

# LEE VALLEY LIONS v RICHMOND FLYERS

Saturday 11th October 1986

## Heineken League Division One

Good evening and welcome to the Lee Valley Ice Centre for the visit of the Twickenham tornadoes, our neighbours from across London, Richmond Flyers. The Flyers have started the season well and should make us fight for every goal tonight.

There is a saying (which I made up) in sports journalism which goes like this; "Writing a report is the easiest thing in the world when your team is winning, but the hardest if they're losing." This couldn't be more appropriate at this time, as we have just lost a club record THIRD game on the trot.

It may seem corny to blame the injuries, I'm not saying we would have won this game IF we'd had "Fred" and "Bill" fit, but our lines have been decimated by some unfortunate incidents. Richie Doran really has had his work cut out to piece together a squad. With Erskine out until Christmas, Tari out with a broken ankle, and Geoff D. struggling with his broken toes, our defence in particular is struggling. With Janne straying up ice to boost the attack, more and more pressure is put on Geof W. and Ali to keep the puck away from Vesa, still finding life difficult with his new face-mask. Ali has just earned his second Man-of-the-Match award with another great performance, and he needs to! As for the forwards, our second line, the Streffam connection, has been non-existent for the start of the season. Chris missed the first game through other commitments (you know, honour & obey and all that stuff), Andy has had problems with his ankle which he has rested for a full week now, and Mark pulled a muscle in his leg in a nasty collision with Chuck Taylor at Telford, where Taylor's knee, quite accidentally from what I could see, made contact with the inside of Mark's leg, just above his knee. The only chance these three have had to work together without carrying injury was against Solihull, scoring 2+3 out of 7 goals between them. Give them a week or two, and they'll be ripping through the Division One defences like a Janne slapshot through Bournemouth's goalnets!

Did you see the "Den" on TV last week? Thames TV covered the British Junior Championships held here in September, and screened the winners' bits in two half-hour programmes on Monday and Tuesday. It really looked smart, though I couldn't help imagining the seats full of Green&Blue (and Red, Orange or whatever) and Andy Leggatt charging down the right wing on his way to goal. With three rinks all capable of TV coverage, and three teams all producing close games, I am annoyed that our so-called Local Thames Television plc (Poor Local Coverage) doesn't cover our game as much as other local companies do. When I was down in Cornwall this summer(sic) all you got on the local news was fishing reports and news of tin-mine closures.. LOCAL news. Come on Thames, buck your ideas up. The skating competition was an example of how it could be done. How about a half-hour/one hour slot nationwide, to be filled with the local stations' games. It could be screened on Monday nights after the News at Ten, with a similar format to the Big Match football coverage on Sunday afternoons.

On the same subject, you may have read Larry Darbon's piece in the News Review last time round about NHL coverage. He suggested, to complete the Big Three of American Football and Baseball, an NHL Game of the Week. As Ron Clark pointed out to me the other night, the NFL season finishes in January with the Superbowl, and there's still four months or so to the Stanley Cup finals. It would save us the long trek down to the Maple Leaf (Covent Garden) every Monday night anyway! So, do as Larry said, WRITE TO CHANNEL 4! If they say "I can't see the puck" ask him about Golf (hours and hours of televised sky) and even American Football.. the mass destruction of a scrimmage distracts the inexperienced viewer from the path of the ball. He's probably referring to the awful cameramen at the BBC, who ITV signed up for Chelsea v Man. Utd last week, but look at it this way.. ANYONE who KNOWS about hockey KNOWS where the puck is!

Congratulations to Janne for taking over as all-time top goalscorer, he reached the figure of 162 against Telford, beating Ari's 161.

Ari is a full 101 ahead of John Gordon, with Alan Sandford (57) and Chris Leggatt (53) completing the top five. Chris finally moved into outright fifth place with the goal against Telford, his first of the season, edging out Bill Watson. Dave Rapley should be caught very shortly by Geof (5 behind on 42) and Andy (39). Due to pressure on space, and the addition of only five goals last week, I have omitted the full list this week. It will return next week in a 20 page issue against Streatham. On the subject of goals, Tari told me to promise all his fans a goal as soon as he gets back.

The new Ice Hockey News Review is out this week, glancing through the pages I see.. Murrayfield hit 100 shots on poor Gerry Anderson as Glasgow are stuffed 19-3 at the Summit Centre.. and new Fife import Mike Jeffrey equals Brad Schnurr's NUAC record of 20 points in a game with 12+8 as Flyers win 24-6 in Finnieston. Dave Stoyanovich gets a paltry 7+4.. Thirteen different point scorers (11 goalscorers) as Durham thrash Sunderland Crowtree Chiefs 24-1.. Martin Bergin scores one and Dave Rapley 6+1 as Slough win 15-1 at Oxford.. Dan Walker scores 6+0 for Swindon at Bournemouth (10-16 Stags) and then scores 7+0 against Richmond (14-5 Wildcats).. Chris Kelland equalled Lawless' cup record of 10 assists a game with 3+10 against guess who(!), Scot Neil scoring 9+6.. Peterborough 6-0 up against Durham before clinging on to win 9-8.. YES I DID SAY PETERBOROUGH BEAT DURHAM.. read that a dozen times and it sinks in.. back to Mr.Walker of Swindon, he scored 2+0 at Altrincham.. must be good at Mastermind, he never passes!.. Anyone surprised at the Oxford 9-6 win at Southampton? read page 32 carefully and you'll see "John Lawless 4+4".. he's a temporary import for Stars while Jack Thornton recovers from injury and Cardiff Devils set the puck sliding.. Del Gosse and a Mr.O'Connor share 43 shots in the Kirkcaldy net as the Kestrels beat Irvine 15-4.. Mr.Gosse is an import!

Eat your heart out Blue Lines!

See you all at Solihull tomorrow and at Nottingham in seven..

Towards a greater Lee Valley,

MIKE GRAFTON.