

Lions lose opener to their Haringey rivals

LEE VALLEY Lions played their first game of the new season, when they hosted the home leg of the new Sumner Cup competition, named in memory of Chas Sumner, grandfather of former Lions' player Jon Beckett, who was a strong supporter of the sport.

The cup is to be played for annually between local rivals Lions and their near neighbours the Haringey Greyhounds.

LI CLOSE WITH DYNAMIC VICTORY

Bardoli 350-6, Chadwell Hth 199

BARDOLI completed a weather-affected season with an emphatic victory over Chadwell Heath in Sunday's match at Loughton.

Choosing to bat on a belter of a wicket, M Zeena (13) and A Hafesji raced the Bardoli total to 40 in the first four overs before Zeena departed.

Opener Hafesji then really opened up and hit four big sixes, including one that went into a nearby house outside the ground before he miscued one and left for 53.

That brought Z Budi to the wicket and he shared in good partnerships with F Jabbar (30) and A Galiara (14). He raced to 50 to take Bardoli's score to 170 from 20 overs and then launched into a series of straight

sixes to reach 95 before being unluckily given out in sight of his century.

Good late work by Ismail Gajia (32 no) and A Asania (39 no) saw Bardoli to a final club record score of 350-6 from their 40 overs.

Chadwell Heath matched Bardoli in the early stages and they too reached 40 in four overs.

But Jabbar and Zina removed the openers, the latter with an excellent caught and bowled.

Eventually Hafesji chipped in two wickets midway through the reply to stem the flow of runs and then Gajia picked up further wickets and when Galiara ran out the final pair, Bardoli were home to a comprehensive win in their final game to finish fourth overall for the second successive year.

Ice Hockey special

In the event, it was Greyhounds who won the trophy, 7-4 after the home and away legs, but a Haringey victory looked pretty remote in the opening home leg at the Lee Valley Ice Centre.

Lions opened the first game, on Saturday, in quick fashion and scored through Joe Berry in 03:12, after an assist by Mark Saunders.

The goal was scored while Lions were short-handed, Kwabina Oppong-Addai was

servicing two minutes for slashing.

Lions continued on the offensive and Michael Ranby thumped a hefty shot into the back of the net at 19:27 for 2-0, the assist going to Oppong-Addai.

At the start of the second period, Lions gained a 3-0 lead, this time Oppong-Addai scored himself, on a power play.

Greyhounds began to up their game, Danny Cox scoring for the visitors, while they were short-handed.

In the final period, Lions suffered as a constant stream of penalties awarded against them, handed out by referee Smith, that began to take a toll.

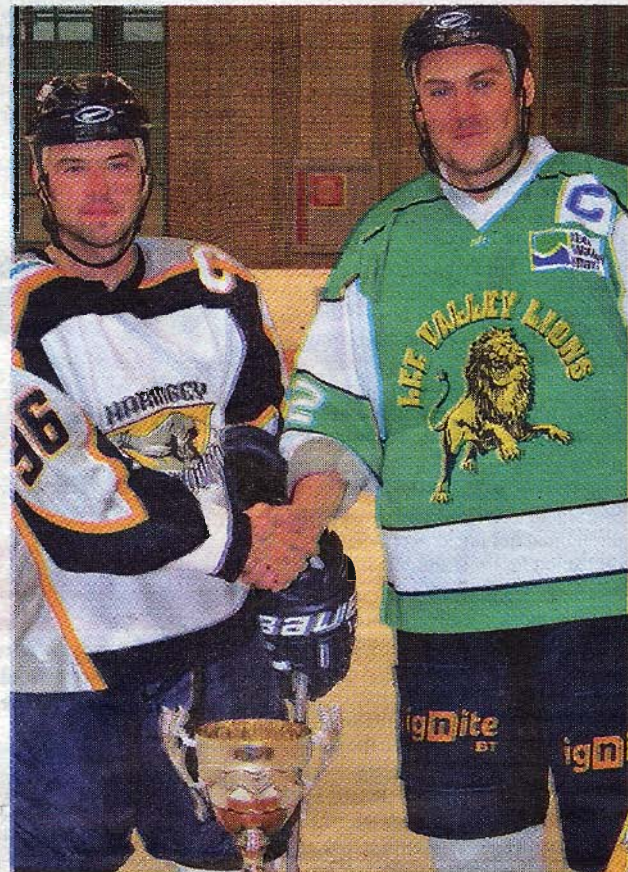
With Oppong-Addai and Richard Hodge both languishing in the sin bin, Greyhounds began to cash in. They scored power-play goals through ex-Lion Gary Dodds and a further power-play effort, hammered home by Ricky Rutherford that ensured that Lions' home leg ended even, with the score at 3-3.

Haringey showed they meant business from the early stages of the second leg, played at Alexandra Palace.

They took the lead in 03:39 when a clear snapshot from Rob Johnston sailed past Lions' goalminder George Alley to give Greyhounds the advantage in the tie for the first time.

The play was largely uneventful in the early stages, apart from numerous minor penalties, but on 17:15, another ex-Lion Chris Goddard scored again for the Haringey side to give them a two goal advantage.

The second period was a real stalemate, with neither side



MAY THE BEST TEAM WIN: Rival captains Haringey Greyhounds' Jan Bestic (left) with Lions' James Hatfull and the Sumner Cup.

Picture: Julianne Bonner.

able to produce any meaningful efforts on the opposition net,

There were few penalties in the final period, but Haringey added a seventh, scored on 48:26 with a goal from Nick Burton, with assists from Alistair Band and Goddard.

Seconds later, the Lee Valley side produced their fourth goal of the tie and first in the second leg, Paul O'Neill netting an excellent effort, assisted by Romanas Fedotovas and Rob Courtman.

It was to be their only goal

of the tie and Haringey became the first winners of the brand-new trophy.

●Lions begin their English National League campaign on Saturday, with a home game against Cardiff Devils' EHIL team, (5-30pm face-off), who were one of the division's powerhouses last season.

Free tickets are available for all Lee Valley Lions home games up to December.

Details are available on the club website at www.leevalleylions.co.uk.