

From Russia with skill

The first opportunity in 20 years to see ice hockey Russian-style played in Britain was on Sunday September 1 when Lee Valley Lions played SKA Leningrad in the opening match of a UK Tour. The tour had been arranged by Steve James of the Lions and British Engine were happy to lend full support. On

the evening representatives from Marketing Department, Ted Gilbert, Tracy Graham and Chris Ward were present to welcome guests who included members of the press and the cultural and sports attaches from the Russian Embassy.

SKA Leningrad, a top Russian ice hockey side, showed

The Russian team couldn't resist a flying visit to Trafalgar Square, where they made friends with some of the 'locals'.



Lee Valley Lions captain Steve James and the captain of the Leningrad team Vladimir Andreyev 'face-off' to start the international test of skill on the ice.



marvellous ice hockey skills in defeating all their UK opposition. Ted Gilbert presented Man of the Match awards of engraved tankards at the end of the match to commemorate the occasion.

At the end of the week long tour which took SKA Leningrad to Humberstone, Basingstoke, Telford and Cardiff the Russian Squad were able to relax with Ian Grage and Tanya Godwin from London City Unit and Tracy Graham from Marketing

Department for a day's sight-seeing in London.

Amongst the places visited by the Russians were the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden and the infamous western institution, McDonalds. The Russians enthusiastically tucked into their first ever 'Big Macs' provided by the restaurant chain who are British Engine clients.

The tour gained significant publicity for both the Lions and

British Engine including full coverage by Sky Television.

A return tour by Lee Valley Lions to Leningrad - now St Petersburg - is currently being planned for 1992.

London Transport Museum was one of the attractions taken in by the visiting Russian hockey players and their hosts from the Lions and British Engine during a whistle-stop tour of the capital.



To Russia...with reservations!

General Manager Harry Jenkins visited Moscow for the International Machinery Insurers Association Conference representing Royal (UK), Royal Re, Royal International and, of course, British Engine. The conference was hosted by the Russian Insurance Company, Ingosstrakh.

Forty delegates from around the globe assembled at the Moscow World Trade Centre. Each country presented a national report, and consolidated statistical information was produced. There was also a variety of specialist papers on subjects ranging from desulphurisation plants to the Channel Tunnel project.

The contacts generated at IMA meetings over the years have proved extremely productive for British Engine and have been converted into firmly established business connections and joint venture opportunities, producing a not insignificant

level of premium income.

Commenting on his Russian trip Harry Jenkins said that it had been most useful but in other respects it had been a "real eye-opener".

He explained: "In the circumstances with the coup occurring just 14 days before the start of the Conference the Russian hosts had done a remarkable job but life in the USSR is something of a culture shock for the average westerner. Getting into the country via Moscow airport is an experience one can dine out on for months; the organisation there leaves so much to be desired.

"Whilst the national currency is the Rouble no-one seems to want to know it. For the businessman and tourist the Dollar reigns supreme. The urge to accumulate hard currency appears to be a major local preoccupation; hotels, shops, taxi drivers and street vendors want only Dollars and in most

cases bartering is expected.

"The World Trade Centre boasts a deluxe hotel with exorbitantly-priced rooms where you provide your own sink plug, toilet paper, soap and drinking water, and where, with luck, you may have hot water for at least half of your stay; but they do change the sheets and towels daily.

"The Russian people do not seem to smile very much, but I suppose at present they do not have much to smile about. The shops are empty, and the forthcoming winter is going to be a trying time for most of them. There is a general air of decay, disorganisation and apathy and despite the many problems we seem to have in this country, it makes you realise how fortunate we are. In summing up I would say I am glad I have been; it was an experience but in all honesty I am in no hurry to go again".

LEE VALLEY LIONS fixtures

1991 - 92 SEASON

(OCT 1991 - MARCH 1992)

OCTOBER

Sun 6th	Slough Jets	H
Sun 13th	Fife Flyers	H
Sun 20th	Milton Keynes Kings	H
Sat 26th	Telford Tigers	A
Sun 27th	Trafford Metros	A

NOVEMBER

Sun 3rd	Romford Raiders	H
Sat 9th	Swindon Wildcats	A
Sun 10th	Blackburn Blackhawks	H
Sun 17th	Telford Tigers	H
Sat 23rd	Slough Jets	A
Sun 24th	Trafford Metros	H

DECEMBER

Sun 1st	Swindon Wildcats	H
Sun 8th	Basingstoke Beavers	H
Sat 14th	Basingstoke Beavers	A
Sun 15th	Romford Raiders	A
Sat 21st	Milton Keynes Kings	A
Sun 22nd	Challenge	H
Sun 29th	Romford Raiders	A

1992

JANUARY

Sat 4th	Fife Flyers	A
Sun 5th	Blackburn Blackhawks	A
Sun 12th	Milton Keynes Kings	H
Sun 19th	Trafford Metros	H
Sat 25th	Fife Flyers	A
Sun 26th	Blackburn Blackhawks	A

FEBRUARY

Sun 2nd	Telford Tigers	H
Sat 8th	Swindon Wildcats	A
Sun 9th	Romford Raiders	H
Sat 15th	Milton Keynes Kings	A
Sun 16th	Slough Jets	H
Sat 22nd	Telford Tigers	A
Sun 23rd	Trafford Metros	A
Sat 29th	Basingstoke Beavers	H

MARCH

Sun 1st	Blackburn Blackhawks	H
Sat 7th	Slough Jets	A
Sun 8th	Swindon Wildcats	H
Sun 14th	Basingstoke Beavers	A
Sun 15th	Fife Flyers	H