

ARSENAL PARADE THE CUP

At a West End restaurant, Arsenal throw a cup-winning party. Film star Anna Neagle is among the 500 guests who give an ovation to Joe Mercer - Arsenal skipper and footballer of the year. Of Liverpool sportsmanship, Merseysider Joe says:

"It's nice to win, very nice indeed, but it's a greater feat to lose in a sporting spirit, especially when you're losing such a wonderful trophy as this, and I'm proud of my Merseyside connections and birth, the way those boys took defeat, the way they came up to us and from the bottom of their hearts thanked us and acknowledged that we were the best side on the day."

From a West End dinner, the Gunners move onto Highbury. Led again by Joe Mercer and the magic Cup (with Leslie Compton and brother Denis there too, 'uncle' Alex James and all) they are off on a victory drive through their home borough - Islington. And the thousands who couldn't get in to see their triumph at Wembley turn out to give them the welcome of the year.

At Islington Town Hall, an exuberant crowd gives the heroes of Highbury the unofficial freedom of the borough. To speak for them comes the skipper - London's most popular Joe:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of my team I'd like to thank you all for the wonderful reception you have given us, and if we brought honour to the borough we're very thankful indeed."