

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1901.

TRAGIC DEATH AT KINGSHOLM.

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## A HORSE WITH A HISTORY.

A familiar figure to the many thousands who visit the Kingsholm Athletic Ground has been lost by the death of the old horse which since the year 1893 has had a home on the ground, and has been an interested spectator of the football matches.

The old animal — it is generally accepted that he had reached the age of 20 years — has a history. It was in August, 1893, that Mr. Howard Harvey offered the use of the horse for the keep, and the same year Dyke, the groundsman, trimmed him up and took him to Barton Fair. However, he was not sold, as hay was dear and keep scarce, and possible buyers too closely examined his teeth. He was taken back to the field, and was purchased by the Football Ground Company for £4.

Up to September, 1897, he was owned alternately by the Company and the Football Club, the transfer being effected at the beginning and termination of the club's annual tenancy. The price remained the same, "£1 a leg," and nothing was written off for depreciation!

Since September, 1897, he has remained the property of the Company, and a strong mutual attachment had sprung up between the old horse and Dyke. Occasionally the horse had been indisposed, and had been carefully "doctored" by his faithful attendant Dyke, and had weathered all storms.

On Thursday evening he appeared to be in his usual health, but on Friday morning was found lying down helpless. He was given a draught, which temporarily relieved him, but he soon collapsed again, and on

advice it was decided to have him killed, and the decision was carried into effect about 11 o'clock on Friday night, the dispatch being applied by means of stabbing. Death came immediately, and the corpse was removed on Saturday morning.

We understand that the deceased had been eating horse chestnuts, and as he was not a chestnut horse the result was his serious and fatal illness.

JC