

# Lions' blitz put on ice by Spitfires

## ICE HOCKEY

**Romford Spitfires 5  
Lee Valley Lions 4**  
(ENIHL South League)

THE Lions had a comfortable victory over their Essex rivals in October, but an away win with a short bench proved more difficult.

Lee Valley started well with a slapshot, saved by on-form stopper Ben Clements.

The Romford defence coped well and it wasn't until Luke Bramble remained in the box that Rob Courtman scored.

The pleasure at going 1-0 up did not last long for the Lions. Romford were determined to overpower their visitors and it was Sam Park at 13mins 52secs who equalised.

Just two minutes later the Lions' defence fumbled in front of their own net and disaster struck as the puck inadvertently slipped in.

The second period saw Lee Valley equalise again with a second powerplay goal, this time scored by defenceman James Hatfull.

The stalemate was held until 41mins 54secs when Scott Beeson fired a fantastic slapshot. Clements initially made the stop but the power behind it 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 seconds later Romford pulled one back through Matt Turner. The equaliser came from Matthew Brown for the Spitfires at 49mins 38secs.

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



**A great second goal by Lions' James Hatfull wasn't enough to secure his team's victory over Romford Spitfires** PICTURE: Julianne Bonner