

# Double loss blow to title hopes

**PETERBOROUGH** Phantoms dealt a double blow to MK Lightning's title hopes after condemning them to back-to-back defeats.

Patchy would be the best way to describe Lightning's form at the moment, last week they picked up maximum points but this time round with four available, were sent packing with nothing.

Fifth place Peterborough ensured this years meetings between the local rivals ended on an even tally with Lightning winning three and losing three of the six fixtures.

Ex-Lightning favourites James Morgan and Dwayne Newman, now Phantoms' coach, played a massive part in helping

Peterborough to victory.

MK fell a goal down through Nathan Rempel's strike 13 minutes into the first period but Gary Clarke was on hand to take the scores level two minutes before the break.

It was in the second period that Peterborough took control with Morgan, Rempel and Adam Reynolds extended their lead to three goals.

But Lightning regathered to pull back two of their own with Ales Parez and Chris McEwen finding their way passed net minder Stephen Wall. Yet, Craig Peakcock's strike in the final minute ensured there was no way back for Lightning.

While fans in MK had been treated to an eight goal thriller the reverse fixture had

just one separating the sides.

Both Lightning and Peterborough had plenty of chances to score, with 34 shots on goal each, but when both net minders Barry Hollyhead and Wall are named man of the match for their side it goes some way to show their part in the game.

And it took 55 minutes to break the deadlock with Lewis Buckman securing the win in a power play after McEwen had been penalised for delaying the game.

Lightning remain in third place, joint on points with Bracknell Bees and four points behind leaders Slough.

■ MK Lightning will be hoping to get their title chase back on track this Saturday when Guildford come to town. Face-off is at 7pm.