

Cup that cheers for injury-hit Lightning

MK Lightning battled through their injury nightmares to remain unbeaten in the Knock Out Cup.

However, they did slip to a 3-1 defeat in the league at the hands of Chelmsford Chieftains.

Icing without player-coach Nick Poole, Ales Perez and Greg Randall left Lightning with a short bench and without three vital members of their side to take on Bracknell Bees.

But fans had no reason to panic as they stormed out of the blocks to score with just 31 seconds on the clock.

Gary Clarke started the move as he fed through to Toni Alasaarela who in turn set up Mikko Skinnari to blast home the opener.

The dream start got even better for Lightning as Skinnari added his second of the evening this time with Adam Carr the provider.

Yet, Lightning could not have it all their own way and Bracknell responded late in the first period with Michal Kanka taking advantage of the power play.

Lightning had a power play goal of their own seven minutes into the second period and having played his part in the first two goals it was only fair for Alasaarela to get his name on the score sheet.

Grant McPherson then found the back of the net to give Lightning a 4-1 lead before Matt Foord pulled one back for the Bees.

And just as it looked like the Bees could



Lightning hit the net

get back into the game McPherson hit the fifth of the evening minutes into the third period and Clarke bagged the final goal four minutes from time.

The convincing display against Bracknell leaves Lightning topping the Knock Out league with six points and a game in hand.

But Lightning felt the full effects of their injuries in the second game of the weekend as they came unstuck against Chelmsford.

It was a tense first period with neither

side giving much away and Chelmsford finally broke the deadlock in the second period to take a 1-0 lead into the final twenty minutes.

The narrow lead would have given MK plenty of reason to believe they could win the game and although Michael Wales bagged a goal in the final minute it was only a consolation as the Chieftains had already fired two more into the net.

■ **LIGHTNING** have just the one game this weekend at home to Romford Raiders on Saturday. Face-off is at 7pm.