

STAN MATTHEWS AT THE PALACE:

A Royal Investiture at Buckingham Palace - and here to be created a Commander of the Order of the British Empire is Stanley Matthews, with his wife Betty and his daughter Jean. Once before he received a medal from the Queen - at the finest match of his career, the 1953 Cup Final, when Her Majesty saw him lay the foundations of Blackpool's victory over Bolton. Here he is, wriggling through to place the ball neatly at Mortenson's feet for a brilliant goal.

And here the greatest right winger football has ever seen makes the pass which won the Cup for Blackpool. The Maestro of Soccer is still unbeaten, at an age when most professional footballers have retired for years - and though this may have been his finest moment, when he won his only Wembley medal, it was but the highlight of a brilliant career.

Few would deny that Stanley Matthews is the best-loved sportsman of our time; and this Royal honour endorses the public esteem which has long been his. A proud spectator is Stanley Matthews Junior - and we all join him in congratulating a great footballer and a fine man.