

# Underpowered Lions disarm the Warriors

**Lee Valley Lions 6  
Chelmsford Warriors 4**  
**THEY say it's the sign of a good team when they have the ability to win when playing badly.**

Lee Valley Lions certainly proved that point at the Ice Centre, Lea Bridge Road, on Saturday night.

Lions, coming off a terrific win on the road in Basingstoke, where they played more as a team than at any time this season, seemed to take a backward step in this home fixture.

Lions began slowly and nervously in the opening minutes and as they struggled

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to get into their stride, net-minder George Alley was forced to several good saves.

It remained a tight affair until the 15th minute when James Hatfull hit a powerful effort that broke the deadlock.

But Chelmsford were being allowed too much room and an equalising strike wasn't long in coming.

Lions took the lead again, Stas Prokofiev putting a pass onto the stick of Scott Beeson, who he spotted unmarked

at the far post.

But time and again George Alley was called on to make smart saves and it was no surprise he was beaten just before the first break to make it 2-2.

The second session was in a similar vein. Lions continued to make mistakes but still managed to outshoot the Warriors 19-5. They went ahead again with Beeson's second of the evening counting, but again Warriors were on terms three minutes from the break when they netted amid a power play.

But within 25 seconds it was 4-3, Romanas Fedotovas making his first mark on the game with the strike.

Warriors player-coach Andy Hannah

was ejected at this point for verbally abusing the referee with vehement complaints about the Lions' third goal.

Lions have been working hard on their power plays in practice and their patience was rewarded when Michael Ranby slotting a pass to Michael Jacobs, who fired past a stranded Chelmsford net-minder.

But with 13 minutes left in the game Chelmsford again got on the scoreboard and Lions were under severe pressure.

With just five minutes left, Joe Berry finally ended the Warriors' resistance finishing off a move involving Jacobs and Rob Courtman, to pick up a rebound and find the net.

The game ended with Fedotovas and Chelmsford's Brown exchanging a barrage of blows to earn both match penalties that will result in automatic one-match bans for the pair.

## GREYHOUNDS STRETCH AWAY LATE ON

**Haringey G'hounds 8  
Lee Valley Lions 4**  
**LIONS' hopes of making it a four-point weekend after the previous evening's somewhat fortunate success over Chelmsford were dashed at near-neighbours Haringey Greyhounds, who have held sway over Lee Valley for the past two seasons.**

Just a couple of minutes into the game and Scott Beeson, the previous night's man-of-the-match, had hammered a shot

that looked to have found the bottom corner. It bounced out and the goal judge insisted it had not counted.

Lions then lost James Hatfull, who sat out a pair of two-minute penalties for boarding and interference.

There was a controversial opening goal to the game. Haringey's shot hit the metal of the bar and bounced out. It looked less like a goal than the Lions' effort before it, but controversially it was awarded.

A fumble in front of the net presented the Greyhounds with a second and a further piece of

sloppy play saw Haringey three up in no time.

A time-out called by Lions stopped the flow and they began to make in-roads into the Greyhounds lead when Michael Jacobs scored after several close-in attempts.

The second period saw a Lions improvement, Michael Ranby setting up Jacobs for a very powerful effort for his second, before Haringey got a fortunate fourth, the puck drifting in despite net-minder George Alley's stop.

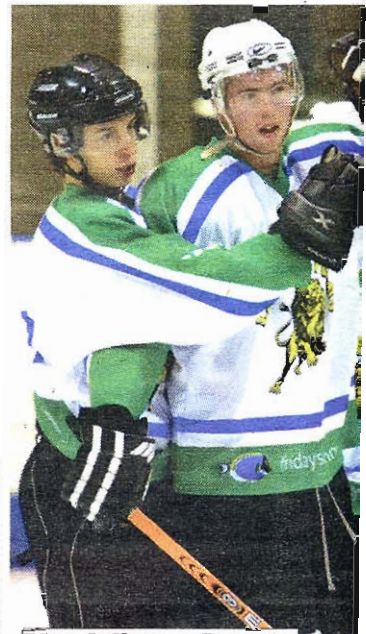
Ranby was again provider with another fine pass from

which Jacobs completed his Lions hat-trick.

Moments later they were level when, after a Stas Prokofiev shot was blocked, Beeson stepped in to net.

Haringey hit the post twice and stormed into the final period.

There were several hairy moments on the Lions goal before Haringey netted fifth and sixth goals in close succession and as the clock counted down, the Greyhounds scored twice more, late on, to make it a rather harsh final scoreline for Lee Valley.



**Pic: Julianne Bonner**

**LIONS' man of the match Scott Beeson is congratulated after one of his goals.**

