

LIONS TAMED BY WARRIORS

Chelmsford	10
Lee Valley Lions	3

LEE VALLEY LIONS' first game of the year ended in disappointment after they were beaten by a solid Chelmsford side at the weekend.

Lions struggled in the absence of missing duo James Hatfull and injured Ian Courtney.

Chelmsford Warriors looked strong right from the off, but the game was fraught with minor penalties which would cost the Lions dearly.

Phillip Carson was watching in the penalty box when ex-Lion, Ashlee Cave, managed to flip the puck over sprawled net-minder Robyn Maby to score the home team's first goal after 12 minutes.

This goal was swiftly followed by a second 40 seconds later, a straight slapshot courtesy of Lee Hounslow.

Maby's efforts could not be criticised as she had been placed under unrelenting pressure, as the Lions defence remained one step behind the Warriors' coordinated attack.

In his first game playing in a Lions' shirt,



Assist: Lee Valley's Lee Stobie

ex-Slough man Dave Tyler scored for the Lions at 18.35 with a powerplay goal that was assisted by Angela Taylor.

Lee Valley limped back on to the ice for the second period and quickly conceded another goal while short-handed.

Adam Peach received two-minutes for boarding and Adrian Woodyard capitalised on the situation at 20.46, his goal assisted by Tom Foskitt.

Goal number four was hit from the blue line at 21.52 by Will Poulston, assisted by Nick Green.

Green then took the puck from one end of the ice to the other to score himself, taking advantage of James Scott-Joseph being sidelined for slashing.

Craig Metcalf scored with a slapshot at 26.44 before the perseverance of Taylor and Lee Stobie allowed Andrew Holdaway to score Lions' second goal at 31.27.

Lee Valley scored their third goal at 47.13. Carson unassisted, but at 50.06 Chelmsford struck again, their seventh goal coming from man of the match Adrian Woodyard.

Maby had stood little chance, her view being blocked by no fewer than four players.

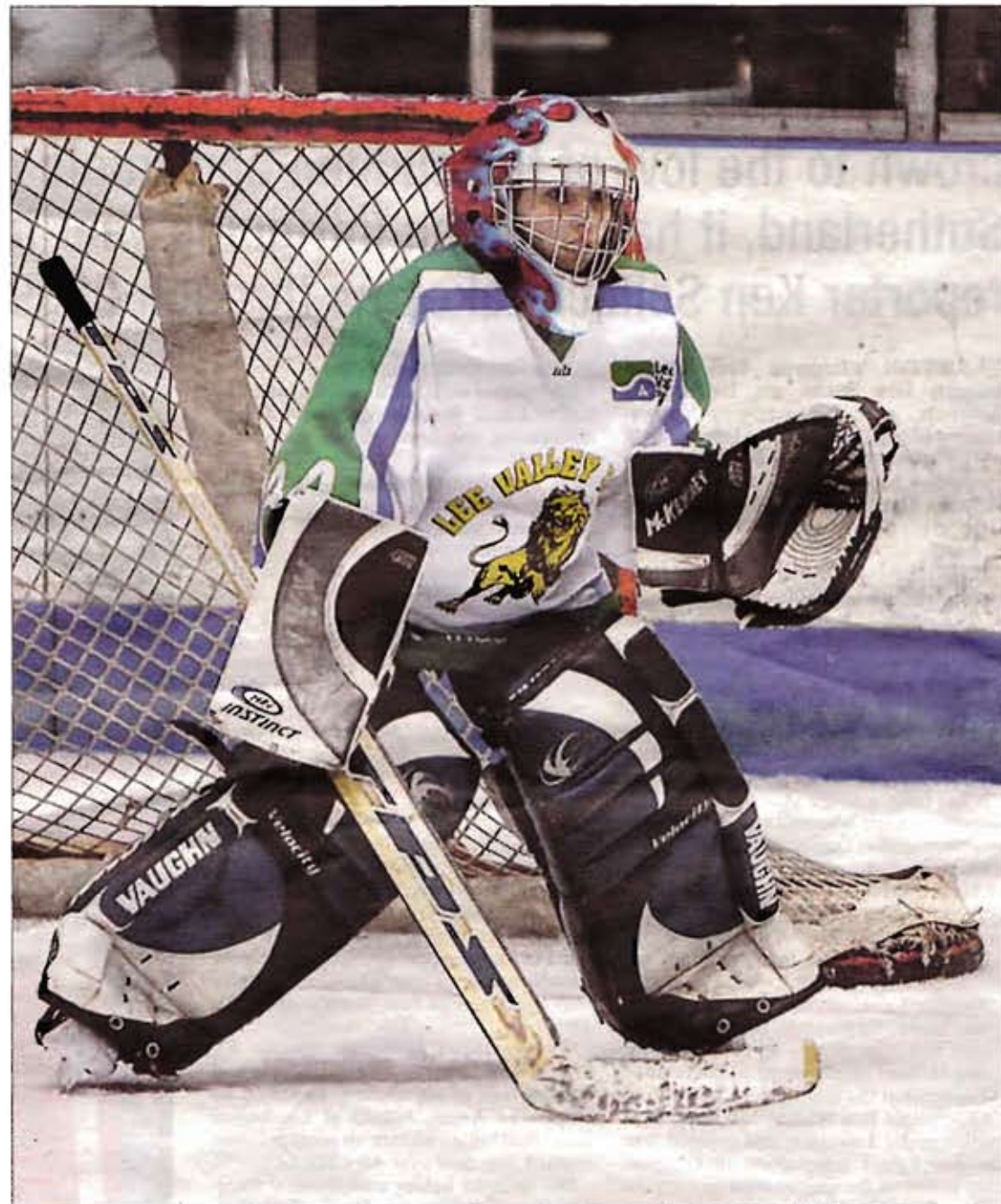
Chelmsford were awarded a penalty shot at 54.11 as a Lee Valley player was deemed to have thrown a stick, thus preventing a potential goal. Maby held her nerve, closed down the angle and successfully foiled the attempt.

Maby's heroic antics between the pipes continued as the shots came thick and fast, but by this time the Lions defence seemed to have all but given up.

They almost stood back and watched, leaving Daniel Rowen, Cave and Lee Hounslow to skate past and score unhindered, taking the final score to 10-3 to Chelmsford.

Man of the Match for Lee Valley went to Angela Taylor, who registered two assists, but Maby had excelled in the Lions net, facing no fewer than 58 shots in the game when the Lions had only managed a paltry 12.

Lee Valley Lions have a busy few months ahead and the next home game is on Sunday, at 4.30pm, when the Lions host current league leaders, Invicta Mustangs from Gillingham.



Solid showing: Robyn Maby let in 10, but had little help on Sunday Photo: Julianne Bonner