

OUR NATIONAL GAME - Florentine's present a football match in the original style of the 15th century.

-Italy-

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Picture:- It may surprise you to know that the seige of--

--Florence was responsible for the Cup Final at Wembley. Sounds strange,--

--but it's true. This Florentine fete is held to--

--recreate the first game of football as it was played by--

--the nobility in the 14th century. Great rivalry is shown by the opposing sides which represent factions rather than teams.

And that's the prize - a heifer ! Fancy coming home late and presenting that to the wife !

They're getting ready for the fray ! The costumes look rather--

--warm for footer, don't they ? The game is rather like rugby. Hands and feet--

--are used, but there are 54 players. Makes rather a crowded--

--field. When a player is fowled, the place rings with cuss words ! "Odds !",--

--boddkins ! Gadzooks, By my haddom, and all that sort of thing !, --

--to match the costumes. In medieval times a match of this kind was always -

--organized in honour of Royal visitors to Italian cities. I am told that Florentines have played it since 1530. They must be tired !