



Puck control: Joe Berry scored Lee Valley Lions' second goal in the defeat. Pictures: JULIANNE BONNER

Lions rue costly six-minute spell

LEE VALLEY LIONS' poor start to 2012 continued against the Basingstoke Buffalo, after a promising opening ended in another heavy defeat, 8-3.

The hosts took the lead after just two minutes when Scott Beeson slotted past Buffalo keeper Aaron Taylor.

Their lead lasted a matter of seconds though, as the visitors mustered the perfect response through Sam Dollins, whose powerful slap-shot levelled the score.

The Lions then restored their lead after three minutes when Richard Hodge and Phillip Mueller combined well, finding Joe Berry for the finish.

With the Lions playing well it looked like a close encounter was on the cards but hopes of this quickly evaporated as the Buffalo shocked the home side with four goals in six minutes.

Adam Peach reduced the deficit before half-time, with a superb solo effort, meaning the Lions trailed at the break by two.

Lee Valley came out fighting in the second half and sent a flurry of shots at the Buffalosgoal, however keeper Taylor was equal to each and ensured the Buffalo advantage remained intact.

The away side sealed the result midway through the second half as the resilient



Adam Peach was also on target for the Lions.

Lions defence finally crumbled, with Simon Beere and Thomas Pope both scoring past Steve Grout.

The final period saw the Lions defence toughen up and somewhat redeem itself.

Despite heavy pressure from the Buffalos, they put in a determined effort to ensure the scoreline didn't increase but the damage was done by that expensive six-minute spell.