

Lee Valley Lions shoot down the Spitfires



Lee Valley Lions 7
Romford Spitfires 1
(ENIHL South League)

NERVES were frayed as the Lee Valley Lions faced local rivals Romford Spitfires, but the hosts swept to a second straight win.

At the Spitfires' helm was last season's Lions manager, Pete Osborne, and their squad contained a number of ex-Valley players including new signing Jon Beckett, who played for the original Lions.

The style of play soon indicated that Lee Valley would dominate the game.

Over-enthusiastic refereeing meant that no fewer than six penalties had already been called by the time Paul O'Neill scored the Lions' first goal of the game on the powerplay at 06:40, the assists going to James Hatfull and Mark Saunders.

Romford had regular opportunities on the puck but possession was easily regained by the home team.

Andrzej Maslak demonstrated enviable agility as scored past Ben Clements from a seemingly impossible angle at 12:13.

The second period opened to a flurry of penalties, most-

ly awarded against an increasingly frustrated Spitfires side, who at one time had no fewer than four players in the sinbin.

The penalties included Lions' Andrzej Maslak, although the hosts seized a powerplay opportunity at 26:45 when Richard Hodge slotted the puck past Clements, assisted by Nicky Braithwaite.

Just over two minutes later and another Lions powerplay goal was in the net, this time scored by Andy Watt and assisted by Scott Beeson.

The latter then scored an awesome effort of his own on 36:41, assisted by O'Neill. Beeson then struck on a powerplay just under three minutes later with Romanas Fedotovas and Andy Watt providing the assists.

Just when Glen Jackson thought he might gain a shut-out a defensive blip allowed a puck from ex-Lion Dan Sampson to squeeze through to make it 6-1.

A glorious first home victory was in sight and it was Romanas Fedotovas who finished off the scoring at 41:33, assisted by O'Neill.

Delighted manager Deryk Beeson said: "At the beginning of the season we were referred to as the 'wooden



LION MIGHTY: Scott Beeson is congratulated by fellow goal-scorer Paul O'Neill

(Photo: Julianne Bonner)

or the English cause

comfortably into the final top ten in a competition that was eventually won by Holland.

Fisher who could well have competed in his last ever major amateur event, had also grabbed an excellent two under par round on the Saturday.

And thanks to his galliant final day total he secured fifth position in the individual standings.

He said: "Our best day

out of the four was the Sunday without a doubt. It is an honour to play in such a great team and I was proud to have finished fifth in the individual standings."

Fisher headed straight to Spain this week for the second stage of the European Tour School, as he looks to move another step closer to realising his dreams of becoming a full time professional next year.

spoon team' and the 'hapless Lions'. Everyone should know we have tightened up our act.

"We are disciplined, motivated and focused and we now act and play as a team."

Lee Valley Lions' next home game is on Saturday November 11 against Peterborough Islanders.

Face-off is at 5.30pm and free tickets are available to those who've not yet taken advantage of the offer.

Visit www.leevalleylions.co.uk for details.