

# ORIENT GO FOR GOALS

## Graham pins hopes on Holton's power

Leyton Orient's fairly recently appointed manager Dick Graham took another glance at the slender list of his professional playing staff, tapped the paper, and said, "In going for goals, I still hope that we shall play some good football."

Goals, of course, are what Graham needs most. If Orient are to haul themselves from the Third Division into which they have slithered in an alarming downward rush following the merest taste of League soccer's top status.

While, in achieving this aim, the unfagging energies of youth are of paramount importance, Graham realises that experience — and by that I mean ability — is needed to harness, direct and exploit enthusiasm.

"My job is to get a winning side within the very limited financial resources of this club," said Graham. "I know of only one way to tackle a job—to do my ideas all I've got."

With the purse-strings drawn

### Walter Bartleman

tight, Graham has been compelled to indulge in a spot of swapping in order to secure the experience he desires, even though it meant parting with players he would have unhesitatingly held on to in more affluent circumstances.

It is in a third teaming-up with 38-year-old Cliff Holton, with whom he was associated at Crystal Palace and Charlton last season, that Graham bases much of his hopes.

### SPREADING FORCES

Holton, who has been made player-coach, has become something of a soccer physician to "ailing" clubs since his Arsenal days. His presence, both in the dressing room and out on the pitch, is a boost to morale and an inspiration to fight.

In another exchange deal, in which he parted with centre-forward Colin Platt to Southend, Graham has secured wing-half and utility man Terry Bradbury, who was once with Chelsea. Bradbury, 26, is the kind of player who could help spread Orient's slender defensive forces.

The fast and foraging Gordon Gregory had to be sacrificed in order to secure Holton, but, as part of the transaction, Graham also secured John Sneddon, who not long ago, when with Arsenal, was regarded as a footballer with a future.

George O'Brien, an unknown quantity with Orient supporters, has fully thrown off the effects of the jaundice which preceded his arrival last season.

If hitting it off with Holton, he could help form a formidable strike force. Now 30, O'Brien scored 150 goals in 250 games for Southampton, where he still lives and mostly trains.

If Graham, who now looks exceedingly fit following a back operation last year, regards Brian Whitehouse as a sort of promotion talisman, it would be readily understandable. White-

house has been concerned with successful promotion fights at the Second Division both with Crystal Palace, whom he captained last season under Graham, and Norwich City. And he also assisted Wrexham in their rise to the Third Division.

Graham is, however, too much of a realist to place even the tiniest faith in any possible Whitehouse "magic."

He knows that he is tackling as hard a job as any that exists in soccer, but that, given a fair run of the ball and reasonable luck over injuries to his limited numbers, it is soccer competence that will rediscover the support which was so sadly lacking when Orient needed it most.



CLIFF HOLTON  
Soccer physician to "ailing" clubs.



DICK GRAHAM...  
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Leyton Orient, now members of Division Three, have a tremendous task to raise enthusiasm at Brisbane Road. Those who made their way to the ground when Orient spent a season in Division One never exactly put too much pressure on the crowd marshals, especially after it became fairly obvious that the club would be more than fortunate to retain their status. What can the club now expect with the team stumbling still further down the scale? Perhaps Dick Graham will have something to say on this score now that he has taken over as manager, allowing Les Gore, who did not want the job, to return to the tasks he was performing before Dave Sexton left.

Dick Graham did first class work with Crystal Palace as they rose from the Third to the Second Division and after his days with Palace were over can take considerable credit for helping Charlton Athletic to avoid the drop last term. Graham had a number of ideas at Selhurst Park which paid off over the years and found himself involved in a talking point over his refusal to name a team more than fifteen minutes before a game. He claimed he could do this and what ruling was there to stop him?

Further, he played men in positions which did not correspond with the numbers on their backs and this caused further complications for him. It can be said that Dick Graham is a man of singular thought and very much a person who believes that players make football. With little money to play with, he now has the task of making an Orient an attractive combination. One presumes that he will be paying particular attention to players who are being released by their clubs and he will be looking for good team men that can be attracted to Brisbane Road by his personal magnetism. Let us hope that the magic he has been able to cast previously can be rekindled again for the days of Orient's decline have been sad ones and a little luck will not go amiss.

Malcolm Musgrove, released by Orient, is to take up a position as trainer-coach with Charlton Athletic and in doing so will relinquish his post as chairman of the P.F.A. Not so many exciting things happened, where players were concerned, during Musgrove's term of office as in the days of Jimmy Hill, but then the bearded Hill, who is now Coventry's manager, was the spokesman when the players finally made their breakthrough. Musgrove saw the aftermath of this victory where cash rewards for the very successful



DENNIS SORRELL

### Metropolis

CLIFF HOLTON, who shares with Jimmy Greaves the distinction of being the only current Football League goals, has had four London area clubs in a shade over a year in this sequence: Crystal Palace, Watford, Charlton Athletic and Leyton Orient, while he first entered League life with Arsenal.

### The London Scene

rose to astronomic heights compared to conditions under the old regime. He can pass on to his successor the news that the number of professional players is declining and is likely to fall even further.

This has been caused by events other than higher pay packets, but it was more than a contributory cause. The players' union now have to consider their attitude towards the events of the future which are already clearly mirrored.



STAN CHARLTON. (B.G.I.)

## HAT-TRICK CHASER AT WEYMOUTH

by BARRY GRIFFITHS

WHEN former Arsenal and Leyton Orient full-back Stan Charlton took over as player-manager of Weymouth at the beginning of last season he faced a pretty tough challenge.

Weymouth had just won the Southern League championship for the first time in the history of the club and he was expected to keep them at the top.

It was a big order for a man just feeling his way into soccer management but Charlton proved equal to the task and under his guidance Weymouth retained the title.

Now his aim is to make it a hat-trick of championship wins and he believes that he has the talent at Recreation Park to achieve this distinction.

A leg injury has kept him out of the Weymouth team this term but with 18 part-time professionals he has no selection difficulties.

For most of the season the seafarers have maintained a place in the top six but have lost five of their first 21 matches compared with seven defeats in their 42 encounters last term.

But manager Charlton is by no means disconsolate. "In my opinion our team is the best in the league and I don't think we will drop many more points during the second half of the season," he says.

But he has one problem which will not be solved until Weymouth are back on the top. Recent home gates have averaged barely 1,200 and he admits, "That's because we lost a couple of matches on our own ground."

Nevertheless money-raising schemes and a flourishing social club help the seafarers to tick over and Stan is helping to develop players with an eye on the transfer market. "If we can sell players and still keep adequate replacements it helps a small club like us to balance the books."

But Charlton's main concern at the moment is to achieve the elusive Southern League championship hat-trick, and if determination counts for anything Weymouth should once again finish at the top.