

10512-X
TOMMY TRINDER SPEAKS:-

"MAY I SAY THAT IT HAS BEEN ONE OF MY GREATEST PRIVILEGES TO SEE YOU AS A FOOTBALLER, TO MEET YOU AS A MAN, AND TONIGHT IN FRONT OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, BE HERE TO SAY THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR FOOTBALL AND SPORTSMANSHIP".....

STANLEY MATTHEWS SPEAKS:-

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN. I FEEL SOMEHOW I'M GOING TO LOOSE MY REPUTATION TONIGHT. YOU'VE HEARD TOMMY TRINDER, HE'S A COMEDIAN, HE'S A DIRECTOR OF FULHAM FOOTBALL CLUB...I FEEL AS OUT OF PLACE AS FULHAM WOULD FEEL IN THE FIRST DIVISION. (LAUGHTER)...YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES I'M CALLED THE OLD MAN OF SOCCER, I AM A LITTLE THIN ON TOP, BUT REALLY, I'M NOT THAT OLD. I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL PRESENT YOU HAVE PRESENTED ME WITH. MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN, I THANK YOU..."

X

10.33 PM. STANLEY MATTHEWS HONOURED.

CELEBRATED SPORTSMEN GATHERED AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL SPORTING CLUB IN LONDON TONIGHT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO STANLEY MATTHEWS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SILVER JUBILEE IN PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL.

IT IS NEARLY 27 YEARS SINCE MATTHEWS BEGAN MAKING HEADLINES AS THE BOY WONDER WHEN HE SIGNED FOR STOKE CITY AT THE AGE OF 15 TO WORK IN THE OFFICE FOR £1 PER WEEK.

ON HIS 17TH BIRTHDAY HE SIGNED AS A PROFESSIONAL, WAS CAPPED FOR ENGLAND AT 19 AND HAS SINCE ADDED ANOTHER 76 CAPS TO HIS COLLECTION.

THE SPORTSMEN ROSE AS ONE MAN TONIGHT TO MATTHEWS WHEN, SPEAKING WITH EMOTION, HE THANKED THEM FOR THEIR RECEPTION.

HE WAS PRESENTED WITH A COCKTAIL CABINET COMPLETE WITH DRINKS.

MATTHEWS SAID THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO GET TO THE TOP IN FOOTBALL—BY BEING 100 PER CENT FIT.

"SKILL ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH" HE SAID. "YOU CAN BE THE GREATEST BALL ARTIST IN THE WORLD BUT IF YOU ARE NOT FIT YOU DONT HAVE A CHANCE. FITNESS GIVES YOU CONFIDENCE.

I DONT THINK ANY PLAYER SHOULD BE SATISFIED WITH A PARTICULAR PERFORMANCE—HE SHOULD TRY TO DO ONE BETTER".

MR CHARLES FORTE, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONALSPORTING CLUB COMMITTEE, DESCRIBED THE CAREER OF MATTHEWS, SPREADING OVER 25 YEARS FROM BOY WONDER TO SUPREME ATHLETE.

SIR STANLEY ROUS, SECRETARY OF THE F.A., SAID THAT SO GREAT WAS THE DEMAND TO SEE MATTHEWS WHEN BLACKPOOL PLAYED IN THE CUP FINAL AT WEMBLEY THAT 920,000 APPLICATION WERE RECEIVED FOR TICKETS INSTEAD OF THE NORMAL 750,000

THERE WAS APPLAUSE WHEN HE ADDED "IN NO GAME HE HAS PLAYED HAS ANY REFEREE OR LINESMAN HAD NEED TO REBUKE HIM, NOT EVEN IN THE MILDEST FORM."

TOMMY TRINDER, A DIRECTOR OF FULHAM F.C., DESCRIBED MATTHEWS AS "UNDOUBTEDLY A GENIUS;" AND ONE OF THE GREATEST SPORTSMEN HE KNEW.

LORD MANCROFT, UNDER SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, RECALLED THE TIME WHEN HE PLAYED FOR THE 2ND ELEVEN AT HIS PREP SCHOOL AND JOKED "MY PERFORMANCE WAS MORE FLASHY THAN CLASSIC. I WAS TO SOCCER WHAT LIBERACE IS TO THE PIANO."