

WELCOME

To the first issue of Nigel's Webspac News. I've been thinking for some time about producing a newsletter to keep collectors up-to-date about recent discoveries, selling prices and other news from the world of English and Scottish Football Cards from 1965/66 to 1979/80. I hope that my readership will benefit from, and participate in, building up the history of these football cards. Many of you already do, and I really appreciate that.

Discoveries and finds

The most interesting discovery recently has been the unearthing of new BAB stickers (see http://cards.littleoak.com.au/index_bab.html). There are two football-related sheets – Sheet 1, Soccer Favourites and Sheet 3, Clubs, Crests and Colours. The stickers come in sheets of 100, and are now being sold as individual stickers or in team sets on



www.ebay.co.uk. As an idea of how popular they are, a Manchester United set of 3 stickers (Best, Charlton and Sadler) sold for over £42. Once the initial enthusiasm had passed the ebay price for a whole sheet of Favourites (the one with the individual players) has come down to less than £30.

Through a regular website contributor I was able to get into contact with the seller of these sticker stamps who told me that he 'bought out the contents of a newsagents that had been closed for over 30 years, the stickers were in a display outer still on the counter'. The newsagent was in the Newcastle area. I'm still amazed that these things occur in this day and age. Apparently there were 20 sheets of each type in this great find. Some have obviously been broken up for individual sale already, so if you managed to capture a sheet – well done!

BAB continues to be one of the most interesting producers of football stickers. I'm sure that they only produced in the period from 1970 to around 1973, but their output was very colourful and interesting. There are no known complete checklists of their badges and other stickers, so every time that we identify and catalogue BAB items will have benefit. My recent efforts to rebuild my BAB page are an attempt to capture and record what we know.



Website updates

My main aim in running Nigel's Webspac is to help record the history of English and Scottish Football cards of the period. While I do collect these cards and stickers, I am more interested in the social history than in having the best collection. I love to know what was produced when, by whom, and why. I've therefore enjoyed compiling an initial history of A&BC Chewing Gum, filling in some of the gaps about BAB, Sugosa and Reddish Maid. I'd love to know more about all of these companies, and hope to continue updating the website with details.

It therefore helps my website a lot when fellow collectors are able to scan in some of their cards and contribute them. In recent months I've expanded the website to include Topps Scottish cards, A&BC Chewing Gum Scottish cards, and A&BC from 1954 to 1964/65 – all because of interest and demand from collectors.

Mysteries

One of the remaining mysteries is anything to do with FKS. After A&BC Chewing Gum they rate as amongst the most prolific and interesting producers of stickers, beginning in 1966/67 and continuing on until the 1980s, when I think

they were bought out by Quadriga. I think that FKS were a Spanish company, perhaps one who created stickers for the Spanish market first and then expanded into the rest of Europe and/or England. I've never heard from anyone who worked for them in England. Does anyone have any leads to create a history of FKS?

Dübreq Top Trumps cards with club badges

Dübreq began creating their Top Trumps cards in the late 70s, including some interesting football-related sets. They started out with general football sets i.e. British Soccer Stars, International Greats, but then seem to have targeted individual club supporters by producing sub-sets for teams e.g. Arsenal, Manchester United etc. I think that the idea was that you could supplement your original Top Trumps game with extra cards with the players you supported. The team cards did not constitute full sets i.e. 32 cards, but were normally in the region of the 12, 13 or 14 cards. In order to make them more attractive to buyers they also added an 'Exclusive Team Badge'. It is hard to date these early team sets, though some have 1980 dates for updates. A set of 1979/80 Top Trumps Arsenal cards, complete with the very rare Club Badge, sold for recently £29. A bargain! A Leeds United set sold for £40, and Aston Villa £50. In each of these cases the Team Badge was in original mint condition on its original issue board.



Recent sales

- After seeing almost no A&BC 1966/67 World Cup Stamps on www.ebay.co.uk for many years the market seems to have been flooded with them recently. Where are they all coming from? The price is around £50 for an English player, and £25 for other nationalities.
- A shop display for BAB badges was sold for £26, complete with 24 of the badges known as 'Soccer Dip', though I'm not sure why they are called this. The shop display mentions only 'Football Club Badges', not Soccer Dip.

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.

Other websites and links

I recently created my own links page (http://cards.littleoak.com.au/special_pages/nigels_webspacer_links.html) to highlight other websites in this field. There are some brilliant reference sites, as well as amazing club-specific sites. I am often asked whether I have plans to take my website earlier than 1965/66 and/or into the 1980s and 1990s. The answer in both cases is 'no' (life is too short). If you know other websites which cover English football cards, or which might be of interest to website visitors please let me know and I will add them to my links page.

Future directions

This is Issue 1, and a bit of an experiment. I'll be happy to take the Newsletter in any direction that my readership wants in future issues. I hope to use my website and newsletter to support an on-going dialogue about card collecting. If you have things to say, ask or offer then I would love to hear from you. I intend to produce a new version of this newsletter every two or three months, depending on the level of interest.

Regards,

Nigel