

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.

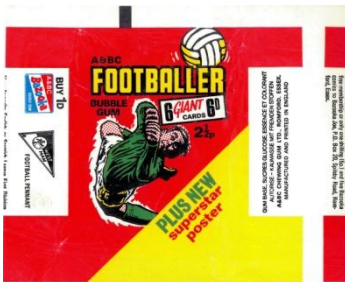
Issue 4

Welcome to the 4th issue of this little newsletter. In this issue we focus on a number of mystery items, in the hope that you can help solve them!

A&BC Chewing Gum superstar poster wrapper

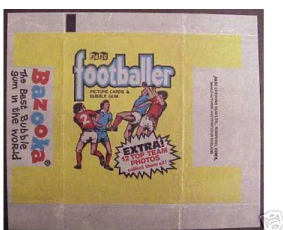


The English [A&BC 1970/71 orange-back set](#) came in three series. Series 1 cost 6d per pack, and featured a 'Pin-up poster' giveaway (set of 14). Series 2 also cost 6d and included an Action transfer (also now known as a transparency). Series 3 cost 6d or 2½p, reflecting the timing of issue around Decimal Day in early 1971, and included a second series of Action transfers (making a total of 72 to collect).



However, there is also a wrapper from this time which has the 6d and 2½p prices, but records a 'new Superstar poster' giveaway. I've never seen such a Superstar poster, and don't know what this wrapper could refer to. One possibility may be a second series of pin-up posters for the [1970/71 Scottish green-back](#) set of 171 cards. This set is understood to have used the same wrappers as the English 1970/71 issue, but included a give-away set of 28 pin-up posters in Scotland, rather than the 14 issued with Series 1 in England. Is it possible that the pin-up poster was renamed 'Superstar poster' for Scotland for Series 2? Could this therefore be a Scotland only wrapper? Were the Action transfers issued in England only, and two sets of 'pin-up posters' issued in Scotland, with the second set renamed as Superstar posters? From my limited understanding of the Scottish set of 171 I think that they came in two series only, which would make this a distinct possibility. Any other ideas anyone?

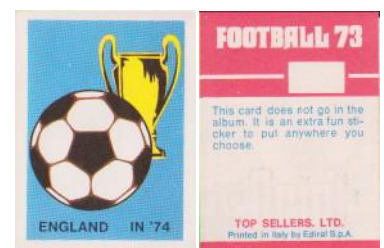
A&BC Chewing Gum red-backs Top Team photos wrapper



The 1974/75 A&BC English red backs set of 132 cards and the Scottish green backs set of 132 represent, sadly, the last issues from A&BC. The wrapper at left is the one I am told is from these sets, however, it refers to a giveaway of '12 Top Team photos'. To the best of my knowledge there were no giveaways with either the English or the Scottish sets, and I've never seen any of these 'top team photos'. Does anyone know what this refers to?

Top Sellers, Football 73 mystery card

The Football 73 set issued by Top Sellers has 420 cards, some of which (the puzzle cards) are stickers. However, I own the card/sticker shown at right which states on the back 'This card does not go in the album. It is an extra fun sticker to put anywhere you choose'. Does anyone know if there are any others like this? Did Top Sellers ever produce any un-numbered 'fun stickers' for any of their other sets?



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A&BC Chewing Gum 'lucky bag' purple backs

One of the questions which comes up quite frequently through the website is about A&BC 1971/72 English purple-back cards which have 'crinkle cut' edges. It looks as if someone has taken to the original cards with pinking shears to produce the zigzag pattern edges. Over the years I have seen a number of these, with many owners suggesting that they were issued by A&BC in 'lucky bags'. I've previously asked Douglas Coakley, one of the original directors of A&BC Chewing Gum, whether this might be the case, and he emphatically denies that A&BC would ever have done this. So, what are the possibilities? Is it possible that someone obtained a number of these cards, cut the edges and sold them off, in 1971 or later? If you recollect these cards please let me know if you remember how and when you obtained them.



Upcoming auction, including rare A&BC Scottish cards

An ardent collector, Adrian, is putting a large collection of football memorabilia up for sale soon. There will be over 12,000 football autographs and 10,000 pictures, plus a few football cards. Included in this sale will be the entire 1962/63 Scottish Footballers set of 44, thought to be extremely rare as a set (see gallery [here](#)). The cards currently displayed on [Nigel's Webspaces](#) will be the actual cards sold at the auction. The auction will be conducted through [Convery Auctions](#) on 19 May 2010. If you are interested please visit the Convery website for details, though it is still too early for the catalogue to be available. I'll be very interested to see how much these items sell for.

Weekly league tables

I had an interesting email conversation with a website visitor over whether you could find out what the League Tables were on any particular date in history (within reason). It turns out you can, as per the instructions from Johnny below:

Just thought I'd let you know about a database I've found which does actually give you any league table at any given time for any season. If you take a football club, say Leeds United, go to www.leedsunited-mad.co.uk, and down the left hand side there is a section entitled STATISTICS. Go to On This Day, and it will give you results for any result played on a particular date you enter in. If you click on View Results, it will give you all the results of matches played by ALL teams that day, plus games from the preceding week, and for any of these dates you have the option to View Table. The only problem is if you use a club that doesn't have a match on a particular date, you might then have to choose another club that did find the league table you require. Still a useful tool, though, and makes for fascinating reading.

Call for A&BC 1970/71 Action transfer images



Over the past few years many visitors to the website have been very generous in providing scans of their own cards to complete galleries on Nigel's Webspaces. My next project is to try to complete a gallery of the Action transfers. I remembering having some of these delightful little transfers when I was a schoolboy, and think that I still have some of my old schoolbooks with the transfers applied. Of course they are now very collectable, usually selling on ebay for between £6 and £10 each (though not if they are stuck on schoolbooks). If you have any of these transfers, and are able to scan them in (150dpi if possible please), then please send them to the website and I will create a gallery.

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Recently observed sales

Nothing too outstanding to report in recent months. ebay seems to be busy with individual cards for sale, but not much in the way of card lots or full sets. 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.

Extra time

This edition's My Story contributor is Mark. As he explains, he has an eagle eye for images and has been a great help to this website. He had a lot to do with solving the [BAB / Babani mystery](#), and has contributed a large number of BAB and Coffer images. He's also a nice bloke to deal with ☺

Nigel

My story - Mark

I first became aware of Nigel's Webspaces back in 2005 as I searched the internet looking for more information about a couple of stickers I had recently acquired. Nigel was quick to identify them as BAB and added the scans to his galleries little knowing that this was to trigger dozens of such images I would be sending him over the coming years.

I am first and foremost a collector of Luton Town cards and stickers with a collection of over 700 items but with fewer and fewer opportunities to add new items as it's grown, contributing images to Nigel has given me a fresh outlet in the hobby.

It helped that the site struck a resonance with me as I began collecting as a schoolboy with 1977 Topps red backs and finding the presence of a couple of Luton cards in the set, Paul Futcher and Alan West, triggered two passions at an impressionable age, firstly football cards and secondly, from studying the appearance tables on the reverse, a love of compiling statistics.

I continued collecting the Topps cards through to 1981 and onto Panini albums with interest finally waning in 1985 as attention turned to Luton programmes as they also delivered a wealth of statistical history and a focus on my club.

I can't remember exactly when I switched to collecting Luton cards with any serious intent but I suspect it was a gradual process, starting with the odd item from the miscellaneous sections in the back of the Sports Programme and Steve Earl catalogues before discovering specialist dealers such as Matchday Cards and Football Card Collectors Magazine before abandoning programmes altogether.

The collection though only got so far through these sources and went quiet for a couple of years before the emergence of eBay reignited it again, giving access to a much wider variety of cards and the opportunity to spot treasures and variants in auction photos otherwise unrecognised by the seller.

I still rely on the specialism of FCCM and auctions such as Murrays and JF Sporting Collectables to deliver the really rare and expensive cards but eBay continually throws up the odd item and it is eBay that I trawl for images to send to Nigel.

I started with the Coffer postcards but it is with the BAB pages that I have had the greatest success and have shared the enjoyment with Nigel of discovering the company's origins as well as taking a personal pleasure from filling in each blank in the gallery – it's almost that same feeling I had when tearing open a Panini packet, got, got, need!

