

Lions feel the bite after Mustangs masterclass

LEE VALLEY LIONS were left cursing their puck after another defeat at the weekend.

The Lions were well beaten into second place by the Invicta Mustangs, who came to Lee Valley Ice Rink on Saturday for the English National Ice Hockey League South Two clash.

The hosts' efforts were undermined by the thinness of their squad, whose 11 members struggled to keep up with the pace of the 18 strong Kent outfit.

Early in the match the Lions won two power play advantages but were not able to score from either.

This profligacy was soon punished in the tenth minute as Lions' netminder Andrew Boot was helpless to stop a shot which was tipped past him.

The second goal followed within a minute as the Lions conceded possession behind their goal to allow an opponent to pass across to a sniper lying in wait who rifled in his shot.



Lions gave chase but were unable to take down the Mustangs

Mustang Michal Mikal, a star import, was the bane of the Lions throughout. He netted the first of his six goals with his side's third, capitalising upon an error by new Lions forward Nathan Higgins in his own side's danger zone.

The first period ended

with the Lions trailing 3-0.

The second followed the pattern established in the first, as the visitors fired in twice as many goals into the Lions' net.

Too often the defence melted like ice into slush as Boot was exposed again and again.

Ashley Curtin pulled one back for the Lions to make it 4-1, only to see the four goal advantage promptly restored by Mikal, who skated for the length of the rink for his goal.

The Mustangs then scored a pair of shorthanded goals to heap humiliation onto the Lions.

Daniel Artis replaced Boot in the Lions goal for the third period and made five saves in the first minute.

There was a small window of hope created that Lee Valley might get back in the game when they scored two quick goals through Nick Alley and Ashley Curtin.

But all hope soon faded as Invicta then netted five unanswered goals.

One highlight for the local side was the excellent performance of youth product Terry Howlet.

The Lions are hoping for better fortune on Saturday when they face Slough Harrier Hawks, a team they have already beaten twice this season.