

Late goal denies Lions a third win in succession

LEE Valley Lions came into this game on the back of a run of three unbeaten games, but the Peterborough Islanders, five places higher in the table, were more of a challenge than they had faced in recent weeks.

The opening period was fast paced and Peterborough showed themselves to be an attacking side to be reckoned with. Lions net-minder Stefan Nubert faced 29 shots on goal in the opening period. There was some over zealous refereeing with both teams' play thwarted by constant penalties.

The Lions were hit by yet another penalty before play had even begun in the second period, Nubert called for delaying the start, by returning to the ice too slowly for the referee's liking!

Lee Valley Lions 4, Peterborough Islanders 4

He was then bombarded with a further 23 shots and was finally beaten by the first score of the game on 25:50 when Clint Herring put the Islanders ahead.

Lions responded quickly and Paul O'Neill and Romanos Fedotovas combined to score short-handed at 27:30. Fedotovas then netted a cracking goal himself minutes later, another short-handed effort, assisted by Andy Watt.

Lions then suffered several penalties in quick succession, resulting in Herring scoring his second on a powerplay at 34:56.

By this point, Lions had no fewer than six players jostling for space in the sin bin. This congestion forced referee Westney to concede that

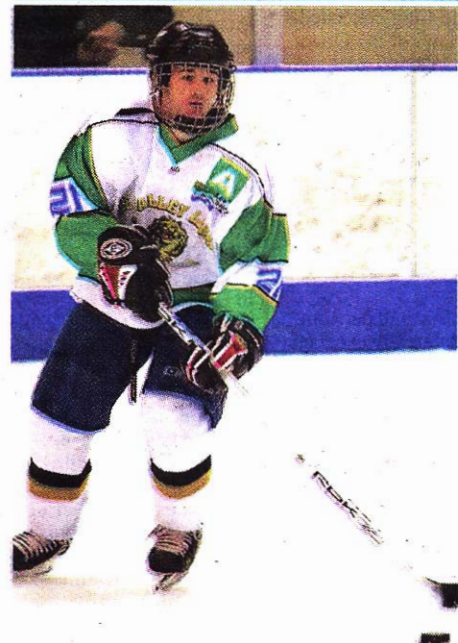
Maslak and O'Neill should retire to the changing room until the next period began.

The final period was guaranteed to be full of tension and excitement and the fans weren't disappointed.

Lions crept into the lead on 47:07 when Ben Williams thumped home a powerful shot into the top corner, the assist going to Michael Jacobs.

The Islanders were soon level again. A short-handed goal from Stu Coleman bringing their third goal, but again Lee Valley restored the lead, when 17-year-old Michael Ranby netted, assisted by Williams and Watt.

But just when Lions felt their third successive victory was secured, Peterborough struck with the final word, a short-handed equaliser giving the dangerous Herring his hat-trick.



**LEE VALLEY Lions' skipper Paul O'Neill in action on Sunday.
Picture: Julianne Bonner.**