LEE VALLEY CAN'T PREVENT A SCALPING IN FINAL GAME

DECEMBER's home clash between these two London sides had been unnerving for high-flying Streatham, as Lee Valley had come perilously close to seizing the points.

Lions' ranks were depleted that day, but players were plentiful on this occasion but the scoreline suggested otherwise.

Streatham's first goal came on a powerplay at 03:26 and was attributed to Craig Metcalf.

Lions' netminder, Glen Jackson, thought the puck had been secured when, in fact, it was free and succeeded in trickling over the line. Streatham were lucky again at 10:13 when a shot deflected and went into the net, giving Metcalf his second of the game.

Streatham Redskins 9, Lea Valley Lions 4

Joe Johnston then scored the first of his hat-trick goals for the Redskins just over 20 seconds later, the puck sneaking through Jackson's legs. Johnston followed this with another goal at 15:28, after a slip-up by Lions' defenceman Mark Swaine allowed him to gain possession in front of the net.

Just seconds later Scott Beeson had a breakaway opportunity against Streatham netminder Jon Silvester but his shot went wide and the period ended with the Lions four down to their London rivals.

The beginning of the second period saw Lee Valley sink further still as Johnston completed his hat-trick via a short-handed

mini breakaway 30 seconds in. The score further increased to 6-0 at 22:45 as a bouncing puck caught out netminder Jackson with the goal credited to Sam Mager.

Jackson was then rested for the remainder of the game, replaced by George Alley.

Finally, at 27:30, Stas Prokofiev and Andrzej Maslak combined nifty passes to Michael Jacobs who scored from a wide angle for the Lions.

Lee Valley stepped up the pressure with several shots that were deflected, before a goalmouth scramble secured the Lions' second goal. The goal was scored on the powerplay by James Hatfull with assists

going to Beeson and Prokofiev.

Less than 30 seconds later the score up was pulled back to 6-3 as Streatham's Mager succeeded in scoring an own goal that was credited to Ben Williams with assists going to Paul O'Neill and Richard Hodge.

Lee Valley had won the second period and Streatham were not going to allow a repetition in the third.

Metcalf scored his hat-trick at 43:41, assisted by Perry Richardson.

Prokofiev clawed one back for the Lions with a goal that was assisted by Jacobs and Swaine at 53:32, but the Redskins went on to score further goals at 56:07 and 59:12 to secure the victory.

