

Lions come out on top in battle against Tigers

▶ Ice Hockey news

National League

Lee Valley Lions 8

Wightlink Tigers 6

Lee Valley Lions celebrated back-to-back home wins for the first time this season on Saturday night after they beat Wightlink Tigers in a closely fought contest.

Following the previous week's win against Slough ENL Jets, the Lions were in a confident mood going into the game.

However, it was the visitors from the Isle of Wight that came shooting out of the blocks, knocking two goals past netminder Steve Grout in a little over five minutes.

Just seven seconds later, Scott Beeson pulled the Lions back into the game when he scored, assisted by Calum Heath and Richard Hodge.

The home side then levelled the scores when Joe Berry made the puck his own at 13:51, taking it down the wing to score unassisted while the team were also shorthanded.

The Tigers then regained their lead a little over a minute later, before the Lions evened up the score again as the first period ended 3-3.

The second period continued at the same hectic pace as the first with neither team able to make the breakthrough, until Berry took passes from Blair Dubyk and James Hatfull to put the Lions into the lead for the first time in the game.

Lee Valley's defenders then held strong until just before the end of the period, when Wightlink brought the score level once more.

Heading into the final period, with the scores tied at 4-4, there was everything to play for.

Youngster Janus Hutcheon was elated to score for the Lions, but his glee was short-lived as the Tigers equalised once again with a long-range shot.

Hodge then nudged the home side ahead shortly after, before defenceman Romanas Fedotovas, who had clearly been desperate to score all game, extended Lee Valley's lead to a two-goal cushion.

The panicked Wightlink then called a time-out with less than two minutes left in the period, opting to pull their netminder off in favour of an extra skater.

The strategy didn't go to plan though as Hodge struck the puck into the empty net.

However, the Tigers still kept up the battle, scoring one final goal with just 10 seconds left on the clock.

This Saturday, the Lions welcome top-of-the-table Solent and Gosport Devils to Lee Valley with face-off at 5.15pm.



▶ Richard Hodge was the Lions' man of the match on Saturday

Pic: Julianne Bonner