

YOUTHFUL LIONS ARE BADLY STUNG BY ANGRY HORNETS

Bracknell Hornets 8

Lee Valley Lions 1

LEE Valley Lions took a youthful and sparsely experienced squad up the M4 for their opening English League Two South fixture at Bracknell.

They were missing the likes of Michael Jacobs and Stas Prokofiev,

but had a number of the club's former juniors including Theo Abban and Ruairi Teahan.

Their experienced hosts fielded a full complement of 22 players, which was nine more than the Lions.

In the opening stages Lions stood up to the task well, American Scott Pollak was first to make a mark, but not for the right reasons. He had a two-minute spell in the penalty box for holding after just 27 seconds of the game.

Solid Bracknell defence thwarted the best Lions could offer and although the visitors had the puck in the net through Joe Berry, he incurred a 10 minute misconduct penalty for hitting his shot after the whistle had sounded.

George Alley, last season's back-up net minder faced increasing pressure, but the crunch came at 11:48 when the puck slid across the face of goal and Dan Hughes netted

Ice Hockey news

the first of the game. The period ended with no further goals, Alley having deflected 21 shots.

It took the Hornets just a couple of minutes to double their score through James Galazzi and Chris Beaulerk quickly made it three.

Scott Beeson got Lions on the scoreboard, moments after Beaulerk had struck, well assisted by Romanos Fedotovas and Michael Ranby.

After 12 minutes, Lions were deprived of a second goal when a shot from Ranby skidded across the goalmouth and just over the line, but the goal wasn't given.

Bracknell's fourth saw Alley appear to stop the shot with his knees, but the puck somehow found a way through to give Steve Cameron an unassisted goal.

An error by Fedotovas in front of his own goal seemed to have gifted Bracknell another but Alley managed to thwart the effort.

Fedotovas made amends with a spectacular

effort taking the puck from one end of the ice to the other. He rapped this shot towards goal, but Hornets netminder Matt Cameron stopped it in its tracks.

A thumping effort from Michael Plenty gave Bracknell their fifth and the sixth came courtesy of an equally strong goal from Matt Ovenden.

The Berkshire side weren't finished and in a strong closing period added further goals from Craig Tribe and Dan Marashi, that were somewhat harsh on the Lions and Alley, in particular.

Griffins are

HACKNEY Rugby Club start a new campaign this weekend when they play their opening fixture of the Herts-Middlesex League Division Three north programme.

The Griffins begin away from home with a trip to Hertfordshire to meet Cuffley, in a game in which Hackney skipper Matthew Lary would love to see his side start with a victory.



SCOTT BEESON: Scorer of Lions' only goal at Bracknell, although they did have two efforts disallowed.