

Mancini magic lifts the siege

April 13 1968



Vic Hanson of Orient is shown, but Alf Alexander is on his way past three defenders for the only goal — one that could keep Oxford away from promotion.

ORIENT 1, OXFORD 0
 ORIENT grabbed a first-half goal through Hanson. Then they hung on to a seven-relegation worry, and left Oxford's promotion rival Jenga.

Oxford scored the goal, but were up against attempts to increase their. Orient's captain Alf Alexander was the striker who scored the only goal, but on the few occasions he was headed, the headlines of Oxford's first half were the Oxford attack.

Oxford's defence had an early preview of the half-time when Hanson and Alexander headed the headlines of Oxford's first half.

Oxford were led the ball in Orient's half, but Oxford were edged back by where Hanson and Alexander headed the headlines of Oxford's first half.

Pressure

A good chance of a goal to money but he shot wide. Then he was hit by a defender but he had to be kept out of a wide-angle shot. He was hit by a defender but he had to be kept out of a wide-angle shot.

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The result was a surprise. Oxford were led the ball in Orient's half, but Oxford were edged back by where Hanson and Alexander headed the headlines of Oxford's first half.

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SAM BARTHAM

April 22 1968



Dick Graham, when manager of Orient, explaining to hundreds of fans the club's financial position.

THE BACK-SLAPPING IS OVER — NOW IT'S SHAKING HEADS

JOHN ANTHONY traces the rise and fall of Orient

ONE Spring morning in 1962, the citizens of East London awoke to find a First Division team on their doorstep.

Leyton Orient (then), a humble club of slender resources and considerable ambition, had won a season-long struggle with Sunderland by a single point. Together with champions, Liverpool, they were leaving behind the Second Division.

It was—so they said in Leyton—the start of an era.

And, at first, that's how it seemed. Busby, Nicholson and the rest took their teams to Brisbane Road to argue First Division points, spoke with scars on the forehead and the shins, they were leaving behind the "OY", backslapping the manager with one hand and waving to the photographers with the other.

Today, six years later, all, save the name is changed. Resources are desperately slender, ambition is dimmed and shrewdly doesn't call round any more—there aren't so many photographers.

The era was short—and it ended some time ago. Relegation to the Second Division after one season among the aristocrats. Relegation to the Third Division in 1966. Extinction . . . when?

It's a sad story, and perhaps the saddest chapter was written at the end of Feb-

ruary this year. Amid angry charges of "desertion", Dick Graham decided he'd had enough of the mess that in Orient and resigned the management to become assistant manager of Watford.

"The time to stop doing a job is when you cease to get a kick out of it", explained Graham. "The trend at Orient was to let things drift, to put off decisions until the next day. Gradually, I found myself accepting that state of affairs—and it was then I realised I had to quit."

"I had something at Orient that was the envy of several managers—the security of a five-year contract. But security is useless without ambition."

"People were content to look back on our First Division days and say 'if only we'd spent the money we made then in such and such a way . . . ' but the fact was that we hadn't spent it in the right way. We had to make do with the money available. We had to take moderate gambles in the transfer market."

"That was one of the things that frustrated me. It got to the stage when I looked at a player he had to be both a free transfer man, because we had no cash for fees, and an unmarred asset, because there was virtually no club accommodation."

"At the time I left, we were down to eleven fit senior players and a few apprentices. I couldn't drop anyone

because I couldn't replace them. If we'd been hit by a run of injuries, I'd have had to lose youngsters into the side and risk their future."

"I found two players who could be bought cheaply and on easy terms. We had to have them quickly. But the board decided against it—and that was the end for me."

Orient chairman Arthur Page declared himself "disgusted" with Graham's action. "It was a shabby thing to do", said Mr. Page.

It was that, in a storm of frustration and bitterness, of charge and counter-charge that Orient crept closer to the grave.

It's a sad little story, but one which is going to crop up increasingly in the lower regions of the Football League.

Chairman of struggling club hires dynamic manager—manager, discovers miracles are impossible without money—manager quits—chairman is left angry and baffled—side continues.

Orient and their like will find it increasingly difficult to survive in a world whose standards are set at OM, Trafford and Anfield and White Hart Lane. The story will be repeated.

But it's difficult not to feel sorry for Orient. They, at least, had a thrilling previous past. The position present may be hard to swallow.

COLLESTER 1, ORIENT 1
 MARTIN'S witness and Division Four-based Colchester a game they should have won. The OY's manager did get their only goal from the penalty spot—but he failed four early chances.

But Orient's defence held on by sheer determination. And in their quick break-away Rich Brown kept the crowd on its feet.

Rich was hit by the left when Adams, returning to work, also aimed to hit.

Martin's penalty taker came after Brown had taken his own in the box.

ORIENT 1

Player	Goals	Assists
David	45	11
Bury	40	24
Woolley	38	15
Taylor	36	10
Wright	35	10
Burns	34	10
Wright	33	10
Wright	32	10
Bishop	30	10
Wright	29	10
Wright	28	10
Wright	27	10
Wright	26	10
Wright	25	10
Wright	24	10
Wright	23	10
Wright	22	10
Wright	21	10
Wright	20	10
Wright	19	10
Wright	18	10
Wright	17	10
Wright	16	10
Wright	15	10
Wright	14	10
Wright	13	10
Wright	12	10
Wright	11	10
Wright	10	10