



ROAR!

Season 87/8 - Issue 2

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
LEE VALLEY LIONS SUPPORTERS CLUB



BRING ON THE TIGERS !!!

Kei Land and Tim Salmon "Czeched" out by Bob Hitura and Jaro Lycka. Lions face the Telford Tigers on January 10th, the first home game of 1988.

STRAIGHT FROM THE LION'S MOUTH

For all your support over the past eight weeks, I'd like to thank all supporters, and just a few words to explain what has been happening. As you all know Dave Hardie hasn't been playing and basically this has been because he has a knee injury which is almost impossible to heal without maybe six weeks rest. Now Dave bravely came back and played two or three games for us, but the knee was not responding very well to pressure and then he was hit in a game at Richmond from behind which put him out of action for a further four weeks at least. In the meantime, myself and Terry Locks have been looking, and scouring the country to see if we can find a replacement import. In this country, none of the imports were available when we needed them, and we even contacted some who said they would get in contact but did not. We tried after last week's match against Cardiff to contact Finland and spoke to Vesa Pennanen who said he would be sending us a player that very week. We were very encouraged as this player had got 42 national team appearances and everybody got very excited and we got the fare booked, and he was due to come. On the Thursday that came to pass, the import had hold-up times and didn't come.

Now we contacted Vesa again this Sunday and he has promised that he will look into sending us another player for us to see and play in the final two games in the run-up to Christmas. In the meantime I must explain that Doug McEwen who some of you may not have thought has reached his full potential has been playing since the Cleveland match in our rink with a plaster cast on his wrist which has marred his playing performance, although as we've been seeing lately, our boy McEwen is getting better, slowly. Hopefully the cast comes off this week. Again, if Dougie doesn't meet his full potential when he's fit, we are pledged to you the supporters, and the team, and will have to be looking for another import.

I think all supporters will join me in saying that we are very satisfied with the performance of Jaro Lycka who is a stalwart in defence and also can turn on some brilliant magic sometimes to put goals away, a definite two-way player, and in my opinion worth every penny that he's paid.

On the British front, we have tried to secure players from all over Britain, with generous offers from some of you of sponsorship. However it is very hard to persuade British players to come from teams that are moderately successful to perform with a team which is obviously having a very bad patch. It's the old chicken and egg situation. So therefore the lure of money is not as great as the lure of success.

We feel that if we can get a little bit of success back into our team then I'm sure that British players will start to join us, hopefully before the final deadline date. In all fairness, we all know by now that we cannot win the league unless serious things happen to the top teams. However we must put up a creditable performance for this season, and I as the manager of Lee Valley Lions, am dedicated to the fact that we will do our very best to provide a better team, and I also pledge that our team will give you the best that they can do. I would like to state that with

the players that we have had at our command and with the willing attitude in the dressing room, that we have in fact had some very hard-working performances. Therefore I'm not knocking the team that we have at the moment but saying that they are a little understrength playing eleven players in a game, two of which are juniors, which is difficult for any team.

Thankyou for your support and I hope that you will continue to support the team and its efforts over 1987/88.

Mike Smith,
Manager, Lee Valley Lions

DID YOU KNOW ???

In 1979 Hartford Whalers' top points scorer was the legendary Gordie Howe, aged 50!

All Tommi Kiiski's sticks are hand-made, and printed with his name by his team's sponsors Torspo.

Broken stick :- a minor penalty to a player who continues to play with a broken stick. Only a goal-tender may continue to play with a broken stick.

Lions, we believe, are the first Heineken League team to play two imports from two different European countries... tell us if you know otherwise!

ROAR! The Lee Valley Lions Supporters Club Magazine

If you can help us with ideas or write an article yourself, then contact Peter Cook at a Lions game or on 0992 717511.

ROAR! Editor: Peter Cook
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The next issue of ROAR! should be out at the end of January - if Peter writes it in time !!!

SHOT FROM THE POINT

By the time you read this you will have seen the playing talents of new import Tommi Kiiski. We hope he settles in well and we look forward to lots of goals from the "Flying Finn". Gradually as promised last month the Supporters Club table is filling up with "goodies", thanks mainly to your help with buying raffle and 50/50 tickets. On average the prize on the 50/50 is between £30 and £35, well worth it for 25p a ticket, so keep buying and see the benefits.

On the table we have the 'baseball' caps, the new Lions/Whalers badges, and also the sweatshirts, an ideal gift. There's a large range of player photos and action shots, too. The more we progress the more that will be available.

A lot of people have said "well where does all this money go, that we raise in raffles etc." Well after attending a Supporters Club meeting I found out. Not only does it buy hockey merchandise, which in the long run will raise more money, it goes towards some player expenses and the sponsorship of the Lions, i.e Tari Suwari is sponsored by the LSC and the "new boy" from Cleveland, Mark Smith, is also receiving some help. Any merchandise in contact with the Whalers is bought through this, printing of 50/50 tickets, cases of beer for man of the match awards, and also an allowance is made for administration, i.e phone calls to away rinks arranging seats for away fans, calls to the coach company etc.

I think you will agree it's money well spent in giving you the things that you want to see. Keep supporting and enjoy yourself, it's only a game!



WITH THE WHALERS

As promised, each month we will have a piece on our Connecticut counterparts. Last month it was on the Booster Club, this month we focus on the logo.

The Whalers logo came about six years ago, through the efforts of Bill Barnes, Whalers Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations, and Peter Good, a successful commercial designer in the area.

"We wanted to use the 'W' of course", Barnes explained, "which was part of our previous two logos, and to develop the Whale's tail, which is the strongest part of the animal. Bringing those two elements together formed a third, the 'H' for Hartford. By juggling these around for a while, that's what we came up with..."

"The use of the 'W' was important, because of its link to the past history of the franchise", Barnes said. "The tail stood for our nickname, which is the official animal of the state of Connecticut, and the tail is also the most identifiable part of the whale..."

"Many people don't recognise the third element immediately, but it's a very important dimension since it identifies the change from the New England Whaler to Hartford's team, the start of the NHL era of the franchise's history. Fans of the club in its World Hockey Association days will remember the team's previous logos - the 'W' with the harpoon through it, in the club's first year in Boston, and the caricature of the whale, with 'ers' trailing behind it..." But Barnes feels the present logo has the right appeal to all fans and works well to communicate the message of Whalers hockey. "I feel our logo is one of the most attractive in the league", he said, "and it will be ours for years to come."

CONNECTICUT COMMUNICATION

Here's the letter sent to Mike Cook by Jerry Carroon, the President of the Hartford Whalers Booster Club:-



Hartford Whalers Booster Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 273 • Hartford, Connecticut 06141

23 November 1987

Dear Mike:

Thank you again for the wonderful package from the Lee Valley Lions Supporters Club, and yourself. It was just like Christmas when we opened it up! Please accept our gratitude. We will run the Supporters membership application in the next issue of Whaler Watch and hope to get you some members here in the US.

Enclosed are the membership cards for your members who joined the Whaler Booster Club and some photos from a recent meeting. I have also sent you another box of goodies including the map and a couple of video tapes (VHS), of Whaler games. Some people have said that there may be a problem playing US tapes on European machines--I don't know what that might be, but you might want to check it out before trying the tapes. I also sent an audio tape of Brass Bonanza, the official tape of the Hartford Whaler theme song which we play at all of our games.

We will be sending the Whaler Watch and membership pins to you for distribution to the members who joined from the Supporters Club. As you can see by the enclosed clipping you even made the US press!

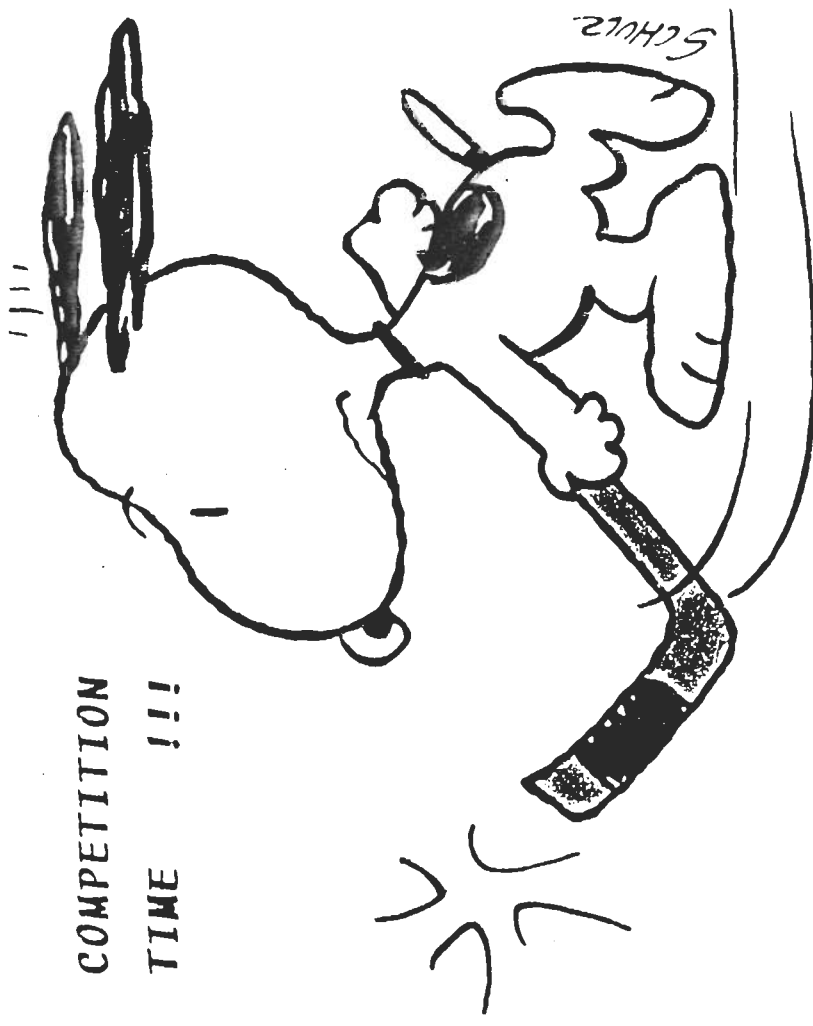
I'm afraid our team is not doing well at 6-9-4 and things need to get back on track fast. Please give my very best to Mike Smith and Lee Whaler; we all look forward to meeting them in the future. Diane Finch will be contacting you soon about a trip to Lee Valley from Hartford.

Thanks again, Mike, for everything and we will be looking forward to hearing from all of you again soon--Good Luck to the Lions!

Cordially,

Jerry Carroon
President HWBC

**COMPETITION
TIME !!!**



Unfortunately no-one won last month's competition as no-one entered it, this month we have the same prize again; a ticket to a home game. (Perhaps that's putting you off?) I will collect any answers handed to me in person or through the post. The Question this month is...

* WHICH PLAYERS WORE SHIRT NO\$ 10, 27 & 82, 2 YEARS AGO ?
All answers please no later than January 15th. Let's have some more replies.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY ...

TOMMI KIISKI made the headlines the moment he set foot in this country... and then made more!

Flying Finn to lift sad Lions?

LEE VALLEY Lions have signed two new forwards, who are both expected to make their debut in Sunday's home match with Swindon Wildcats.

Tommy Kiski, a forward with Finnish Premier division TPS Turku was expected to fly in to London yesterday (Wednesday). Lions have also swooped for Cleveland's Mark Smith.

Lions contacted former idol Vesa Pennanen in Finland at the weekend asking for his help in finding a new player after their disastrous 8-3 home defeat against Richmond Flyers.

It was Flyers' first win of the season and the first time the Richmond side had beaten Lions in 14 meetings earlier in the 2 at Richmond earlier in the season, their only Heineken League win to date.

Kiski will replace injured Canadian import Dave Hardie, who was released earlier this week.

Superior team work and outstanding goal tending by Canadian Lloyd Clifford were the keys to Flyers' victory.

Lions scorers: McEwen 2 + 0. Lycka 1 + 2.

Flyers scorers: Tove 4 + 1. Brain 2 + 2. Gage and Keen 1 + 1. Young and Clifford 0 + 1. Lions meet Swindon at Lea Valley on Sunday (5.30).

What a start for the super Finn

A LEE Valley Lions team with renewed confidence gave their long-suffering fans an early Christmas present on Sunday as the revitalised Eastenders skated to an emphatic 12-5 victory over Swindon Wildcats.

Three major factors contributed to the Lions' new lease of life.

Doug McEwen had the cast removed from his wrist on Thursday, and two new forwards were signed.

Mark Smith, a player with Premier Division experience at Cleveland, moved to London with his job recently and was quickly snapped up by Lions management.

New face number two was Tommi Kiski, signed on a short-term contract from Finnish Premier League side TPS Turku.

Kiski's lively play won the supporters over almost immediately, and he didn't wait long to open his Lions' account, scoring after 8:55 to put his new team 2-1 up, Lycka's opener having been cancelled by a goal from Ken Kipp.

Lipsey tied the scores again but Jaro Lycka's goal on the power play gave Lions a 3-2 lead just six seconds from the interval.

With Kiski winning new admirers every second, McEwen had something to prove, and he began to show some of his old magic.

New boy Smith and Ali Roger combined to set him up for Lions' fourth, and he assisted Kiski's second while Lions were a man short.

Lycka scored his hat-trick on the power play and added a spectacular fourth to rare chants of "easy, easy" from the Lewton crowd.

Kiski stole the puck and broke away to set the Czech up in front of the net.

Lipsey managed to pull one back at 7-3, but the damage had been done.

Lions created havoc in the Wildcats' defence in the final period, running up five goals in as many minutes.

Charlie Mendl took his chance as Lions' power play proved fatal for the visitors, and within 30 seconds McEwen broke away to score number nine, having earlier taken a stick in his mouth and losing a fair amount of blood onto the ice.

Lee Valley's domination continued even while Swindon had the man advantage, McEwen and Kiski both completing their hat-tricks in the space of 55 seconds.

Ice hockey - Mike Grafton

The rout was completed 58 seconds later when Ben Acquah kept his cool and slotted the puck home, for the young defenceman's first Lions goal.

Wildcats punished a couple of defensive lapses to make the score more respectable. Ian Richards and Ken Kipp finally finding a way past the excellent Bob Mitura.

A thorough, all-round performance by Lions, making it extremely hard to pick the man-of-the-match.

It's a confident Lions squad that travel to Cardiff this Sunday, and to face the noisiest supporters in British ice hockey, if not the whole of sport in this country.

The prospect makes Kiski more enthusiastic He added: "I play better when the crowd is against me."

The next ice action at the Den is not until January 10, Telford visit Lea Bridge Road. Before then, Lions travel to Southampton and Swindon to begin the new year.

LIONS (3,4,5) 12 (Lycka 4 + 1; McEwen 3 + 3; Kiski 3 + 3; Mendl 1 + 1; Acquah 1

+ 0; Roderer & Whale 0 + 2; M. Smith 0 + 1)

WILD CATS (2,1,2) 5 (Kipp 2 + 0; Lipsey 2 + 0; Richards 1 + 1; Chamberlain, Leaver & Blakemore all 0 + 1)

THE NEXT LEAGUE DIVISION 1 SOUTH

	P	W	L	Pts
1 Telford	11	10	1	20
2 Melrose	11	9	2	19
3 Swindon	11	8	3	16
4 Cardiff	11	6	4	13
5 Southampton	11	6	5	12
6 LEE VALLEY	11	7	9	4
7 Swindon	10	1	9	2
8 Richmond	11	1	10	2

The under-13 Wizards completed a happy day for Lee Valley with a 15-0 blanking of Aldershot.

Gary Organ scored seven goals, Mike Strathman hit three, Simon Bond two and Sleigh, Thomason and Cole the other. Oscar Long made the shut-out.

The under-16 Sharks came back from 5-1 to tie a thrilling game 5-5 the previous week. Jon Beckett scored three, Steve Reid and Robby Bhatti one apiece.

Lions supporters wishing to travel to Cardiff on Sunday should contact Mike Cook on (0922 71751) or Roger Rosenfield on 981 1515

RECORDER - Ilford and Newham

If your local paper does not carry a regular Lions report, call them, speak to the Sports Editor and give them my name, and I'll see what I can do...

LET 'EM KNOW YOU'RE THERE !!!

GUARDIAN/GAZETTE - Waltham Forest, Redbridge & Loughton.