

# ROAR

Hartford Whalers



Booster Club, Inc.



## THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LEE VALLEY LIONS SUPPORTERS CLUB

As another season draws to a close, no-one is really any the wiser with the League format, for next season, or, if indeed some of the teams will be running next season, especially if the B.I.H.A. want some League sponsorship from each individual Club, it would be a bit dubious for some, to say the least. Then there's the question of wage capping - who will get round it? And five imports per team!!! Are we going to have a British Ice Hockey Association running a 75% foreign league?

And what of British players - surely that's what the sport is for in this country. Some have been in the game for a long time and must be getting a bit disheartened with it all. A lot of the old clubs have already met their demise, but the Nottingham's, Durham's and Whitley's of this world must get fed up with the changes to the Leagues every year and not for the better, most of the time.

How many play the sport for the love of it. As a hobby, as Sunday morning footballers do. Ice hockey is an expensive sport, but for players to go from club to club looking for big money, to me doesn't do the sport any good. The Coopers, for one example.

Young players want to copy, naturally, and it doesn't set a very good example when there is no sense of loyalty and therefore no sense of commitment which, in a team, is essential.

However, to our own disastrous season. What can be said? Too many changes, not enough time to settle, not enough commitment, too many free loaders. A lot of clubs are in the same boat but we've been in this sinking ship for the last 3 seasons at least. But still no-one is decisive enough to know what will happen next season. For sure, we need players who play for each other. We need goals scored in an offensive league. We need people to try hard against all the odds, not think it's good enough just to be on the ice. They have to earn ice-time, as anyone else has

to earn their money. Also, to supporters I would say - we need the team, as otherwise no game. How many Supporters to what sort of game - bad, poor, mediocre, good or terrific, depends on the attitude of the team. How else did they fill the Sheffield arena at the start. I for one went to the old Sheffield rink, and being the tip it was, and how the team were, it had no-one in it. Therefore, the club at the time folded. It is only good enterprising marketing that put the new Sheffield arena, and consequently The Steelers, on the map.

The Lions owe the supporters who have stayed with them at least a better committed side next season. A side that's always trying to be in contention with whatever team they are playing.

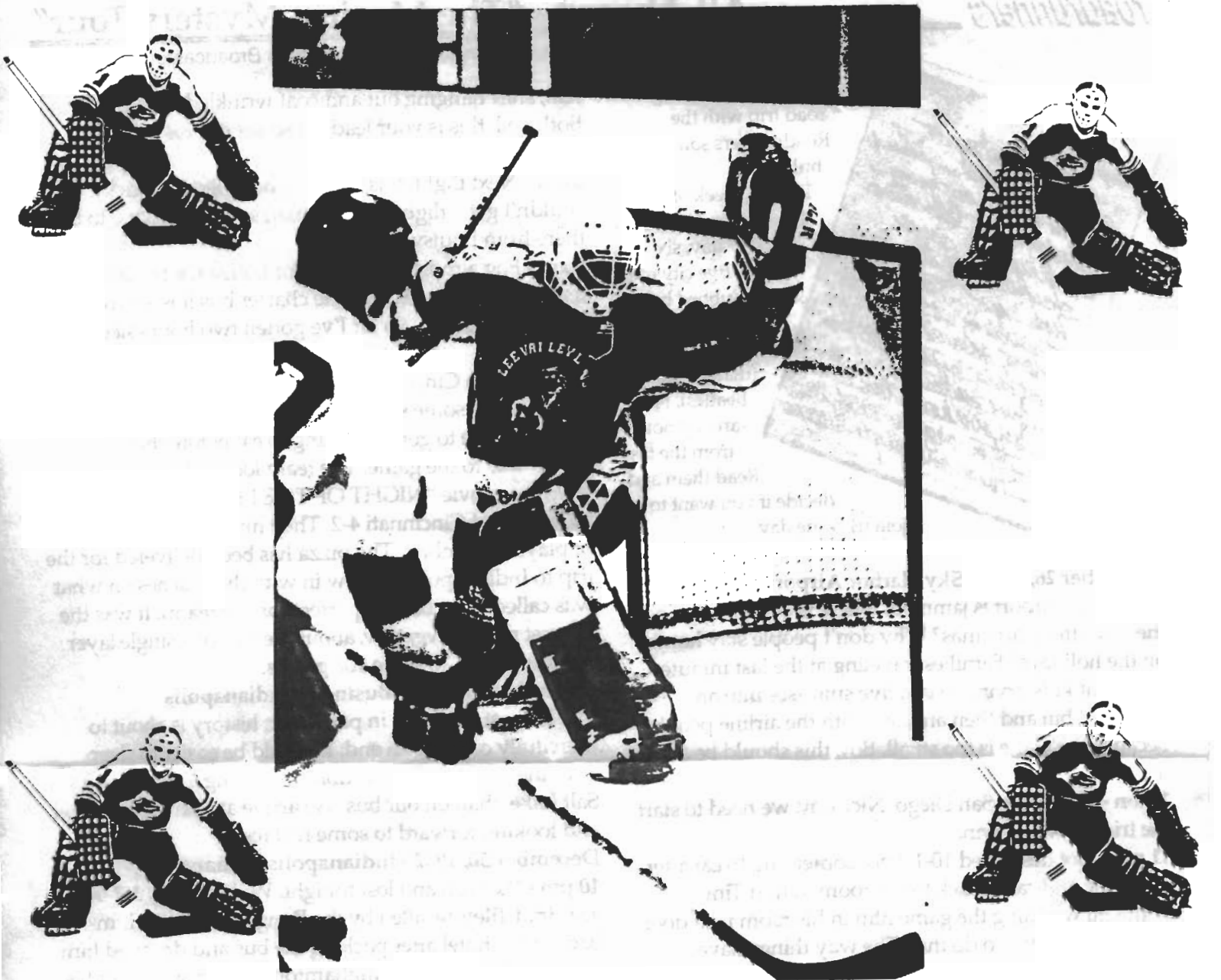
I would welcome any views you the paying supporter might have and any ideas to snatch as much sponsorship as we can. Let's help to make a Club that's interesting to watch teamwise, so that people want to come back. Not one team or Supporters Club has had anything but good to say about their treatment at Lee Valley. They all reckon we are the friendliest?! Perhaps because they all beat us!! But I like to think it's because they get looked after and they can buy merchandise here you can't get anywhere else. Mike Cook is getting orders from all over the country now. As anyone who has been to Sheffield will know, they can't sell anything at all to help their club. These teams must realise that supporters don't go far and wide and can't even buy a team badge to say they've been.

Supporters like to be involved. We have met many new friends all over the world this way. Our own Supporters Club sponsors to the region of £7,000 over a season, with programme fees/sales and other sundries for the Club. We do need people we can call on to help, so if you can, do let us know. It's good fun and if you come up with something worthwhile all the better. So let's see more away support next year and hopefully a winning team. There will be a 'Roar' during the summer, with any news that might be happening. The trophy for the person or persons who have done the most for the Lions this season will be presented at the last home game, so let's see you all there.

#### MINI QUIZ & QUESTIONS

- (1) Name Lions 4 Czech players throughout their history.
- (2) Who did the Lions play in their first and last Heineken League games?
- (3) Vesa Pannanen shut out two teams in one season. Which two teams were they?
- (4) **Name** the Lions import of Red Indian origin.
- (5) Lions guested three Cardiff players v/s Russian side S.K.A. Leningrad. **Who** were they?

ONE OF JAMIE GRINDLAY'S LAST STANDS. AFTER AN AMICABLE PARTING HAS PLAYED HIS LAST GAME FOR THE LIONS.



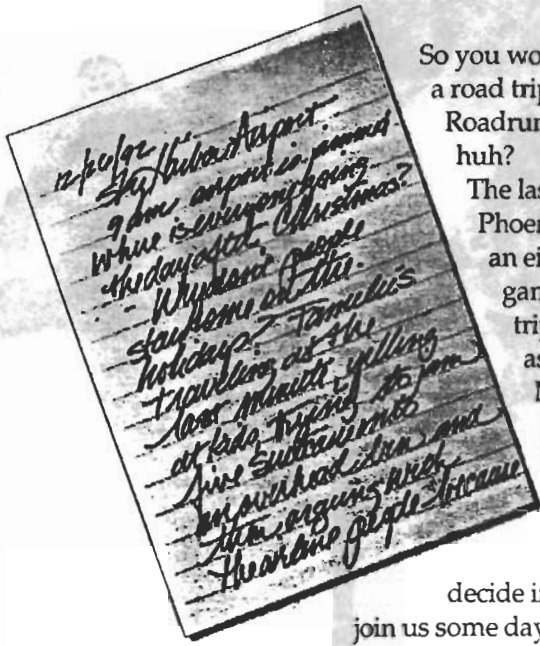
#### CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I thought some of you might be interested to see what it is like for a player in the International Hockey League. Remember, all these players are fighting hard to get a place in the N.H.L. and not many make it. Most go the other way into minor leagues or pack up altogether. It's good money while it lasts, but what a way to earn a crust. Once again, Wembley time has come around, and I hope to see you all there for some good hockey. It gives us all a good chance to wear our regalia, let off steam and forget the worries and troubles of the last season.

So let's enjoy ourselves and hope for a more successful Lions teams in the future. Good Luck to you all.

Mike Cook

Now read on and enjoy the article.



So you would like to go on a road trip with the Roadrunners some day, huh?

The last week of 1992, Phoenix embarked on an eight day, six game, five city road trip dubbed by me as the "Magical Mystery Tour"

(thank you Beatles). Here are my notes from the trip. Read them and

decide if you want to join us some day.

**December 26, 1992 - Sky Harbor Airport**

**9 am** - The airport is jammed, where is everyone going the day after Christmas? Why don't people stay home on the holidays? Families traveling at the last minute, yelling at kids, trying to jam five suitcases into an overhead bin and then arguing with the airline people because the plane is too small. Boy, this should be a great trip.

**11 am** - Made it to San Diego. Nice day, we need to start the trip off with a win.

**11 pm** - Got destroyed 10-1. I got something to eat after the game and came back to my room to find Tim Bothwell watching the game film in his room next door. Glad I don't have to do that. The way things have started, it will probably rain tomorrow in beautiful sunny California.

**December 27, 1992 - San Diego, California**

**9 am** - It's raining heavy, not a good sign.

**9 pm** - Lost again, this time 4-1. Now we have to catch a late flight to Chicago, but first cold spaghetti is being served in the dressing room (we haven't got time to eat anywhere else).

**11:12 pm** - On the flight and taking off for Chicago. We will arrive at 5 am. The movie on the flight is "HONEY I BLEW UP THE KID." Phil Crowe, in the row ahead of me, loves the flick, nobody argues with him.

**December 28, 1992 - On the road or in the air.**

**5 am** - O'Hare Airport, Chicago. This place is empty, I've never seen it this way. Brandy Semchuk brought his pillow off the plane to take a nap in the airport. Ed Kastelic, who scored our only two goals in San Diego, wakes up after an hour sleep on the plane with messed

hair, shirt hanging out and coat wrinkled. I said to Bothwell, this is your leading scorer on this trip. Tim smiled.

**6 am** - Next flight, this time to Louisville, Kentucky. We couldn't get a flight to Cincinnati so we will have to bus there from Louisville.

**8 am** - Fog almost kept us out of Louisville but we made it and now after packing the charter bus it is a two hour ride to Cincinnati. So far I've gotten two hours sleep on this trip.

**10:30 am** - In Cincinnati, the players are in their rooms trying to get some sleep. The bus leaves for the game at 5 pm, but have to get something to eat before that.

**5 pm** - Bus to the game. The team looks like the cast from the movie "NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD."

**10 pm** - Beat Cincinnati 4-2. They must have been scared of playing Zombies. The pizza has been delivered for the trip to Indianapolis. I threw in with the coaches on what was called "The beast" (perfect for our team). It was the biggest pizza I ever saw, about the size of a single layer wedding cake, to serve 100 guests.

**December 29, 1992 - Busing to Indianapolis**

The longest road day in pro sports history is about to mercifully come to an end. It would be easier to sleep with the "psychos" in section 207 during a game with Salt Lake, than on our bus. We arrive at 3 am to our hotel and looking forward to some real rest.

**December 30, 1992 - Indianapolis, Indiana**

**10 pm** - We won and lost tonight. We beat Indy 3-2 but lost Brad Tiley, recalled by the Rangers. We took him back to the hotel after packing the bus and dropped him off to catch a flight to Binghamton tomorrow. He got his gear and said good-bye to the guys, disappearing into the hotel lobby as the bus pulled out of the lot with the rest of us. I don't know if we will ever see him again. It is the tough part of this business.

Now, a four hour bus ride to Kalamazoo. We arrive at 4:30 am.

**December 31, 1992**

**5 pm** - After another short night, the usual game day routine is off to the stadium, a walk across the back lot with light snow falling and 15 degree temperatures.

**10 pm** - We win for the first time ever in Kalamazoo and that makes 3 in a row. No matter how hard the trip, it seems easier when you win. Sandwiches on the bus as we head for Chicago. We stop at a gas station for sodas, its 6 degrees outside. We celebrate the new year on the bus at midnight (EST), then an hour later, the players count down the new year again (Chicago time) and

Cont'd...





## All Aboard,

finally, pulling into the hotel lot at 1 am, we celebrate the new year one more time (Phoenix time).

### January 1, 1993 - Happy New Year in Chicago.

**10 am** - The noise kept everyone awake until the wee hours of the morning last night. There were stories of parties and fights going on in the hotel, lucky our guys were too tired to get involved in either.

**11 am** - Fly to Kansas City. I wonder what the real people are doing right now celebrating with their families and enjoying the warm weather at home.

**4 pm** - In the hotel and watching football, this will be a quiet night.

### January 2, 1993

**Noon** - A monstrous ice storm has canceled the pre-game skate and has brought KC to a standstill. The game might not go tonight.

**4 pm** - The game is on and we literally slide into Kemper Arena for the game.

**10 pm** - Lost 5-1 and finished the trip 3-3. Bothwell wanted this one because we are fighting KC for a playoff spot. Still a successful trip, now to get home tomorrow.

### January 3, 1993 - Kansas City, Airport

**11:00 am** - Our flight is delayed, the airport is jammed and no food anywhere. The ice storm has stopped everything.

**12:34 pm** - Made it to Denver but it was worse here today. The snow is falling, freezing temperatures, and an over-crowded airport. Bodies everywhere, lying on the floors like casualties, kids crying, people arguing with the airlines and each other. We were supposed to leave at noon.

**3:00 pm** - Take off from Denver, I don't believe it. The plane is jammed, the players are quiet, most of them reading. Kramer has "ROAD and TRACK," Redmond has a golf magazine, Bothwell is doing a crossword and Kevin Grant is reading "HELTER SKELTER." about Charles Manson. I'm glad this trip is coming to an end.

### January 3, 1993 - Sky Harbor Airport

**4:45 pm** - Its over, we are home. Some of the booster club members were there to meet us, they had a long day too. The trip covered 8 days, 6 games, 5 cities and included 12 hours on airplanes, and 12 hours on buses. We traveled 5700 air miles, and another 590 on the ground. Spent 9 hours in airports, 5 hours packing the bus, 6 hours in pre-game skates, 12 hours at the rinks getting ready and 18 hours in actual game time.

**5:30 pm** - Home and just enough time to see the family and get ready for the next "Magical Mystery Tour."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! .....

FEBRUARY 10TH	- DAVID CRAIG
FEBRUARY 15TH	- BRIAN FURTWANGLER
FEBRUARY 21ST	- JOYCE DALLIDAY
FEBRUARY 28TH	- ANTHONY GARRETT
MARCH 1ST	- STEVE JONES - 50/50 DRAW
MARCH 10TH	- NATALIE CARPENTER
MARCH 27TH	- ROBERT BLOWES

## ANSWERS

- (1) Ludek Smelik, Bob Mitura, Jaroslav Lycka and Roman Trebatitky.
- (2) Grimsby Buffalos (away) first and Medway Bears (home) last.
- (3) Deeside Dragons (home) 12-0 and Altrincham Aces (away) 4-0.
- (4) Doug McEwen.
- (5) Shannon Hope, John Lawless and Steve Moria.

IS THIS WHERE THEY HIDE THE RAFFLE TICKETS IN OZ!!! .....

ALAN PUSEY SPOTTED 'DOWN UNDER'.

