

TOP HAT SOCCER

At Cambridge, whickers return to the ancient game of football. Players wear pantaloons, spats, and other trappings. Fifteen gentlemen of Cambridge take on 15 sportsmen of Oxford in the year's biggest rag. Three balls are used simultaneously. Rules are the same as soccer - with minor improvements. To head a goal in your hat is a foul; to raise it before tripping is optional. Dropping your monocle in the mud gets you sent off the field.

Half and Half time. Gentlemen and sportsmen join for quiet refreshments. Nowadays, they prefer lemon - 100 years ago they bred their players tough.

Old English ale to work down slices of pumpkin. Both sides are at the top of their form. Result may decide the Queen Victoria Cup. In the second half the teams walk. Another new rule, when there's a foul, the referee bawls the offenders out with a brisk bit of Latin.

With the game reaching a hectic climax, someone took a pot at the referee - missed - and got a brand new Gentleman of Cambridge.

Cambridge had all the luck. They had two of the three balls. They won, 6 goals to 4.