

CATS TAME LIONS

Cattell heroics are in vain as Swindon run wild in victory

LEE VALLEY LIONS have crashed back to earth with a bump after the Hackney side slumped to an eight-goal defeat on Saturday against Swindon Wildcats.

The Lions, who had produced a buoyant display against Streattham a week earlier, were unable to match that performance against a dominant Swindon side, who remain unbeaten in English National League Division Two South.

Only a stunning performance from Ruth Cattell prevented the Lions from a heavier defeat as the Premier League netminder was faced with a sustained barrage of shots with precious little support at the Lee Valley Ice Centre.

The tone for a heavy defeat was established in the opening minutes with some ineffective and clumsy passing and the Wildcats took advantage to open the scoring in the 10th minute.

The Lions held out for the remainder or a lacklustre first period, but harsh calls from the referee proved



No way through: Ruth Cattell is at full stretch to keep Swindon at bay Photograph by Julianne Bonner

costly for the home side in the second period as Swindon's second and third goals both came with a five-on-three advantage.

The Wildcats' fourth strike came midway through the session as netminder Cattell was floored by an initial shot, only to be caught out by a rebound.

At the other end, the Lions struggled for cohesion and were foiled in front of the net on the few times they created any notable chances.

Swindon's pace did not diminish during the final period. Jamie Newton scoring their fifth goal in the 48th minute, and with the referee continuing to dish out penalties like confetti, the Lions failed to capitalise on powerplays.

Instead they gave away their advantage by committing silly penalties of their own, forcing them to play three-on-five once more.

Lee Valley successfully held the Wildcats at bay while Andrew

Holdaway and Richard Hodge languished in the sin bin, but almost as soon as the side returned to four men, Swindon's Josh Oliver scored unassisted.

Goals seven and eight followed barely a minute apart in the 55th minute and the Wildcats' job was done.

Lee Valley Lions' next home game is on November 28, when they will hope for a better effort against Basingstoke Buffalo (4.30pm).