

SLATES FANS

Orient foiled in penalty drama



● Terry Parmenter blasts Orient into the lead from Malcolm Slater's cross. Picture by Archie McNeice. ★ (271)

Orient 1, Gillingham 1
By Vince Wright

RAY Goddard must be the Football League's most aggrieved goalkeeper this week.

Everyone believed he had saved Orient's bacon when he brilliantly pushed aside a 74th minute penalty kick by Gillingham centre-forward Carl Gilbert but Gilbert stifled the cheers when he strode on to the rebound and carefully placed the ball into the far corner of the net.

This equalised a first-half goal by Terry Parmenter and Orient lacked the boldness and resolution needed to regain their lead.

Saturday's match—O's sixth and final meeting with Gillingham this season—only served to emphasise their enigmatic nature.

Against Gillingham the Os touched rock bottom and they were fortunate that the visitors came to Brisbane Road with the negative idea of playing for a draw.

Seven minutes before half-time Orient at last gave their fans something to shout about.

Mike Bullock, who frequently outfoxed centre-half Bill Williams, thoughtfully allowed a Slater centre to run to the unmarked Parmenter. The outside-left steadied himself for a second and then let fly with a terrific 15-yard drive which beat veteran goalkeeper Simpson all ends up.

Parmenter nearly added a second shortly after the interval when his powerful right-footed shot on the turn sped towards the goal but Simpson just managed to smother the ball on the line.

OPERATION ON KEY

Orient winger John Key is to have an exploratory operation on the Achilles tendon which has kept him out of the game since September.

with two great attempts. His on-the-run shot from Slater's pass forced Simpson to a fine save and then his first-time volley from close in might well have broken the back of the net if right-half Quirke hadn't been in the way.

Gillingham were now being compelled to open out and attack but they were helped by Orient's negligence.

The coolness of Tommy Taylor and the exceptionally high work rate of Dave Harper kept Orient's heads above water for a while but Gillingham had now got the bit between their teeth and their rapid improvement was rewarded 15 minutes from the end.

Mancini foolishly tripped Riddick as the inside-forward bore dangerously down on the Orient goal and the referee had no option but to give a spot kick. Gilbert had to have two bites at the cherry before scoring but Gillingham deserved their goal. They were pleased to go home to Kent with a point but Orient must be viewing the match in a different light.

Orient: Goddard, Howe, Rofe, Harper, Mancini, Taylor, Slater, Bullock, Allen, Dyson, Parmenter.

FRIDAY SOCCER?

Orient are considering playing the majority of their home matches next season on Friday nights.

The suggestion has been put forward because Orient need a minimum attendance of 10,000 to cover their wage bill. Orient's average gate this season is only a little over 5,000.

"I think playing on Friday evenings will be the ideal solution" said player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield. "Then the West Ham and Tottenham supporters may come to see us particularly if we are doing well."

Orient right-winger Malcolm Slater has been put on the transfer list at his own request.

SMASHING, ORIENT

MANSFIELD 0, ORIENT 2

ORIENT had a smashing time against the club that went so close to an F.A. Cup semi-final place.

They smashed all Mansfield's attacking plans with some well-organised defence . . . and they smashed in two goals after lightning breaks from their own half.

Mancini hit the first from the penalty spot, after Boam had toppled Parmenter a few yards out. Dyson snapped up the second.

Teenager Rofe was outstanding for Orient: he gave Jones only one shooting chance.

A pity about the bad temper that marred the second half, with Harper, Taylor and Quigley all being booked.

Quigley's scheming posed the biggest problem for Orient, but his forwards were unable to find and sort of answer to that defence, sometimes reinforced by every forward except Dyson.

Goddard was virtually without a shot to save—tribute to the way his colleagues covered.

MANSFIELD: Hollins 6; Pale 6; Boam 6; Waller 6; Hookinson 5; Partides 4; Quigley 3; Goddellow 6; Sharkey 6; Ledger 7; Jones 5.

ORIENT: Goddard 6; Howe 6; Mancini 6; Taylor 3; Rofe 7; Slater 5; Harper 6; Allen 4; Bullock 5; Dyson 6; Parmenter 6.
Referee: M. Ellis (Goal) 5.

Trialist Train races in to take the points!

Walsall 2, Orient 1

RAY TRAIN, Walsall's 18-year-old England youth trialist, last night shocked Orient with a great thirtieth-minute goal at Fellows Park.

Train's goal, only his second in League football, came after a series of amazing misses. First, full back Frank Gregg's drive was beaten out by goalkeeper Ray Goddard and then Allan Baker shot hopelessly wide after Goddard had dropped a Jimmy Murray effort.

Orient were unlucky not to equalise in the thirty-ninth minute when Barry Dyson headed on to a post with Bob Wesson beaten. A miskick by the energetic Train gave Walsall their second goal in the

seventieth minute. His sliced drive bounced straight to Baker, and the inside forward beat Goddard from twelve yards out.

Orient scored six minutes from time when inside left Dyson shot past Wesson from ten yards.

Orient pipped

Walsall 2 Orient 1

★ **STRIKER** Barry Dyson cracked in an 84th-minute goal but it came too late to save Orient.

For Ray Train and Allan Baker had already shot Walsall into a commanding lead.

Orient keeper Ray Goddard pulled off good saves from Nick Evans and Tommy Watson in a vain effort to save a point.

Mansfield 0

Orient 2

IMPROVING Orient spoiled the promise of a civic reception for Cup heroes Mansfield as they plundered their second double of the season.

The O's started shakily and were relying on defence when Mansfield skipper John Quigley gave goalkeeper Ray Goddard an awkward handful with a shot he just managed to fingertip over.

All against the run of the play, Orient went ahead with a thirty-ninth minute penalty, converted by skipper Terry Mancini after Stuart Boam fouled left winger Terry Parmenter.

Eight minutes into the second half—and inside left Barry Dyson, Orient's most dangerous attacker, clinched it.

He smartly side-stepped Phil Waller in accepting a centre from Mick Bullock and smashed the ball past Dave Hollins.

Temper flared frequently as Mansfield tried desperately to retrieve the game. Quigley and Orient wing halves David Harper and Tommy Taylor were booked.

Crowd rating: 80.

Revival

ORIENT ON WAY UP

Orient 1 Bournemouth 0

★ **ONLY** 4,090 fans turned up to watch reviving Orient pull further away from relegation worries. But that is 5,910 below the break-even figure, and chairman Arthur Page's threat that the club will have to sell their best players if the fans do not turn up brought representatives from Everton, Tottenham, and Charlton to weigh up the talent.

Orient's match-winner, with his sixth vital goal of the season, was centre-half Terry Mancini.

He moved up for a Malcolm Slater free kick four minutes from half-time. The ball was headed away.

Barry Dyson quickly headed the ball back for Mancini, left alone by the Bournemouth defence, to steer wide of Roger Jones.

Mancini, whom Orient fans reckon the best centre-half in the Third Division, was only just off target with another header.

Bournemouth, who had only a couple of worthwhile shots, were disappointing.

ORIENT BOSS SLATES FANS

AFTER a crowd of only 3,690 had watched Orient beat Crewe 2-0 last night, chairman Arthur Page warned:

"We cannot live on gates like this. Unless the fans turn up, we shall have to sell players."

"This was London's only match, and a gate of 3,690 is disgusting."

Orient, setting a start-line pace, were a goal up through Mickey Bullock in seventeen minutes. Bullock set up the second for Barry Dyson fifteen minutes from the end.

Wing half Dave Harper was booked for the second time in three days, for retaliating after being fouled in the second half.

GOAL

Editor: ALAN HUGHES
Assistant Editor: FULTON GEDDES
Advertisement Manager: TREVOR HALLING
Telephone: 01-353 5011

OPINION

SYMPATHY, please, for Orient chairman Arthur Page, who recently had the soul-destroying duty, after yet another home gate had failed to reach 4,000, of delivering this unhappy ultimatum to Orient's ex-fans: "Unless you turn up, we will have to sell our best players." First instinct is to feel sorry for Orient. The second is the realisation that if the stayaways don't rate the best players worth seeing while they are at Brisbane Road, they are even less likely to rally round after the stars have gone. Orient are on the wrong track, surely. When you've cut the expenditure back to the minimum, you don't think about cutting back any more. You think about increasing your income. Nobody doubts that Orient are doing a fine job in keeping first-class football going in Leyton. Nobody doubts the integrity and devotion to football duty of Mr. Page and his fellow directors. But they should be looking inside the club, not outside, to discover ways and means of making the goods sufficiently attractive for people to buy. Clubs have got to go out and entice the fans in these days. You can't force them to come.