

In 1973 the government capped pay rises, which weren't keeping pace with inflation and in response the NUM imposed an overtime ban.

At the start of 1974 Prime Minister Ted Heath implemented a three day week and brought in other measures to conserve coal stocks, which affected all kinds of things, including the kick off time of our game with Orient (as they were known then).



Ted Heath

Off I went to the early start, only to find the price of entry was exorbitant. When I asked why at the turnstile I was told it was because there was a

Three-day week inevitable



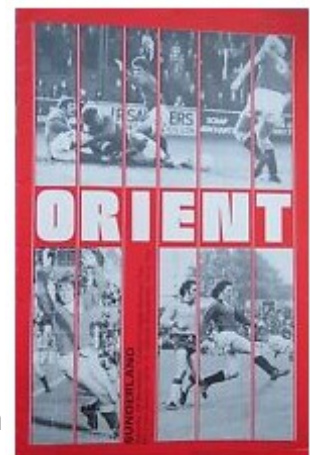
programme included in the admission price, only I couldn't have one as they had run out. Whether this was because of Grocer Ted or because the club simply hadn't realised how many were likely to turn up I don't know, but I had no alternative but to pay.

To add insult to injury, we lost a game that was so boring I can't remember a single thing about it.

For some reason Spurs were kicking off at the normal time and after our game I scuttled over there and got in for the last half hour, with the result that my abiding memories of a Sunderland fixture are of being bilked at the turnstile and Martin Chivers running down the wing against another team.

Orient, who reverted to Leyton Orient a few years later, have suffered a number of financial crises during their existence and went through a torrid time a few years ago.

I don't actively wish them ill but I have no sympathy for them – none whatsoever, whenever they find themselves in financial difficulties because of what they did in January 1974.



Someone, somewhere, got one!