

Mystery man signs today—hope Orient

AFTER A further week of negotiations Orient expect to complete the signing of a new forward today.

Terms have been agreed between the clubs and Orient officials are meeting the player concerned to finalise terms with him.

The name of the mystery man was a closely guarded secret at Brisbane Road yesterday but, inevitably, several names were tossed around.

Spurs' Welsh winger Cliff Jones and Peter Brabrook, of West Ham, were the ones mentioned most often and I even heard the name of Dave Mackay raised.

Manager Jim Bloomfield and Chairman Arthur Page were reticent on the subject and gave no clue to the player's identity. Said Mr. Page: "It would not be fair to name him at this stage but it is a big capture for us. We hope to iron out one or two snags with the player and complete the signing before the weekend."

The Brabrook rumour gained

impetus because of Bloomfield's great friendship with West Ham manager Ron Greenwood. Jimmy played at West Ham for 18 months and during this time great mutual respect developed between them.

Orient's professional staff have been training for two weeks in preparation for the new season, and all are raring to go.

The opening match of the season, on August 10, has special significance for Owen Simpson and Roy Massey. For Rotherham provide the opposition at Brisbane Road—and it was from the Yorkshire club that they joined O's last September.

But there will be a few familiar faces in the Rotherham side. For dynamic manager Tommy Docherty tore the side apart and built almost a new one in a bid to regain Second Division status at the first attempt.

Another strange twist of fate

brings Orient and former manager Dick Graham face to face again early in the new season.

Graham is now manager at Colchester United—and Orient visit them on August 24 for the opening match of their London Mid-Week League programme.

In the Football League Cup, Orient are away to Gillingham on August 14—a game they will view with mixed feelings.

The Kent team ended O's interest in the competition with a win at Leyton in the same round last year. They rubbed it in by inflicting on Orient their heaviest home defeat of the season—4—0—in May.

However, it was not completely one-sided, as Orient gained their first away League win of the season at Gillingham the day after Bloomfield took control.

Four days after that League Cup tie, Orient return to Gillingham for a Third Division match.

Orient kick-off at home

SIX of Os opening nine fixtures next season will be at home.

Aug. 10	ROTHERHAM Utd.
" 14	LEAGUE CUP Round 1
" 17	Gillingham
" 24	MANSFIELD T.
" 28	TRANMERE R.
" 30	Southport
Sept. 4	LEAGUE CUP Round 2
" 7	LUTON TOWN
" 14	Barnsley
" 16	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION
" 21	OLDHAM ATH.
" 25	LEAGUE CUP Round 3
" 28	Barrow
Oct. 5	Swindon Town
" 7	Tranmere Rovers
" 12	NORTHAMPTON
" 16	LEAGUE CUP Round 4
" 18	Stockport County
" 26	HARTLEPOOLS
" 30	LEAGUE CUP Round 5
Nov. 2	Shrewsbury Town
" 6	Reading
" 9	WATFORD
" 16	FOOTBALL ASS. CUP—Round 1
" 20	LEAGUE CUP Semi-Final
" 23	BRISTOL RVRS.
" 30	Plymouth Argyle
Dec. 4	LEAGUE CUP Semi-Final
" 7	FOOTBALL ASS. CUP—Round 2
" 14	Northampton Twn.
" 21	STOCKPORT Cnty.
" 26	SWINDON TWN.
" 28	Hartlepoons Utd.
1969	
Jan. 4	Crewe Alexandra (FA Cup 3)
" 11	SHREWSBURY T.
" 18	Watford
" 25	READING (FA Cup 4)
Feb. 1	WALSALL
" 8	Bristol Rovers (FA Cup 5)
" 15	PLYMOUTH ARG.
" 22	Bournemouth
Mar. 1	Rotherham Utd. (FA Cup 6)
" 3	CREWE ALEX.
" 8	GILLINGHAM
" 11	Walsall
" 15	Mansfield Town
" 17	BOURNEMOUTH
" 22	SOUTHPORT (FA Cup Semi-Fin.)
" 29	Luton Town
Apr. 5	BARROW
" 7	Brighton & Hove
" 8	TORQUAY UTD.
" 12	Oldham Athletic
" 16	Torquay United
" 19	BARNLSLEY
" 26	FA CUP FINAL

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Orient manager Jimmy Bloomfield gets the push . . . from team-mates Terry Mancini, Bert Howe, Mal Slater, Roy Massey and Brian Wood. Staff photographer Frank Haggis took this informal picture during yesterday's Press Day at Brisbane Road.