

Clarke inspires with hat-trick

MK Lightning stormed back to winning ways in the English Premier League by thumping Telford Tigers 10-1.

Former Tiger Gary Clarke was inspirational for Lightning leading the goal scoring with a hat-trick to his name as they fired from all cylinders.

Lightning had suffered in their results during the hectic Christmas schedule with only a narrow win at Wightlink to cheer about.

But they put their festive hangovers behind them to keep their hands on third place, a point in front of Slough Jets who have played the same number of games.

Lightning's intentions were clear from the offset as Clarke fired in the opener with three minutes on the clock. His second came five minutes later, the result of a move started by net minder Barry Hollyhead, before Toni Alasaarela played in Clarke to double their lead.

Telford were holding their own in the first period with Dean Tonks pulling one back for the visitors five minutes before the break.

But that was as good as it got for the Tigers as Grant McPherson added a third midway through the second and Clarke then bagged his hat-trick with assistance from Ales Perez.

The final period was when Lightning really hit their form as the tired Tigers fell apart.

Perez turned from goal provider to a scorer straight from the restart and Alasaarela joined him three minutes later.

With Lightning being five in front it was time for the youngsters to get involved with 18-year-old Danny Chaplen claiming a rare goal on the 47th minute.

The more experienced players then played their part in the goal scoring front, with Adam Randmall getting on the score sheet after player-coach Nick Poole netted eight with help from Alasaarela and Aiden Mahmud.

Ross Bowers then rounded off the rampant display for Lightning four minutes from time to seal a more than convincing win.



■ **LIGHTNING** have secured the second-leg of their EPL Cup semi-final as a home match. They will travel to Bracknell Bees on January, 16 for an 8pm face-off before hosting Bracknell on the 24th. Face-off is at 7.45pm.

■ **TOMORROW** Lightning host Swindon Wildcats at Planet Ice, face-off is at 7pm.

Top: Gary Clarke moves in to score one of his hat-trick goals against against Telford Tigers

Above: Lightning pile the pressure during thier 10-1 victory over Telford.

Pictures Jez Tibbetts