

Orient who, since their heady moment of glory in Division I during the 1961-2 season, have steadily slipped until last season they just avoided relegation to Division IV.

During these six seasons Orient have had five managers. In March 1968, 34-year-old Jimmy Bloomfield came to Brisbane Road as a player-manager after a successful career with Arsenal, Birmingham, Brentford and Plymouth. A former Young England player, he had always wanted to be a manager: "After all, my life is football, so the follow-on, when my playing days were over, was obviously management."

The problems he faced were daunting; in addition to Orient's perilous position in the League table it was only a year since the directors had had to convene a special meeting at which the hat was passed round to enable the club to survive at all. Bloomfield still admits that the problems are enormous and the duties of a manager correspondingly increased.

"Here we haven't even got a proper groundsman and so the ground becomes part of my responsibility... Matt Busby doesn't have to worry about things like this.

"There are really only two people who run this club - myself and George Hicks, the secretary - if something's got to be done, we do it, whether it's the washing or care of the pitch."

Bloomfield is most insistent on the question of whether managers should be specially trained for the job.

"There is no need. Most managers are ex-professional footballers. You see, football is a world on its own and, after you've been through the grind of football you have an understanding of the game. You can pay £50,000 for a machine to turn out 10,000 parts a day and it will do so year in, year out. You can pay £50,000 for a player but he's an individual who needs individual handling. You can't just import a business efficiency manager and expect him to run a football club because he won't have a clue how it works."

The Orient ground is a rather seedy affair of concrete, barbed wire and overgrowing grass just off Hackney Marshes. Perhaps the new paint on the main stand proclaiming "Orient FC" reflects the ability of its manager to discard the tensions, inevitably increased with a struggling club which must have success. As he says: "When I first arrived, I was told that out of the

next nine games, seven were away. I couldn't allow that to worry me too much; even now you can't afford to look too far ahead to who you're going to play in three months' time."

VIC HALOM (Orient). (W.1.)

VIC ROUSE, former Welsh Under-23 and Crystal Palace goalkeeper, is returning to British football. And he is so keen to play in League Soccer again, he has offered to join any club on a two weeks trial without pay! Rouse, who has just finished playing for the American club Atlanta Chiefs, says: "What I'd really like is a job as a player-coach, but obviously I'd settle for a job as just a 'keeper."

Orient sign Crisp

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CRISP ON TRIAL

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Bobby wins his title— and joins Os



ORIENT Football Club signed England's fastest intermediate half miler on Monday—as a forward.

Iford schoolboy Bobby Moss (left) joined the Third Division club two days after superbly winning the coveted title at Alexandra Park.

"I've been training awfully hard for this race," said Bobby as he trooped off the track on Saturday. "I did hope to have a bit of a rest before I started training with the Os. But now I've won the title—I don't mind what I do."

Moss, who stayed on at school for an extra year to try and win a National title, forced his way to the front right from the start and followed Lancashire leader Dodwell's heels for the first lap and a half.

NO RECORD

Then, with 200 yards to go, he made the decisive break, relying on his lightning acceleration to power past Dodwell and break the tape with five yards to spare in 1 min 58.3 secs.

"I felt well in control all the time. I was just pacing it until the final run in," said Moss, who played for Os colts as an amateur last season. "Actually I think I could have got a faster time, but I wasn't going to risk the race for that. I just wanted to win."

JIMMY BLOOMFIELD, new Orient boss who steered the club from the relegation edge with 17 points from as many matches, thinks that his present playing staff is good enough and there will be no panic buying of new men.

He added: "You can take it from me that next season we will be playing even more attacking football and securing even better results."

Well, he's introduced a highly promising full-back in 17-year-old Denis Rofe who, though small of stature, is big of heart.

I watched Rofe in action against Tranmere in the last match of the season at Brisbane Road—and his terrier-like but timely tackling and intelligent placing of the ball make him a real prospect.

The season opened with all kinds of fears for Orient and these fears were justified. There was a small playing staff, Dick Graham, then manager, was anxious to obtain more men on loan and the club's financial problems seemed even worse than the difficulties faced by the players on the park. When Dick Graham decided he could take it no longer, Jimmy Bloomfield arrived at Brisbane Road from Plymouth. By the end of April, Orient's League position indicated they were close to avoiding the drop to Division Four. Orient had taken fourteen points from fourteen matches since Bloomfield's arrival and, at least, there was another close-season looming in which the directors had the opportunity of examining ways and means of steering the club from further crisis.



ORIENT FORWARD PHIL MANNING.

ORIENT League Appearances

67 68
Ackerman, 1; Anderson, Tommy, 8; Archell, Graham, 3; Allen, Peter, 33; Bloomfield, Jimmy, 14; Bowtell, Steve, 1; Eadie, Doug, 2; Fry, Barry, 5; Goddard, Ray, 41; Halom, Vic, 39; Harper, Dave, 22; Holton, Cliff, 3; Howe, Bert, 40; Jones, Mick, 39; Key, John, 8; Mancini, Terry, 31; Massey, Roy, 42; Price, Terry, 3; Rofe, Dennis, 3; Simpson, Owen, 36; Slater, Malcolm, 35; Snedden, John, 11; Still, John, 1; Thomas, Eddie, 11; Taylor, Tommy, 16; Willis, Ron, 4; Wood, Brian, 35; Whitehouse, Brian, 11; Werge, Eddie, 8.

Substitutes

Anderson 1, Archell 1, Allen 1, Bloomfield 1, Rofe 1, Taylor 1.

Goalscorers

League: Massey 12, Halom 7, Allen 5, Simpson 4, Mancini 3, Whitehouse 3, Jones 2, Slater 2, Thomas 2, Wood 2, Rofe 1, Snedden 1, Opponents 2. FA CUP: Halom 3, Massey 1, Simpson 1.



"To heck with chasing about—I'm the old-fashioned-type winger who sticks to his position!"