

Lions back on form with wins over Tigers and Hawks

ICE HOCKEY

THE Lee Valley Lions appear to have hit a purple-patch of form going into the festive period after they secured back-to-back 6-2 victories over the Vectis Tigers and the Slough Harrier Hawks.

On Saturday the Lions hosted the Tigers in what was the first match in an important pre-Christmas three-game series.

Having been beaten twice by the team from the Isle of Wight, it was vital that they came out strong and they didn't disappoint the fans.

The hosts opened the scoring as Stas Prokofiev converted a pass from Michael Ranby.

Just under two minutes later and a Tiger forward was left alone at the far post and the scores were level.

But the Lions went back ahead again as Scott Beeson fooled the goalie.

And in a close first period the Vectis equalised when James Hatfull lost an edge behind the net and the Tigers gained possession.

The Lions began to take charge in the second period, and Freddie Trimble put the home side in front once more after shooting home at the second attempt.

Despite dominating the play, Lee Valley had to wait until the final period to increase their advantage – they scored three unanswered goals thanks to net-minder and man-of-the-match Andrew Boot turning away 11 shots.

Romanas Fedotovas slotted home a rebound after a goal-mouth scramble, before two goals from Michael Ranby and Joe Berry made it six.

Following that scalping of the Tigers, the Lions were missing only Michael Jacobs for the trip to Slough the following day.

The visitors opened the scoring on 07:49, after Ashley Curtin stabbed the puck through Slough stopper William Sanders's five hole.

Lee Valley then had two goals disallowed before Curtin bagged his second of the night with a low shot.

The second period was one of the best from the Lions this season, but they could only add to their lead when Berry found the net in the 27th minute.

They continued to dominate in the final session and, after Scott Beeson hit home, scored two short-handed goals from Luke Kirkland and James Hatfull.

At this point the Lions lost a bit of concentration and allowed Slough some space which resulted in two goals.

But it couldn't prevent Lee Valley from enjoying their first four-point weekend since their reformation in 2005.



Andrew Boot, who put in a man-of-the-match display against the Vectis Tigers on Saturday
(Photo by Julliane Bonner)