

THIRD DIVISION

BOTTOM SEVEN

Orient

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northampton	44	14	11	19	52	58	39
Orient	44	12	14	18	46	58	38
Shrewsbury	42	14	10	18	43	60	38
Hartlepool	44	10	18	16	40	69	38
Mansfield	41	12	11	18	50	59	35
Oldham	45	13	8	24	49	82	34
Crewe	45	12	8	23	48	71	32

With two games to play the position looks hopeless

O's earn vital point

Hartlepool 0, Orient 0
ORIENT journeyed back from the frozen North on Tuesday with a precious point and high hopes of remaining in the Third Division.

Although they came under heavy pressure at times, O's were cool and composed, played the better football and had a couple of chances to win the match.

Orient set out determined to give absolutely nothing away, banking on tight defence and quickly-mounted attacks.

To have adopted a purely negative approach would have been suicidal. For they badly needed both points and a play-for-a-draw policy could well have sent them home empty-handed.

The position now looks grim—but all is not lost and if Orient can get a point from Friday's trip to Bournemouth and see off Shrewsbury in their final game, on Monday, they must have a 50-50 chance of survival.

On the evidence of Monday night's display Orient's position is ludicrous, for they took all that 'Pool could throw at them and only in the dying minutes was there a suggestion they might lose.

Sheer pressure forced them back and Ray Goddard saved the day by coming out of a packed goal-mouth with the ball safely in his grip. Earlier Goddard had saved brilliantly from Parry and Sheridan.

On the break Orient were dangerous and two great chances fell to Mick Bullock, who broke clear through and fired hurriedly, straight at Smith. Smith was struggling when Slater stretched him with a tantalising free-kick and did well to scramble the ball clear.

Orient: Goddard; Jones, Rofe; Harper, Mancini, Allen, Slater, Bullock, Bloomfield, Dyson, Parmenter.

ORIENT TRAVEL to Bournemouth tonight, to commence the most critical 72 hours in their history, with only the slimmest hopes of staying in the third division.

A draw at Hartlepool on Monday gave Orient a thread of hope to hang on to. But Gillingham's draw the following night and victories for Shrewsbury and Barrow on Wednesday have made the position now really critical.

With Oldham and Crewe already doomed it will be a fight between Shrewsbury, Mansfield, Hartlepool and Northampton to avoid the other two relegation places.

Favourites to get out are Shrewsbury—who can do no wrong at the moment—and Mansfield, with games in hand.

Northampton are a point clear so unless there is a dramatic last minute turnabout it looks like Orient and Hartlepool for the drop.

But Orient have not given up

hope and will be going all out to preserve their status.

They will do well to bring back a point from Bournemouth tonight—but they must do this and nothing less than victory over Shrewsbury in their final game, on Monday, will do.

Even when their programme is completed Orient may have to wait to know their fate. For Shrewsbury and Mansfield have games in hand and Hartlepool finish at Crewe in nine days time.

Former Millwall wing-half Dick Plume is on trial with Orient and played in the reserves on Wednesday. Another new face at Brisbane Road is Mel Scott—once of Chelsea and Brentford—who has returned from the United States.



Barnsley 'keeper Arblaster punches away from Orient's Mancini (left) on Saturday.

Quick get away fan misses all the fun

ORIENT 1, BARNESLEY 1
THE ANGRY spectator who made an early—and noisy—exit from his grandstand seat missed all the fun of an otherwise pedestrian match at Brisbane Road.

He missed Barry Dyson's 75th minute equaliser and a spectacular effort from Mick Bullock that crashed against an upright to rob O's of both points in a stirring finish.

Before his departure the vociferous gent informed anyone who cared to listen—and many more who had no other choice—that Orient's present plight deserved no sympathy.

He left to a sarcastic burst of applause and if events that followed were anything to go by he should have made the move home much earlier.

Orient, from looking beaten once again, picked themselves up off the floor to hammer away and salvage a point.

BY

JACK STEGGLES

They broke out quickly with their best first half attempts coming from waiting wing-half Bettany.

Orient snapped back with Dyson putting the ball in the net from an offside position and bringing Arblaster into action to shoot from the hard working Harper and Bullock.

Barnsley looked dangerous in the second-half with Goddard going down to make a great save from Robson who received a ball from Loyden. Four minutes later, in the 58th minute a similar move gave the Yorkshiremen the lead.

Loyden split Orient with a shrewd pass and ROBSON looked home over the head of the advancing Goddard.

Orient promptly called out of touch Parmenter and with sub-Tommy Taylor in his place set about wiping out the arrears.

They did so in the 75th minute when Jimmy Bloomfield—who had a fine game—lobbed forward for DYSON to scramble the ball past Arblaster.

Orient: Goddard 7; Jones 6, Rofe 7; Harper 8, Mancini 7, Allen 7; Slater 6, Bullock 7, BLOOMFIELD 8, Dyson 6, Parmenter 5, (Sub. Taylor).

Orient capture precious point

Hartlepool 0, Orient 0

A SPIRITED defensive display and some excellent saves by on-form keeper Ray Goddard earned Orient a precious point from fellow strugglers Hartlepool at the Victoria Road ground on Monday night.

A heavy rain had made the pitch like a skating rink. Orient not only defended well but broke out from the back with almost alarming speed.

They seemed to have full control of the terrible conditions and on several occasions the forwards had Hartlepool keeper George Smith in a troubled state. Once he even had to head clear from Mick Bullock as he rushed out of his box to meet the inside-right. Bullock, in fact, had three clear chances but wasted them through hurried shooting.

Player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield worked wonders as he pushed his men forward and the confidence instilled by Ray Goddard spread as the game went on.

Only in the last 15 minutes were Orient in any real danger of losing both points,

when Hartlepool staged a determined bid to grab the winner. But Orient had travelled north to get a point and they intended to go back with it.

They only let danger man Malcolm Thompson threaten twice. He once headed wide and his second effort was cleared off the line by Denis Rofe.

The men who chiefly worried the Hartlepool defence were wingers Terry Parmenter and Malcolm Slater. They were quick to exploit the home full-backs' eagerness to move forward by roaming into the empty spaces and picking up Bloomfield's and Harper's shrewd passes.

Hartlepool centre-half John Gill was booked in the 33rd minute for disagreeing with the referee's decision after a foul on Harper. The home side tried to liven up their attacks

by substituting Bobby Cummings for Peter Blowman on the hour but he could improve little against Orient's unfurled non-nonsense defence.

Orient: Goddard, Jones, Rofe, Harper, Mancini, Allen, Slater, Bullock, Bloomfield, Dyson, Parmenter. Sub: Taylor.

VITAL DYSON GOAL

Orient 1, Barnsley 1 By Vince Wright

A HOME draw must always be regarded as a point lost rather than a point gained. That is why the Orient players were unhappy at Saturday's result.

With Gillingham and Mansfield winning handsomely and Shrewsbury and Hartlepool both taking a point the tension has increased at Brisbane Road.

Whether Orient retain their Division Three status or suffer the dreaded drop into Division Four may depend on their final fixture of the season at home on Monday when they meet fellow relegation strugglers Shrewsbury.

Any side having 75 per cent of the play should win but once again O's failed to capitalise on their territorial superiority. Lowly placed Barnsley came to London with the modest ambition of aiming for a draw but their plan almost came unstuck minutes from the end. With the score at 1-1 goalkeeper Brian Arblaster dropped a dipping centre from Mick Jones and Bullock's overhead shot hit the foot of a post and bounced clear.

The players were inclined to hurry their moves but player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield with a shining exception. He used the ball well, ran with purpose and Orient's equaliser in the 75th minute was all his own making.

In a match of little incident the most exciting moments came towards the end of the first half. Bettany's goalbound shot was finger-tipped away by Ray Goddard and then Bullock's side-footed attempt from point blank range was smothered on the line by Arblaster.

Barnsley had nothing to offer apart from some skilful touches by Loyden and Robson and these two were instrumental in giving Barnsley the lead after 58 minutes. They swapped passes on the edge of the penalty area and Robson's inch-perfect chip found the top right-hand corner of the net.

Orient's equaliser was a curious affair. Arblaster ought to have collected Bloomfield's long through pass but he was partially blinded by the sun. Barry Dyson hopefully stuck out his foot and he was forgiven for his earlier sins as the ball rolled apologetically over the line.

Orient: Goddard, Jones, Rofe, Harper, Mancini, Allen, Slater, Bullock, Bloomfield, Dyson, Parmenter. Sub: Taylor.