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04.02.07 Bracknell Hornets 9-5 Lee Valley Lions

The three previous meetings between Lee Valley and Bracknell had all resulted in the Lions losing 2-6. The team had to regain some of the drive and determination that was sadly lacking the night before if they were to stand a chance of turning the tables.

Unfortunately things did not start well for Lee Valley as James Hatfull was sent to the sin bin at 01:30 for hooking and just 21 seconds later Bracknell scored their first powerplay goal. The lead rose to 2-0 at 03:39 after errors from Hatfull and Justin Grant resulted in an own goal that was credited to Bracknell's high-scoring Craig Tribe.

The Lions soon put the mistake behind them because at 08:26 Ben Williams scored the Lions' first, a powerplay goal that was assisted by Michael Ranby. This was followed a minute later by the equaliser, passes from Billy Whitney and Michael Jacobs providing Stas Profokiev with the opportunity to outwit Hornets' netminder Gavin Jackson.

Bracknell's Captain James Galazzi was due to receive 2-mins for slashing when Lee Valley's Andrzej Maslak broke away, took the puck up the ice and slotted it neatly in the top corner to put the Lions 3-2 ahead.

At 21:37 James Hatfull was sent to the penalty box for what was already his third offence of the game. Ben Williams inadvertently allowed Bracknell to gain possession of the puck and the instant consequence was a Bracknell powerplay goal at 22:06, scored by Jon Anderson.

Soon after James Hatfull was returned to the sin bin with 2+10 for checking to the head. For a few minutes the Lions carried out a sustained attack on the Hornets' goal and Ben Williams redeemed himself by being perfectly positioned to knock in a pass from Andrzej Maslak (a second assist going to Stas Profokiev) at 32:42. The Lions' narrow lead didn't last long as at 33:29 Craig Tribe scored unassisted to equalise once more. A series of well executed passes then provided the Hornets' Chris Beauclerk with the opportunity to put the home side one goal ahead at 38:41.

Craig Tribe extended the Hornets' lead at 46:30 with his hat-trick goal, scored as Lions' netminder George Alley was trying to recover his stick. Assists went to Jon Anderson and Lee Hardy and it was Hardy who then scored himself at 49:24, assists going to Anderson and Tribe. The same combination of players struck again at 57:12, Lee Hardy passing to Craig Tribe who took the puck the length of the ice before Jon Anderson hit it home.


Stas Profokiev scored for the Lions at 58:01 on a delayed penalty, assists going to Andrew Holdaway and Andy Watt. It was too little too late as Bracknell rounded off the scoring with a goal from Tony Barclay. The assist went to James Galazzi who had inadvertently been handed the puck thanks to a slip-up by Andrzej Maslak.

At 59:08 a scuffle between James Hatfull and Lee Hardy resulted in both players receiving 2-mins penalties but Ben Williams stole the limelight by showering punches onto a cowering Jon Anderson with great gusto. The predictable outcome was a match penalty for Williams while Anderson received 2-mins for roughing.

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03.02.07 Lee Valley Lions 2-6 Bracknell Hornets

The writing looked on the cards from early on as Bracknell opened up the Lions' defence. In the first minute a wrist shot came in from the point and a Hornets player tipped the puck at waist height, just past Stefan Nubert's glove. The only early highlight from the Lions came as Andrzej Maslak put a cross-ice pass on the stick of Stas Prokofiev whose shot went straight at the Hornets' netminder.

Just under nine minutes in, the Hornets' Graham Bellamy hit a slapshot from the blue line, Nubert got a glove to the rocket and the Lions breathed a sigh of relief as the deflection pinged the crossbar. However, Bracknell then opened the scoring at 12:45, Ashley Skinns forcing the puck in as Nubert was left exposed at the far post with no defence cover.

Five minutes later the Hornets' second goal was even easier. Nubert had made three good saves only to find himself with nobody on the far post and Lee Hardy had a simple tap in to score. Goal number three coming under sixty seconds later was a carbon copy of the second. With the Lee Valley defence on holiday Craig Tribe had another easy tap in. Shots on goal for the period told the tale...Lee Valley 5, Bracknell 16.

The second session was the Lions' best as they won the period 1-0. Michael Jacobs scored a great goal - receiving a pass from Maslak, he lifted over the diving netminder, scoring top shelf. Lions' offence is more effective, but the team failed to capitalise on a number of further opportunities.

Seven minutes in and Ben Williams lead a breakout and slotted the puck to Paul O'Neill whose shot went straight at their netminder, meanwhile at the back Stefan Nubert was continuing to make good saves as he foiled another two-on-one rush. As the session drew to a close Michael Jacobs had two attempts on goal, the goalie just saved one while the second zipped past the post. The Bracknell netminder was having a great period and did really well to keep the Lions out in two goal mouth scrambles. Nubert proved himself again, as at the death the Hornets' Craig Tribe went coast to coast, leaving Lions players trailing in his wake, but Stefan was solid.

The third period belonged to Bracknell, scoring three unanswered goals before a late consolation from Scott Beeson. The first came just 42 seconds in as three Hornets players stormed the net. Marashi must have felt quite lonely as he was left all alone by the far post before celebrating a simple tap in. Five minutes later Nubert's five hole was just a little too big as Marashi got his second. He was then caught cold-footed in the 54th minute as Webb completed the scoring for the visiting team. In between the first two goals a Lions' advantage of one and a half minutes of five on three yielded only a couple of shots. Scott Beeson scored five hole late on to make the scoreline a little less painful.

Overall a very disappointing game as the visitors showed much more desire and passion to win the puck than a lack-lustre Lions side, whose work ethic outside the neutral zone was poor. With passes constantly going astray, backchecking almost non-existent and forwards unwilling to take on any defensive role, the scoreline and shots on goal statistics are a telling tale.