

Buffalo stamped in lame Lions opening

Basingstoke Buffalo 6,

Lee Valley Lions 2

THIS was the game in which Lions hoped to turn the tables on their Hampshire hosts, who have beaten the Lea Bridge Road side twice previously this season.

Lions also had Michael Ranby back in their line-up, so were optimistic about their

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chances.

But a disastrous first period sealed the Lions' fate again, a spell from which they never recovered.

They made a decent start and matched their opponents for the opening minutes, but Romanas Fedotovas missed an early chance and net-minder Andrew Boot saved from the home side's Goodchild.

Boot continued to shine and made a number of fine

saves, but eventually Buffalo slid their first goal in.

From this point, the Basingstoke side took charge and the visitors' confidence nose-dived.

Shot after shot came at Boot and as one rebounded off the boards, it bounced into the goal from Cathcart to put the home side 2-0 up. Moments later Beere scored to put Basingstoke 3-0 ahead.

There was no let-up and

with his defence missing, Boot was beaten again by a Goodchild effort and although Stas Prokofiev and Ashley Curtin made good efforts at the opposition goal, both saved by net-minder Field. Beere scored a Basingstoke from right in front of the goal with Lions' defence again AWOL!

Lions were lucky not to be further in arrears as another Basingstoke effort hit the crossbar, but that seemed to wake up the East Londoners and in the second period they gave the home side much more to worry about.,

Prokofiev reduced arrears with a smart finish having been set up by Michael Jacobs.

After Lions survived one breakaway attempt on their goal to increase the margin, they weren't so lucky the next time as Basingstoke added to the tally.

Lions ended the scoring when Nick Alley scored with a powerful slapshot that found the home net, from an assist by Prokofiev.

In the 'final session, Lions prevented any further home goals out-shot

SPENCER GIVES THE POLICE THE SLIP A TRIO OF TIMES

North-East London Police 10, Hackney 37

HACKNEY broke their friendly fixture duck last Saturday, when they travelled to the Met Police ground, Chigwell and triumphed over the recently formed North East London Police team.

The Police side, looking to establish themselves in rugby

the scoring.

The try of the game followed shortly afterwards when Ben Chamberlain began a run from deep inside his own half, chipped ahead and twice collected his own kicks ahead before bursting over to score.

Spencer added a second individual try and a third from the visitors when he used his pace to devastating effect and Hackney seemed to have matters completely under control.

More chances of further

the task and from a forward set piece John Tully was able to go in for his first try of the season.

The home side rallied and scored two unconverted tries to narrow the margin, but the Griffins weren't finished and Spencer scored a hat-trick try, again down to pure pace and Tully went in for a second score of the game to end the match as a contest and put the Spring Hill team in good fettle



LEE Valley Lions' Stas Prokofiev, scorer of one goal, assisted in the other at Basingstoke.

Streets are back in action

The Police side, looking to establish themselves in rugby circles in the outer London area, were a good test for a Griffins team that had a number of their key players missing and as a result, several players played out of position.

Matt Spencer played for the first time at fly-half and it was a good move as his extra pace was too much for a much slower defence as he opened

ters completely under control.

More chances of further scores for the visitors went begging as some handling errors began to develop and Hackney didn't always protect the ball well enough.

Playing up hill in the second-half the Griffins knew they would face more pressure from the Police side than in the opening 40 minutes.

But Hackney's pack rose to

match as a contest and put the Spring Hill team in good fettle for resuming their league campaign at Tottonians this Saturday in Herts-Middlesex 3 - a division they still lead.

HACKNEY: Beno, Mullett, Williams, Young, Cartwright, Kelly, Davies, Wilson, Cunningham, Spencer, Spinks, Byers, Aylward, Jones, Chamberlain.

Lions prevented any further home goals, out-shot their hosts 19-8 but after such a poor and frustrating first period, the game was well beyond them.

If only they had played the first periods as they played the last, Lions might have had something to smile about on the journey home.