Lions denied in the last seconds in Slough clash

A MIXED weekend for Lee Valley Lions in their double-header at home to Romford Spitfires on Saturday evening and away to Slough Jets the following day.

Lions won against Romford, but were just edged out by the odd goal in nine at Slough.

Lee Valley Lions 6, Romford Spitfires 3

OPPONENTS Romford had recently drawn with Basingstoke Buffalos the side that had given Lions a 16-6 mauling at home, so the Lee Valley side knew they were in for a tough game.

They were without James Hatfull and Joe Berry, both serving one match bans.

Romford opened the scoring early when net-minder George Alley couldn't hold onto a fierce shot from Romford's Perry Mills.

Lions equalised through a power play through Stas Prokofiev and the score stayed 1-1 until the first break.

Almost from the restart, Lions scored, JJ McGrath hustling the puck into the net with the Romford net-minder out of position.

A spate of penalties were dished out and although Romford had a player ejected for fighting, Michael Ranby was called for interference and Spitfires scored on the power play.

Lions slowly began to get the upper and and Ranby forced his way through to lay on a chance for McGrath to fire home as the second break came with Lions one up.

The final session was the most telling of the match. Lee Valley scored three more goals, Romanas Fedotovas hit a rocket that flew past the Romford minder, Prokofiev scored his second soon after and Ranby added the third.

There should have been more. Paul O'Neill was handed a golden opportunity finding himself alone with the net gaping, but the puck went on its rim and and bobbled and he hit it just wide.

ICE HOCKEY SPECIAL

Slough Jets 5,
Lee Valley Lions 4

LIONS were denied their first four point weekend of the season, when they were beaten four seconds from the buzzer at Slough on Sunday, the home side's Formisano shooting past net-minder George Alley to win by the odd goal in nine.

The East Londoners were in control of the first period of the match and seemed certain to score before they finally did when Michael Ranby netted, assisted by Scott Beeson.

Lions kept their cool despite some intimidatory tactics by the home side and James Hatfull had a goalbound effort deflected. Beeson had better luck scoring the second, thanks to assistance from JJ McGrath and Ranby.

The second period saw Slough come back and with Lions lacking Romanas Fedotovas serving two minutes for checking, reduced the arrears.

Alley saved a Barry Spours penalty, refusing to be out-manoeuvred and Lions headed into the final period still ahead.

But a shot from ex-Lion Kevin Murphy went straight through Alley's legs to equalise and after having one disallowed, Slough scored again when Chris Rost scored an unassisted powerplay goal. A fourth followed almost immediately

Lions called a time out, desperate to make an impact in the little time left. They managed this when Michael Jacobs scored and then Beeson netted the equaliser.

But just when they were ready to celebrate their draw, Formisano struck with four seconds remaining.