

A sad end to the Lions' campaign

Chelmsford Chieftains 12, Lee Valley Lions 0

LEE Valley Lions ended their season with a double defeat and won't want to remember their final game of the season - a 12-nil hammering by newly crowned champions of EHL Div 2 Chelmsford Chieftains.

The Lea Bridge side made the short journey with just eight skaters and were no match for opposition that has lost once all season.

The game began well for Lions, keeping the eager home side at bay for almost 13 minutes before Chelmsford broke through to score their opener.

At the end of the first period, Lions were only two down and their depleted side had done themselves proud.

But the second period proved a different story, with the understrength Lions looking extremely fatigued and deflated as they found themselves 8-0 down with no let-up in the Chieftains' dominance.

For the remainder of the match, they worked very hard and managed to limit the damage to a round dozen.

With few available players and facing the division's best team, Lions kept going in a very creditable display.

Lee Valley Lions 4, Slough Harrier Hawks 7

PERHAPS more disappointing was Lions' inability to produce a clean sweep in their fixtures with the Hawks, whom they had beaten in all the previous meetings this campaign.

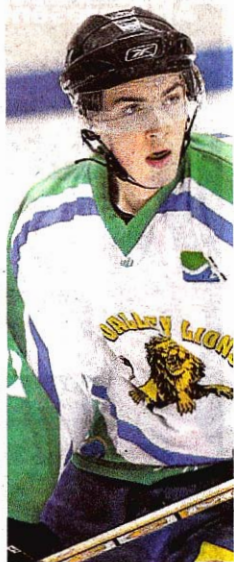
Their short-bench woes continued for this final home game of the season, having trounced Slough 16-1 in January.

Slough took an early lead, but Nick Alley levelled matters with a study slapshot.

The Hawks regained their lead, but when Slough keeper Sanderson allowed a Stas Prokofiev effort past him it was 2-2.

Slough's Rost netted his hat-trick to restore the lead, but matters were tied at 3-3, as Ashley Curtin scored Lions's third.

The crucial period came when Slough scored four more and Lions were sunk without trace. Curtin got his second and the side's fourth and final goal of the campaign, netting a rebound from Alley's slapshot.



**ASHLEY Curtin:
Scored two against Slough.**