

# Nigel's WebSpace News

A newsletter distributed by [Nigel's WebSpace](#), a website dedicated to the history of English football cards 1965/66 to 1979/80.

## Issue 9

Happy New Year to all readers. Thanks to everyone for your emails, images, ideas and support through 2010. I hope that everyone has a healthy and happy 2011, and that you will continue to support this website in the new year. My aim is to help record the history of these fascinating items from our past before we all get too old to remember!

## Mystery stickers - Derby County, FKS?

The mystery posed in [Newsletter Edition 8](#) was solved. William responded to [Andy Mac's Derby County stickers](#) website with the reply 'The sticker showing the Championship trophy is from FKS Soccer 81. It is from a section showing various trophies. It is sticker number 353. On the back it lists Derby as one of the twelve founder members of the football league. I think the photo is the same one used for the FKS postcard collection'. Well solved!

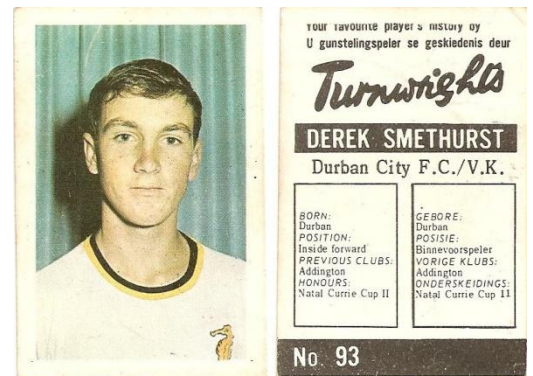
## Derek Smethurst - South African football card

Jeff, from the U.S. sent the following information:

'I won a group of cards on eBay recently from a seller in Canada. He labelled them as "10 1960s European soccer cards". He also scanned the backs, and they were obviously South African cards and, lo and behold, there was Derek Smethurst of Durban City. This may be the very card he referred to in [his interview](#) with you since he probably was not on very many cards in South Africa before he left for England.

The cards that I got in the group were:

#62	Ivan Breitenbach	Centre Half	Arcadia United F.C.
#69	Jackie Botten	Wing Half or Forward	Arcadia United F.C.
#91	Willie Law	Goalkeeper	Addington F.C.
#92	Des Anderson	Wing Half	Rangers F.C.
#93	Derek Smethurst	Inside Forward	Durban City F.C.
#94	Robbie McPhee	Inside Forward	Durban City F.C.
#95	David Jeffery	Wing Half	Addington F.C.
#100	Terry McQuade	Outside Left	Addington F.C.
#111	Ronnie Koekemoer	Inside Forward	Rangers F.C.
#114	Dave Jones	Inside Forward	Rangers F.C.

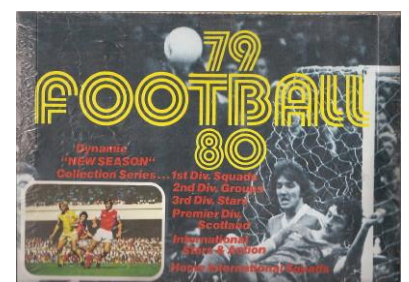


I haven't researched Turnwright's, the issuer of the cards. These are the first cards I have ever had from South Africa, so I don't know much about them yet. Thanks again for all of your great work on the website'. Thanks to Jeff for providing this interesting card. Does anyone collect these cards?

For those who like trivia, Jackie Botten, mentioned above, also played Test cricket for South Africa, appearing in three tests in a tour of England in 1965. He died in 2006.

## Transimage Football 79/80

[Transimage](#) produced a fascinating set of football cards in 1979. Sadly it was the only set they ever produced. The set comprised 528 stickers, plus an album. Hyder kindly sent in the image below from a complete, unopened box of packets. Super!


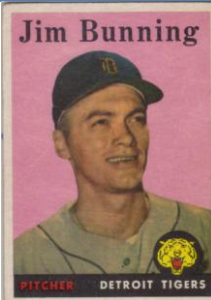






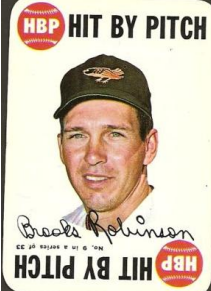


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## A&BC and Topps US editions

Brian, who works for [Beckett](#) (Sports Cards Price Guides, Card Values & Trading), wrote to [Nigel's Webspaces](#) with interesting observations about A&BC Chewing Gum football cards and Topps (U.S.) baseball and football cards. A&BC and Topps signed a licensing agreement in 1959, so it makes sense that they shared ideas and designs. Brian wrote *"I've become increasingly interested in the A&BC Chewing Gum cards and their similarity to Topps baseball cards produced at roughly the same time in the United States. While I'm familiar with their connection (thanks to your site!) I was wondering if you've ever seen any of the similarly designed baseball cards? For example:*

	A&BC Chewing Gum English editions	Topps Chewing Gum US baseball editions	Topps Chewing Gum US football editions
<a href="#">1959-60 A&amp;BC</a> is very similar to the 1958 Topps baseball set:			
The <a href="#">1960-61 A&amp;BC</a> is basically the 1959 Topps baseball and 1958 Topps football sets:			
<a href="#">1963-64 A&amp;BC Make A Photo</a> is basically 1962 Topps baseball:			
In 1968, Topps produced a "Game" card, much like the <a href="#">1972-73 A&amp;BC game</a> :			

*There are plenty of other similarities between Topps and A&BC releases, but I won't bore you with all the details!"*

Many thanks to Brian for providing the Topps images and highlighting the obvious similarities. Brian made an interesting observation about the difference between collecting English football cards and their U.S. equivalents *'The fact that I can buy Bobby Charlton, Peter Osgood, George Best or Stanley Matthews cards from their playing days for such little money astounds me. Comparable American baseball cards of players like Mickey Mantle or Willie Mays or*

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*Hank Aaron sell for 10 times (or even 100 times) what their English football counterparts sell for. I'm not saying that there aren't expensive cards from the era or from these players, because I know there are...it just seems like most of the English football cards I come across online of great players seem like great bargains'. You heard it from Brian, English football cards are a bargain, so go out and buy some more ☺*

## A&BC blue backs and image rights

Richard has asked the following questions about the A&BC Chewing Gum [1973/74 English blue backs](#), set of 262:

- Was there a selection procedure/policy for each team? Why were some players omitted from the set, even though they were first team regulars during both 72-73 and 73-74? Examples would include Gerry Francis, Don Givens and Phil Parkes of QPR, Alan Stevenson of Burnley (is it because they were newly-promoted?), Keith Weller and Frank Worthington (Leicester), Dave Stringer and Max Briggs (Norwich), Colin Stein (Coventry)
- Why no Wolverhampton Wanderers?
- What sources did A&BC use to obtain photographs of players?
- How come Checklist 2 seemed to pre-date Checklist 1 in my local shops?

All very good questions. It is certain that by this time players were starting to employ agents or managers, so the issue of image rights may have cropped up, but there are no records from A&BC for us to check. Does anyone know, or have any ideas? Douglas Coakley from A&BC has previously told me that he employed a sports agent for all of the card photographs, but these are one of the last A&BC sets so perhaps that time had passed too.

## A&BC Chewing Gum - Scottish football error and variant cards

Nigel's Webspaces includes a page detailing the various error and variant cards from the [A&BC Chewing Gum English sets](#). I certainly didn't identify any of these variants, most have been known ever since the sets were first produced. Apart from being interesting, this page is popular amongst collectors as it helps record the different cards that you can collect, and helps to explain some discrepancies between the checklists and actual cards.



In 2011 I would like to create an equivalent page for the [A&BC Chewing Gum Scottish sets](#). This won't be easy for me, as I own very few of these colourful, attractive and hard to collect cards. So, I'm putting out a general call for known variants and/or images of any Scottish errors or variants that you may have, and I will create a page to record them.

One website visitor has already started the collection with images from the 1971/72 Purple backs set.

Apparently the image on the Blackley card is actually Alex Cropley. There are two versions of card 123, one

with Ayr United at the top, and the other with Hibernian (with Graham in Hibs strip on both cards). Any more from anyone?



## Hyder's article

Hyder Jawad recently wrote an interesting article on A&BC Chewing Gum, based on an interview he conducted with Douglas Coakley. His article was published in the most recent edition of the excellent [Backpass magazine](#). As with most published articles, Hyder's original draft was cut-down to fit the needs of the magazine. In the March edition of Nigel's Webspaces News you will be able to read the full article. Many thanks to Hyder for providing it.

Until next time...**Nigel**