

Lions bow out at home with a whimper



Ruth Cattell faces one of 30 shots at the weekend

LEE Valley Lions played their final home game of the season last weekend, and finished with a whimper and not a roar.

It has been an extremely tough campaign for the

Lions, for whom Lea Valley Ice Rink is their den.

So the arrival in the home territory of high-flying Solent & Gosport Devils was always going to pose a tough test.

And so it proved in this match between two sides at opposite ends of the English National Ice Hockey League South Two table.

Solent proved too strong for a weakened Lions' side, who were without defence-man Ian Courtney and the injured Angela Taylor.

The absence of coach Ian Prince from rink-side was another blow.

In the first period Gosport demonstrated some slick stick-handling and accurate passing to score three goals.

The Lions failed to get a foothold in the contest, and the Devils dominated the next period and wrapped up

the win. Lee Stobie was sat in the sin-bin for hooking when Kristopher Abbott scored a powerplay goal on 23:17.

Another goal followed and, when Alexander Anderson was boxed for holding, the Devils still managed to score short-handed at 39:20.

The Lions conceded just the one score in the third and final period.

Ruth Cattell replaced Robyn Maby after 37 shots had peppered at the mouth of the net.

Cattell turned in a great display to repel another 30 blasts at the Lions goalmouth.

Only one made it

through into the net, on 45:09.

The result means the Lions stay rooted to second bottom in the table, on four points.

With two games left in the season, points seem to be offer during the trip to bottom place Streatham, next month.

The other remaining fixture is a trip to Cardiff, on March 20.

