



ROAR!

Season 87/8 - Issue

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

LEE VALLEY LIONS SUPPORTERS CLUB

FROM THE MANAGEMENT

First on behalf of the team and all officials I would like to wish all our supporters a very happy new year and I sincerely hope that the Lions can make a pleasant contribution to 1988, with a return to winning ways. 1987 definitely held more than its fair share of problems for the Lions. However, the one area that remained constant was our magnificent group of supporters. Not only for their loyalty and vocal support during our troubled times but also for their tremendous financial help. This has meant that we start 1988 with three of the best imports in the league and there is a determination running right through the team to do well in the second half of the season.

Since the last "ROAR" we have seen the arrival and departure of Tommi Kiiski who definitely got everyone's adrenalin flowing. However it was only a short term arrangement. Hopefully we have found the permanent replacement in Jarmo, another Flying Finn with an excellent record.

Once again thanks for your support and with us all pulling together lets hope we can return to the glory days.

To halt any speculation about the possibility of signing Kel Land, this was only a rumour and no definite offers were made. Also Gary McLoughlin will not be coming to Lee Valley, he has decided against a move south with his job for personal reasons.

We have also seen the quick arrival and departure of coach Mike Gelmon, he was due to coach the Lions long term but has had a re-occurrence of glandular fever and is unable to carry on with the coaching proceedings.

We may soon see the return of ex-Lion-Richmond-Medway-Cardiff-Slough player Steve Condren, a useful addition and the fourth defenceman we have needed.

QUIZ TIME

This week we have a wordsearch. Hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally are the 21 NHL teams listed below.

A S T B R N C E Q O W G T C A P I T A L S D
 O C P E V O D C N S G N I W D E R S B D C Y
 W H A L E R S D V B Z P U S P R B T L B B E
 A B O F B T F M D P C A U P B H T C R A L S
 G G Y H I H J P C E C I D A B F D U C Q U N
 H Z I N W S R R E L I O O T A E O I S M S E I
 W T D V C T L F B G X B K N R F Q A S U
 A U I A S A H H B G O L M N S R O R A N P G
 K L M N Y R K E D I F A L M E P P A C S N N
 S I Z K K S K C U N A C U Y U S Q A T B O E
 E M N N H E O S J U I K J P Q H N R B W S P
 M G N G R J M F P N M H K Y I A J W Z T O M
 A P J L S F H A I C M A V D D E V I L S Z
 L O T R S N Y E R F E W K I R L R G G F H L
 F L Y E R S A L D G E K E J O S T E J H U S
 H T S L E K G E D E F S S Q N X M L N W V E
 I J I J G K L L J H G A C G Y H L H I O U R
 K V J J C N U L P F I F E C F B G W I Y J U B
 M R K X A S O A T E E D D J I Z A Y K V M A
 A W B L R W P M V I S L A N D E R S Z N V S

BLACKHAWKS (Chicago)
 BLUES (St. Louis)
 BRUINS (Boston)
 CANADIENS (Montreal)
 CANUCKS (Vancouver)
 CAPITALS (Washington)
 DEVILS (New Jersey)
 FLAMES (Calgary)
 FLYERS (Philadelphia)
 ISLANDERS (New York)
 JETS (Winnipeg)
 KINGS (Los Angeles)
 MAPLE LEAFS (Toronto)
 NORDIQUES (Quebec)
 NORTH STARS (Minnesota)
 OILERS (Edmonton)
 PENGUINS (Pittsburgh)
 RANGERS (New York)
 REDWINGS (Detroit)
 SABRES (Buffalo)
 WHALERS (Hartford)

DID YOU KNOW ?!



Mike Fafard has been signed by Solihull Knights (Barons' B Team) after being released by Southampton Vikings.

"In all the teams in all the towns, I had to end up with this one."

Fafard scored 5 goals as the Knights, previously 41st in the Heineken League (second from bottom in Div.2) beat Oxford, who are holding a strong mid table position.

Ari Arvila and Vesa Pennanen are now playing in the Finnish 2nd Division with Läki Vantaa.

Ex-Hartford Whalers leading points scorer 3 seasons ago Blaine Stoughton is now a fireman in Florida. Also selling used cars in his spare time. (Any chance of coming to England)

AWAY TRAVEL

Do you ONLY support the Lions at home? If the answer is YES, please read on.

Your team needs you to support them at away matches as well. Can you imagine how lonely our players would feel playing on away rinks without any support?

At the moment they rely on only about 30-40 regular supporters who attend all or 90% of away matches, almost all of those travel by our coach.

Sadly I have to inform you that there is a real danger that all further supporters coach travel will be cancelled this season. The problem is that we must have a minimum of 35 to break even. We cannot afford to subsidise the coach, in fact we have to look towards making a little profit to assist with the heavy financial commitment we have made to Mike Smith for the team.

Why not come with us to our next away match, there is a good friendly atmosphere on the coach and you will visit other rinks around the country, some very good (Cardiff), some not so good (mention no names).

We had a great time on our last visit to Cardiff just before Christmas, there was a real party spirit on the coach and at the rink. Cardiff is a terrific rink to visit, it's always packed with 2500 Devils supporters. They make a lot of noise (don't they Mr. Sumner) but they are very nice people. Some of them have attended Southampton, Swindon and Slough to support the Lions.

Although we lost (yet again) it was one of the best games I have seen this season, with Doug McEwen, Jaro and Bob playing their hearts out.

So why not give it a try, it's good value for money: Example £5.25p to Swindon. We use a luxury coach with air conditioning, video, reclining seats and a toilet on board. Our driver Alec gives a smooth, safe drive.

Even if you can't make every away match because of cost, working or whatever, please come just once and shout for the Lions. Our players will tell you that away support is important and can lift the team, it could make the difference between a win or a loss.

Bob Thorn.

RIGHT TO REPLY

"When I was 15 years old I had two ambitions, the first was to be an ice hockey player. The war put paid to that but allowed me to achieve my second one. Of course my idol was Oscar Aubuchon a centre ice for the famous Tigers and so I wanted to be a centre ice.

Many years later my son, who did not know of my ambition at all, came home and said he was having a trial for ice hockey. Then came the next shock, as a goalie. Now I thought I knew the game as for a forward and here I found I had to start to learn the art of goaltending. Four years later I feel I now know a bit of what goes on.

Goaltenders need to have the courage of a Lion.

The ferocity of a Tiger.

The agility of a Cat.

And the cunning of a Fox.

Now I find they need the skin of a Rhino.

I cannot believe that the supporters who boo our goalie are bona-fide supporters but I feel I have to say 'think before you criticise'. IHRN issue 8 had some interesting articles and I quote;

'People see 24 goals going past him and think he must be awful, but that does not tell the whole story.'

'As a defenceman he is a dream for a goalie to play behind. He really looks after the goal. He protects his goalie and blocks shots.'

'He is probably used to playing with a defence who are 6 foot and over and as soon as he stops the puck they would clear it. But that's not happening, he's giving out rebounds, maybe six or seven feet.
Do you get the picture?

One last point, this season we released a goalie, I can only think because of him not being up to standard and now he is way up the averages because of the way the whole team plays. I am not one for statistics because a goalie gets a bad name for them, often through little or no fault of his own. Give goalies a break you few supporters and try to think that, he is the LAST line of defence, not the first.

Signed. BIASED

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WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET !!!



KIISKI GOODBYE !!!

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, TOMMI !