



GOOD HUNTING ORIENT!

Riding high on pre-season confidence

A new spirit is permeating Brisbane-road and if the smiling faces of these Orient players are anything to go by then one thing is certain: this season they are going places. Left to right: Tommy Anderson, John Snedden, Eddie Werge, Terry Ackerman, Ray Goddard, Ron Willis, Peter Allen, Malcolm Slater, Mick Jones, Barry Fry, Brian Wood, Cliff Holton (team captain), Terry Price, Brian Whitehouse (club captain), Bert Howe and Manager Dick Graham. PICTURE BY ARCHIE McNEICE.

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HERE they are, all set and raring to go for the new season. Yes the Orient lads are in great spirits—and why not? The same players who helped to pull the club out of the doldrums last year will be on duty at Grimsby on August 19th, the first match of the season.

Brisbane-road regulars will notice certain changes when they see their team at home for the first time on August 26th. Gone will be the royal blue shirts and white shorts—generations of Orient players have worn, to be replaced by an all red strip. The pitch has been re-laid, spiked and re-sown and is in fine condition.

Tomorrow (Saturday) the O's begin a series of pre-season friendlies at Guildford and follow with games at Wealdstone (Monday), Wimbledon (Tuesday), Ramsgate (Thursday), Enfield and Romford on Saturday and Croydon Amateurs on Monday.

A new spirit has grown within the club throughout the close season.

Players are confident they will achieve great things in the coming months and can't wait for August 19th to convince the fans that they are right.

Orient are at home to Gillingham in the first round of the League Cup. They will play their Third Division opponents on Wednesday, August 23rd.

With ground advantage O's are favourites to win.

Although admission to Brisbane-road will be increased this year by 1s, from 4s. to 5s., both wings of the main stand have reduced prices to 7s. from 8s. 6d. Season tickets are still eight guineas except the wings which have dropped to seven guineas.

Former Scottish schoolboy international Tommy Anderson has applied for a trial. Anderson, 30, has been with Queen of the South, Doncaster, Wrexham, Watford and Morton.

Ron Willis's brother Alan signed as an apprentice professional for Orient on Monday. Alan, aged 15, is a forward.

Orient begin the new term behind locked doors

ORIENT began their new season behind locked doors at Brisbane-road last night—against top Southern League club Barnet.

"Although we have been training very hard, the team were short of match practice and we decided to have a private workout before our public friendlies," explained manager Dick Graham.

O's face five friendlies—all away from home—against top non-league opposition. Tomorrow they travel to Guildford and on Monday meet Isthmian club Wealdstone. The following night they are at Wimbledon and on Thursday travel to Ramsgate.

BROTHERS

On the Saturday before the big kick-off, Orient have two fixtures—against Romford and Enfield.

"I shall send half of my first team squad to both matches and make up the sides with apprentices," commented Graham.

Alan Willis—15-year-old brother of Orient goalkeeper

Ron—joined the Brisbane-road ground staff this week.

A prolific goal-scoring centre-forward, he played a major part in Barking School's Corinthian Shield run last term.

"I'm pleased to join O's," he said. "Of course, I've watched them regularly with Ron playing for them and it will be good working with my brother."

On Wednesday, Orient lined up for the first time in their new red strip—for a photo session.

"It's an all nylon kit," said Graham. "And the red is particularly bright."

HEALTHIER

The shirts bear a new circular badge made up of blue, white and gold stripes.

Reason for the colour change? Orient's new directors felt that the blue strip had been associated too closely with failure during the past few seasons.

"We hope that with the new colour we shall begin a new era here at Brisbane-road," says chairman Arthur Page. "Mr. Graham has done a magnificent job and we begin this season in a much healthier position than last term."

Good break

NO GOALKEEPER—of all people—wants a broken finger, but if this misfortune had not struck Ray Goddard, the young Orient player, he would probably have been out of League football.

Last February, Goddard's contract with Fulham was cancelled. Orient signed him on a month's trial, but in a reserve match against Watford he broke a finger.

Orient were hard-pressed financially, but they felt it only fair to Goddard to keep him on the pay-roll. He recovered in time to keep goal for Orient in one League match, and when the season ended was offered a full engagement.

If Ray had not been injured, it is likely that he would have left Orient at the end of his trial period.