

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 wrappers - which wrapper goes with which year?

I've just been sent an old article about A&BC Chewing Gum football card wrappers. The article has sparked my interest in revisiting these wrappers as there seem to be no definitive answers to which wrappers go with which sets for the period from 1958/59 to 1963/64. I display a number of these wrappers on my [A&BC page](#), but have a couple of gaps and have never been sure of my own information. I personally only collected A&BC cards from about 1967 onwards. Do you have any information, or personal recollections? If so, please visit my website and get in contact.

In the table below I've highlighted the wrappers currently featured on my website, and the wrappers covered by the historical article, with an explanation of some of the issues. Any feedback will be greatly appreciated as it is only by pooling the available knowledge that we might agree on the correct assignments. There must be more old articles out there, particularly dating from the 1980s and 90s when these things were fresher in people's minds, so if you have a store of old collector's or trader's magazines please hunt them out of the loft and see what you can find.

Until next time...**Nigel**

1958/59 – Topstars – Famous Footballers

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Historical article



My verdict



The historical article notes that this blue wrapper has A&BC's address as London, rather than Harold Hill, Romford, Essex. The wrapper apparently predates the move to Harold Hill, which was in 1959. The article goes on to suggest that the green wrapper was used for Series 2 and replaced the blue wrapper when they moved to Essex. The article backs up this argument by noting that the green wrapper is smaller than the blue wrapper, consistent with the fact that Series 2 cards did not have the 'Planet offer', but this is wrong as it is Series 1 which did not have the Planet (the blue back wrapper would therefore have needed to be for the smaller cards).

The article also notes that both the blue and green wrappers have reference to the licence agreement with Topps. My research has suggested that the agreement with Topps occurred in 1959, making it unlikely that the wrappers relate to 1958.

The Topstars wrapper that I display for the 1958/59 set does not mention football in text but it does have the image of a footballer. It also is from London, so is from this period. I've always associated this wrapper with the 1958/59 set because of the [Topstars Album of Famous Footballers](#) from this date.

My verdict: For the 1958/59 season the cards and wrappers would have been manufactured in 1958, pre-dating the move to Essex. If Series 2 was printed and issued with a green wrapper in 1959 (unlikely, since the cards would only have been saleable until the end of the season in May) then the move to Harold Hill would have had to be very early in 1959. This is unlikely, since Tony Coakley once told me that they moved to Essex after a fire in London in 1959. I've reasonably confidently that the Topstars wrapper I've displayed is the correct one for this set. I'm not convinced that the blue and green wrappers were this early.

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1959/60 - Footballer

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Historical article

My verdict



Wrapper in article



The historical article suggests that there was a wrapper with four cards for 3d. It suggests that the wrapper fits the larger size of these cards before the size was reduced for 1960/61. The wrappers had the same green colour as the previous year and, crucially, included the same 'Feyenoord-style' image as the previous season. I must admit that I've never seen an image of this wrapper, though it is printed in the article (but not of a quality to reproduce here). I'm quite happy to accept that there is at least one wrapper that I am not aware of.

On my website I suggest that there are two wrappers for this set, one priced at 1d (for one card and a piece of gum) and the other at 2d offering '2 cards plus extra card free'. Significantly these wrappers have the address as Essex (therefore in or after 1959) but do not reference a licence agreement with Topps (which is dated from 1959).

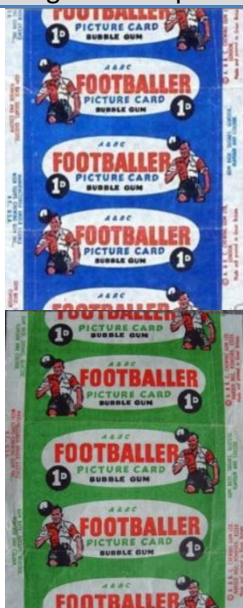
My verdict: I'm going to stick with my view that the website shows the correct wrappers for the 1959/60 set.

1960/61 – Footballer (black backs)

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Historical article

My verdict



Unknown



plus four cards for 3d wrapper (image not available)

The historical article does not provide a wrapper for the 1960/61 or 1961/62 sets, indicating that they were not sure of the correct wrappers.

My website suggests that the green wrapper relates to 1960/61. There are a number of reasons for this – firstly the wrapper

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mentions the licence arrangement with Topps, being the first wrapper to do so and following on from the licence date believed to be 1959. The price of 1d is also consistent with the prices of the wrappers over time. The wrappers feature a player in the red and white halved shirt, referred to in the historical article as the 'Feyenoord style'. This same image is used on a shop poster displaying the cards for the 1960/61 set.

The shop poster gives a clue, by indicating that the 1960/61 cards were available for 1d and 3d. I'm therefore suggesting that the four cards for 3d wrapper mentioned in the historical article for 1959/60 was an alternate way to purchase the 1960/61 cards. Significantly, this wrapper as described in the article has the Feyenoord-style player.

The only complicating factor in this verdict is the blue wrapper, which I cannot assign anywhere else. It has the London address, rather than the Essex address, which suggests that it predates the move to Harold Hill.

My verdict: I'm going to stick with my view that the website shows the correct green wrapper for the 1960/61 set, but needs to also reflect the 4 cards for 3d wrapper.

1961/62 - Footballer

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Historical article

My verdict



Unknown



The historical article does not provide a wrapper for the 1961/62 set.

My website suggests a return to the Topstars wrapper style. My reasons are: (1) the wrapper includes the image of a footballer (2) the wrapper mentions 'autographed', with the 1961/62 being a set of black and white autographed photos (something A&BC would not repeat again until 1969) and (3) the price is consistent with the increase in prices (1d each, to 4 for 3d, to 3 for 2d). The pictured wrapper includes reference to the licence agreement with Topps, and has the Essex address.

My verdict: I'm going to stick with my view that the website shows the correct wrapper for the 1961/62 set.

1962/63 - Bazooka

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Historical article

My verdict

Unknown— left blank on website

Wrapper in article

Wrapper in article (image not available)

The historical article recognises that the wrappers for 1962/63, 1963/64 and 1964/65 are problematic. It states 'the identification of these is difficult and we are still not 100% which is which'. The packet assigned to the 1962/63 is another one which is unknown to me. It is described as having orange and blue rectangles and a 1d price. The wrapper is clearly marked 'Footballer picture card bubble gum'.

My verdict: I'm happy to go with the magazine article which notes a wrapper that I have not seen before. The only slightly confusing issue is the apparent return to a price of 1d each. Perhaps the move back from black and white to colour made the cards more expensive.

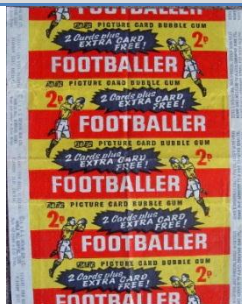
1963/64 – Make-a-Photo

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Historical article

My verdict

Unknown— left blank on website



Unknown at this stage

The historical article is not sure about attributing their wrapper to this series, and they suggest that there is only the 2d version, not the 1d and 2d I feature for 1959/60. I have allocated this 2d wrapper as an alternative for the 1959/60 set, mainly based on

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the fact that these wrappers do not mention the licence agreement with Topps.

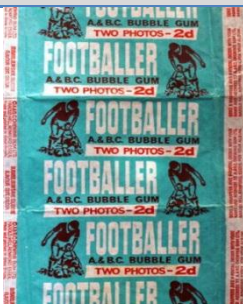
My verdict: I do not know the correct wrapper for 1963/64.

1964/65

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Historical article



My verdict



One that we agree on – at last! The article notes that 'This is most likely the wrapper for the 'Quiz' cards issued in 1964.

1965/66

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Historical article



My verdict



And again, we agree. This wrapper included 3 cards, each with a pair of photos, hence the total of 6 photos per pack.

Are you a wrapper collector?

I must admit that I don't collect these wrappers myself, though I love to receive images of them to display on Nigel's Webspac. If you are a keen football card wrapper collector, not just of A&BC Chewing Gum, then please get in touch with me through my website and I will try and put you into contact with other wrapper collectors.