

THEY PASSED ROUND A BLUE PLASTIC BUCKET AT LEYTON ORIENT YESTERDAY, COLLECTED £1,000 AND THIS PROMISE FROM ARTHUR PAGE . . .

WE WILL WIN



Arthur Page, chairman-elect, telling the facts at yesterday's meeting

Story of the fight to save a Soccer club
By NORMAN GILLER
Pictures by ROBERT STIGGINS

CRISIS-CRIPPLED
Leyton Orient were given an extension of life yesterday — by their supporters.
A thousand fans crowded into the stand at Leyton Stadium to pledge their support to a Save-Our-Club campaign.

They chipped in cash as well as comment after director Arthur Page had told them that Orient was in danger of dying. Page has set a rescue target of £30,000. Pennies and pounds came flooding in as players and officials moved among the fans with collecting boxes.



"WE need money" is the Orient cry and here a young supporter responds with a donation as the bucket (below) is passed round



Whip-round

A blue, plastic bucket, property of the Orient trainer—it usually houses the sponge—was passed around.

It was soon loaded with coins, cheques, and pound notes.

The count at the end of the collection was just over £1,000—as much as Orient get from an average Third Division attendance.

There were half-crowns from housewives, who took time off from cooking their Sunday joints to support the meeting.

Little boys tossed in six-pences. A group of 10 teenagers who follow Orient all over the country had their own whip-round to boost the takings by another £3.

There were two gifts of £100—one from an Arsenal fan who "feels sorry for the O's" and another from a supporter in Southampton.

Still short

The crowd cheered when it was announced that a schoolboy supporter, lying in hospital with spinal disease, had sent the club a ten-hilling note.

Two "friends of Orient" telephoned to promise donations of £200 each.

Director Page, who is likely to take over as chairman at the club's annual meeting on Thursday, said later: "We are still, of course, a long way short of our target."

"But the way these supporters have rallied round gives us immense hope of a bright future for Orient."

"I am confident we can win the fight. But there is a long, hard road ahead."

Manager Dick Graham, choked with emotion, said: "I have been in football for 30 years. It can be a tough and cruel world."

"But today I found out that there are plenty of people who really care."

Warm-hearted

"These supporters have really thrilled me. I have never seen anything so warm-hearted and spontaneous."

Orient are £100,000 in the red. Gates are below 5,000—half the figure Orient need to break even.

It was a cold wind that blew through the Leyton stand yesterday.

But it was warmed with the glow of good will from fans who refuse to let Leyton Orient die.

He says he is becoming increasingly aware of the fact people have in Counties League and that there are two seasons is not far short

KEEPING FAITH