

Lions pick up first league point in over 11 seasons!

LIONS faced newcomers Swindon Wildcats with renewed optimism following the swift signings of Ben Williams, Andy Watt and Andrezej Maslak.

Maslak is a Pole who has represented his country at under 18 and 20 level and was with Streatham Redskins last season.

Maslak didn't take long to make an impression with a stylish unassisted goal putting Lions ahead in just three minutes. Swindon soon equalised through

Scott Gough just past the four minute mark.

Lee Valley restored their lead through another newcomer in Williams, who struck home the first goal of a hat-trick.

But again Swindon responded tying up the scores at 2-2 with a goal through Jamie Newton.

On 18 minutes, the Wildcats wrestled the lead for the first time – Robin Davison scoring – but Lions continued to more than match their opponents and Michael Jacobs began to take a

Lee Valley Lions 7, Swindon Wildcats 7

hand. He scored twice in just over five minutes, assists provided by Nicky Braithwaite, Rob Courtman and Maslak.

Swindon rolled their sleeves up and pulled back to a 6-5 lead with goals from Adam Andrews and Dave Lovejoy.

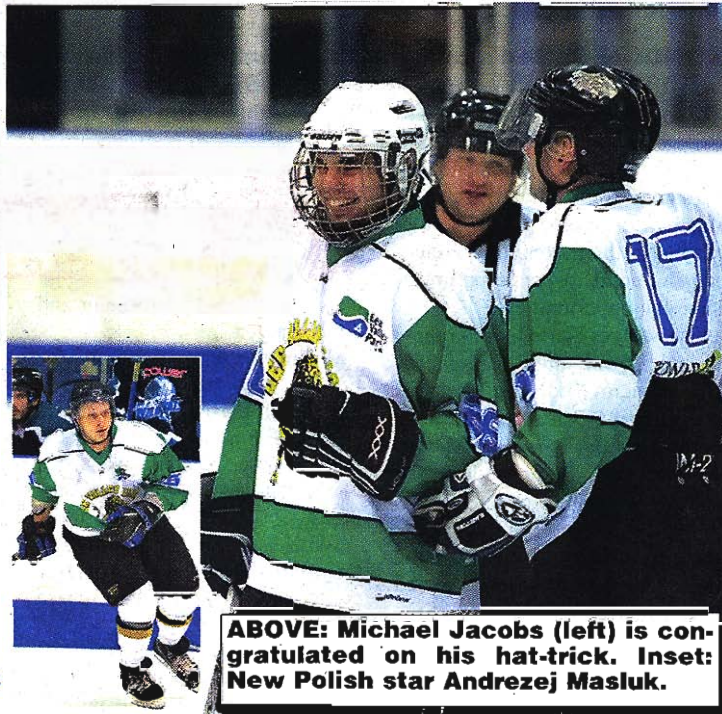
The last period had only just begun when Jacobs completed his Lions hat-trick with assists from Mark Saunders and James Hatfull.

Tension was rising as Lions realised their first league success was within their grasp, but this optimism was briefly shattered as Neil Rouse broke through to tie up matters once again with Swindon's seventh goal and give them the lead.

But Lions refused to be beaten and peristed with all-out attack. It achieved a positive result when Williams scored an unassisted goal for 7-7 to become the second home player to complete a hat-trick.

For Lions it was not only their first league point since the team re-formed last year, but the first since the original Lions beat Paisley Pirates on March 18, 1995!

Lions play Oxford on Sunday, with their next home game on Saturday week against Romford Raiders. Free tickets for the clash are available on the club's website. Log on to www.leevalleylions.co.uk for details.



ABOVE: Michael Jacobs (left) is congratulated on his hat-trick. Inset: New Polish star Andrezej Masluk.

DAVE IN ACTION AROUND THE COUNTRY CIRCUIT

IT's been a tough few weeks for Victoria Park & Tower Hamlets AC's Dave Shortridge as he's been in action all around the country.

