



# ROAR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LEE VALLEY LIONS SUPPORTERS CLUB ....

THE VIEWS IN THIS LETTER ARE THOSE OF THE EDITOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE CLUB AS A WHOLE..

Dear Members,

Well, here we are nearly at the end of yet another controversial, uncertain season for the Lions. The next edition of ROAR! will be a summing up of the season and will be sent to you - please, please, please can I have some contributions from you on any subject you would like or your views, ideas for next season, facilities at rinks around the country, what you hate or love about British Hockey etc. etc. Please send your views to Julie Cook, The Gate Lodge, Myddleton House, Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middx. EN2 9HG. or drop them in at the T-Stop.

I find myself thinking at the end of this season - how much longer can we go on like this? The odd win, euphoria for a week and then, back to normal humiliation at the hands of teams we used to humiliate, I for one feel that one of the big problems in hockey in this country at the moment is - you've guessed it - MONEY!

Yes, not enough of it to throw around to bait the more experienced players and more knowledgeable coaches and management, before hockey can even think about being money motivated on the ice here we have to think of crowds - how do we pull them in to make the much lacking large gates? I will probably not make many friends with this view but the only way to pull crowds in at any sporting function is to ENTERTAIN them and generally treat them well, whilst watching the game and when they join clubs associated with their chosen team and whilst travelling away - this does not happen in Ice Hockey here, supporters are treated as 'an added extra' not the necessity to keep the club going, going back to entertainment - there should be a new ruling for teams to have a complete first line of imported players, we would end up with a better standard of game to watch, British players in the squad would learn more and therefore up their own game, people would travel to rinks to see certain 'stars', gates and interest in the game would improve.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH BALLOT - FEBRUARY '91

OFFENCE .....

DEFENCE ..... (INCLUDES GOALIES)

MEMBERS NAME .....

THE COOK REPORT .....

Most people who went on the away trip to Trafford and Glasgow will agree with me, it was a most enjoyable weekend. We left the Lee Valley Ice Centre at 10.30 AM on Saturday morning with everybody in high spirits, especially the 'conga crew' who were confined to the back area of the coach, where they sang, shouted, drank and told rude jokes - the more refined supporter sits towards the front of the coach where they sleep, sip coffee, or tea and watch yuppy films on the video. We had been promised free entry in the Altrincham (Trafford) rink by British Engine our sponsors, but on arrival the rink manager said he knew nothing of this, so hence our first disagreement, after a short while this was sorted out and we filed into the rink, 'Solihull John' looking lovely in his long ginger wig, Lions team shirt, Bermuda shorts and trainers - a complete delight to the eyes of all. We made our usual horrendous noise during the game and Peter Tingey had a good go at deafening most people with his large bell and hammer. It reminded me of quasimodo (don't think that's the right spelling), all he needed to do was to shout "The bells, the bells!!". The game was refereed by the usual 'three blind mice' the head one being Steve Highway, he eventually lost complete control of the game and by giving a stupid decision a large fight broke out. This, with the aggravation of someone in the crowd blowing a whistle really stirred things up. Big Al went bright red and hurled abuse at the ref. some of the words I had not even heard in my shell like ears! Andrew Spurling went one further and hurled himself at the ref along with abuse, this got him ejected from the rink as the referee would not start the game until he had gone. By this time the fans had had enough and to finish the night off the team lost again, so, all disgruntled we shuffled back on the coach. We got back to the hotel and after a few drinks all was forgotten. This was Steve Jones's birthday and he was out to drink Trafford dry! & he very nearly did, we went to dinner and Steve could taste his but not see it as his eyes ~~were~~ were trying to look in four different directions at once - poor old Eve, does she suffer from this Welsh portable brewery! Big Al had his usual five course meal, devouring it like a half-starved buffalo Marie ate enough Salad to get a part in Watership Down, I'm sure when we left the restaurant she hopped! We then retired to the Blue Bar where we spent a pleasant couple of hours watching the wigs slip off of the heads of the Rotary Club members that were dancing in the function room. Keith Berry was highly delighted when I pointed out that one had jumped from it's owner's head, squeaked and run off into the corner. I also think that Will Freeman and Tony Hinkly were a hit with the ladies there, with Will muttering something about ostriches (!) Sunday morning - breakfast then onto the coach for our trip to Scotland, we got as far as Lockerbie and broke down, but the drivers soon got assistance and within half an hour we were on our way again. The scenery was beautiful, most of the snow had gone off of the mountains but some on the caps. It was a very pleasant ride into Glasgow. The game was very uneventful with the Lions handing it to the opposition on a plate again - this is most annoying when you know that they were capable of beating the Saints, so no points out of this weekend. On the way back to London the lads at the back settled down to some serious swilling and Steve was good enough to help them out. We arrived back at the Ice Centre at 4.00 am Monday morning, some might say was it worth it with the team losing both games - I will say yes, we all had a good laugh, we meet other fans at other rinks, we see some of the country and most of all, the companionship is great. That is why I would try to urge all fans to go on the away trips, come with us, see Britain and make friends. If there's a next season, let's fill them coaches, the more of you - the cheaper it is!

All the best,  
MIKE COOK - CHAIRMAN L.V.L.S.C.

LIONS FACTS !!!!!

Robert Mills son of Lions Manager Terry Mills dressed to go on the trip to Trafford/Glasgow 'to make up the numbers'.

Ronnie Evans-Harvey is still not playing due to being suspended on the results of a drug test reports have it that he took Asprin for a cold beforehand it is not known when he can resume his duties.

PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH!

Makes me laugh when I see letters in I.H.N.R. from Bracknell supporters and the like complaining about swearing and bad behaviour from visiting supporters, judging by the last time we played Bracknell at Lee Valley, they should get their own house in order first!

AMAZING!

A truly incredible thing has happened! I agree with Terry Mills about the bitchiness in a recent Romford programme about our club - totally uncalled for - I'm never bitchy about anybody (!)

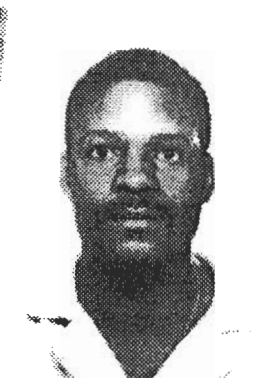
MICROWAVE JETS!

Or the case of the ~~disappearing cafe~~ - you know the one that used to be at Slough - it has been replaced with MACHINES dispensing cardboard burgers and chips backed up by microwaves which you put the offerings straight into - YUK thought I was eating the box at one point - which rink do you think offers the best catering and bar facilities, personally I think Lee Valley rates as one of the best, also Trafford - great cup of tea!

LEE VALLEY LIONS PLAYERS OF THE MONTH - JANUARY '91

OFFENCE - EDDIE JOSEPH #2

DEFENCE - RANDY OSWALD #6 (IMPORT)



No: 2  
**EDDIE JOSEPH**  
Born: 08.05.61 Tottenham  
Ht: 6'2 Wt: 182 lbs  
Previous Clubs:  
Joined LV when Club  
originally formed.



No: 6  
**RANDY OSWALD**  
Born: 05. 01. 66  
Ht: 6'2 Wt: 195 lbs  
Played since 4 years old  
Previous Clubs:  
Streatham Redskins, Slough  
Jets Michigan Tech Huskies

## YOUTH HOCKEY AT LEE VALLEY

In comparing Ice Hockey in England and North America I have found few similarities and find it difficult to compare the two. I am by no means down playing English Hockey, but strategically they go off in completely different tangents. When however discussing youth development programs you must go about them the same. This means learning the basics or as the old cliché goes, if I may, "You must learn how to walk before you can run!"

Since the departure of Wayne Evers in mid December I have been involved in coaching at all levels at Lee Valley. In comparing the youth development programme here and at home I would be lying if I said they were anything close to comparable. First and most important has been the lack of qualified coaches teaching our youth, enthusiastic parents and volunteers are very much needed and appreciated but when it comes to the ice sessions and one-on-one coaching, certain qualifications are a must.

In discussing the youth programme with parents and managers from the various teams they have also expressed their concern in this area to me.

Secondly and almost as important is the amount of time these young players are on per week. In order for players to develop at a rapid pace more than one training session per week is needed. In looking at the youth in the Lee Valley organisation there are some very promising players, looking at the group as a whole I can see the kids have tried to run before they can walk and this has definitely hurt their development. Translated this means they have failed to get the basics down such as skating, stick handling and shooting and gone right into playing games. I am a firm believer that skating is the most important skill in the game, and, if you can skate the rest will fall into place. Although I am not big on figure skating I must admit a year or two of figure skating can only be beneficial and I think it helped me out a great deal. Learning the basics can be tedious and seem like hard work at times, but once the foundations for these have been laid they are always there, but once again must be continuously worked on even at the professional level.

In closing I will stray from youth hockey and thank you, our supporters, for sticking by us through this season, which at times has been difficult for all involved. Loyal supporters are those who are there in the good times but more importantly there in the not so good times when you need them the most.

THANKS,

GREG CYR #4

Many thanks for compiling the above article Greg.

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT .....

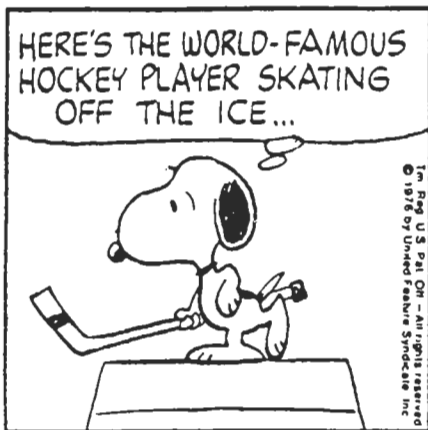
Winning is not a sometime thing - it's an 'all-the-time' thing, you don't win once in a while, you don't do things right once in a while, you do them right all the time, Winning is a habit, unfortunately so is losing. There is no room for second place - there is only one place in any game and that is first place, there are lower leagues, but it is a game for losers played by losers - if you are going to play - play to win. Every time a hockey player goes onto the ice to ply his trade he's got to play from the ice up - from the soles of his feet right up to his head, every inch of him has to play. Some guys play with their heads - that's O.K. - you've got to be smart to be no.1 in any business, but more important, you've got to play with your heart - with every fibre of your body. If you're lucky enough to find a guy with a lot of head and a lot of heart, he's never going to come off the ice second.

Running a hockey team is no different from running any other kind of organisation - an army, a political party, a business, the principles are the same, the object is to win - beat the other guy, but I firmly believe that any man's finest hour - his greatest fulfilment to all he holds dear - is that the moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle - victorious!

MIKE COOK

UNTIL NEXT TIME,  
ENJOY THE GAME!

*Julie*





# OKANAGAN HOCKEY SCHOOL

We supporters know everything don't we? Have a go at the following sets of questions - they are also being answered by our imports, see if yours match up and send them to me.

## OFFENSIVE TEAM PLAY -- QUESTIONS

1. What should your team objective be when you have possession of the puck in your own zone?

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2. When in your own zone, why is it preferable to pass the puck instead of carrying it?

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3. When the puck carrier is the last man back, why should he not try to beat a checker?

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4. What options does the puck carrier have in his own zone?

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5. In the neutral zone, what is your team play objective?

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6. Why should the attacking players stay in motion in the neutral zone?

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7. When shooting the puck in from centre, why should you normally keep the puck away from the goalie?

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8. What is your team objective in the attacking zone?

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9. Why should the puck carrier head quickly deep into the zone?

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DEFENSIVE TEAM PLAY - QUESTIONS

1. When forechecking, what is your team objective?

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2. When a forechecker is applying pressure on the puck carrier, where should his teammates position themselves?

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3. Why is it riskier to try to stick check the puck as opposed to taking the body?

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4. When forechecking with two men in, why should the second checker hang back slightly?

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5. What is the key word when forechecking?

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6. In the neutral zone, if the wings are covered, where should the defensemen ~~position themselves?~~

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7. When the defensemen take the puck carrier out who should be in position to pick up a loose puck?

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8. Where should backcheckers position themselves with respect to their checks?

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9. What is your team objective in your defensive zone?

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10. In your defensive zone, where should one of your defensemen be at all times?

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11. How can a player prevent a give and go?

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Lethbridge  
Hurricanes

