

The Celebration

The meeting is at the Palace of Parte Guelfa at 14,30 pm followed by the parade of the procession of the Florentine Republic and the Calcianti, wearing the costumes of 1530. The Calcianti will have the same names of their predecessors who played under enemy gunfire. After the parade will have crossed the streets of the city the Calcianti, along with the procession, will enter the Church of Santa Croce, where they will be received by Padre Rettore Antonio Di Marcantonio. After the celebration and remembrance of that fateful day the Calcianti will get to the square, giving life to that historical game. Florentine Madonnas will offer traditional ramerino bread, roasted chestnuts and brulè wine to all people who will be watching the game, with the chance to donate money to ANT and to remember the testimonial of the calendar of 2014 of Old Glories, Sara Mastrogiovanni

Greeting from the President

The game of the Siege is one of the pillars of consciousness of the Florentines. Almost five centuries later the strength of this episode remains the same, if not even bigger. The story of the game is one of the last true traditions, perhaps, the only one to be passed by word of mouth from parents to children, a story that remains alive, generation after generation. In this historical event there is a presence of every aspect that represent Florence: from the expulsion of the Medici family to the return of the Florentine Republic; there is the courage not to give up and to stand for two long years the siege of the army of the greatest empire in the world at that time; there is the strength, the value and the tenacity that leads the assailants to try to make an agreement and to win thank to a cheat: there is the irreverence and the irony, now as then, of who, even in the worst situations, do not lose faith and, just as Florentines do, even tease the enemy. This tradition still lives today thanks to the effort great Florentine: the Association Fifty Minutes, a group of the best former Calcianti, that today, after they overcame the rivalries between the colors, fight all together for charity and for Florence. Uberto Bini, the president, and his boys (they are still boys in spite of age) are the demonstration that this litigious city so litigious can be united for the common good. The true Calcianti, for the love of Florence, are ready to overcome any division, and this association has already proof this in the past, putting together important events, which have sustained other important charity initiatives. Their commitment demonstrates once again who the Calcianti are and what kind of passion moves those who live the Calcio Storico, between the colors, in the Procession of the Republic, between the musicians and the Bandierai. Keep alive values and traditions is their great merit. The Calcianti of the Association Fifty Minutes embody this spirit and have every right to wear the historical colors of soccer and to play in Piazza Santa Croce Square to make revive the game of the 17th of February, 1530.



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On the 17th of February 1530, in Florence, besieged by the troops of Charles V, who wanted to bring back the Medici family in Florence, a game of Calcio in Costume was played to mock the enemy. The Committee and the Association of Football History Fifty Minutes, which groups the Old Glories of the Calcio Storico Fiorentino, will commemorate the anniversary of that game with the purpose of marking in red on the calendar this day, unique in the history of Europe. It was such a glorious day, to remember forever in the city of Florence.

We arrived here as we were
by Uberto Bini

“Agli diciassette (del febbraio 1530) i giovani, si per non intermettere l’antica usanza di giocare ogn’ anno per carnevale, e si ancora per maggior vilipendio de’ nimici, fecero in sulla piazza di Santa Croce una partita a livrea, venticinque bianchi e venticinque verdi, giocando una vitella; e per essere non soltanto sentiti, ma veduti misero una parte de’ sonatori con trombe e altri strumenti in sul comignolo del tetto di Santa Croce, dove dal Giramonte fu lor tratto una cannonata; ma la palla andò alta, e non fece male né danno a nissuna persona” Così raccontava il Varchi nelle sue “Storie” e c’è da aggiungere che mai nella storia del mondo si è verificato un fatto simile. In nessuna epoca un popolo assediato da oltre un anno si è messo a giocare a palla per canzonare il nemico. I fiorentini di allora lo hanno fatto! C’è da esserne fieri!.

So, to not forget that fateful day, the 17th of February 2015 the Calcianti of Old Glories of the Calcio Storico Fiorentino, grouped in the association Fifty Minutes , will be back again on the sandy soil of Santa Croce Square to honor those brave warriors who preceded them. The square will be back for a day to the sixteenth century to remind the fighting spirit which has always animated the people of Florence. For the occasion the direct descendants of the protagonists of that day are invited to this event: Charles of Hapsburg successor of Charles V (the besieging) ; Beatrice Queen of Holland who is descended from Filiberto of Chalon , Prince of Orange ; Countess Alessandra Oddi Baglioni descendant of Malatesta Baglioni (the defender of Florence) ; Girolamo Guicciardini successor Francesco Guicciardini adviser to Pope Clement VII . The history has always to be read again and the 17th of February in Santa Croce Square an important moment of the history of city of Il Giglio will be told. Viva Fiorenza!



Parte Bianca

Capitano
Gherardo conte della Gherardesca
Alfiere
Barbarossa de’ Bartoli
Spugnaioi
Mariano da Montemaggio
Jacopo Micceri

Calcianti
Il Morticino degli Antinori
Giovanni Nerli
Alamanno de’ Pazzi
Giovanni de’ Bardi
Giovanni Ricasoli
Alamanno Alamanni
Goro da Montebenichi
Filippo Arrighetti
Vincenzo Maria Capponi
Antonio Rabatti
Filippo del Nero
Tommaso Soderini
Lorenzo di Castiglione
Filippo Guadagni
Enrico principe di Condè
Giordan Martelli
Ceseri Borboni
Napoleone Orsini
Jacopo Giocondi
Tullio Guerriero
Tommaso Rinuccini
Ottaviano Conti
Tommaso Ghelardi
Averardo Salviati
Giovanni Francesco Ridolfi

Parte Verde

Capitano
Sinibaldo Gaddi
Alfiere
Raffaello da Cortona
Spugnaioi
Zanobi Bartolini
Bali Pucci

Calcianti
Caccia degli Altoviti
Dante da Castiglione
Francesco de’ Medici
Ruberto degli Albizzi
Piero Strozzi
Giuliano Capponi
Raffaello Rondinelli
Francesco Guicciardini
Armato dal Borgo
Lione Ricasoli
Piero degli Alfini
Neri Capponi
Salvestro Aldobrandini
Girolamo Carducci
Scipione Gaddi
Giovan Battista Bini
Anguillotto da Pisa
Maffeo Barberini
Niccolò della Morea
Piero Altoviti
Pier Francesco Rinuccini
Giovanni da Turino
Francesco Valori
Vincenzo Torrigiani
Cammillo Vitelli

Playing for a veal
by Alessandro Monti

February 1530. Florence is surrounded by the combined armies of Emperor Charles V and Pope Clement VII . A slow and trench war was fought for more than four months between the fortifications of the besieged and those provisional but more and more powerful of the besiegers. It was carnival , and an ancient Florentine tradition wanted that at this time of the year you played Soccer . Not the soccer of our times, of course, but what it is now called Calcio Storico : an ancient game, which some say was already practiced by the Roman legionaries with the name of Harpastum, to keep fit during the long winter months. The Florentines, in spite of the siege, didn’t elude this tradition. It was necessary to strengthen the morale of the citizens, but especially to show the imperial besiegers that the life of the city was still the same. During the sieges of the modern age episodes of psychological war were not unusual at all: in the past , in other parts of Italy , there were those who had organized sumptuous outdoor dinners, with long tables , under the eyes of the enemy; and some others had dangled from the walls bags full of gold, inviting the enemies to come and get them. In Florence we chose to play soccer, a much more playful mode. The sources of that era does not tell how the game was held, which was played not only Florentines , but also some of those mercenaries - from different Italian regions - who fought for months next to the army of the Florentine Republic. We don’t even know how the game ended , and who won the veal offered as a prize (a great prize during those tough days). Only an anonymous diary, dating back to the sixteenth century, now kept in the National Library of Florence, close to Santa Croce Square, attributes the victory to “those of the greenpart” . Truth ? Partisanship ? That it is not important to know: beyond those who were the winners, the game of the Siege will be forever in the history of sports.