

# Lions go goal crazy as they deluge the Devils



**PAUL O'Neill scored his first of the season in Lions' 12 goal romp.**

**LIONS fans weren't disappointed when they turned up at Lea Bridge Road to see if their side could reproduce the form shown in the final six minutes of last week's narrow defeat by near neighbours Haringey Greyhounds.**

The Lea Bridge side were without influential captain Scott Pollak for this penultimate game of the English National League campaign, so under 18s player Chris Shrubsole was drafted in, while netminder Andrew Boot started.

The previous game between these teams had to be abandoned, when one of the Devils players was badly hurt and taken to hospital. The return encounter was therefore expected to be quite physical.

But referee Szucs took firm control and let the players know he would stand for no infringements.

Lions asserted themselves from the first minute and Michael Ranby found the net in the first play.

There was a 15 minute delay

## **Lee Valley Lions 12, Gosport Devils nil English National League Ice Hockey**

when a piece of plexi smashed when Lions' Nick Alley collided with it and a temporary repair was needed, to the rink.

Two more quick goals put Lions firmly in control at 3-0. Nick Breigoos scored the second, receiving a pass on his stick from Scott Beeson and then Stas Prokofiev struck another effort home.

Two further goals followed from Michael Jacobs, one when Lions were even a man down, with a penalty, enabling the home team to turn around 5-0 up.

The second session opened as the first had finished. But although Lions were straight onto the attack it was a full eight minutes before Paul O'Neill scored his first of the season, quickly followed by further efforts from Nick Alley and Beeson.

At the second interval the question was how many could Lions put past the south coast team.

There was a nine minute fallow period at the start of the final session, as every Lions player seemed to think that they could score at will in the Devils' goal.

Four more goals finally came in the final 10 minutes. Rob Courtman and James Scott-Joseph and a pair of stunning efforts from Joe Berry, including a cracker from the blue line sealed a final 12-nil victory and also ensured the shut-out for netminder Boot.

**It was the club's largest ever winning margin and also Boot's shut-out was the first by a Lee Valley netminder since the club re-formed in the 2005-06 season.**

●Lions close their season this Saturday (February 16) when they face the mighty league leaders, Invicta Dynamos, from Kent, at Lea Bridge Road. Face-off is at 5.30pm.