

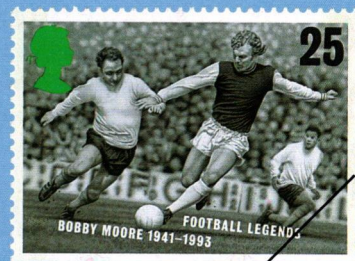
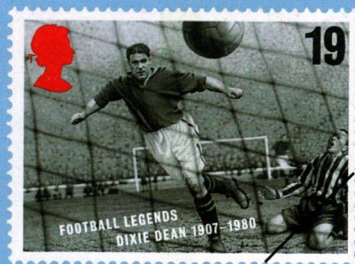
Royal Mail News

Football Legends Stamps

Stamps commemorating five much-loved giants of British football go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 14 May.

The **19p** value (inland 2nd class basic rate) depicts **William Ralph (Dixie) Dean** (1907-80) who joined Everton from Tranmere Rovers in 1927 and scored 379 goals for the Club. His 60 goals in 39 First division games remains a League record. He played for England 1927-33, scoring no fewer than 18 goals.

Robert Frederick (Bobby) Moore (1941-93), England's captain in the 1966 World Cup is the subject of the **25p** denomination (inland 1st class and EU basic rate). Moore played 108 times for England and was captain 90 times. He also captained West Ham United where he played nearly 650 games from 1958 and 1974. He ended his career at Fulham. He captained West Ham FA Cup and European Cup Winner's Cup teams in 1964 and 1965. He was awarded the OBE in 1967. Moore has featured on stamps/miniature



sheets from Antigua (SG 1824, MS1828), El Salvador (1333) and Montserrat (MS940).

The **35p** stamp (airmail postcard rate) portrays **Duncan Edwards** (1936-58) who made his debut for Manchester United in 1953. He won his first England cap two years later. He died from injuries received in the Munich air disaster which robbed Manchester United of many of its talented young players – the famous “Busby Babel”.

The **41p** value (basic airmail letter rate) shows **William Ambrose (Billy) Wright** (1924-94) who played nearly 500 games for Wolverhampton Wanderers (Wolves) between 1946 and 1958. He led them to the FA Cup in 1949. Like Moore he captained England 90 times, playing for the national team on 105 occasions.

Robert Dennis (Danny) Blanchflower (1926-93) is the subject for the **60p** stamp (second stage airmail letter rate). He joined Barnsley from Glentoran in 1948 and then played for Aston Villa before joining Tottenham (Spurs) in 1954. Twice voted Footballer of the Year (1958 and 1961), he led Spurs to the League and FA Cup double, the FA Cup, and the European Cup Winners' Cup in successive years, 1961-63. He was capped 56 times for Northern Ireland, and awarded the CBE in 1959.

The five players were chosen by the general public from a list of 10 players selected by sports writers from players nominated by the Football Associations of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Our invitation to readers, in last October's *Bulletin*, to cast their votes brought a good response. Thank you to all who wrote in.

The Designer

The stamps were designed by Howard Brown, using Anton Morris as illustrator. Mr Brown, born in County Durham, is one of the UK's brightest freelance designers, specialising in graphic design for music publishers, film companies, art galleries, photographers, and the like. His Maps and Marine Timekeepers stamps were judged the best and second best issues of the year in our *Bulletin* readers' polls in 1991 and 1993. The Maps stamps were awarded the Italian Asiago prize for stamp design in 1992. In 1994 Mr Brown was awarded the prestigious Reginald M Phillips Gold Medal for Stamp Design. This is awarded every five years, Mr Brown being considered to have made the greatest contribution to British stamp design for the years 1990-94.

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 14 May, price 25p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service - collectors may order the Royal Mail pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark of the Bureau or Wembley, price £2.47 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £2.11 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 14 May 1996.

Printers: House of Questa Ltd
Process: Offset-lithography
Size: 41 x 30mm
Sheets: 100
Perforation: 15 x 14
Phosphor: 19p - one phosphor band
25p-60p two phosphor bands
Blue fluor in phosphor
Paper: OBA free (OBA = Optical
 Brightening Agent)
Gum: PVA

Technical details



Mrs J Robinson
 200 Manorier Road
 Ilkeston
 Derbyshire
 DE7 4AB

Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for these cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (for Wembley postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed "FD9609" (Bureau), or "FD9610" (Wembley).

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive local (mostly non-pictorial) "First Day of Issue" handstamps. Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe; £21.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Collectors are reminded that it will be in order to affix just the 19p Football Legends stamp

to covers to receive all special cancels ("First Day of Issue", sponsored and philatelic counters), in use on 14 May. The minimum 1st class rule is suspended on this day as the set includes a 2nd class rate stamp. It should be noted that this concession applies only to the Football Legends stamps; otherwise covers must bear at least 1st class postage.

Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards

A presentation pack (price £2.15) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, and main post offices.

The pack has been written by Jimmy Greaves, one of the greatest goalscorers ever to play for England with some 357 First division goals to his credit. He was a member of England's 1966 World Cup Squad and played with or against all the players shown on the stamps, except Dixie Dean. He is now a well-known football commentator on television.

Postcard Book & Maxi-cards

The fourth in Royal Mail's series of Postcard Books will be issued on 14 May, containing 10 cards reproducing the designs of the stamps. This will be available from the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, price £2.95. Earlier books were produced for the Cats, Rugby League, and Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust issues.

Royal Mail/Evening Standard First Day Cover

A joint Royal Mail-London *Evening Standard* first day cover is being produced which will be offered to *Standard* readers in the *ES Magazine* on 10 May. The cover can be obtained free by saving the Eros logo from the newspaper's heading. The cover will bear the five Football Legends stamps with special Eros postmark.

Readers outside the London area will be able to purchase the cover later in the year – details will be announced here in due course.

Other Products

Royal Mail will produce coffee mugs, pin badges and t-shirts reproducing the Football Legends stamps, also a softback football stamp album containing the Royal Mail stamps and the football issues of Gibraltar, Guernsey, and Jersey. Details next month.

European Football Prestige Stamp Book

The 1996 prestige stamp book, to be issued on 14 May, commemorates the European Football

