

LIONS THRASHED

Hackney hockey club bulldozed by brilliant Basingstoke Buffalo

Lee Valley Lions	1
Basingstoke Buffalo	15

LIONS' recent solid performance against Bristol Pitbulls sadly wasn't repeated in this match against Basingstoke Buffalo who were far too strong for the Hackney club.

Lee Valley had travelled to Basingstoke in October to be soundly trounced 17-1, so the home leg was never going to be a walk in the park.

The Lions started well enough, but it took only four minutes for Simon Beere to put the Buffalo on the scoresheet.

Despite stopping a number of shots, Ruth Cattell in the Lee Valley net effectively stood no chance and by the ninth minute the Lions were already a shocking five goals down.

When Basingstoke's Mark Pitts received a two-minute sin-bin for hooking on 10 minutes, coaches Eddie Joseph and Ian Prince put Cattell out of her misery.

Replacing her between the pipes was new female netminder, the diminutive Robyn Maby.

Maby was given little time to settle in, Pitts redeeming his penalty with a goal at 12.14. A further two shots would work their way past Maby before the first period buzzer, leaving the Lions to limp back to the changing rooms with the score standing at 0-8.



Between the sticks: New singing Robyn Maby replaced Ruth Cattell for Lee Valley

Maby continued in goal for Lee Valley for the remainder of the game, letting in just five of the 26 shots fired at her during the second period.

The home team suffered, thanks to Phillip Carson and Joss Stone receiving 10-minute misconduct penalties, but at 37.53 Lions' fans finally had something to cheer about as Lee Stobie's goal prevented Buffalo netminder Ricky Young from maintaining a clean sheet.

Lee Valley headed into the final period with no chance of catching Basingstoke's 12-goal lead, but they did at least manage to contain the opposition to just two additional goals, the final score being 15-1 to the Buffalo.

Lee Valley Lions play Chelmsford Warriors away in their next match on Sunday, January 3, before returning home to face Invicta Mustangs on Saturday, January 9, with face-off at 4.30pm.