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West of  
England  
Thematic  
Society

## Newsletter No.50 March 2013

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**IN THIS ISSUE** – WETS News by email, Dates for your Diary, 2013 Subscriptions, 2013 New Federation Competition Rules, 2014 WETS Roadshow, From the Archives, Football, Columbus, The BTA 2013 Competitions.

**WETS NEWS by email** –If you are not yet a recipient give your name and email address to the Editor. Increases in postal charges, mean it is important to circulate as much information as possible by this means. Look at our website [www.wessexpf.org.uk/WETS](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk/WETS) for examples of the quality. Download time is very fast. **DON'T FORGET TO SAVE WHAT YOU GET.** It is suggested you create a file called WETS News to put them in.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**WETS Day Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013** at the Dartmoor Lodge, Ashburton, when our speaker will be Wendy Buckle, President of The British Thematic Association, her subject will be “The Write Stuff”, this is the story of Paper. The Booking Form is included with your copy of the newsletter.

**WETS Autumn Meeting & AGM at THEMATIX2013** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at Dartmoor Lodge.

### 2013 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

In accordance with the motion passed at the last AGM the subscription is now £5.00/Member. The form enclosed with your newsletter includes the ability to pay your subscription. NOTE THE NEW TREASURER.

### 2013 WESSEX FEDERATION COMPETITIONS

Members should be aware that new rules have been put together based upon recommendations from ABPS, these rules were adopted at the recent federation committee meeting and will be used for the 2013 Competitions. The new rules are particularly relevant for both the Thematic and Open Classes and members are encouraged to visit the Wessex Federation website [www.wessexpf.org.uk](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk) where copies may be viewed and printed or request a copy from your local club secretary. These new rules are far more expansive and informative than the previous rules and give answers to many of the questions commonly asked. The date & venue for the 2013 Competition Display will be Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October at St Michaels Church Hall, Chudleigh Road, Kingsteignton from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Entry Forms will be available soon, watch our website.

### 2014 WETS Roadshow

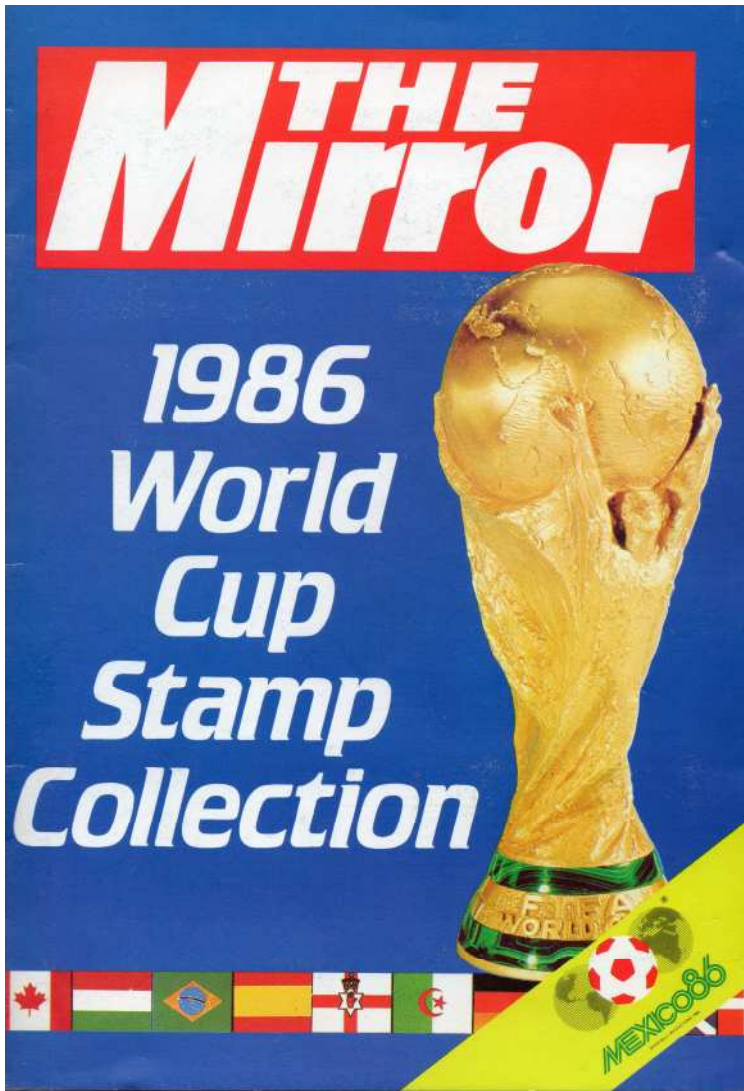
The early birds are already making bookings for the show. We will be looking at the entries in the 2013 Federation Competitions as well as the 2013 Hilsdon Trophy and 2013 PIP Trophy in order to select a really super set of exhibits. Now is the time to start putting your entries together.

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

*The following is reproduced from THE WESSEX BULLETIN No15 Spring Edition (1985)*

**“WEST OF ENGLAND THEMATIC SOCIETY** - Members from as far afield as St. Austell, Truro, Rattery, Ashburton & Bampton attended the first meeting of the WETS on the 9th February at 21 Geneva Court, Exeter. The purposes of this discussion group is to exchange information & to encourage & to improve thematics in the south-west. Carol Wrightson's little sitting room was buzzing with lively & enthusiastic talk & ideas - even if it was bursting at the seams" The next date has been fixed for Saturday 4th May at 2.00pm at 21 Geneva Court, Wonford Rd, Exeter. Enquiries to the Wessex sec Alison Burden, or Carol Wrightson at the above address, tel Exeter 56537.”

*WETS has come a long way since this early meeting, probably much farther than it's attendees could have envisaged and we are still evolving. We are now one of the largest clubs in the federation have members in many of the federation clubs and are a driving force for philately within the federation. Watch out for more revelations about our development as we take further looks at the documentation of the past.*



## FOOTBALL – by Tony Smith

In the 1980s did a paperboy push “The Mirror” through your letterbox each day? Yes? Then if so, you probably passed this book (*delivered in February '86*) on to a grandson or young neighbor. It was to encourage children mad on the 'great game' to take up stamp collecting too.

There were details of each competition from 1930 to '82, not forgetting the men who came up with the idea -- Jules Rimet and Henri Delauney.

As nations pressed their claim to stage the big kick-off Uruguay won when they offered traveling expenses and accommodation for all. They even agreed to build a new stadium for the tournament.

Uruguay, winners of the 1924 & 28 Olympic titles started as favorites. Thirteen nations England did not part with the hosts beating Argentina in the final.

Tuvalu, a small group of Pacific islands within the Commonwealth became independent in 1978. They were seeking publicity via the World Cup stamps, many said they didn't even have room for a pitch.

But the stamps looked fine showing players clearly as Italy won the 1934 Final again Argentina in extra-time, Italy retained the Delauney Cup in 1938 beating Hungary but as many people had their thoughts on a

different battle in Europe. Even so, 14 countries competed. But still no England.

Tuvalu's 1986 stamps regularly showed winning teams, including one for the 1958 finals in Sweden where a 17 years-old is clearly shown -- the legendary three-time-winner Pele.

British teams finally took their place in the 1950s with the 1966 classic photo of Bobby Moore carried high by teammates and holding the trophy with hat-trick hero Geoff Hurst to the fore. Many famous faces can be seen as the stamps took the winners list to 1982. For every fourth year the book puts words with the photos.

The build-up to the 1986 finals in Mexico stamps switched to the Caribbean islands, with Grenadines of St Vincent. Every competing team is featured. England lost 2-1 to Argentina in a quarter-final who then beat West Germany 3-2 in the final.

A typical page from the booklet is shown right, there were a total of 20 pages each showing a year with all the participating countries that year along with the statistics plus an introduction about the game.

**DO YOU STILL HAVE ONE OF THESE?**

## History of the World Cup

**Argentina 1978**

**Participants:** Italy, Argentina, France, Hungary, Poland, West Germany, Tunisia, Mexico, Austria, Brazil, Spain, Sweden, Holland, Peru, Scotland, Iran

**Attendances:** Total 1,610,215 Average 42,374

**Goals:** Total 102 Average per match 2.68

The hapless England team failed to qualify, after three disastrous years of management under Don Revie. Again Scotland alone would represent British hopes. But their venture was bedevilled with squalid arguments over money, poor performances and finally a drug scandal. A taste of 'what might have been' was seen in their brilliant match against Holland (they won 3-2) but it was not enough to keep them in the tournament.

Defending champions West Germany looked surprisingly out of touch. France and Italy bubbled promisingly and Argentina looked to have a surprisingly good team cheered along by passionate home crowds.

It was Holland, with their 'total football' who eventually made their way to the final against the host country -- toppling Italy and West Germany on the way.

The final was marred by Argentina's appalling gamesmanship -- five full minutes late, and then complaining about everything other than the weather -- and Holland's frustrated violence.

After 38 minutes of an undistinguished match, Argentina were ahead with the crowd affecting the officials and despite the Dutchmen's domination all seemed lost. But with seven minutes remaining Nanninga equalised for Holland -- just reward. If they could keep dominating in the same way then the cup could be theirs. However, the Argentinians roused themselves and after 14 minutes of extra time took the lead through Kempes. Holland pressed forward but thus exposed at the back they conceded a third, again to Kempes.

Joy in Buenos Aires, but agony for the luckless Dutch.

**Spain 1982**

**Participants:** Italy, Argentina, Poland, Cameroon, Peru, West Germany, Austria, Chile, Algeria, Belgium, Hungary, El Salvador, England, France, Czechoslovakia, Kuwait, N Ireland, Spain, Yugoslavia, Honduras, Brazil, Russia, Scotland, New Zealand

**Attendances:** Total 1,266,277 Average 33,967

**Total matches:** 52

**Goals:** Total 146 Average per match 2.8

For the first time, the competition contained 24 participants, a political move, complicating organisation. England, Northern Ireland and Scotland would represent British interests. England began impressively with the fastest ever goal in a World Cup, scored by Robson after 27 seconds against France, whom they eventually beat 3-1. Less impressive against Czechoslovakia and Kuwait they still reached the next round. Scotland faltered against easy opposition, allowing New Zealand to score two against them in a 5-2 defeat -- the Scots then lost 4-1 to Brazil, and drew 2-2 with Russia. The two Kiwi goals ultimately eliminating them. The Irish proved to be the surprise team of the tournament, qualifying for the next phase by beating hosts Spain 1-0 in front of a patriotic crowd. The next round saw England struggle to elimination against West Germany and Spain. Northern Ireland drew with Austria but then crashed 4-1 to France. Poland played the 'league system' to advantage, beating Belgium 3-0 and drawing boringly with Russia to ensure qualification.

The semi-finals were to be Italy v Poland and W. Germany v France. The latter was a brutal affair, but the Germans performed miracles to recover from 3-1 down, and win on penalties. Italy comfortably dealt with Poland to win 2-0. The Italy v West Germany final was an excellent match.

Italy played their finest football -- despite a dull first half and a missed penalty. Eleven minutes into the second half, Rossi scored. The new Italy, far from defending their one goal, attacked. Further goals by Tardelli after 68 minutes and Altobelli ten minutes from time secured the result. Breitner scored a consolation goal for Germany. So Italy became the improbable but worthy champions for the third time, 44 years after winning it in France. And so to Mexico...

**COLUMBUS** was not, as many people assume, born in Spain writes Tony Smith. In fact, he was born in Italy c1451, possibly in Genoa where a statue of him now stands. But the city has no written records of the man who is remembered with a lyric "In fourteen hundred and ninety-two Columbus sailed the ocean blue".

He was a poor man when he came to Spain with his young son Diago. They found refuge in the Monastery of Santa Maria de la Rabida near Huelva. Both were cared for here where much of the planning to help discover the 'New World' was done here. Indeed some of his original charts may still be viewed here. Columbus gained support for his theory was that the world was no 'flat' but he found great difficulties in raising funds for the first voyage. He tried Portugal followed by England but it was King Ferdinand of Spain who was prepared to back him. Queen Isabella had her doubts but in 1486 the royals agreed to back him, writes Tony Elliott.

A fleet of three galleons was settled on for a difficult voyage, Columbus had charge of the "Santa Maria", with two brothers and co-owners Martin and Vicente Pinzon, being Captains of "Pinta" and "Nina".



On August 3rd 1492 after extensive preparation for the long voyage the fleet set sail from Palos. To add to the confusion for those following Columbus into history, he used "flawed mileage calculations" in Italian not the "Arabian norm" at that period.

Some historians have even questioned Columbus's ability to navigate claiming the Pinzon brothers deserve the credit.



As the fleet approached the Canary Islands, one of the ships developed a major fault with its rudder so they sailed into Las Palmas. The Isle's tourism gained a boost because the house where Columbus stayed still stands, many visitors photograph it.

After repairs plus restocking food and water the ships resumed their voyage on September 6th.

Five weeks after departing Palos a crewman sighted land. Columbus claimed the first sighting "fire light during the night". He recorded the date as

October 5th and it is believed "a vast financial reward on offer from Queen Isabella for the sighting" was

noted. Setting feet on dry land Columbus proclaimed the territory for the Kingdom of Spain.

As people in the modern world know, this was not the U.S.A. but that doesn't stop American having a city named after him in Ohio, avenues and roads carrying his name in many towns and even an annual holiday "Columbus Day".



After endless debates it is now agreed one of the Bahamas islands first saw a Spanish flag raised. Columbus's sailors found "unknown" food such as turkeys, tomatoes and potatoes. They brought it back to Europe where they now remain part of most people's diet. Returning to Spain, by "Royal Command" Columbus was invited to tell



Ferdinand and Isabella what he had seen. The Queen, who at first had opposed the cost of sending the fleet across the ocean, was said to be disappointed there was no gold or other wealth goods.



It took Columbus three further voyages to discover a mainland not just islands. Seventeen ships in all crossed the great sea and there are disagreements about whether it was Mexico or Venezuela where he finally set foot in "America".



Columbus passed away on May 20th 1506 and his final resting place is said to be a grand tomb in the Cathedral of Seville. But one last puzzle remains. Due to several re-burials and confusion people don't know if the bones in Spain are of Columbus himself or his son Diago? To add to the thematic stamp collectors problem. What did he look like? There is no "living portrait" of him.

One knows exactly how King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella looked when Columbus launched his voyage into history. They also have their caskets in the Cathedral of Granada. But many later portraits are based on his son's description.

## British Thematic Association 2013 Competitions

The entry forms are now available. The event itself will be held at the South of England Stamp Fair & Sussex Convention Centre, Norfolk Pavilion, South of England Centre, Ardingly Showground, Ardingly RH17 6TL

The Competitions that can be entered are as follows :-

**1 – JOHN FOSBERY TROPHY** (16 sheets) – for collectors who have never won a competition at National level and has No other rules. Entries are judged by visitors at the exhibition.

**2 – The BTA Cup** (32 sheets any theme) Judged to National Level. The competition is a stepping stone towards entry at National Level.

**3 – THE INTER-FEDERATION THEMATIC COMPETITION** for the Healy and Wise Salver. The requirement is for 3 individual entries from federation members of 16 sheets. The Competition is judged to National Level.

Entry Forms are available on the BTA website.

*(We have some excellent competitors in WETS should we be competing in the INTER-FEDERATION THEMATIC COMPETITION? – Ed.)*