

Away day blues for Lee Valley

Romford Spitfires 5
Lee Valley Lions 4

THE Lions had a comfortable win over their Essex rivals back in October but an away victory proved beyond them.

Lee Valley started well with a slapshot but this was saved by in-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 Lions' lead did not last long and Romford's Sam Park quickly equalised. Two minutes later disaster struck as the puck inadvertently slipped into the Lions' net. An own-goal was credited to Ricky Mills and the home team were ahead.

The second period saw Lee Valley draw level 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 held at bay by George Alley.

Stalemate was held until 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 and a couple of minutes later the Lions' fans were delighted when Stas Prokofiev scored to make it 4-2.

With a two-goal lead a win seemed likely for Lee Valley but seconds later Romford pulled one back through Matt Turner and shortly afterwards Matthew Brown equalised.

A point for each team seemed fair in the circumstances but Romford turned the screw, capitalising on a powerplay situation and Matt Turner rifled home the winner.



James Hatfull



Rob Courtman shoots for goal (PICS: JULIANNE BONNER)