

Foreign stars set to shine for the Lions



It's all smiles as the new Lee Valley Lions assemble for the squad picture as the new season starts (Photo: Julianne Bonner)

ICE HOCKEY

BUOYANT after the team's first home win of the season the Leyton-based Lee Valley Lions assembled for their 2007-08 team photo.

The squad has retained the committed services of several key players including high-scoring forwards Scott Beeson and Paul O'Neill, while returning to defence is hard-hitting

heavyweight James Hatfull and Mark Swaine.

Reflecting London's diversity the Lions have a number of players whose roots lie abroad.

New Yorker Scott Pollak has joined the team as one half of the import duo and alongside him in his third season for the club is 25-year-old Lithuanian Romanas Fedotovas, who has now been promoted to

the role of assistant captain. New defenceman Alistair Band was born in Australia while forwards David Piper and Stas Prokofiev originate from South Africa and Russia respectively.

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

up in goal for the new campaign is George Alley, the young player who spent the last two seasons shadowing Welsh-born Stefan Nubert.

Nubert's departure from the club has created a return to the ice for Liem Le Huyen, a netminder who played for the original Lee Valley Lions in the 1990s.

The Lions entertain the Basingstoke Buffalo on Saturday, face-off 5.30pm.