

Weekend double puts Lightning up to fourth

IT was a good weekend for MK Lightning as they got one over local rivals Peterborough Phantoms and convincingly beat Guildford Flames in the EPL Cup.

On Saturday they played host to Guildford, but made sure their guests were not made to feel too welcome as they slotted four goals past them in the first period.

Guildford, the defending champions, stumbled out of the starting blocks as Lightning made them pay for early errors.

A solo Gary Clarke goal got the score rolling with Finnish forward Toni Alasaarela adding Lightning's second after five minutes.

Adam Radmall then took advantage of a power play by finding the back of the net before Alasaarela rounded off the first period with an unassisted goal to give Lightning a 4-0 lead.

While Guildford were looking for a way back into the game, Lightning stepped up the pressure as Alasaarela netted his hat-trick and then his fourth of the game shortly after.

A six goal cushion allowed Lightning to ease off slightly in the final period, but the luck was not with Guildford and as they hit the post at one end, Ales Parez completed a dominant game with the seventh unanswered Lightning goal.



Greg Randall in the thick of the action in front of the Guildford net

**PICTURE:
JEZ
TIBBETT**

Sunday's match against Peterborough proved a lot more testing.

Lightning had already missed out on bragging rights between the two, with the Phantom's mascot finishing higher than MK's Pucky in the earlier meeting at the Mascot Grand National.

There was not much separating the two sides, as they cancelled each other out in the opening period.

The possibility of overtime and penalty shots increased as the game remained

scoreless going into the final period.

But Lightning pulled it out of the bag five minutes from time as Parez and Michael Wales posted two goals, before Ross Bowers scored to give them a 3-0 victory.

Lightning are now up to fourth place in the league, just two points behind top of the table Bracknell Bees.

■ On Saturday Lightning travel to Swindon for the 5.45pm face-off, before hosting them at Planet Ice on Sunday. Face-off is at 6pm.