

BRAITHWAITE BACK

NICK BRAITHWAITE was unable to save the Lee Valley Lions from a heavy defeat in their opening game of the new season at Solent & Gosport Devils as the Hackney club fell to a 20-0 loss in Hampshire.

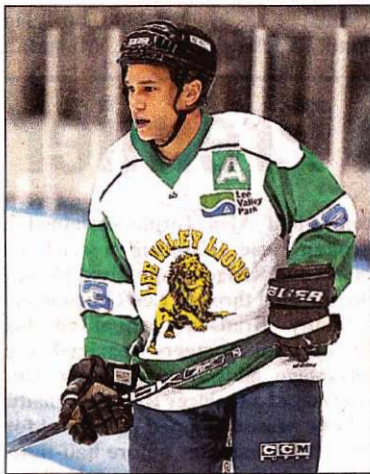
Leyton lad Braithwaite, who was a member of the original Lions squad almost two decades ago, has returned to the club for the new campaign and is optimistic of emulating the success of his first sting at the club.

Another familiar face is also back at Lee Valley after Steve Paris rejoined the club this summer.

Paris spent several years with the Streatham Redskins after leaving the club during the 90s, but has returned north of the river to continue his hockey career.

Yet despite the two additions, Lee Valley were always up against it after travelling to the league-leading Devils with a squad of only seven players and one net-minder.

And the lack of numbers duly translated into an emphatic win for Solent & Gosport as the home side scored freely in a one-sided encounter.



Lions return: Nick Braithwaite

Paris will hope for a better result in the Lions' next match on Saturday when he is likely to be reunited with some familiar faces in a clash with the Streatham Bruins.

Face-off at the Lee Valley Ice Centre in Lea Bridge Road, E10, is at 4.30pm.