

# Orient crisis

Express Soccer Reporter

**M**ANAGER Dick Graham is the man at the top of the volcano that is Leyton Orient Football Club.

He admitted last night: "Either we get things done now or the club is doomed."

## Sacked

And Graham, a sincere person who will not tolerate anything less than 100 per cent, is getting things done.

He has sacked his trainer and his groundsman. He has put five first-team players on the transfer list. And assistant manager Les Gore has been fired

## Goal aces

IT hasn't often happened in the Football League's 78-year history that a club has had on its payroll together two players who have hit over 400 goals in the competition, but London "Cinderella" side Leyton Orient, of all clubs, claim that distinction now. Big Cliff Holton, man of many clubs, has 275 behind him, and ex-Leeds United and Southampton Scottish inside-forward George O'Brien claims 157.

after 16 years' service to Orient. Graham sat in his office under the Orient stand yesterday and gave me this inside story on the crisis facing the East London club:—

● I know what my image must be to people outside the club. They probably hate me for what I am doing.

But I am only doing what has to be done if this club is to have any future.

The facts are that Orient are deeply in debt. You wouldn't be far out if you put it at £100,000.

There are people who sneer that the directors should put money into the club. They are talking in ignorance. They just don't know what the board have done for Orient.

## Future

But I can tell you that a director is paying the wage bill here at the moment.

Our debt is piling up at something like £400 a week. That is why I have just got to cut our staff.

Our gates are down to the 5,000 mark. We must be realistic and carry a staff that is practical.

I have to take ruthless action—for the sake of the club.

I know many of my decisions are not popular but it is my head on the chopping block and I have to believe that I am doing the right things.

I am battling against a defeatist attitude here. The record books for the last couple of seasons show a long run of failure.

But I think I am breaking through.

I was thrilled with our performance at Colchester on Monday when we drew 2-2.

## Encouraging

The players gave me everything they had. It was really encouraging.

I want to emphasise that the decision to sack Les Gore was taken at director level. It was an impossible situation, and quite frankly it was a case of him going or me quitting.

I must have 100 per cent loyalty and effort from the people around me if I am to have any chance of winning this battle.

It's going to be tough. But we might succeed if everybody pulls his weight. ●

## Dick Graham tells 'Why



I must be ruthless'...as

## Les Gore gets Lincoln offer

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**L**ES GORE, who six times turned down the manager's job at Leyton Orient, is set to move to Lincoln—as manager.

Gore, 52, was sacked on Monday after 16 years with Orient.

He goes to Lincoln today to meet the directors and will watch the team play at Crewe tonight.

Then he will make

up his mind about a job he has repeatedly avoided. Gore said last night:—

"I always felt happier as a back-room boy, coaching and training and staying out of the limelight.

"But you've got to face facts and I'm flattered that Lincoln have made me an offer so quickly. I know nothing about them because I last saw

them play in 1961."

Bill Anderson's contract as Lincoln manager was ended "by mutual consent" three weeks ago after 19 years. He and Gore are close friends.

Gore was caretaker manager at Orient six times following the departure of Alec Stock (Herald Times), Johnny Carey, Benny Fenton, and Dave Sexton.

## Wouldn't wait

SOME players are prepared to await their chance even when the prospects seem remote.

Ron Willis, the Leyton Orient goalkeeper, is not one of them. As a junior

with Spurs he saw Bill Brown, Johnny Hollowbread and Roy Brown as a barrier to his progress.

So Willis joined Coventry City's ground staff. The triple barrier there was Dave Meeson, Bob Wesson and Bill Glazier, and Ron saw no point in staying.

Coventry manager Jimmy Hill telephoned Dave Sexton, then managing Orient, and Willie signed for them, the club who had given him training facilities in his schooldays at Dagenham.

Now he has League experience behind him, and his game has improved with tips from Orient manager Dick Graham, a former goalkeeper himself.

## Ted Phillips came home —with a hat trick!

**T**HREE near-veteran members of Soccer's over-30 brigade, all renowned sharpshooters, have been making transfer news at somewhat modest fees. Leading the way—big Ted Phillips, a prolific marksman in the climb of Ipswich Town from the obscurity of the Third Division to League championship glory not so long ago.

Ted, in fact, has scored goals in all four divisions of the Football League in less than 18 months.

He was still getting them for relegation-sinking Ipswich in the First Division in April, 1964. Last season he started off with Leyton Orient in the Second Division, and finished with Luton Town in Division Three.

But Ted was in dispute with Luton at the beginning of the current campaign, because he wanted to continue to live and train in his Colchester home-town, and threatened to hang up his boots.

Fortunately, the affair came to a logical conclusion with Phillips transferred to

Colchester (relegated with Luton to the Fourth Division at the end of last season) in exchange for Scottish inside-forward Billy Stark.

And Ted made himself at home right away with a hat-trick against Barnsley in his first match!



Ted Phillips