

LIONS SHOT DOWN BY RAMPANT SPITFIRES

Romford Spitfires 8 Lee Valley Lions 5

LEA Valley Lions crashed to defeat despite a bright opening period in which they dominated their hosts.

James Hatfull knocked in the first goal after just one minute while Spitfires' Paul Merchant and Billy Phillips were in the penalty box. However, Romford didn't waste any time in making the scoreline even, as after several attempts on goal their first was the result of a straight shot from Matt Turner (who went on to score a hat-trick).

Halfway through the period Andrew Boot in the Lions' goal came under considerable pressure, but was swiftly relieved by a great effort from Ashley Curtin, who took the puck up the ice and past Graeme Bird to score Lions' second goal of the match and restore their lead.

Unfortunately, Billy Phillips' puck shot from the other end of the ice sailed right into the back of his net to square things up again.

The second period opened with the score at 2-2, but Matt Turner quickly scored his second of the night, a weak shot that slipped in thanks to scrappiness in front of the net. Lee Valley's equaliser came after 28 minutes, courtesy of Chris Wilson, assisted by Ruslanas Jegovorlas. The Lions opted at this point to swap goalies, resting Andrew Boot in favour of George Alley.

Romford's fifth goal was very well taken, James Murnane defeating two Lee Valley defencemen in flipping the puck into the top corner.

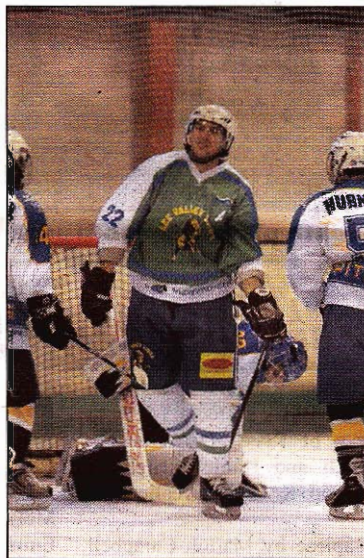
After 38 minutes some nice work in front of the net from Nick Alley, Stas Prokofiev and Michael Jacobs secured Lions' fourth goal.

Heading into the final period Lee Valley were trailing Romford by one goal. The

Spitfires' netminder was out of position at one point but well-placed defence ensured the Lions' attempts to shoot came to nothing. However, Nick Alley persisted and his diligence paid off when he scored after 41 minutes assisted by Ashley Curtin and Freddie Trimble.

Romford edged back in front on 44 minutes as defenceman Simon Kears spotted that George Alley's vision was obscured and hit the sixth, assisted by Matt Turner and James Restarick. Despite being short-handed the Spitfires were handed the perfect opportunity to score the seventh after 47 minutes, George Alley being left completely open and undefended. The goal was scored by Matt Turner, unassisted. The final goal came as Ruslanas Jegovorlas inadvertently gave away possession of the puck, leaving Sam Park to score unassisted.

The Lee Valley Lions hope to gain revenge on their local rivals when the Romford Spitfires travel to the Lee Valley Ice Centre on 27 September. Face-off for the game is 5.30pm.



James Hatfull celebrates after scoring PICTURE: Julianne Bonner

Millwall crush de

Millwall 47 East London 17

MILLWALL Rugby Club built on their undefeated run this season with a second league victory in the derby match against East London.

After a convincing victory last week the Isle of Dogs side came up against their first genuine test of the season away against their London rivals. East London had also put in a solid performance the week before, winning 70-0, so the stage was set for a top-of-the-table showdown.

East London were the first to open

the scoring, notching up a penalty in front of the posts, but Millwall fly-half Dom Sutherland soon matched it with a penalty of his own, leading to a tense atmosphere.

Adding a dominant scrum to the meant that scores were inevitable, and a brace of tries was scored by each Millwall's centres, Ben Smith and debutant James Reilly. A couple of scrums towards the end for East London including one penalty try, restored some parity, but it was Millwall's Late in the second fly-half Sutherland found 2nd row forward Andrew B