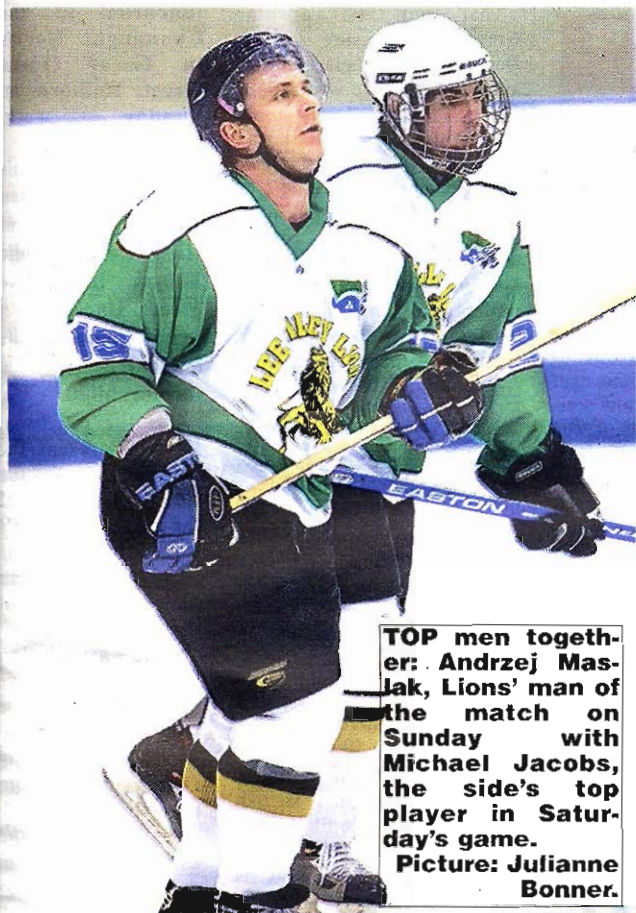


Home or away, it's not to be Lions' day



TOP men together: Andrzej Maslak, Lions' man of the match on Sunday with Michael Jacobs, the side's top player in Saturday's game. Picture: Julianne Bonner.

THIS weekend the Lions had a double-header against Bracknell Hornets, playing at home on Saturday and away the following day.

Lee Valley Lions 2 Bracknell Hornets 6

THE writing looked on the wall early on as Bracknell opened up the Lions' defence in the first minute, a wrist shot came in from the point and a Bracknell Hornets player tipped the puck at waist height, just past Lions' net-minder Stefan Nubert's glove.

Bracknell opened the scoring at 12:45, Ashley Skinnis forcing the puck in as Nubert was left exposed at the far post with no defence cover.

Five minutes later the Hornets' second goal was even easier. Nubert had made three good saves only to find himself with no cover on the far post and Lee Hardy had a simple tap in to score.

Goal number three coming under 60 seconds later was a carbon copy of the second. With the Lee Valley defence 'on holiday' Craig Tribe had another easy tap in. Shots on goal for the period told the tale - Lee Valley 5, Bracknell 16.

The second session was the Lions' best as they won the period 1-0. Michael Jacobs scored a fine goal - receiving a pass from Maslak as he lifted it over the diving net-minder. Lions' offence was more effective, but the team failed to capitalise on a number of further opportunities.

As the session drew to a close Jacobs had two attempts on goal, the goalie just saved one while the second zipped past the post.

The Bracknell netminder was having a fine period and did really well to keep the Lions out in two

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goalmouth scrambles.

The third period belonged to Bracknell, scoring three unanswered goals before a late consolation from Scott Beeson.

The first came just 42 seconds in as three Hornets players stormed the net. Five minutes later Bracknell's Marashi got his second. Nubert was then caught wrong-footed as Webb completed the scoring for the visiting team.

In between the first two goals a Lions' advantage of one and a half minutes of five on three yielded only a couple of shots. Beeson scored late on to make the scoreline a little less painful.

Overall, a very disappointing game for Lions as the visitors showed much more desire and passion to win than a lack-lustre Lions side, whose work ethic was poor.

With passes constantly going astray, backchecking almost non-existent and forwards unwilling to take on any defensive role, the scoreline and shots on goal statistics were a telling tale.

Bracknell Hornets 9 Lee Valley Lions 5

THE three previous meetings between Lee Valley and Bracknell had all resulted in the Lions losing 6-2. Lions had to regain some of the drive and determination that was sadly lacking the night before, if they were to stand a chance of turning the tables.

Unfortunately things didn't start well for Lee Valley, as James Hatfull was sent to the sin bin at 01:30 for hooking and just 21 seconds later Bracknell scored their first powerplay goal. The lead rose to 2-0 at 03:39 after errors from Hatfull and Justin Grant resulted in an own goal that was credited to Bracknell's high-scoring Craig Tribe.

The Lions soon put the mistake behind them because at 08:26 Ben Williams scored the Lions' first, a powerplay goal.

This was followed a minute later by the equaliser, passes from Billy Whitney and Michael Jacobs providing Stas Profokiev with the opportunity to outwit Hornets' netminder Gavin Jackson.

Bracknell's captain James Galazzi was due to receive two minutes for slashing when Lee Valley's Andrzej Maslak broke away, took the puck up the ice and slotted it neatly in the top corner to put the Lions 3-2 ahead.

At 21:37 Hatfull was sent to the penalty box for what was already his third offence of the game. Ben Williams inadvertently allowed Bracknell to gain possession of the puck and the instant consequence was a Bracknell powerplay goal at 22:06, scored by Jon Anderson.

Soon after Hatfull was returned to the sin bin with 2+10 for checking to the head. For a few minutes the Lions carried out a sustained attack on the Hornets' goal and Williams redeemed himself by being perfectly positioned to knock in a pass from Maslak (a second assist going to Stas Profokiev) at 32:42.

The Lions' narrow lead didn't last long as at 33:29 Craig Tribe scored unassisted to equalise once more. A series of well executed passes then provided the Hornets' Chris Beauclerk with the opportunity to put the home side ahead at 38:41.

Tribe extended the Hornets' lead at 46:30 with his hat-trick goal, scored as Lions' netminder George Alley was trying to recover his stick.

GLISSOLD HAVE TO GIVE BEST TO LEYTON IN OPENING GALA

SWIMMING NEWS SPECIAL

HACKNEY'S Clissold Swimming Club began the North London Graded League season in fine style, finishing in second place.

The event, hosted by Anaconda SC, was won by Leyton SC, seven points ahead of Clissold.

Katherine Miller-Brunton aged 14 and Max Orange, 11, both swam personal best times to come first in their 50m freestyle events.

Max set another personal best time when he came home first in

25m backstroke.

Clubmate Keiran Battistella also took first place in his 25m backstroke and set a new pb. Keiran went on to knock an incredible 11.4 seconds off his previous best time to come second in the 100m freestyle.

Tom Walker-Trew swam a personal best and came first in 25m breaststroke, while Devon Vitalis

was first in 25m freestyle in her debut gala.

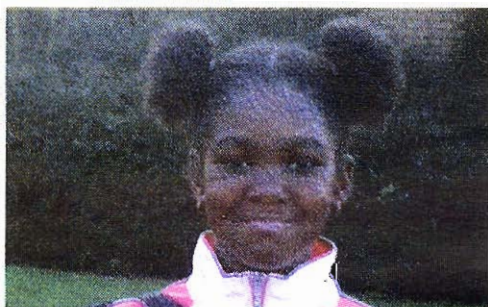
The boys 4 x 50m freestyle relay team of Dan Walsh, Max Orange, James Kinch and Matthew James and the 25m freestyle relay team (James Kinch, Rene Auty, Adam Demeter and Matthew James) were also placed first. Second and third places were secured by Clissold SC in over half the events.

Seven Clissold SC swimmers took part in the Edmonton Phoenix SC junior sprints meet at Enfield. They took 15 top six places in the age group events.

Sarah Taylor-Reid (11) came first in 50m breaststroke and, in hotly contested races, set new pbs in 50m butterfly and backstroke to secure her second place in each event along with second place in 50m freestyle.

Shannel county double winner

THERE was a double winning role for young Hackney starlet Shannel Caleb-Carter, when she represented Middles-



George Alley was trying to recover his stick.

It was Lee Hardy who then scored himself at 49:24, assists going to Anderson and Tribe. The same combination of players struck again at 57:12, Hardy passing to Tribe who took the puck the length of the ice before Anderson hit it home.

Profokiev scored for the Lions at 58:01 on a delayed penalty, assists going to Andrew Holdaway and Andy Watt.

It was too little too late as Bracknell rounded off the scoring with a goal from Tony Barclay.

A scuffle between Hatfull and Hardy resulted in both players receiving two minutes penalties but Williams stole the limelight by showering punches onto Anderson with great gusto.

The predictable outcome was a match penalty for Williams while Anderson received two-minutes for roughing.