World Cup The winning teams, 1934-2002



World Cup Winners stamps
Design by Madeleine Bennett,
images by Getty Images. The
Queen's silhouette is top right
with the value at bottom right,
and the flag of the relevant
country at right with the years
they won below. The football
takes the form of a globe.

The 2006 World Cup finals will be held in Germany, 9 June - 9 July. Stamps featuring players from countries that have won the Cup from 1934 to 2002 go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 6 June. The stamps feature: 1st class England; 42p Italy; 44p Argentina, 50p Germany; 64p France; and 72p Brazil.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25. However sheets of 50 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

Technical details

Printer Walsall Security Printers

Process Lithography

Stamp size 35mm square

Sheets 25 and 50

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Plate numbers and colours

All values W1 lemon • W1 grey • W1 yellow • W1 magenta • W1 blue • W1 black • W1 phosphor FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 6 June, price 25p. The cover features a specially designed football badge. Orders for FDCs with stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Balls Park, Hertford must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £3.99 UK, £3.40 overseas. The cover and pictorial postmarks were designed by True North design group of Manchester.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to a Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres (Balls Park postmark) marking the outer envelope 'fdo621' (Tallents House), or 'fdo622' (for Balls Park). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for a Balls Park postmark. A non-pictorial Balls Park postmark is available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'fdo622 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 6 June will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* — available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere).









Philatelic products A well-illustrated pack (price £3.55) and stamp cards (£1.80 set) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Tallents House. The pack, written by Ian Cole, was designed by True North and features players from countries that have won the World Cup. It includes some interesting facts – buy one to find out who has captained more matches than anyone else in World Cup history, and how much Geoff Hurst's 1966 England team shirt sold for in 2002! A World Cup medal cover will also be available, price £14.95; details to follow •

The presentation pack (top of page) shows Diego Maradona of Argentina (winners in 1978 and 1986), Paolo Rossi, Italy (1934, 1938, 1982), Zinedine Zidane, France (1998), Geoff Hurst, England (1966); Pele, Brazil (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002) and Franz Beckenbaur, W Germany (1954, 1974, 1990)



The year of issue is printed at the base of the figure 1 on the 1st class World Cup Winners stamp. Shown 1500% actual size. See also p250 for more on 'hidden' dates.

World Cup stamps This is the third Royal Mail issue marking the World Cup. Three stamps were issued on 1 June to mark the 1966 finals, staged in England (11-30 July). The stamps featured players with ball (4d stamp designed by David Gentleman), goalmouth melee (6d, William Kempster), and goalkeeper saving goal (183d, David Caplan). The 4d stamp was reissued with the additional caption 'England/Winners' positioned above the players on 18 August. This proved enormously popular, the entire printing of 12.5 million stamps selling out almost overnight, with queues at the Philatelic Bureau, then in London, and at the Trafalgar Square Post Office. Bobby Moore, the captain of the England team, featured on stamps in 1996 (Football Legends, below, top right) and in 1999 (Millennium Entertainers' Tale set, below, bottom centre). Sadly, Moore is no longer around to celebrate the 40th anniversary of England's win this July.

The second World Cup issue was in 2002, when the finals were held in Japan and Korea. There was a single 1st class stamp showing the Crowned Lion with Shield of St George, an adapted version of the 1st class English country stamp, plus a miniature sheet containing four stamps with composite design making up the English (St George) flag. A Smilers sheet contained one of the miniature sheet stamps and 20 labels showing supporters or match scenes. Two of the stamps were also issued in self-adhesive format in a stamp book.

A stamp was designed in preparation for Scotland winning the World Cup in 1978; sadly it wasn't needed, but the design (shown here in August 1998, page 360) created considerable interest when displayed at the Glasgow 2000 stamp exhibition in 2000.

Other football stamps are the 1988 34p Sports Organizations (Centenary of Football League, below, bottom left), 1996 Football Leagues issue, and 2000 1st class Millennium Body & Bone (Hampden Park, Glasgow, below, bottom right) •













