

Lions' long trip is abandoned!

**Gosport Devils 3
Lee Valley Lions 5**

LIONS embarked on their longest trip of the season when they travelled down to Hampshire to meet Gosport Devils.

But their long trip on a very wet evening had an inconclusive outcome as the match was abandoned midway through the second quarter when Gosport player Jamie Fitzpatrick was injured in an collision with Lions' Michael Ranby.

Paramedics were called to the prone Fitzpatrick, after the referee had initially allowed play to continue following the collision, but whistled to stop as soon as he realised the severity of the injury.

Fitzpatrick was taken to hospital and the game abandoned, although, happily, Lions were informed that the Gosport player had been discharged the following evening.

When the game was abandoned, Lions were 5-3 ahead and at the time of going to press, Lions are still waiting to hear whether the result will stand.

Despite the tiring journey, Lions took an early lead when Stas Prokofiev beat Gosport goalminder Nathan

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Lawrence, who had formerly kept for the old London Knights team, putting away a Rob Courtman pass.

The advantage didn't last long and Gosport levelled on nine minutes.

There was plenty of pressure from the Lions, but it didn't result in further goals. Ranby and Scott Beeson both went close and Nick Alley hit a post.

Early in the second period, Prokofiev turned provider putting a pass onto the stick of Beeson who fired into the roof of Lawrence's net. Beeson then made it a pair, as captain Scott Pollak unselfishly set him up, rather than shoot himself.

The home side scored twice in quick succession to close the deficit before James Scott-Joseph notched an effortless goal to re-establish the two-goal lead.

Shortly afterwards, Fitzpatrick went down hard and there was no further play, as the fixture was abandoned.

■ Lions are at home this weekend, when they entertain high flying Bracknell Hornets at the Lee Valley Ice Centre, Lea Bridge Road. Face-off is at 5.30pm.



LIONS' Stas Prokofiev, who scored one and made one on the curtailed match at Gosport on Sunday evening.