

Lee Valley Lions  
Lee Valley Ice Centre  
Lee Bridge Road  
London

### **A view from the centre line,**

Happy New Year to all our supporters and those of today's visiting team, Romford Fury.

It's been good on the TV with the Spengler Cup and the final coming out as: Dinamo Riga (2) - HC Davos (3) played on 31.12.2011.

Great play also in the Under 20's World Cup in Canada. Having seen Finland dispatched by the Swedes in post overtime shootout I checked out the website and saw that Russia had seen off Canada in a stunning 6-5 win. So the final is Russia vs. Sweden. (Must remember NOT to look at the web before seeing the match!)

Basically though the despair on the Finland goal minder's face shows the weight that role has on players. One failure and the match is lost!

We have a run on home games for the next few weeks so please put them in your diary.

I've added a few extra features in this issue, if you like this sort of content please let me know.

Regards

Mike

Please note that Mike's comments must not be taken as representative of any policy or view of Lee Valley Regional Park or Lee Valley Lions Ice Hockey Club.

**Lee Valley Lions 7  
Oxford City Stars 3  
26 November 2011**

After suffering two disappointing losses on the road, Lee Valley Lions bounced back on Saturday with an emphatic 7-3 victory over Oxford City Stars. The return to form was all the more satisfying as the Lions had been crushed by the Stars 6-1 only the previous month.

Scott Beeson opened proceedings for the Lions at 4:43 with a slapshot goal set up by Calum Heath and Gary Dodds. A second goal followed midway through the period, passes from Dodds and Beeson resulting in Richard Hodge slotting the puck in from the side of the net. Dodds, Beeson and Hodge soon shocked Oxford with a third goal, this time Dodds knocking the puck past the keeper in almost identical fashion to Hodge.

The Stars had clearly not expected Lee Valley to make such a strong start but they were now in big trouble and needed to engage a rapid turnaround if they were to salvage the game. Despite calling a time-out, Oxford still couldn't dampen the Lions' enthusiasm and the period ended with the visitors trailing 3-0.

The second period was markedly different, an error by netminder Steve Grout leading to Oxford's first goal at 22:36. This seemed to shake the Lions' confidence and gave Oxford their much-needed boost. Lee Valley nonetheless managed to hold their opponents at bay and Calum Heath gave the home side their fourth goal at 32:12, assisted by Adam Peach.

Peach's play has impressed this season and his hard work did not go unnoticed by fans, but despite this, a defensive error allowed Oxford's Warren Jones to break away from the pack and score unassisted at 35:43. James Clarke narrowed the scoreline to 4-3 just before the end of the period and a minor skirmish followed, resulting in James Hatfull sitting out 2-mins for Roughing.

Lee Valley had allowed Oxford to dominate the second period but they were not going to permit a repeat performance. The final period opened with Scott Beeson breaking away from the centre line and scoring while short-handed, his goal unassisted. Oxford finally began to crumble, Richard Hodge and Calum Heath doing the final damage. Lee Valley Lions remain unbeaten at home this season and their slick 7-3 win pushed them into double points in the league table.

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**Scott Beeson, scorer of two goals.**

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## News from Bristol

BRISTOL'S ice rink is to close its doors to the public this autumn after more than 45 years, the Evening Post can reveal.

The Frogmore Street rink has long been one of the most popular attractions in the city centre and is also home to the Bristol Pitbulls ice hockey team.



Members of the Bristol Bulldogs junior ice hockey team, who want to save the ice rink Picture: Gavin Crilly

The news was broken to staff at the ice rink on Tuesday and the centre is expected to close in October when work will start on converting the building into student flats.

John Nike, the Berkshire-based businessman who currently operates the ice rink, has said there is a possibility a new rink could be built in south Bristol. He wants to build hundreds of homes close to the park and ride in Stockwood and the development could include a £10 million ice rink.

The ice rink was originally opened in 1966 and is famous for its connections with Olympic champion Robin Cousins. Cousins grew up in Sea Mills and started learning to skate as soon as the rink opened.

He added: "I currently own 140 acres of green belt land next to the park and ride in Stockwood and along with Crest Nicholson we have been talking to the planning inspectorate. If we were to build then the scheme there would be land set aside for commercial use which would be most likely an ice rink."

He added: "It is very difficult making money from an ice rink because of the cost of running them. The problem with Frogmore Street is that it was built in the 1960s. The ventilation has never been good enough so there has always been a problem with the damp."

Ice rink manager Eddie Pearson said: "This is a very sad day for everyone connected to the ice rink – both the staff and the users. This is not a decision that has been taken by us but by our landlords."

"We are in discussion with the owner of Bristol Ice Rink about their future role in the new development. The new development will include some leisure space and will work with the ice rink to keep users informed of our proposal as they develop. The current lease expires in January 2013.

Professional ice hockey returned to Bristol after a 16-year absence in 2009 thanks to the efforts of businessman Richie Hargreaves.

Mr. Hargreaves, the owner of Bristol Pitbulls, said: "We were told the news yesterday and our first concern was whether we would be able to finish the season or not. Our last game is in March and we have been told that we will not be affected.

"But I am really gutted because of all the hard work that has been put in over the last three years. We started with 18 guys and we now have four teams and were about to launch a women's team."

He added: "We have worked really hard to become a part of the community and this is going to affect a lot of people. We will be talking to all the other users so we can present a case to Unite to keep the ice rink open."

Bristol Bulldogs junior ice hockey team includes a beginners' team, an under 12s, an under 14s, an under 16s and an under 18s, with around 15 members each who train at the ice rink every Tuesday night.

Sharon Davies, chairwoman of the team, said: "I am devastated for the children. It's not only them but the figure skaters and synchronised skaters who practise at the rink.

"There are also sledging sessions for disabled adults and children – there's things that go on there for older people too.

"A lot of children go down there at the weekends – it's a nice place to go and keeps them off the streets, they make a lot of friends down there. It's such a big part of Bristol, it's been there for so long.

"When it closes down our nearest rink would be Swindon, which is impossible. I would like to think it would not be the end of the Bristol Bulldogs, but I just don't know how we'd go on unless we found another home in Bristol.

"I'm really shocked by the news. Parents have been told about the closure and we are holding a meeting about the future of the club on Tuesday. In the meantime if anyone knows of an ice rink that we could use as a temporary home please could they get in touch."

## Advertising feature.



If you plan a night out you could give this a try - it's an Italian bistro style restaurant.

Café style seating with basic décor and traditional wood fired oven for its wide range of freshly made breads and pizza. The menu featured other pasta dishes and desserts. Wines and beers from Italy but in my view the wine is at the high end price wise.

Parking can be difficult but you can always park behind the cinema close to Sainsbury's South Woodford.

If you like Italian and want an authentic meal cooked by chefs from Naples this is the one for you.

Midday deals are also available.

The waiter wants to learn to skate, so I suggested Lee Valley who provide courses for beginners.







**Callum Heath, scorer of two goals.**

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## Sponsorship

We are most grateful to our sponsors, both commercial and individual, who have helped in many ways. If you could help us out with a raffle prize donation, equipment, match beer prizes or alike please let us know.

## English National Ice Hockey League South 2 2011/12

		<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts</b>
1	Peterborough Islanders	15	12	1	2	83	31	25
2	Solent & Gosport Devils	12	11	1	0	99	32	23
3	Chelmsford Warriors	15	8	2	5	70	57	18
4	Basingstoke Buffalo	11	5	3	3	46	35	13
5	Swindon Wildcats 2	11	5	2	4	50	50	12
<b>6</b>	<b>Lee Valley Lions</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>10</b>
7	Wightlink Tigers	13	5	0	8	54	70	10
8	Romford Fury	11	3	3	5	47	46	9
9	Oxford City Stars	12	3	3	6	36	65	9
10	Bristol Pitbulls	10	4	1	5	51	51	9
11	Cardiff Devils 2	11	3	2	6	41	59	8
12	Slough Jets	12	3	0	9	30	59	6
13	Invicta Mustangs	13	2	2	9	31	71	6



## **Scott Beeson**

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### **Fixtures**

**Basingstoke Buffalo**

**14Jan Home match**

**Slough Jets**

**21Jan Home match**

**Wightlink Tigers**

**28Jan Home match**

<http://www.leevalleylions.co.uk/index.php>

## **Rink Safety Announcements**

**Please listen and follow the safety announcements from the match announcer and also the rink staff.**

Note: Sections 13 and 14 in the seating blocks are reserved for teams **ONLY**. Spectators are not permitted in these areas, please walk around the rink by passing behind the announcer's box.

## **Photographs**

You are very welcome to take photographs during the match. Please ensure that the flash is turned off as flash photography is dangerous for players and officials.

**Watch out for the Zamboni when it enters and leaves the ice because it crosses over the spectator walkway.**



## **Thanks to all our helpers and Off-Ice Officials**

Thanks to all the volunteers who help each week covering all the necessary jobs that when all put together make a match night at Lee Valley.

Want to volunteer? Just leave your contact details with me at the announcer's box.

## **SKATE BLING @ LEE VALLEY**

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### **Programme Sponsor**

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## **Finland vs. Sweden Under 20's World Cup**

CALGARY – Sebastian Collberg and Max Friberg scored in the shootout as Sweden rallied from a two-goal deficit to beat archrival Finland 3-2 in Tuesday's first semi-final. The Swedes will face the winner of Canada-Russia for gold, while the Finns take on the loser for bronze.

"From the very beginning, I knew exactly which move I wanted to do," said Collberg of his goal. "We never stop battling. We are a very tough team to play against for 60 minutes."

"We saw that the Finns were totally spent physically at the end," said Friberg, whose heroics have been a constant here in Calgary. "We were much stronger in overtime and obviously in the shootout."

As any Finnish fan will tell you, this was a classic heartbreaker for Finland versus their nemesis. Captain Mikael Granlund had a chance to deadlock things in the shootout, but on what was Finland's final attempt, the three-time World Junior participant simply lost the puck while cruising in on Sweden's Johan Gustafsson.

In front of 15,690 fans in Calgary, Sweden's William Karlsson scored a power play goal in the third period, and Max Friberg, with just 1:44 left on the clock, notched the equalizer with his eighth of the tournament. Alexander Ruutu and Joel Armia scored for Finland in the first and second periods.

Finnish goalie Sami Aittokallio, despite struggling at times with rebound control, was heroic between the pipes as Sweden outshot Finland 58-24. But he still lost the goaltending duel with Sweden's Johan Gustafsson, and

was in tears during his post-game interviews. He gave away the puck on Friberg's tying goal, and was inconsolable, throwing his mask to the ice while being recognized as Finland's Player of the Game.

The tenacious Finns, who got zero power plays to Sweden's three, focused on bringing five men back. There was no cheating in the neutral zone, and few opportunities for the Swedes to get an odd-man rush and unleash their offensive potential – that is, until the third period.

Finland singled out Friberg for special physical attention, with Teemu Pulkkinen tagging him repeatedly with stiff bodychecks. Pulkkinen also laid out Brodin in the Swedish end.

Markus Granlund took the game's first penalty at 7:30 of the second period in the Swedish end. The Swedes came close when Mika Zibanejad rang the puck off the post. The Finns were meticulous about clearing pucks away.

The opportunistic Finns struck again at 15:30 to make it 2-0. Armia stripped Swedish assistant captain Joakim Nordstrom in front of the Swedish net, and before Nordstrom or D-man Oscar Klefbom could recover, Armia beat Gustafsson high over the glove.

In the third period, the Swedes got their second man advantage when Simo-Pekka Riikola pulled down Filip Forsberg behind the Finnish net. Sweden caught a break at last at 3:11, when William Karlsson went hard to the net after Johann Larsson's hard blast and the rebound went in off his skate through Aittokallio's legs to make it 2-1.

They called a timeout to plot strategy with 2:38 left. At last they found a chink in their opponents' armour when Aittokallio's pass behind the net was picked off by

Sundstrom and centered to Friberg, who fired into the gaping Finnish net.

Overtime settled nothing, although the Swedes continued to dominate 4-on-4, and it was off to the shootout.

Round 1: SWE, Collberg – goal, high backhand deke.  
FIN, Armia, goal – forehand shot.

Round 2: SWE, Friberg – goal, high shot. FIN, Joonas Donskoi – Gustafsson save.

Round 3: SWE, Forsberg – Aittokallio save. FIN, Granlund miss.

Armia mimicked Friberg's colourful goal-scoring celebration from his shootout marker versus Switzerland, but the Swedish forward got the last laugh when he scored the deciding goal.

"I heard that everyone was booing me, but my focus was on the goaltender, and I saw that his five-hole was open," Friberg said of his tally. "This is where I put the puck." As for Armia's celebration? "I saw it as a tribute to me."

## **A little bit about Romford**

**Romford** is a large suburban town in north east London, England and the administrative headquarters of the London Borough of Havering.

It is located 14.1 miles (22.7 km) northeast of Charing Cross and is one of the major metropolitan centres identified in the London Plan. It was historically a market town in the county of Essex and formed the administrative centre of the liberty of Havering, until it was dissolved in 1892.

Good road links and the opening of the railway station in 1839 were key to the development of the town and the economic history of Romford is underpinned by a shift from agriculture to light industry and more recently to retail and commerce.

As part of the suburban growth of London in the 20th century, Romford significantly expanded and increased in population, becoming a municipal borough in 1937 and has formed part of Greater London since 1965. It now forms one of the largest commercial, retail, entertainment and leisure districts outside central London and has a developed night time economy.

