

Improved Lions can't sidetrack Greyhounds

Lee Valley Lions 4, Haringey Greyhounds 7

LEE Valley Lions had played their local rivals three times already this season and lost the lot prior to this encounter. But the Haringey side knew that they were meeting a stronger Lions than on previous occasions, riding on a wave of good results recently.

Nevertheless, the Greyhounds were clearly untroubled by Lions' improved form and took a lead in 07:56, when Callum Mathison took advantage of what was the third powerplay from the visitors, the puck rebounding off Lions' goal-minder Stefan Nubert's pads into the back of the net.

Before the Lions had the chance of any response, the Greyhounds struck a second blow, Scott Cannam netting the first goal of what was to be a hat-trick.

But Lee Valley struck back and took advantage of Greyhounds' Nick Burton being sat out for two minutes for cross-checking, to score their first of the night, James Scott-Joseph setting up the opportunity for Richard Hodge to score and reduced the arrears. At 13:36, Lions equalised thanks to a powerful slapshot from Romanos Fedotovas, the assists going to Ben Williams and Andy Watt.

The first period, with the scores level, had been very satisfactory for the Lions, considering their opponents were riding high in the league.

But the second period proved fundamental to

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the match's ultimate outcome as Lions found themselves outscored by four goals to one.

Lee Valley's sole goal was a short-handed cracker at 32:11, scored by Rob Courtman, who was well assisted by Andrzej Maslak, in a fine example of textbook teamwork.

When the third period began with Lions trailing 6-3, netminder Nubert was benched in favour of back-up minder Glen Jackson,

The Lions were first to score in the period, when James Hatfull pounding a forceful snapshot past Greyhounds' net-minder David Wride, assists going to vice-captain Paul O'Neill and Maslak.

The narrowing scoreline caused Haringey to call a time-out, but it wasn't until 50:22 that the Greyhounds scored their final goal, Andy Johnstone combining with his brother Rob to complete the scoring.

There was still time for Haringey's Lee Mercer to board Scott-Joseph at 53:42 and following the ensuing punch-up, both



players were sent for early showers.

The game finished without further incident resulting in a fourth win for Greyhounds in the derby.

Lions are next at home is on Saturday week (Dec 9) against last season's league winners Invicta Dynamos.

That evening there will also be a charity Teddy Bear throwing competition to raise money for the Samaritan's Purse charity.

Those not bringing a soft toy will be able to buy one for 50p.

LIONS' man-of-the-match Rob Courtman pictured in action scoring the Lee Valley side's third goal of the local derby defeat by Haringey Greyhounds at the Ice Centre on Sunday evening.

Picture: Julianne Bonner

