

# Lions in no shape to resist Mustangs' goal stampede

## Lee Valley Lions 3, Invicta Mustangs 14

**LIONS' Kent visitors were looking to avenge the defeat the Lea Bridge side had inflicted on them towards the end of last year and achieved it emphatically, although the fact that the depleted Lions could only field 11 players to Invicta's 18 had a decided bearing.**

Lee Valley looked in poor shape from the start, as their defence lacked co-ordination, their passes went constantly astray and turnovers in possession were plentiful. Also Lions' didn't have much luck with their efforts on goal.

Lions began by gaining two power plays, but it was a bad sign that they couldn't get off a single shot from either.

They held Invicta until the 10<sup>th</sup> minute when the opening goal was tipped past net-minder Andrew Boot and they were soon 2-0 down when they contributed to their own downfall.

New forward Nathan Higgins made the mistake for Invicta's third and it went from bad to worse.

### ICE HOCKEY NEWS

The second period belonged exclusively to the Kent side, after Ashley Curtin had reduced arrears with a short-handed goal, the Mustangs rammed in four further goals without reply to lead 8-1.

Daniel Artis replaced Boot between the sticks for the third period and was immediately busy making a string of fine saves.

There was a small window of hope for Lions when they scored twice in quick succession, firstly Nick Alley netted after good work by Stas Prokofiev and then Curtin put away his second when made a present of the puck

by some slack Mustangs defending.

But the Kent side raised their game again and netted five unanswered goals as Lions lost James Hatfull for six minutes of penalties for an offence in retaliation to one that the referee missed.

One highlight of an otherwise dismal evening for Lions was the display of young player Terry Howlet, who has come through the Lee Valley junior system. He never gave up and showed real commitment in a beleaguered defence.

■ Lions will be hoping for better when they face Slough Harrier Hawks this Saturday, whom they have beaten twice this season. Face-off is at 5-30pm.



**NICK Alley, scorer of Lions' second goal in a 14-3 loss.**