

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11, 1933

KINGSHOLM'S NEW STAND.

ALMOST exactly two months ago a sudden and disastrous fire reduced the big grandstand at the Kingsholm Rugby Football Ground to a mass of twisted wreckage, but out of the ruins of the old structure, a new and vastly improved erection has been raised, and will be used for the first time at the County match to-day.

In the planning of the new stand the comfort of the spectators has been one of the chief factors to be borne in mind and careful attention to detail and clever designing of the whole has resulted in splendid results having been achieved.

More Comfort

The original stand was erected about seven or eight years ago, at a cost of about £2,500 and measured 180 feet by 40 feet. The new stand, which is slightly smaller, accommodates a lesser number than its predecessor, the object having been to provide spectators with more leg room and generally more comfort. Actually the new stand, which is much more substantial than the old one, will seat 1,330 people, while in front of it there will be room for about 1,500 people to stand, most of them under cover.

Remarkable progress has been made in the erection of the stand as it is barely eight weeks since the fire took place. It will be remembered that all that remained of the old stand after the conflagration - which nearly involved Mr. Bertram Mills's famous circus which was visiting the Kingsholm Ground at that time - was a twisted and blackened framework, the whole of the wood material having been reduced to ashes.

Day and Night Shifts

Although the stand was insured it was a very heavy blow to the Club that such an occurrence should happen at the outset of the season. Efforts were immediately made to expedite the provision of the new stand, and after the remains of the old stand had been removed, day and night shifts were worked to erect the steel framework necessary. Carpenters became busy, and their efforts came to an end this week when they fixed the seats into position.

A difficulty has been the two open erections on either side of the new stand. These have had to be moved back several feet bodily in order to give spectators in the new stand a clear view of the whole of the field. They had to be placed on concrete foundations.

The Accommodation

The seating in the new erection has been arranged so that patrons are accommodated in the centre section, and other spectators in wings on either side. There are three entrances at the back of the stand and three front exits. In the stand are dressing-rooms, a ladies' cloak room, and a Press box.

The main contract for the work was placed in the hands of Mr. William Jones, general building contractor, of Worcester-street, Gloucester, who spared no endeavour to provide a thoroughly good stand in the shortest possible time. When it is remembered that the actual work of erection was confined to five weeks, it will be realised that the contract was placed in very good hands. The same can be said of Messrs. Davies Brothers and Co., Ltd., Crown Works, Wolverhampton, who were responsible for the structural steel work and of the Gloucester Stone Co., Ltd., Barnwood, who very materially assisted matters by supplying over 500 reinforced units for the terracing and steps. These were specially designed in consultation with the architect, and were delivered to the general contractor in record time.