

GRAHAM GOES: MY HEART IS BROKEN

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Shoestrung years with Orient end in walk-out



GRAHAM

By NIGEL CLARKE

DICK GRAHAM yesterday resigned as manager of Third Division Orient because "my heart was being broken."

After quitting the club he has run on a shoestring budget for nearly two years, he said.

"I'm no coward, but my spirit has been killed. Nobody will ever know the frustration I have suffered."

Graham—he had four years of a five-year contract to run—made up his mind to go when his directors refused to let him have money for two players he needed badly.

His playing staff was down to eleven, with three months of the season still to go.

"We wouldn't have seen the season out with what we had got," he said.

"We have been walking on a tightrope too long, and something at every possible stage."

"Then last week I lined up this deal. We had to have three players and all it meant was a commitment of £2,500. I was turned down."

"This was the breaking point. I thought it was time to make a stand."

Reality

"Perhaps this is the best thing that could have happened to me. They thought I was a shrewd manager. This might shake people into reality."

"I have worked hard for the club, so my conscience is clear. All I feel now is relief."

"I took some guts to go—I could have sat back and let things go on for ever and not cared, but I am not that kind of man."

"I expect the directors will be bitter and unhappy. After all we never had any rows or arguments."

Chairman Arthur Page said last night: "We shall appoint a new manager just as quick as we can."

"It was a shock to me that a man could behave as Graham did."

"No club could have treated the best manager better. We backed him to the hilt."

FOOTBALL OCCUR STAR, March 8, 1968

Graham quits Orient

DICK GRAHAM resigned as manager of struggling Third Division club Orient with four of his five year contract still to run.

He gave his reason for leaving the club as one of being "in the best interests of the club." The decision came after he had been unable to receive authorisation for the necessary cash to be provided for the signing of new players.

Orient, reported to be losing £800 a week, are fighting a desperate rearguard action at the foot of the table to escape relegation to the Fourth Division.

Photo right: The match which must have decided Graham about his and the future of the club. Orient attack the Wisford goal but cannot break through the defenders Brian Garvey (5), goalkeeper Bert Slater and player-manager Ken Fotherby. Wisford won 1-0 at Brisbane Road (McLennan.)



COMMENT

IT was only a few weeks ago that this column was sincerely hoping that the troubles of Orient F.C. would at last be resolved themselves with the decision to carry on at Brisbane Road rather than trek to the unknown football wilderness of Reusland.

Alas, it seems that the situation is far from stable and matters have reached further crisis point with the resignation of Dick Graham the club's manager. Without passing judgement on the decision the result must come as a blow to the club itself and its supporters. One can sympathise with the attitude of a manager who considers that he has done all in his power to improve the club's position. At the same time the directors oppose the task of making another appointment while at the same time realising that they must attempt to provide the club with a playing staff which will enable them to finish Third Division ninth by the end of the season.

For the faithful supporters of the 1957-58 season must seem like remembering a nightmare, which just when their worst fears seem to be allaying they are plunged into despair again.

If there is any good to be derived from so much stress and uncertainty it is that it strengthens the resolution of those facing the adversity and can only bolster their determination "to survive."

At another chapter in the turbulent recent history of Orient Reusland, all those interested in the welfare of the game will join together in wishing the club every success in its fight for its very existence.