

Rampant Lions give sorry Slough a mauling

ICE HOCKEY NEWS

Lee Valley Lions 6 Slough Harrier Hawks 2

REGULAR spectators of the Lee Valley Lions must have thought they were at the wrong venue on Saturday night!

Although containing many familiar faces from last season, the performance from the team was as different as chalk and cheese to those the crowd had become used to.

In a match described by many regulars as "the best game they had seen since the Lions came back," the team demolished the Slough Harrier Hawks.

The Lions certainly started in very positive fashion, outplaying their visi-

tors for most of the first period.

The 1-1 scoreline after 20 minutes of play did not reflect their domination, but Slough's goalkeeper kept the visitors in the match. After seeing many efforts saved or just flashing past the net, Stas Prokofiev put the home team in front just before the 13-minute mark, only for the visitors, to draw level at 18:20 with a neatly executed goal from Russell Stevens.

Period two followed the same pattern and Lee Valley scored twice more. First Joe Berry scored a great solo goal, collecting the puck in the corner and cutting in before beating a flailing netminder.

The Lions had to kill a 5-on-3 situa-

tion for nearly two minutes when both Alastair Band and Richard Smith were in the box, but the hosts' penalty killing unit worked well, holding Slough at bay. The gap should have been greater as there were two goalmouth scrambles, but the home team just couldn't squeeze the puck home. Finally, when killing another penalty, James Hatfull split the Slough team with a tape-to-tape pass to Scott Beeson who was clear of the defence, and he raced forward to score top shelf short-handed.

The Lions seemed to relax in the final session, and were punished early in the period as Slough pulled the match score back to 3-2 with a relatively soft goal, as for the first time in the evening, netminder Alley was exposed at the back.

Just three minutes later, two new Lions combined as JJ McGrath had a great attempt on goal denied but the puck rebounded to Nick Alley (brother of Lions' goalie, George) who had no trouble finding the net.

Beeson then flew down the left wing and put a centering pass right on the stick of Nick Alley who doubled his tally. Just under two minutes later man of the match Alley, completed a "natural hat trick" – three consecutive goals by the same player – again assisted by Beeson.

■ THE Lions' next home game is on October 6 when they face Basingstoke Buffalo, face-off 5.30pm. For more information on the team visit www.leevalleylions.co.uk



Nick Alley (PIC: JULIANNE BONNER)