



ON TARGET: James Hatfull. *Picture by Julianne Bonner*

Spitfires gain revenge for mauling by Lions

ROMFORD Spitfires gained revenge over their Essex rivals Lee Valley Lions with a 5-4 win on Saturday.

The Lions had a comfortable win back in October but an away win with a short bench was a more difficult prospect. Lee Valley started well with a slapshot but this was saved by on-form goalie Ben Clements.

Within just a couple of minutes the Lions had their first real opportunity as three Spitfires languished in the penalty box. The Romford defence coped well and it wasn't until only Luke Bramble remained in the box that Rob Courtman managed to score.

The pleasure at going 1-0 up did not last long for the Lions. Romford were determined to overpower their visitors throughout the game and it was Sam Park at 13:52 who equalised. Just two minutes later the Lions' defence fumbled around in front of their own net and disaster struck as the puck inadvertently slipped in. The own-goal was credited to Ricky Mills and the home team were ahead.

The second period saw Lee Valley equalise again with a second powerplay goal, this time scored by defenceman James Hatfull. Romford, despite having several opportunities handed to them on a plate by the Lions' defence, were fortunately held at bay by George Alley.

Stalemate was held until 41:54 when Scott Beeson fired a fantastic slapshot. Ben Clements initially made the stop but the power behind the shot was stronger and the puck made it across the line. A couple of minutes later and the Lions' fans were delighted when Stas Prokofiev scored.

With a two-goal lead a win seemed highly likely for Lee Valley but Romford had other ideas and just seconds later they pulled one back through Matt Turner. The equaliser the Lions thought wouldn't materialise in fact did, Matthew Brown scoring for the Spitfires at 49:38.

A point for each team seemed fair in the circumstances but Romford turned the screw, capitalised on a powerplay situation and Matt Turner put the winner in the net at 51:25.