

# Lions are trampled by winning Buffalo

## ICE HOCKEY

AFTER the first home success of the season against Slough, Lee Valley Lions' fans were hoping for a respectable result against Basingstoke Buffalo and so were more than a little surprised to finish on the wrong side of a 16-6 scoreline.

The first 12 minutes of the game were fairly even.

Basingstoke went ahead when a collision between a retreating Lions defender and a Buffalo forward left netminder George Alley exposed. Michael Ranby equalised for the Lions on the power play.

However it took less than a minute for Basingstoke to re-establish their lead, followed a couple of minutes later by a third.

Stas Prokofiev scored a great goal to give the hosts hope when, skating away from the Buffalo net, he spun and shot in one fluid motion over the keeper's shoulder.

But from then on it was mostly consolation stuff for the Lions as Basingstoke went on the rampage scoring five more goals unanswered in the remainder of the first period, five in the second period and three in the final session. Lee Valley managed four in reply.

They came out at Invicta Dynamos, the ENIHL champions for the last four seasons, determined to put the result behind them on Sunday but despite an impressive start ultimately succumbed 11-3.

Invicta's Damien Welch was given a match penalty inside two minutes for striking Prokofiev on the head, and Prokofiev exacted his revenge with a goal.

Under a minute later, with Invicta back at full strength, Nick Alley scored to make it 2-0. But handed a man



Lee Valley Lions' Joe Berry gets caught in the action at Invicta (Photo: Julianne Bonner)

advantage of their own, Invicta started their comeback.

In 41 seconds they scored three goals - one powerplay, one even-handed and one short-handed. They added a fourth just before the break.

More goals followed as Lee Valley suffered a bout of penalties.

The Lions' fans were given something to celebrate when

Michael Ranby released Prokofiev against the run of play to score a great short-handed goal, but chaos then broke out on the ice as players from both sides, and the benches, were drawn into a string of fracas.

When the dust settled and the penalties were awarded, Lee Valley were shorthanded once again. The powerplay unit of Invicta opened

up the Lee Valley box defence for a forward to hit a bullet slapshot past Boot from close range and the final score was 11-3.

The resulting match penalties mean that the Lions will be without James Hatfull and Joe Berry for the next game, although they will be bolstered by the return of Romanas Fedotovas.