

Lions roar up the table following double win

LEE VALLEY Lions had plenty to celebrate last weekend as the Hackney-based ice hockey team secured two exciting wins at home to Oxford City Stars 4-2 and away to Streatham Bruins 5-0 in the English National League Division Two South.

Canadian import Blair Duhyk opened the scoring for the Lions, thanks to an error of judgement from Oxford netminder, Ricky Young.

Within a few minutes, Philippe Mueller whacked in goal number two.

Stars' Jacob Smith swiftly despatched two goals within the last minute to pull his team well and truly back into the game.

Veteran Gary Dodds scored number three Lions on a powerplay at 34 minutes 10 seconds.

Jacob Smith struck a natural hat-trick for Oxford when he levelled the game at 44.10.

Philippe Mueller also achieved a hat-trick, scoring a further two goals to put the home side 5-3 up with less than six minutes left in the game.

Jack Robinson narrowed the score to 5-4 at 58.30, after the Bruins went all out to get back into the game.

However, Robinson's strike was the end of the scoring, as the Lions began their weekend in style.

The team travelled south of the river the following day for a final encounter at Streatham's historic rink before it is demolished at the end of the season. The Bruins had been shut-out in their previous game and the Lions managed to inflict the same punishment, winning with an emphatic 5-0.

Lee Valley started well and Philippe Mueller soon took the team 1-0 up, but within 10 minutes they'd lost the high-scoring import.

Despite being deliberately floored,

Mueller resisted the urge to retaliate but was still inexplicably ejected from the game in the first of several bizarre refereeing decisions.

Lions' Canadian import, Blair Duhyk, showed that the team weren't going to be easily unnerved as his super sharp shot from the blue line secured the team's second goal at 14.32.

Lions' third flew into the net at 18.27 as Calum Heath picked up the deflection from Gary Dodds' previous shot and the puck went in from the angle.

Streatham tried to take out more big players in the second period, this time targetting Blair Duhyk.

Again, Duhyk chose not to react but Lee Valley were still penalised and Calum Mathieson joining Duhyk in the box.

Lee Valley demonstrated they've learnt a thing or two about penalty-

killing throughout this game, but kudos also had to go to netminder James Tipple, who had an outstanding session between the pipes.

The Bruins, however, held the Lions at bay for most of the second period, and Lee Valley's fourth goal was a long time coming.

Calum Mathieson had made a number of attempts on goal and his efforts finally paid off at 38.31.

Calum Heath made it a fantastic 5-0 at 41.07 and the Lions continued to keep their cool, pushing the point home by preventing their opponents from scoring a single goal.

With a four-point weekend under their belt, Lee Valley Lions are going from strength to strength and are now placed third in the 13-team league.

They are next in action on 24 October, when they play host to Peterborough Islanders, face-off 5.15pm.