

LIONS ROAR TO WIN

Lee Valley beat Slough to capture vital victory

Lee Valley Lions	5
Slough Hawks	4

LUCKY Lee Valley had just enough to beat second-bottom Slough Harrier Hawks at the weekend.

The Hawks were sitting one place below the Lions in the English National League South 2 and having had a poor start to the season, this was a match that the Lions simply had to win.

The home side was boosted by new signing Karim Kerbouche, as well as Glen Roper and David Dunnage from the under-18s' squad.

The visitors, on the other hand, had a distinctly short bench.

Despite this obvious disadvantage, the Slough side were not deterred from battling hard from start to finish.

Although Lee Valley scored only 25 seconds into the first period, the home team did not achieve the flying start they may have hoped for.

After Richard Hodge opened the scoring, the Hawks kept the Lions at bay but when they became short-handed, David Tyler pounced to score the second at 09:27.

Slough's Daniel Ross then returned the favour at 13:06 when Phillip Carson was sitting out two minutes for tripping, narrowing the score to 2-1.

The Lions extended their lead in the second period

by hammering three goals past Slough netminder Thomas Devey.

The first of the three was a classic slapshot, scored by Angela Taylor while the team was short-handed.

The following two goals were both scored on power-plays and came courtesy of youngster Dunnage and captain James Hatfull.

Slough may have been unnerved by Matthew Cryer receiving a match penalty for head-butting at 33:30 but were unlucky not to have kept the scoreline tight as two good shots pinged off the post guarded by Ruth Cattell in the Lions' net.

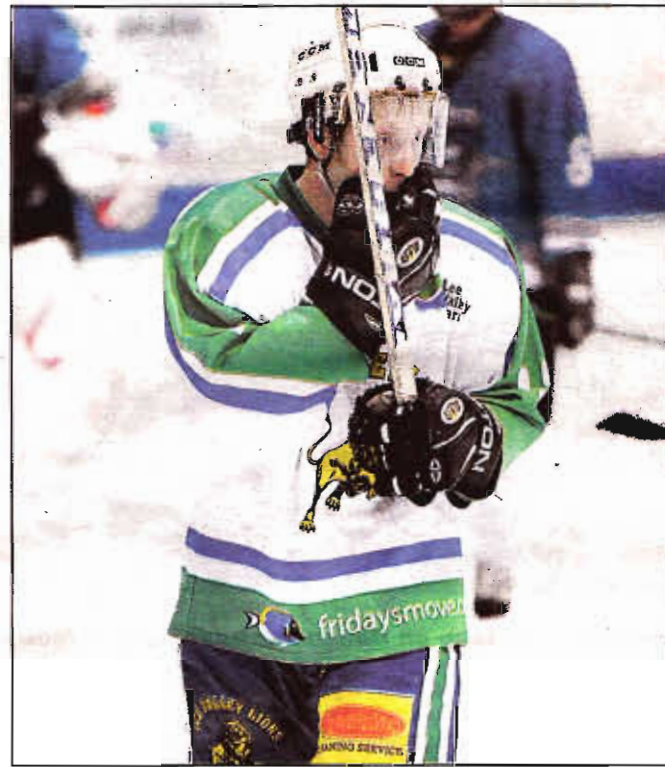
Lee Valley rested Cattell for the final period, her place between the pipes being taken by Robyn Maby.

The Lions seemed to think that the four-goal lead meant victory was already in the bag and their complacency was to come at a cost.

The Hawks turned the tables in dramatic style, running rings around the Lions and scoring three fine goals, the last of which really pushed the point home as it was scored by Calum Heath while his team was short-handed.

Lions' fans held their breath in the closing minutes of the match but fortunately no further goals were conceded and the final score was 5-4.

Lee Valley Lions' next home game is on Saturday, when they face Isle of Wight side, Wightlink Tigers. Face-off is at 4.30pm.



Victory at last: Goalscorer Richard Hodge (above) seems surprised by Lee Valley's second win of the season, while Angela Taylor (below) had a great game for the home side.

