



On target: Lions new signing Phillippe Mueller.

Pic by Julianne Bonner

COMEBACK KINGS LIONS TAME THE MUSTANGS

National League Division Two South
Lee Valley 5 Invicta Mustangs 4
Lee Valley Lions' promising start to the season got a further boost on Saturday when they came back from 4-1 down to beat Invicta Mustangs.

The Lions' humiliation of losing 14-1 to the Kent-based side last season was swiftly forgotten with this hard-fought and well-deserved victory.

The Lions are an altogether different beast this year, bolstered by the arrival of a number of solid Brits as well as talented foreign-born players, Blair Dubyk and Philippe Mueller.

Dubyk and Mueller were to prove they are a force to be reckoned with in this encounter, scoring all five goals.

Nonetheless, during the first period Invicta could be forgiven for thinking their opponents were going to be a push-over.

Kevin Lake opened the scoring at nine minutes 14 seconds, but although Blair Dubyk wove round the Dynamos' defence to hit back with an equaliser less than a minute later, a couple of very easy goals and a powerplay effort saw the visitors quickly go 4-1 up.

Lee Valley were not going to go down without a fight and they turned things around in the second period.

Mueller and Dave Richards formed an effective partnership, Richards assisting Mueller on two goals while Blair Dubyk took advantage of a powerplay situation to bring the Lions level-pegging at 4-4.

Lee Valley were unlucky not to go ahead, their valiant efforts thwarted by steadfast Steve Grout in the Invicta net.

Lions fired up the engines further for the third period, continuing to out-shoot an increasingly jaded Invicta while stalemate continued.

Fans were on the edges of their seats as the final minutes counted down and the atmosphere inside the Lea Bridge Road rink was electric.

The visiting team already had little to smile about, having seen a 3-goal lead slip from their grasp, but Lee Valley hammered the final nail in the coffin when the dynamic combo of Dave Richards and Philippe Mueller struck again. Mueller's outstanding hat-trick goal arrived at 58:14, too late in the day for the Dynamos to answer, and the Lions skated off 5-4 victors.