

Lions roaring again after Slough triumph

LEE VALLEY LIONS put their January blues to bed with a 7-3 victory over bottom-placed Slough ENL Jets on Saturday after losing both of their previous games this year.

Blair Dubyk was a handful for the opponents from the outset, creating a chance that James Hatfull wasn't able to capitalise on. Richard Hodge quickly wiped this from the memory, scoring an unassisted short-handed goal moments later.

Jets netminder Daniel Milton then came under a hail of shot but managed to deflect everything aimed at him for most of the period. His resilience was further rewarded when Dubyk fired an absolute screamer from the blue line which flew into the top of the net, assisted by Graham Lewis and Gary Dodds.

Slough stepped up in the second period and came very close to scoring several times. They were hungry for a goal and were rewarded when Lee Hardy put the puck past Lions netminder, Steve Grout.

Lee Valley widened the score to 4-1 less than two minutes later though – Philippe Mueller scoring the team's second short-handed goal, with Hodge getting the assist. Two minutes later the dangerous Dubyk took advantage of a clear line to goal, with the puck sliding over the line as an opposition defender looked on in vain.

The third period opened with Mueller scoring again with an incredible wrap-around goal, after just a minute of play. Mueller then put the defence to the sword once more to complete his hat-trick.

Dubyk also completed his treble after a blunder by replacement netminder Jonathan Lemongelli, who dropped the puck past his own line – also awarding the Lions an unprecedented fourth short-handed goal.

The Lions were coasting at 7-1 but, in fairness, this didn't fairly reflect Slough's determination and their efforts were rewarded during a final flourish in which Kirkland Rhys-Evans and Nathan Darmanin netted.

This weekend's game against Wightlink Tigers is likely to prove a much closer battle as just one place in the league table separates the two teams.



Hat-trick heroes: Blair Dubyk, above and Philippe Mueller both found the net three times in the Lions' victory over Slough.

Pictures
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