

# BRABROOK SIGNS FOR ORIENT

THE signing of Peter Brabrook from West Ham on Saturday has temporarily ended Orient's search for an experienced forward and has greatly improved their chances of success next season.

The 30-year-old outside-right signed for the O's for a fee believed to be about £10,000 and began training with the rest of the team this week.

Orient player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield knows all about Brabrook's ability. He was Brabrook's team-mate for a year and a half at Upton Park and it was then that he really began to appreciate his talent. But Bloomfield denies that the close relationship with Brabrook had anything to do with the transfer.

"I would buy my worst enemy if I thought he could benefit the club," said Bloomfield. "I signed Peter because he is a very good player and no other reason. I think he will be a tremendous asset to us."

Asked about the size of the fee, Bloomfield replied, "Well, West Ham have been very kind to us."

Bloomfield has made a shrewd signing in as much as a big name like Brabrook will undoubtedly boost the attendances. Brabrook, who played for England in the 1958 World Cup, has now been with three London clubs—Chelsea, West Ham and Orient. When he signed on Saturday he became the 10th player to be bought by Orient during the past 18 months.

## Attack policy

Bloomfield's policy of pinning his faith on attacking football paid handsome dividends towards the end of last season when Orient put on some extremely promising displays. Providing the O's don't suffer from an abnormal run of injuries—which has been the case for the past two years—there is no reason why they shouldn't be to the fore in the Third Division.

Chairman Arthur Page is one person who believes that open, attacking football is a platform for success and a formula which will bring the crowds flocking back to Brisbane-road.

"We are really looking forward to the new season," he said. "When Jimmy took



● Centre of the light-hearted interlude in our picture as Orient players relax in a training break are player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield (right) and outside-right Malcolm Slater. Sharing the joke are (left to right): Denis Rofe, Dave Harper, Tommy Taylor, John Key, Vic Halom, Owen Simpson (kneeling), Terry Mancini, Bert Howe, Peter Allen, Roy Massey, Mick Jones, Brian Wood, Ray Goddard. Picture by Archie McNeice. ★ (752)



● An Orient player now. That's Peter Brabrook (left) pictured in earnest conversation with player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield. ★ (784)

over the managership early this year the lads showed the fans what they were capable of. There weren't all that many points separating us from the top clubs. If we had had a good start it would have made all the difference.

"Our financial position has not worsened but we still need gates of about 8,000 or 9,000 to break even. If the team carry on where they left off last season this could be achieved."

Orient's playing personnel is practically the same with

the exception of Brabrook and Eddie Werge who went to Southern League club Bexley United on a free transfer recently. Werge formerly played for Charlton and Crystal Palace.

Orient have a friendly match at Romford tomorrow (Saturday). The following Saturday they play Bloomfield's old club Brentford at Griffin Park.

On Tuesday they meet near neighbours Leytonstone, last season's Amateur Cup winners, at the Granleigh-road ground, kick-off 7.30 p.m.