

LIONS TURN TABLES ON THUNDER IN RECOVERY FROM WELSH CRASH

**Lee Valley Lions 5
M Keynes Thunder 1**
THIS season's previous encounter saw the Lions fall 7-1, but the Lee Valley team had strengthened since September, both in numbers and attitude.

This time it was the Lions who came out all guns blazing, Paul O'Neill being the first to get past netminder Mark Woolf. His goal came at 02:12, while Thunder's Matt Roberts sat out two minutes for cross-checking, the assists going to Andrzej Maslak and Ben Williams.

Williams then stepped to the fore and hit home himself at 05:27. This was a second powerplay goal, Maslak assisting once more, along with O'Neill. Williams was then forced to the sin bin for 2+10 mins at 11:15, referee Szucs awarding the penalties for checking from behind.

This didn't dent Lions' pace and when Williams returned, Lee Valley stung their visitors with a third consecutive powerplay goal. Michael Jacobs passed to Williams who fired an impressive shot that was touched in nicely by O'Neill at 25:10.

The same successful line continued to dominate the game, a fourth goal from the Lions getting the bet-

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ter of Woolf at 26:26. The scorer was Jacobs with assists by Maslak and Williams.

A couple of minutes later defenceman Mark Swaine and Lewis Clifford came to blows.

The helmets and gloves came off for a bout of fisticuffs and match penalties for fighting meant the pair were sent for early showers.

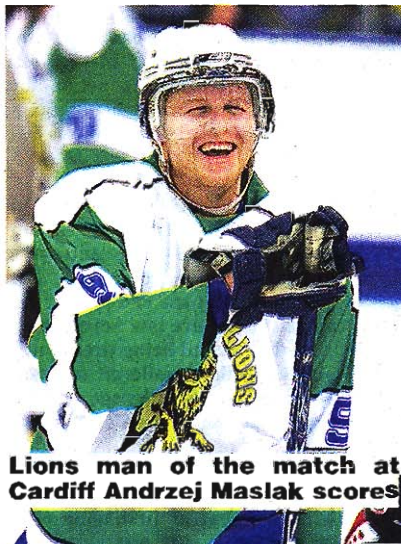
Milton Keynes had more than double the number of shots on goal during the second period and something finally had to give. Aram Todd found a way through at 31:01, his goal putting paid to Stefan Nubert's chances of a shut-out.

With a 4-1 lead the Lions could afford to relax a little during the third period.

They held their visitors at bay with ease while Michael Ranby gave a final flourish. Playing with the puck in front of the net Ranby appeared to have all the time in the world. He flipped it up past Woolf to secure the fifth goal at 47:56, assists going to Justin Grant and Romanas Fedotovas.

Man of the match for the Lions went to Paul O'Neill.

Showing their different faces

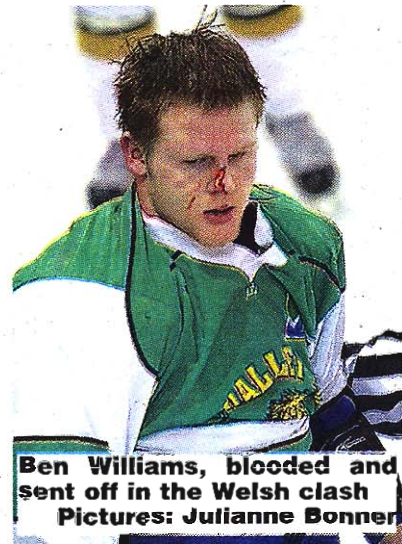


Lions man of the match at Cardiff Andrzej Maslak scores

Cardiff Dragons 14, Lee Valley Lions 6

THE Lions endured a bumpy ride down to Wales and weren't helped by a women's match causing a late face-off when they got there.

Generally they were little match for an eager Dragons who were eager to impress in their new Cardiff Bay rink where they were playing for the first time.



Ben Williams, blooded and sent off in the Welsh clash
Pictures: Julianne Bonner

A bad tempered game saw Lions' Ben Williams in a punch-up with James Manson of Cardiff and both sustained match penalties as well as Williams having a cut to his nose.

Romanas Fedotovas had a goal chalked off at a crucial stage, but when a goal for Cardiff's Price in identical circumstances was allowed to stand, Fedotovas became abusive and also picked a match penalty which sees him miss Lions' next game.