

Lions roar back late to sting the Hornets

ICE HOCKEY

**Lee Valley Lions 7
Bracknell Hornets 5**
(ENL South B)

LEE Valley Lions made a late fightback and held on to record an impressive victory over the table-toppers.

The Lions came out firing on all cylinders and took the lead within the first minute when Stas Prokofiev crashed the net and forced the puck through his five-hole.

And the tempo didn't decrease as Scott Beeson twice had shots saved by the visiting netminder.

Mark Swaine had to go off after a check to the head - resulting in a match ban for Hornets' former Valley player Graham Bellamy. During the resulting five-minute

powerplay, the Lions increased their lead as Nick Breigoos got a superb tip on a Scott Pollak slapshot to deflect the puck in.

Two quick-fire strikes set up a commanding lead. Beeson hammered home after a good pass from Nick Alley, before returning the favour for Alley to make it four.

The Hornets pulled one back with just under two minutes remaining of the period, and grabbed a second in the second session when a shot was re-directed by the skate of a Valley player into the net.

But Alley added his second within a minute to restore the three-goal cushion.

Bracknell were in the ascendancy in the third period as their physical style

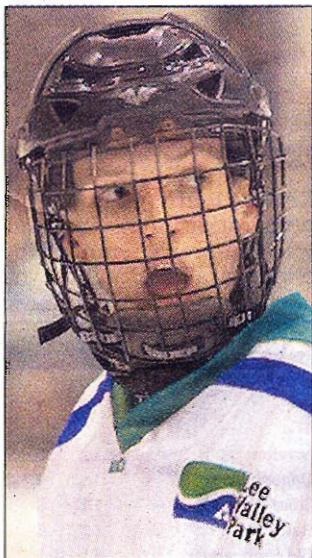
took control. They outshot the Lions by three to two over the 20 minutes and George Alley in the home goal was called on to make some fine saves.

However, he could do nothing as two Bracknell goals in the first four minutes, compounded by a couple of injuries to key Lions players, left the teams separated by a single goal.

But the Lions got the break they needed six minutes from time when a trademark slapshot from James Hatfull was redirected into the net.

Romanas Fedotovas then wristed the Lions' seventh goal two minutes later to seal the victory, before Bracknell scored a late consolation.

Lee Valley Lions are away at Streatham on Sunday.



Lions' Nick Alley, who scored two goals in the win over Bracknell Hornets

(Photo by Julianne Bonner)