



"Save Orient" money mounts up in a blue plastic bucket passed round at yesterday's crisis meeting.

CRISIS club Leyton Orient made more at the "gate" yesterday than they do from an average League game.

When the takings from their "Save Orient" meeting in the club's main stand had been totted up, £11,000 had been donated towards the £20,000 needed to keep Orient in League football.

Two telephone calls to director Arthur Page pro-

duced the promise of another £500.

More than 1,000 people rated the club's survival important enough to ignore the bitter cold and show there is still a sentimental side to Soccer.

A lot was said. Many things were suggested. But it was the call for cash that really counted.

From a self-confessed Arsenal supporter came £100. Immediately, a man

stood up and said: "I'm from Southampton. I'll give £100."

Two people who "didn't want to see Orient die" gave £50 each.

Emptied

Then officials passed round a blue plastic bucket.

Eight small boys who follow the Orient home and away emptied their

pockets and put in £8—all they had.

Paul Went, the teenage star Orient could sell for £20,000 to ease their worries, was among the players who went round with collection boxes.

From a middle-aged woman—£10. From an old-age pensioner—10s. The pounds, shillings and pence rolled in.

Perhaps it was best summed up by Arthur

A bucket of money to bale out Orient!



Page, the director spearheading the drive to "save the club I have supported since I was seven years old."

Even the small boys dug deep into their pockets to save Orient. A young fan waves a collection of £1 and ten-shilling notes. Eight of them, who follow Orient, home and away, forked up an average of £1 a head!

He had opened the meeting by saying: "I'm sure you want to wake up next Saturday morning and find there is still an Orient football club."

What happens if Orient don't get their £30,000? Said Page afterwards: "It just isn't possible to say."

But the future of the club that is £100,000 in debt could be a lot clearer after the annual meeting of shareholders next Thursday.

Story—HARRY MILLER: Pictures—GEORGE GREENWELL