

Struggling London club in talks about move to Essex

BASILDON: WE WANT ORIENT

Orient, London's cinderella club sandwiched between First Division sides Spurs and West Ham, today inspected sites at Basildon, Essex, with a view to moving their headquarters to that area.

Orient, losing £300 a week because of lack of support, believe that a switch from their

by
VICTOR RAILTON

present centre, owned by the local council, to an area like Basildon with a population of 140,000, could be their salvation.

Charles Boniface, general manager of the Basildon Development Corporation, agrees with the club and today met an Orient director with the offer of two sites in the centre of the New Town.

Mr. Boniface told me: "Its up

to Orient when they move. If they settle on one of these sites I will recommend the Corporation to provide it free of charge. It will then be up to Orient to do the rest of the building to instal their stadium.

RIVALS

"If this is not possible then the move will take much longer because the spending of public money needs approval."

Added Mr. Boniface: "Orient cannot fail to prosper in Basildon. The population continues to increase and the club will have the field to themselves."

Southend is the nearest town with a professional soccer side and that is ten miles away. Next comes West Ham, 15 miles, then Chelmsford, 16, and Colchester 30.

"Orient should get gates equal to those of Arsenal and Spurs and so end their financial worries."

While Orient chairman Arthur Page has made it clear that the club does not want to move from Leyton, finance and support dominates the situation.

So if Orient, who have already spent more than £100,000 on their current stand, agree to switch to a ground they can call their own, they may rename themselves Basildon Orient.

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LEAGUE TABLES IN ENGLAND

DIVISION I					DIVISION II							
	P	W	D	F A Pts.		P	W	D	F A Pts.			
Man. Utd.	17	10	4	30	18	24	Blackpool	17	11	3	29	15
Liverpool	17	9	4	26	13	22	Portsmouth	17	10	4	34	22
Manchester City	17	10	2	36	19	22	Ipswich	16	8	7	31	12
Tottenham	17	9	4	30	26	22	Q.P.R.	16	10	2	25	13
Sheffield Wed.	17	8	5	27	21	21	Birmingham	17	8	6	44	24
Leeds	17	8	4	24	14	20	C. Palace	16	9	4	25	14
Arsenal	17	8	3	32	25	19	Carlisle	17	8	3	28	20
Stoke	17	7	5	27	25	19	Derby	17	8	2	31	27
Nottm. Forest	17	7	4	28	19	18	Millwall	17	5	8	27	23
Burnley	17	6	6	33	31	18	Norwich	16	8	1	21	21
Everton	17	7	4	24	18	18	Blackburn	13	7	2	18	18
Newcastle	17	7	4	24	29	18	Bolton	16	5	5	28	27
West Brom.	16	6	4	31	26	16	Huddersfield	16	5	5	20	24
Wolves	17	6	4	31	36	16	Preston	17	5	5	20	26
Sunderland	17	6	4	20	26	16	Middlesbro'	17	3	8	18	25
Southampton	17	6	2	31	36	14	Cardiff	16	4	5	24	31
Leicester	17	6	5	28	33	13	Charlton	14	3	5	18	33
Chelsea	17	3	7	22	40	13	Aston Villa	16	5	1	18	28
Fulham	16	5	1	23	34	11	Hull	17	4	3	23	39
West Ham	16	4	2	29	34	10	Bristol City	16	3	4	13	29
Sheff. Utd.	16	3	4	18	33	10	Rotherham	17	3	3	18	40
Coventry	17	2	6	22	40	10	Plymouth	15	2	2	9	31

SO MUCH BETTER, ORIENT

By Robin Lewis

ORIENT 3, SOUTHPORT 0 ORIENT were fighting for far more than their second win of the season. They were fighting for survival amid speculation about a move from Leyton to one of the Essex new towns.

Chairman Arthur Page broadcast to the crowd of only 3,524 at half-time, and assured them that the club was far from finished.

Their first goal was a header by Massey from Slater's corner. The second came from Slater's low free kick, which Whitehouse volleyed in from ten yards.

And the third was one of the finest shots seen on the ground for a long time—a right-footed drive on the run by Thomas from the corner of the penalty area.

The goals were a reward for a first-half of sustained pressure, built on midfield superiority, with new signing Harper giving the assurance and drive.

He was missed in the second half when a thigh injury became too much of a handicap. With Fry as substitute Orient switched to a defensive pattern.

ORIENT: Goddard 6; Simson 7. Howe 5, Allen 6, Wood 7, Hale 6, Slater 7; Thomas 5, Massey 7. *HARPER (In) 9, Whitehouse 8. Sub.: Fry 5.

SOUTHPORT: Reeves 5; Cairns 5, Curwen 6, Street (In) 4, Molyneux 6; Parker 8. *SHAW 9; Spence 6, Andrews 5, Peat 6, Redrobs 5. Sub.: Kendall 6. Referee: D. Brady (Gloucester) 8.

Orient: Protest

SOUTHEND are expected to protest to the Football League against any proposal to move Orient to Basildon—only 10 miles away.

Southend chairman Stanley Skinner, said today: "Any move would be 'poaching' on Southend's supporter potential."

NO, ORIENT DON'T WORRY, STAN

Orient 4, Barrow 2 By SAM BARTRAM

FORMER Orient full-back Stan Charlton, now manager of Weymouth, turned up to see his old club come from behind and earn their biggest win of the season.

Orient meet Weymouth in the F.A. Cup first round and Charlton told me: "We won't start as under-dogs. We'll have a bigger crowd than this, at least, I'm not too worried."

Two boos by goalkeeper Else had a lot to do with Orient's success. His first gave Massey an easy goal. And after Barrow had gone in front, then been pulled back to 2-2, Else fumbled again and Massey had a similarly simple chance.

Barrow had now fallen away after a tidy opening, and trialist Mancini came racing up to head Orient's fourth from a Slater free-kick.

The other keeper, Goddard, did little to give his defence confidence. But he couldn't be blamed for either goal—a Knox header from Mulvaney's cross, and a 20-yard drive by Storf.

Prospect

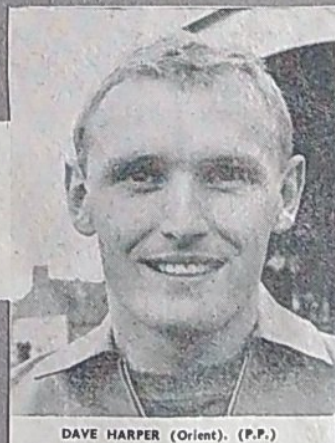
Slater, Orient's best forward, made their second goal, crossing for Wood to force his way through and shoot past Else.

A pity that Slater should fall with the easiest chance of all, firing straight at the keeper from only five yards. But by then Orient had it settled mainly through enthusiasm rather than skill.

Mancini was a solid stopper. Archell, another debutant, looked a good prospect, and the attack shaped better after Jones and Snedden had changed places.

ORIENT: Goddard 5; Jones 7, Wood 6, Mancini 7, Howe 6, Allen 6, Archell 5. *SLATER 8, Snedden 6, Massey 6, Simson 5.

BARROW: Else 5; Bebbington (In) 5, Arrowsmith 6. *APPLETON 7, Edwards 5, Harrison 6, McGarry 5; McCarthy 6, Knox 5, Mulvaney 5, Storf 6. Sub.: Mallen 6. Referee: D. Nippard (Bournemouth) 7.



DAVE HARPER (Orient). (P.P.)



★
TERRY MANCINI has made a welcome return to these shores after a spell in South Africa. He was given a trial by Orient and impressed to such an extent that the club have given him a contract.
★

Orient, deep in financial straits, signed the former Watford pivot Terry Mancini after a spell in South Africa and added Graham Archell to their pay-roll, too, having blooded him in a recent league match.