

Injury casts doubt over Lions' victory

ICE HOCKEY

Gosport Devils 3
Lee Valley Lions 5
(Game abandoned)
(ENL South B)

LIONS' victory hangs in the balance after the match was abandoned following an injury to home player Jamie Fitzpatrick in the second period.

At the time of going to press it is not sure if Lee Valley's 5-3 score will stand as the final result.

The Lions travelled to Solent for their furthest fixture of the season looking to gain revenge for their thrashing at the venue last year.

The opening stages were even, although the visitors opened the scoring as Stas Prokofiev found the five hole of new home netminder Nathan Lawrence after collecting a pass from Rob Courtman.

The advantage wasn't to last long as Solent squared the game in the ninth minute and despite Michael Ranby, Scott Beeson and Nick Alley all going close for the visitors the period finished all square.

Early in the second period the Lions started to take control and James Hatfull scored, assisted by Ranby and Joe Berry.

Soon after Prokofiev put a pass onto the stick of Beeson who roofed past Lawrence, with a further assist to Alley. Beeson made it a pair as captain Scott Pollak unselfishly spun to provide the pass, rather than shoot, for another low-scoring shot.

There were one or two fur-



Double scorer Scott Beeson in action for the Lee Valley Lions

(Photo: Julianne Bonner)

ther chances that fell to Lee Valley, but weren't converted, and Solent hit the post before beginning to claw the Lions back.

The Devils scored two goals and pinged the crossbar before the Lions

regained their composure, James Scott-Joseph scoring effortlessly to re-establish a two goal lead.

But just before the period ended Fitzpatrick collided with Ranby, and needed hospital treatment which fol-

lowing a lengthy delay on the ice resulted in the match being abandoned.

Lee Valley return to action at Lea Bridge Road on Saturday, when they face high-flying Bracknell Hornets at 5.30pm.