

Leyton Orient 3, Scunthorpe 1 by Jeff Powell

**LEYTON ORIENT** won their first home game since November. That alone was enough to send a tremor of satisfaction running round Saturday's Brisbane-road gathering of 5,457.

It was a dazzling ray of hope for the long season of third division attrition which lies ahead. Yet it is hard to reach positive conclusions from Orient's opening gambits to the 1966-67 season.

First came definite defeat at Oldham. Secondly an unfortunate elimination from the League Cup at Brighton. Now this win and a heavy mark to Orient's credit.

It was a win they deserved. It was a win rarely in doubt. And it was a win over the same Scunthorpe side who were placed fourth in the final third division reckoning last season.

Most pleasing of all it was a win achieved by some pretty decisive finishing, a lack of which has been Orient's main bugbear in the recent past.

Their goals came in the 37th minute from the busy Terry Price, the 53rd minute from Dave Metchick—a delightfully clean-cut affair—and the 81st minute from new skipper Brian Whitehouse.

The normally prolific Cliff Holton did not score. But when he found himself tightly policed in the penalty area he fell deep in the rôle of goalmaker for Price and Metchick.

Holton greatly improved on his Brighton performance and the through pass from which Metchick scored went a long way to proving that, at 38, he can still make a valid contribution in league football.

### Improvement

There was improvement, too, from centre-half John Sneddon and outside-right Billy Carter while goalkeeper Ron Willis and full-back Dave Forsyth continued to flourish.

Scunthorpe proved hard-working but short on inspiration and only stand-in striker Bramley consistently threatened to take advantage of the occasional lapses by O's wing-halves John Smith and Terry Bradbury.

They paraded some solid defenders and a good goalkeeper in Geoff Sidebottom and deserved their 84th minute moment of solace in the shape of a well-taken goal by Michael Ash.

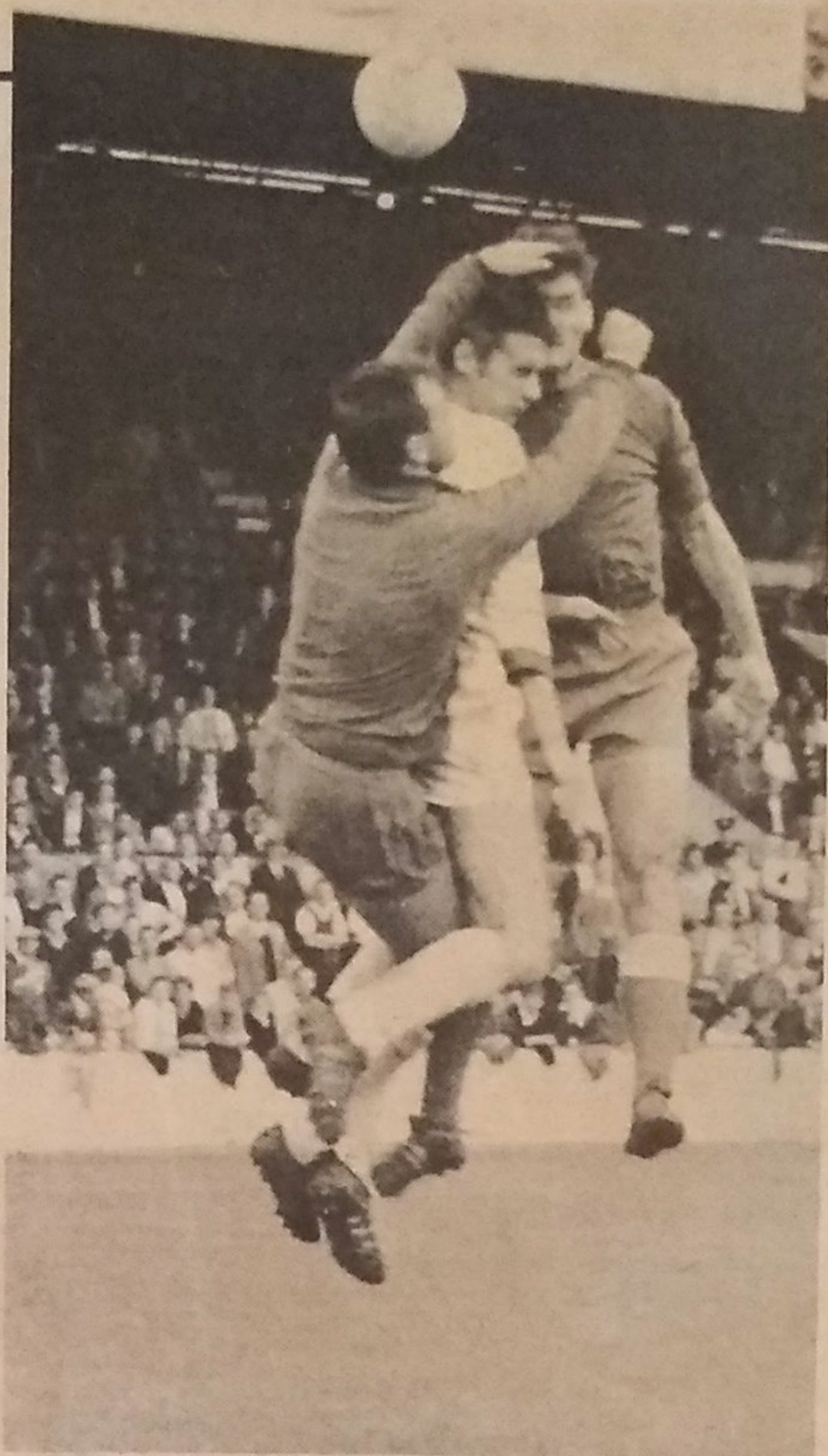
This was not a game to stick in the mind for good football and in the past Orient have flattered to deceive. But I felt that Saturday saw the blueprint for a more dependable Orient begin to emerge.

There were decided signs of hope. And manager Dick Graham could sleep a little easier in his hospital bed on Saturday night.

Leyton Orient: Willis, Jones, Forsyth, Smith, Sneddon, Bradbury, Carter, Metchick, Holton, Whitehouse, Price.

### Siamese twins

**FOUR** sets of soccer "Siamese twins": Manager Freddie Cox has now signed centre-half Jimmy White four times — for Bournemouth (twice) Portsmouth and Gillingham; Q.P.R. chief Alex Stock similarly has signed Mark Lazarus four times; Leyton Orient boss Dick Graham has signed Cliff Holton three times; Manchester City assistant manager Malcolm Allison and right-back Tony Book have been together with three clubs.



(42) Guardian Sport cameraman Archie McNeice puts Bank Holiday soccer in the picture. Above—new Orient centre-forward Cliff Holton (right) gets in his header despite the pressing attentions of Scunthorpe centre-half Burrows and goalkeeper Sidebottom.

## Smith zip ends O's 'away' gloom

By JOHN DAVIES

Torquay 1 Leyton 1



**MANAGER** Dick Graham has got his Leyton Orient lads playing with all the defensive restraint and discipline that he once infused into Crystal Palace.

Certainly promoted Torquay, who have settled confidently to Third Division Soccer, found Orient one of the toughest sides they have faced.

From the 1st minute—when they took the lead through John Smith—Orient controlled the game and headed confidently towards their first away point of the season.

Don't blame goalkeeper Ron Willis for the fact the Orient did not manage their first away win since last April.

He saved a Tommy Spratt penalty in the 66th minute. And his view was completely blocked by defenders when right-half Geoff Cox floated in a 20-yard shot for Torquay's last-minute equaliser.

Torquay.—McGuire, Bond, Kitchener, Cox, Wyatt, Smith, Clarke, Spratt, Stubbs, Kirkman, Reid. Sub: Benson.  
L. Orient.—Willis, Whitehouse, Jones, Went, Forsyth, Sorrell, Price, O'Brien, Holton, Metchick, Smith. Sub: Goodgame.

## TOM BOOBS—ORIENT HALT AWAY SLUMP

Torquay 1, Leyton Orient 1  
**TORQUAY'S** Tom Spratt missed his first penalty in fourteen months, at Plainmoor, last night, and presented Orient with their first away point of the season.

Orient were hanging on deservedly, to a first-half lead when Torquay inside left Alan Kirkman was fouled in the 66th minute.

Up came Spratt—to slam his spot-kick straight at goalkeeper Ron Willis.

But Torquay refused to quit, and Geoff Cox hammered in a last-minute equaliser.

Orient's 16th-minute goal was a beauty. Outside left John Smith took a through pass from his inside partner, Dave Metchick, and gave keeper Gary McGuire no chance.

Just before half-time Orient outside right Terry Price was booked for a foul on Cox.

## Orient's first away point

Torquay 1, Leyton Orient 1

**UNTIL** the dying seconds of this game, John Smith's shock first goal looked enough to boost Orient's first away prize to two points.

The disciplined hand of manager Dick Graham was obviously behind the regimented defensive tactics which followed.

The experience of Dave Forsyth—brought back after a two-week absence—was another vital factor which helped to mould Orient's rearguard into a formidable force which stamped command on most of the game.

Once again the Leyton players showed plenty of fight and gave Torquay one of their toughest games to date.

Willis played a heroic role in the Orient goal and in the 66th minute he saved a penalty from Tommy Spratt.

He was hardly to blame for the last minute equaliser which came from a 20-yard lob by Cox. The ball floated into the net over a squad of Orient defenders blocking the keeper's view.

Graham said afterwards he was delighted with the way in which his team had worked throughout the game.

Leyton Orient: Willis, Whitehouse, Jones, Went, Forsyth, Sorrell, Price, O'Brien, Holton, Metchick, Smith, Subst.: Goodgame.

The first season in Division III for some years sees Leyton Orient facing a number of problems. Manager Dick Graham was away in hospital for a spell and Cliff Holton, these days only a part-timer, along with Brian Whitehouse, has been handling the managerial duties as best he can. Holton, who is employed by an engineering firm, still has the ability to bring out that extra something when the occasion demands and Brisbane Road fans should be grateful that such an experienced campaigner is on hand when the chips are down. While Vic Rouse was out of the team with a back injury, 18-year-old Ron Willis took over the first team goalkeeping duties and when Willis was injured, it was on the cards that Steve Bowtell at 16 and a former England schoolboy player, would have to take over. Bowtell will have to wait for his league baptism for Willis recovered.