

# Wildcats get their claws into Lions

## **Swindon Wildcats 6, Lee Valley Lions 4**

**LIONS** opened the new year with their third match this season against the Swindon Wildcats, against whom they had two previous tightly fought encounters, that have resulted in a 2-2 draw and a 5-4 loss.

And the Wiltshire side proved tricky customers for a third time as they staved off a lively start from their East London visitors in the opening minutes.

One Lions attempt hit a post, but it was just reward for a bright beginning that Lions took the lead, when Michael Jacobs found the back of the net, taking advantage of an accurate Stas Prokofiev pass to net.

Up to this point, Lions goal-minder Andrew Boot had been largely untroubled, but with Lions having Rob Courtman sidelined in the penalty box and therefore short-

handed, the Swindon side equalised with a straight shot by Newton that left Boot motionless.

Moments later the home side had a second and the game had been turned on its head. This time Feeny scored, with Crowder claiming the assist.

Lions' frustration began to boil over as Swindon added a third in quick succession, again Newton the marksman. Moments later the Wildcats ranks were depleted as Richardson received a two minute penalty for slashing, but Lions failed to maximise their advantage.

Swindon showed no similar reluctance and when two shots were fired at Boot in quick succession, the second struck the bar and bounced down for Oliver to fire in a home fourth.

Lions responded immediately and reduced arrears as Profokiev fired in an impressive long-range effort, assisted by Nick Alley, to cut

the lead to 4-2.

The visitors entered the final period still two goals down. They immediately had a further let-off when a strong Swindon shot hit the bar, but the reprieve was only short-lived as the home side scored a fifth, Newton adding his hat-trick goal, netting a rebound after Boot had saved the initial effort.

Lions' plight worsened when they went down to three men as Jacobs and Gennadi Yufit were sent to the sin bin and Richardson capitalised with Swindon's sixth, when left unmarked in front of the net.

But to their great credit Lions didn't give up. Alley knocked home a short-range chance past home net-minder Thompson for 6-3 and then Joe Berry tightened the score even more with a fourth Lions goal from a powerplay.

But it was too little, too late for Lions who slumped to a narrow defeat to the Wildcats for the second time in the campaign, although the Lea Bridge Road side can take comfort from the strong defensive performances of Romanas Fedotovas and James Hatfull and the return of Rusianas Jegovorais, in his first match after a long period out with injury.

●Lions are at home this weekend, when they entertain the Chelmsford Chieftains on Saturday, face-off is 5-30pm.

**Picture: Julianne Bonner**

**STAS Prokofiev: Celebrates his long-range goal at Swindon.**

## **BOROUGH'S RUGGER CLUBS ARE BACK IN ACTION**

### **Rugby News**

**HACKNEY's two rugby teams are back in league action this weekend after a three week break.**

The Marshes based Old Streetonians will be playing in the Herts-Middlesex League and have a Div 1 fixture away to Old Millhillians, who lie

bottom of that division.

Streets are in joint second place in the section, trailing Hertfordshire's Cheshunt by a single point and are on the same points at Harlequins Amateurs, the junior club

attached to the Guinness Premiership club.

Streets put 100 points past Millhillians in their previous meeting in November, in a 101-nil victory and would look near certainties.

Two divisions lower, Hackney RFC, leaders of Herts-Middlesex 3, take on

fourth placed Cuffley at Spring Hill.

The Griffins are unbeaten at home all season and won a very tight clash in Herts in November, 6-3.

They hold a slender one point lead at the top of the section over west London outfit Old Isleworthians.