

Lions' League of Nations looking a real picture

LEE Valley Lions celebrated their first home win of the season last week, when they beat Slough Harrier Hawks 6-2 - by getting together to have their official team picture taken for the 2007-08 season that began a month ago.

The Lions squad has retained the services of several key players for the new campaign, including high scoring forwards Scott Beeson and Paul O'Neill, while returning to bolster the defence is hard-hitting heavyweight James Hatfull and Mark Swaine.

Lions also have their fair share of players whose roots lie abroad. New Yorker Scott Pollak has joined, while in his third season with the club is the 25-year-old Lithuanian Romanos Fedotovas (pictured below), who has now been promoted to assistant captain.

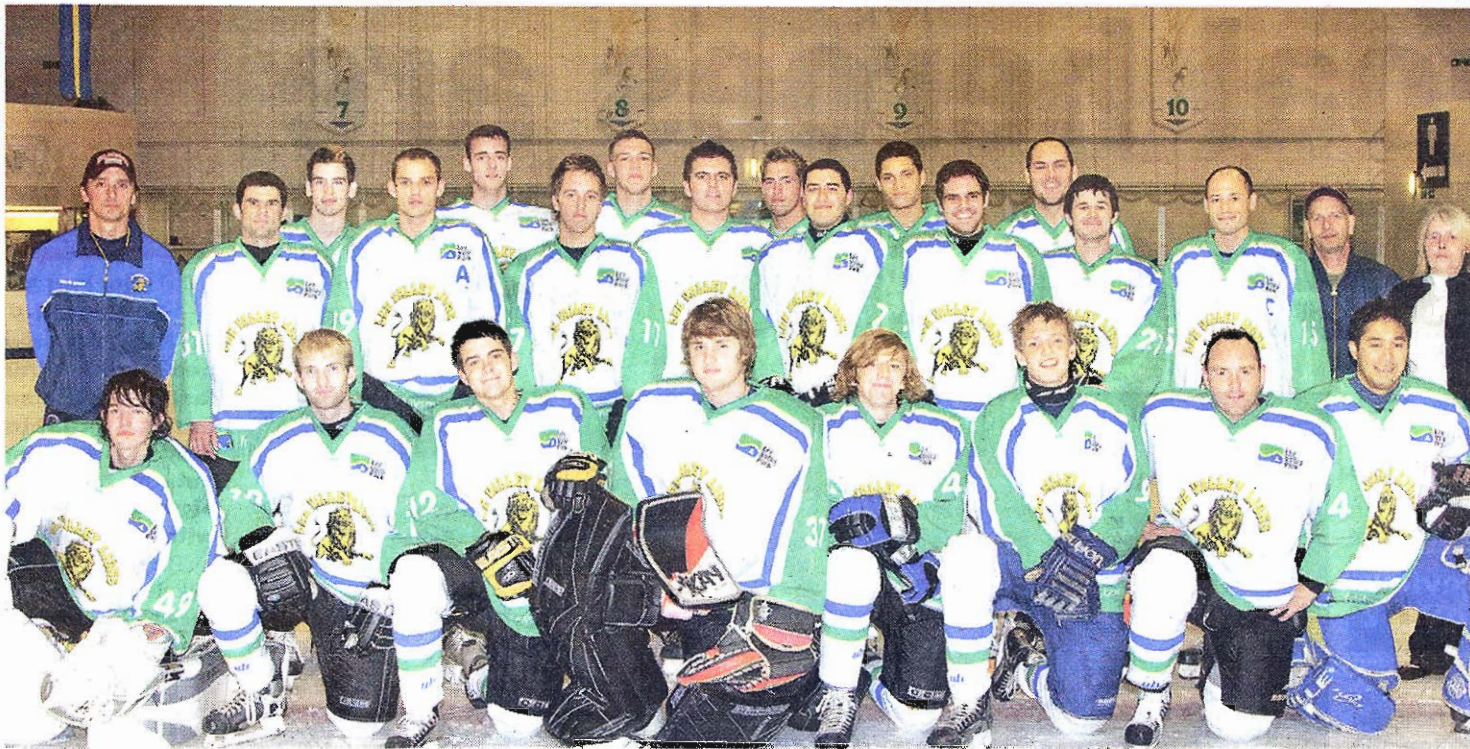
New defenceman Alistair Band is Australian born, while forwards David Piper and Stas Prokofiev hail from South Africa and Russia respectively.

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A coup for the Lions has been the signing of the experienced ex-London Racers star JJ McGrath, while ex-Haringey Greyhounds Nick Alley impressed on his home debut scoring 3+1.

Stepping up in goal is his brother George Alley, the young player who has spent the last two seasons shadowing Welshman Stefan Nubert. Nubert's departure from the Lions has created the opportunity for the return of Liem Le Huyen, a netminder who was with the original Lions back in the 1990s.

■ LIONS play their next home game this Saturday (October 6), when they host Basingstoke Buffalos at the Lee Valley Ice Centre. Face-off is at 5.30pm.



THE Lea Valley Lions squad for season 2007-08 line-up for the camera during last weekend's free date.

Picture: Julianne Bonner.



Lucas Taylor: UK champ.

Lucas crowned as the UK champion!

HACKNEY City Tennis Club's Lucas Taylor was crowned UK Junior Grand Prix champion at Center Parcs, Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, last week.

Lucas, who recently became Middlesex county age group champion, saw off all opposition in the Daily Telegraph sponsored competition at 10 and under level.

His clubmate Jac Davies was also one of six boys from across the UK to reach the finals and finished a highly

of nine tournaments that he has entered, he eased himself to a convincing victory, 6-2, 6-1.

"I'm very proud to have won. It's been a long hard season and this is a fitting climax.

"I've worked really hard to get here," says Lucas, who is coached by Christian Coombs at the Stoke Newington-based club.

All of the final champions are offered a Wilson sponsorship contract to assist them in reaching full potential.

Jan Coombs, who founded Hackney City Tennis Club on the old courts at

Clissold Park in 1999, said: "The club is now producing players at the top end of their game in their age groups.

"This is no mean achievement, considering our facilities and that all the kids who train here are from the local area."

Jac Davies took on Sacha Modica from Lewisham in a closely fought battle for fifth place and was edged out in a tight game, 3-6, 6-4, 10-8.

Jac is coached by Geno Demichell at Hackney City.