LIVELY LIONS REVERSE THE BUFFALO CHARGE

Basingstoke Buffalo 3
Lee Valley Lions 4

LIONS took ample revenge for a hefty 16-6 defeat against the same opposition only a month before when they won impressively in Hampshire on Sunday.

Being stuck in heavy traffic meant the Lee Valley side had to rush to get onto the ice, but this hurried start didn't seem to affect them.

Nevertheless, it was the home team who opened the scoring with a short-handed goal, Mark Pitts firing past Lions' net-minder George Alley.

The equaliser came just before 11 minutes had elapsed, Michael

Ice Hockey news

Jacobs levelling after nifty approach work by Michael Ranby and Stas Prokofiev.

It was Lions who scored next as well, on 17 minutes, Ranby finding the target and Andrew Holdaway earning his first point of the season with the assist.

The second period was as close as the first, but Basingstoke equalised with a delayed penalty by Daniel Lackey.

But on 35:30, there was jubilation amongst the Lions as they restored their lead, a shot from Scott Beeson finding its target.

In the final period, tension ran high as Lions sensed they were on the verge of a major upset. Basingstoke were lying third in the table, six places above Lions.

It appeared the Hants side were going to rob Lions of at least a point when Tom Pope made it 3-3.

But before the Buffalo could celebrate fully, Beeson had one last trick up his sleeve and scored his second of the night on 49:29.

A fine performance from the Lions, who are next in action at Lea Bridge Road on Saturday week, December 1, when new team Chelmsford Warriors visit (5-30pm).