

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.

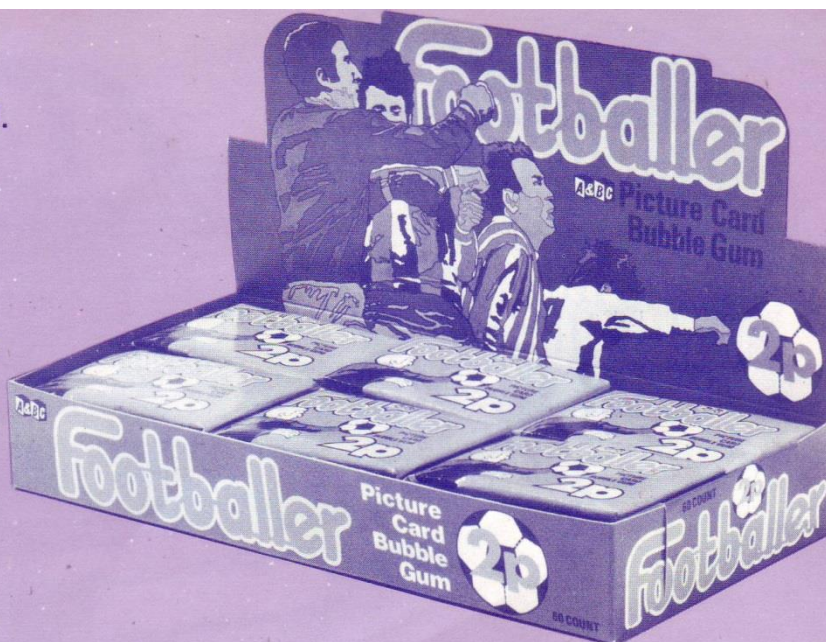
A&BC Chewing Gum retailer competition

COLLECT YOUR EMPTY FOOTBALLER BOXES – SEND AS MANY AS YOU CAN. SEND THEM IN ONE PARCEL TO:- A&BC FOOTBALLER PROMOTION, 5 STANDARD PLACE, RIVINGTON STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

AND YOU COULD WIN THE AVENGER SUPER

RULES

1. Display footballer on your counter.
2. Only entries from bona fide retailers will be accepted.
3. Only one parcel of boxes can be accepted from each retailer.
4. Competition closes on March 31st. 1973.
5. A&BC can accept no responsibility for non receipt of entries.
6. The retailer who sends in the most boxes wins the Avenger.



YOU MAY BE THE CHAMPION! MAKE SURE 1972/73 FOOTBALLER IS ON YOUR COUNTER EVERY DAY!

Frank kindly sent me this promotion, which dates from 1972/73 for the Orange/Red back football cards. Rather than being a competition for the kids who bought the cards, this was a competition for the retailers who sold them, part of A&BC's innovative and marketing-driven approach to selling their products.

I've never been able to find out the sort of quantities of cards that were produced for each series, but when there was a car offered as a prize for selling packs of cards at 2p each, it shows you just how many packs must have been sold. It would be fascinating to know who won this car, and whether perhaps it is still being driven around a town somewhere today? To the best of my knowledge the purchase price of a new Hillman Avenger around this time was £1,350, so it was a sizeable prize, equivalent to 67,500 packs!



The address for competition entries is interesting – 5 Standard Place, Rivington Street, London, EC2. This is not a known address for A&BC, so perhaps a public relations or marketing company?

Coffer postcards, large posters and miniatures

Coffer (or Coffer Sports) is another of those companies that are sadly no longer with us, and whose history seems to have pretty much disappeared with the company. They may have started soon after WWII, and boomed in the 1960s and 70s, then faded away (or perhaps went bust) in the 1980s. They are well known for producing metal football club badges, although one website I've read suggests that they sourced them from manufacturers (as opposed to producing them themselves). The same arrangement may be true for some interesting football player and club postcards, posters and miniature photos that they produced in the period from 1969 to 1973.



This [gallery](#) shows what I know of their postcards, clearly marked as 'Coffer, London' and with a 'P' number on the reverse of each card (e.g. John Hollins – P123). Surprisingly, I cannot find a complete checklist for these postcards, suggesting that they are, or at least that some of them are, quite rare. The numbers run from P101 to P179

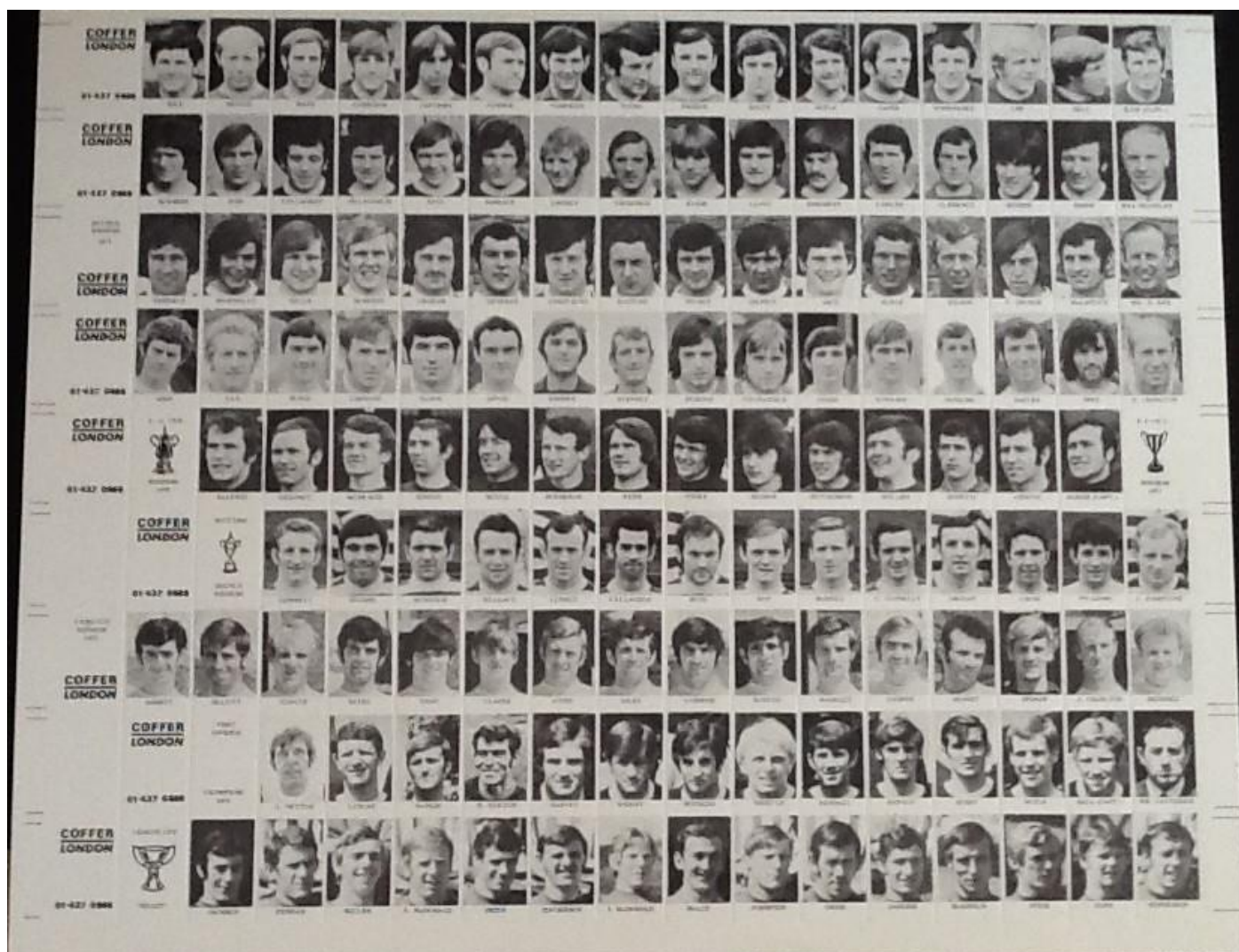
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(perhaps), then start again at P200, suggesting perhaps a second production run. Some players appear twice in the cards, including Martin Peters in both West Ham United and Tottenham Hotspur colours (transferred in March 1970). The 200 series postcards seem to date from a later period, with players including Manchester United's Lou Macari, signed by United in early 1973.

As well as the postcards, Coffey produced larger posters with the same images and, I believe, the same numbers without the 'P' prefix (so, for example, the Hollins poster would have number 123 on the front). It would be interesting to know if there is an exact correlation between the postcards and the posters.

Graham sent me the sheet below, which is clearly marked 'Coffey, London'. The teams are recognisable from the players: Manchester City, Liverpool, Arsenal, Manchester United, Chelsea (with F.A. Cup, won in 1970), Celtic (with Scottish F.A. Cup, won in 1970, also Scottish League Champions that year), Leeds United (First Division runners-up, 1970), Everton (First Division Champions, 1970) and Rangers (Scottish League runners-up 1970). The strips of 16 small photos were included in folding booklets, also known as miniatures or mini photo albums.



I'm keen to be able to improve my checklists, and to know more about how you came about these postcards, posters or miniatures, so if you have any images or remember something about collecting them, please get in touch via the [website](#) or [Facebook](#).

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A&BC Chewing Gum 1971/72 Stamp album



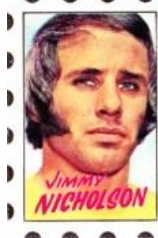
One of the rarer items to collect is the A&BC Chewing Gum Footballer Stamp Album, dating from 1971/72. An empty one sold recently on ebay for £80, so they are hard to come by.

The 12-page album displays the [Club Crests](#) and Superstar stamps. The Club Crests were included free with Series 2 Purple backs, while the Superstars were included with Series 3.

Page 1 has an introduction by Francis Lee, pages 2 through 12 have the 22 teams from the First Division in 1971/72, and the inside back cover has Cardiff City. Each team page covers two teams, with team information and space to stick the Club Crest and Superstar stamp for each team. Team entries for Leicester City and Sheffield United recognise that they were the promoted teams from 1970/71, so the album text was clearly written after May 1971. Cardiff City finished third in the Second Division in 1970/71, so why are they included? Did A&BC prepare the crests and stamps when Cardiff were still a chance for promotion? Having produced them, did they feel it was a waste not to include them in the gum packs and in the album?



The back cover of the album includes a 'Complete checklist of the 1971/72 Footballer Picture Cards', but the checklist is somewhat different from the cards that were eventually produced. Details of the discrepancies between the album and the issued cards are [here](#). A&BC had a history of planning Series 1, 2 and 3 for a set, but then having to make changes as the season progressed, perhaps through transfers or other factors. I suspect that the Series 1 cards were printed in time for the start of the season in August 1971, but Series 2 and 3 were not printed until sometime afterwards.



The details for obtaining the album were advertised on the backs of the crests and the stamps. Costing 8p, it could be ordered from A&BC's factory address:
A&BC Footballer Album
A&BC Chewing Gum Ltd.
Spilsby Road,
Romford, Essex

Typhoo vs Co-op plaques



In January 2012 the boys from Got, Not Got posted [this article](#) about Co-op football plaques. I added a post highlighting the overlap between the Co-op plaques and the same plaques in 1972/73 from Typhoo, shown [in this gallery](#). There have been a lot of these sold recently on ebay, mostly selling for between £10 and £20 each, but nobody seems clear about whether they are selling Typhoo or Co-op. There have been suggestions about different coloured backs (white vs coloured), but the picture at left shows that they were generically produced as 'Football Club Crests', and then perhaps purchased by Typhoo and the Co-op, perhaps at different times. If you can shed any light on this, please be in touch via the website or Facebook (Nigel's Webspaces).

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Goal Crisps – missing 2 for a checklist



I recently featured a new manufacturer on my website, [Goal Crisps](#). Gerard and Graham have kindly provided me with scans of some of the small 'action pictures' which came in packets of crisps. The pictures were within small tear-off packets, hence the perforations you can see on the images. Obviously the pictures were within the packets to protect the images from the salt and vinegar in the crisps.

Alan Jenkins has previously published about Goal Crisps in [his blog](#), and managed to identify 17 of the set of 22, but with the help of site visitors I've been able to extend this to 20. So, we are still missing 2 for the set. Does anyone know the missing two names?

The text from the back of the packet provides us with most of the information we know. It says 'Collect all 22 Great Stars, who include Gordon Banks, Alan Mullery, Denis Law, Frank McLintock, Peter Osgood and Terry Cooper to mention but a few'. The list of stars is obviously heavily influenced by Manchester United, Leeds United and Liverpool.

Recent ebay prices

- A full set of 420 mint, unused stickers from [Top Sellers](#), Football 77 was **unsold** for £140. Somewhat of a surprise as I would have thought that a bargain.
- A Coffer pennant (not football card) for Mexico 70, featuring Peter Osgood sold for £52.
- An A&BC [Giant Team Poster](#) of Chelsea sold for £21.
- A Top Sellers, Football 73 album, complete with all cards in 'excellent' condition sold for £80.
- A [Panini Mexico 70](#) album, empty, sold for £450, showing just how collectable anything from this set is.

Until next time...**Nigel**

| | | |
|----|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Alan Ball | Everton |
| 2 | Gordon Banks | Stoke City |
| 3 | Colin Bell | Manchester City |
| 4 | Billy Bremner | Leeds United |
| 5 | Jack Charlton | Leeds United |
| 6 | Allan Clarke | Leeds United |
| 7 | Terry Cooper | Leeds United |
| 8 | Steve Heighway | Liverpool |
| 9 | Emlyn Hughes | Liverpool |
| 10 | Brian Kidd | Manchester United |
| 11 | Denis Law | Manchester United |
| 12 | Peter Lorimer | Leeds United |
| 13 | Frank McLintock | Arsenal |
| 14 | Willie Morgan | Manchester United |
| 15 | Alan Mullery | Tottenham Hotspur |
| 16 | Peter Osgood | Chelsea |
| 17 | Paul Reaney | Leeds United |
| 18 | Tommy Smith | Liverpool |
| 19 | Alex Stepney | Manchester United |
| 20 | Peter Thompson | Liverpool |