in the 70's ! If I remember they were sold on a see-through black wallchart*'. I'm sure that BAB would not have just produced a George Best version of the shield sticker, so there must be others around!

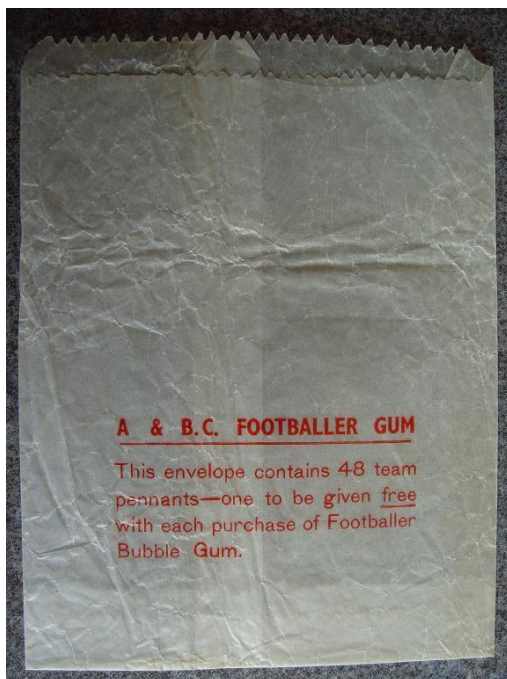
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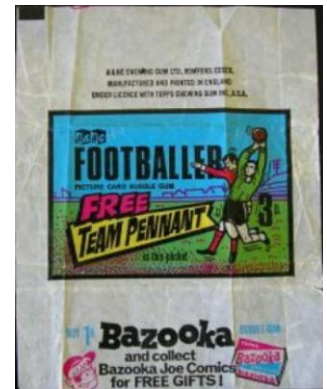
A&BC pennants bag



A&BC Chewing Gum continue to generate most interest for collectors. It is well known that A&BC issued team pennants with their [1968/69 yellow backs Series 1](#) in England and the much rarer Scottish pennants with the Scottish yellow backs. The pennants always come with three creases, caused by the way they were folded to fit into the wrappers. The pennants had instructions to cut along the edges to release the pennant from the rest of the paper, but thankfully very few boys seemed to do this so most pennants still remain intact, as in the example above. However, Graham recently sent in the image below:



The bag is clearly identified as for 'A&BC Footballer Gum', and states that 'This envelope contains 48 team pennants - one to be given free with each purchase of Footballer Bubble Gum'. This causes some confusion, since the pennants were included in the gum wrappers, so newsagents were not required to give them out to customers. It raises a number of possibilities - perhaps very early on A&BC did not include the pennants in the wrappers? To the best of my knowledge the pennants were A&BC's first ever give-away with Footballer cards, so perhaps they were having trouble with machinery and hadn't yet mastered the technique? Perhaps there are some Series 1 wrappers out there without the pennants give-away printed on the wrapper?



Personally I would like to think that they had printed the wrappers in anticipation, but couldn't perfect the technique of folding and including

them with the wrappers, so for a short period of time had to have a fall-back position of manual distribution. If this was the case, it would also account for a number of pennants which have been seen without any folds. Does anyone else have knowledge, views or theories about this?

Collection and find stories

I'm always keen to hear unusual football card collection or find stories. Living in Australia there is almost no chance of me stumbling across old football cards in the attic or at a car-boot sale, but I know that strange things happen in the UK, and perhaps in the rest of Europe too. One of my favourites is the person who was asked to help clear out an old shop near Newcastle (England) which had been left empty, locked up with some old stock inside, since the 1970s! Inside were a few gems. By capturing the way that these cards and stickers were sold we can add to the social history as well as the nostalgia. It's one of the reasons why I find the counter box images so appealing, as we can record how the A&BC Chewing Gum cards were sold. The hunt for evidence of the mysterious BAB was helped by discovering a plastic shop display with the company name. So, if you have good stories about where or how you have added to your collection (or perhaps added to your wallet by immediately selling them) please drop me a line. I know that I'll be envious, but you might like to share your tale with others.

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FKS counter boxes



Is it just me, or do images like these make anyone else go weak at the knees? Two counter boxes of [FKS stickers](#), full of unopened packets! The 1969/70 Soccer Stars in Action series and the 1970 Mexico 70 World Cup set. Thanks to Steve for sending through these images. There is something about seeing these images again that takes me back to my childhood in England, I would have been 10 years old at the time and an avid FKS collector. Just seeing the counter boxes would have been good enough, but seeing them stuffed full of unopened packets is a real treat.

Recently observed sales

- The last newsletter issue mentioned the upcoming auction of the rare set of [A&BC Scottish 1962/63 cards](#) shown on this site. The final price was £1,300 which was enough to make the seller happy. Another set was then offered for sale on ebay and did not meet the reserve at the final bid price of £625. For some reason bidders on ebay are not willing to offer as much, or perhaps the serious collectors don't look on ebay? I'm not sure.
- A set of the bronze [Esso collectors coins](#) in their presentation album sold for £197.
- A full set of 16 of the A&BC Chewing Gum [World Cup Giant Posters](#) sold for £51. I think that that was cheap!
- A number of the rare 1972 [Americana Munchen](#) Soccer Parade albums have come up for sale recently. An empty album sold for £31, while a complete album sold for £172. Quite good prices, and nice to know that there are Americana collectors out there. However, a few weeks afterwards a near-complete album sold for only £32, and then another one for £47. A bit like London buses really?
- 25 [A&BC Chewing Gum World Cup stamps](#) were sold on ebay as a single lot, all in fair-good condition. A fantastic opportunity to quickly acquire a number of these super rare stamps. The final selling price was £185.
- A set of [Topps Chewing Gum, Scottish](#), 1975/76, blue backs, 88 cards, most in very good-good condition sold for £136. A set of 132 cards from 1977/78, yellow backs with 80 in very good-excellent condition and the remainder fair-poor, sold for £155. A set of 1978/79, green backs, 132 cards, in good-fair-poor condition sold for £178.
- The Chelsea sticker mentioned in the BAB story above sold for £36. Two buyers fighting over the same item, a seller's dream.

When you spot what you think are interesting items or prices, either on ebay, in dealers catalogues or auctions, please forward a link or email to cards@littleoak.com.au.

Nigel