

Lions up against it from the start!

ICE HOCKEY SPECIAL: LEE VALLEY LIONS 3, OXFORD ALL STARS 11

succession past frustrated back-up netminder, George Alley.

The Stars' man of the match, Dean Francis, was a formidable force, either scoring or assisting in all five goals.

Alley was replaced by regular netminder, Stefan Nubert. He conceded a further Dean Francis goal less than two minutes later, but held firm throughout the rest of the first period. At the

buzzer the Lions were trailing 6-1.

Matters didn't improve in the second period, another four Stars goals finding their way through the weak Lions defence.

Captain Dan Sampson was the only Lee Valley player to trouble the Oxford netminder, scoring a power play goal, assisted by Ben Osborne.

Lions emerged a stronger side for the final period, drastically reducing Oxford's chances of shots on goal.

Hodge scored a short-handed goal for the Lions, assisted by top points-scorer Beeson.

Lee Valley held Oxford until a penalty against Matyas Vas allowed them to bag the last goal of the night.

Man of the Match for the Lee Valley Lions was Richard Hodge, who scored one with one assist.

Lions' next match is this Sunday (Feb 26) against Basingstoke Buffalos, face-off 5.45pm.

■Lions are currently looking for a coach or player coach. If you have what it takes to coach English National League ice hockey, you can find further information at www.leevalleylions.co.uk.

LEE Valley Lions were disadvantaged from the start in this game, missing the services of several regulars.

The gaps were filled by members of the Lions' Under 19s, but they faced an uphill battle from the start against late arrivals Oxford.

The surprise came when Lions' Romanas Fedotovas opened the scoring for the home side with a well-executed goal, with assists from Richard Hodge and Scott Beeson.

Optimism was sadly short-lived as the Stars hammered five goals in quick



LEE Valley Lions (green & white) on the attack in Sunday's defeat by Oxford All Stars.

Picture: Julianne Bonner