

Fired-up Lions take bite out of the Cats



ICE HOCKEY

**Swindon ENL Wildcats 2
Lee Valley Lions 2**
(ENL S2)

LEE Valley Lions were missing five players for their first encounter against Swindon ENL Wildcats but the team was able to prove once again that a short bench does not dampen their enthusiasm or determination.

Both teams came out blazing and seemed fairly evenly matched, although the stalemate wasn't broken until 15:29 when Swindon's Andrew Coakley scored on a powerplay.

The Lions had many opportunities to score in the period but were thwarted each time by the ever-agile Jamie Thompson in the Wildcats' net who put a stop to break-aways by Ashley Curtin and Stas Prokofiev.

Romanas Fedotovas also showed skill in taking the puck from one end of the ice to the other, skating behind the goal and attempting to wrap the puck around into the goal mouth but his effort was also unsuccessful.

The second period was as action-packed, fast and frantic as the first but although

the Lions continued to unload the puck from the Swindon side with apparent ease no goals were scored by either side.

As Lee Valley continued their battle to get on the scoresheet, but it was the Wildcats who scored first when Scott Gough fired home at 44:23.

Despite being 2-0 down the Lions weren't going to give up and their efforts eventually proved fruitful when Ashley Curtin scored at 47:06, assisted by Michael Jacobs and Fedotovas.

The pressure mounted as the minutes counted down to the end of the game and coach Sergei Smolenko called a time-out for his team at 58:08.

Tempers flared between Swindon's Ian Clark and the Lions' James Hatfull at 59:03, the result being a two-minute roughing penalty for Hatfull while Clark was ejected from the game.

With Lee Burden already sitting out two-minutes for hooking this left Lee Valley on a power play.

Prokofiev seized the moment and scored the equaliser with just 26 seconds left on the clock.

The Lions' next game is at home against Solent and Gosport Sharks on Saturday, face-off 5.30pm.

Stas Prokofiev, who netted the Lions second goal against Swindon (Photo: Jullanne Bonner)