

## THE ORIENT

### I'm going to enjoy Division 3' says happy Brabrook

PETER BRABROOK wrapped up a pound of pork sausages in his Forest Gate shop this week and declared that life was "just great."

"In fact, it couldn't be better," said Peter. "I've got the best out of both worlds by moving to the Orient. I can still live in East London near my shops and I think I'm really going to enjoy my soccer in Division Three."

The former England winger moved from West Ham to Brisbane-road five weeks ago. On Saturday he made an immediate and dramatic debut for the Os—and found himself enjoying life in the lower league reaches after a career solely in the top bracket.

"Physically, the game is just as hard, and I found that you don't get so much space—assuming the Rotherham match was a pretty typical one," he reflected.

"The defenders rush at you as soon as you gain possession and they tackle like demons. But I think I'm going to be all right. I'm a quick mover and provided I don't get caught I think I'm going to be able to get away with a lot."

Brabrook said he was pleasantly surprised by the standard of football.

"There's a lot more thought going into it than I realised—the standard is quite high. My experience in the First Division is going to come in handy of course, and I'm really looking forward to this season," he added.

#### ENTHUSIASTIC

Brabrook turned down the chance of staying in the First Division with Sunderland and a move to Aston Villa before moving to Leyton.

"I just didn't want to leave this part of the world. My partner and I are hoping to open a third shop and it's important for a player to have some business interest for when his playing days are over," he explained. "Joining either of the other clubs would have meant a lot of travelling and I enjoy family life too much to be away from home for long."

Manager and former Upton Park club-mate Jimmy Bloomfield was just as enthusiastic.

"I think Peter is going to be a great asset," he said. "It's good to know he's happy with the club."



Orient fans were treated to a feast of goals in Saturday's six goal thriller. Halom (left) and Brabrook wheel away after scoring.

# IT'S GLORY, GLORY—UNTIL OS SLIP AT THE END



THE three talents of ex-Hammer Peter Brabrook — a crafty winger, deadly striker and sometimes a showman — went on public display at Brisbane-road for the first time on Saturday.

And how the crowd roared their approval. Brabrook got a hero's welcome. It was repeated almost every time he got his feet to the ball, and looks set to become the most popular purchase to be made by the Orient for a long time.

Despite the disappointment of seeing their 3-1 lead crushed in two terrible minutes near the end by Tommy Docherty's powerful and disciplined squad, most of the Orient boys managed to put on a cheerful face when it was all over.



Vic Halom (left) blasts Orient's first goal — despite the close attendance of three Rotherham defenders on Saturday.



Bloomfield summed up their feelings by saying: "It was a tough fixture and we managed to keep on top for a great deal of the time. A couple more of our shots should have gone in then we would have had it wrapped up."

And real praise from Bloomfield's old pal and former colleague, Docherty: "We realised the third division would be tough, but after playing Orient I can see it is going to be a lot tougher."

Orient ... 3, Rotherham ... 3 by Ken Chandler

True enough Orient had a good game — but they still have a long way to go before talk of promotion or even keeping out of relegation danger for certain will mean much.

Just how much they have improved since last season won't become clear for a few weeks yet. On Saturday they seemed faster and more fluid in attack and had more strength in mid-field. But so they should after a long holiday and I can't help wondering if they can keep it up throughout the season.

#### Dangerous

But on the brighter side Brabrook's cheeky challenge on the wing is going to be the main headache for Orient's opponents. And on the other side Slater often looked dangerous as he carved through the Rotherham defence.

In goal young Steven Bowtell confirmed for everyone just what a first rate keeper he will become with a little more first team experience. With regulars Terry Man-

ning, Roy Massey and towering 16-year-old Tommy Taylor Orient certainly have the potential to provide some comfort for the directors — and the fans.

#### Blasted

It was Vic Halom who put Orient level in the 21st minute when he scored from Massey after a fine build up by Brabrook. Minutes before Rotherham had gone into the lead through their forward Downs.

Mick Jones blasted in number two from a Bloomfield free kick on the penalty box (62nd minute) and then Brabrook kicked into an open net after Halom had beaten keeper Hill (74).

Three-one up, then disaster. Bert Howe appeared to hold on to danger man Leggatt's shirt and Botal had no chance to stop the penalty.

Leggatt put the north-erners on equal terms with a fantastic corner by Bently which curved goalwards ten minutes from time.

BRABROOK scoring Orient's third goal on Saturday.

Biggest crowd of the year