

Great Scott! Beeson proves the last-gasp hero as Lions roar back to secure a share of the spoils

► Ice hockey

National League

Lee Valley Lions 3

Chelmsford Warriors 3

Lee Valley Lions came from behind to secure an important point against Chelmsford in a thrilling encounter on Sunday.

This was despite the home side still missing banned defenceman Romanas Fedotovas, while netminder Steve Grout was sidelined through injury.

The visitors came out strongly and the Lions had to battle hard against the team who had beaten their Essex rivals, Romford Fury, only the previous night.

Lee Valley held out for 15

minutes before Ricky Mills slotted the puck past goalie Ruth Cattell, the assist going to Adrian Woodyard.

The Lions defence was caught snoozing less than a minute later as the duo of Mills and Woodyard struck again to put the visitors 2-0 ahead by the end of the first period.

Lee Valley were very nearly handed their first goal shortly into the second period as an error by Warriors netminder Nathan Lawrence caused the puck to slide towards the line.

The puck was rescued in the nick of time and it wasn't until 35:55 that Blair Dubyk secured a pass from Gary Dodds and finally put the Lions on the score-sheet.

The Lions' second came within 60 seconds, with Joe Berry's shot flipping off Lawrence's glove and landing over the line.

The final minute of the second period was marred by a set of controversial penalties for both sides following a scuffle in the corner of the ice.

The Warriors had brought a number of talented young players, but Grant Bartlett's immaturity showed in his response to the punishments awarded and he was ejected from the game.

At two apiece, there was everything to play for during the final period. With the Lions severely short-handed, ex-Lion Ben Os-

borne pounced for the Warriors, nudging them into the lead at 48:54.

After calling a time-out, Lee Valley regrouped their efforts and jubilation erupted when Scott Beeson equalised with less than 30 seconds of the game remaining.

Sixteen-year-old defenceman Alan Go impressed in his first senior outing for the Lions, while Adam Peach put in a gutsy performance throughout.

It was netminder Cattell, however, who was named the man-of-the-match.

The Lions visit Romford Fury on November 5, before returning home on November 26 to do battle against Oxford City Stars.



■ Scott Beeson (right) scored the equaliser for Lee Valley Lions
Pic: Julianne Bonner