

# Lions engulfed by Cardiff's scorcher!

**LIONS' home game with the strong Cardiff Dragons outfit last season was a close-run affair, the Lea Valley side considering themselves unlucky not to take points off the South Wales club.**

This season the former Cardiff Devils are the Dragons and at present have no rink to call home, but they showed that they didn't lack for training as they cruised to victory in the opener of the new EIHL programme at Lea Valley Ice Centre.

Lions made the best possible start, scoring in a slick manoeuvre through Mark Saunders with good work by Scott Beeson at 07:58.

Both teams fell foul of the season's new, stricter officiating standards, although referee Dean Russell-Samways, himself a former player, took a helpful approach, explaining the new rules throughout.

Lions bore the brunt of the penalties throughout the first period, resulting in Cardiff equalising with a goal on 09:53, scored almost from the blue line by Cardiff's man of the match James Manson.

With a total of 34 penalties in the first period didn't

**Lea Valley  
Lions 1,  
Cardiff  
Dragons 2**

prevent the Welsh visitors going into overdrive and Lions' defence was helpless to stop them.

Dragons scored only three times from 40 shots on goal, an illustration why Lions' goal-minder Stefan Nubert was awarded man of the match.

The Lions failed to answer a further three goals from Cardiff making it 6-1 and they rounded off the scoring with a seventh timed at 52:15 to cap a highly disappointing start for their shell-shocked hosts.

Lions are next in action away at local rivals Haringey Greyhounds at Alexandra Palace, face-off is at 5-30pm.



**Action from Lea Valley Lions' heavy defeat by Cardiff Dragons on Saturday. Picture: Julianne Bonner.**