

Lightning in pole position after cup-tie double

MK Lightning got off to the best possible start in their EPL Cup campaign with wins against Guildford Flames and Chelmsford Chieftains.

First up was Guildford, a team that is largely expected to be challenging for silverware this season, and a bright start for Lightning saw them dominate proceedings.

Gary Clarke scored all four of Lightning's goals in the game, his first came in the opening period and the team had plenty of chances to increase their lead.

But the second period was a lot closer between the sides, the Flames pulled two goals back through Nick Cross and Lukas Smital, only for Clarke to keep Lightning one goal ahead with two more of his own.

Both sides went all out in the final period, and Lightning netminder Barry Hollyhead made key saves before Clarke added the final goal in the dying seconds of the game to seal the 4-2 victory.

Sunday's match against Chelmsford,

who strengthened their side over the summer, proved to be the tougher tie of the weekend for Lightning.

It was a slow start to the game as they found themselves 2-1 down at the end of the first period.

Yet Nick Poole's side plugged away in the second and began to take control of the game as they found the net three times to take a 4-3 lead into the final period.

Once again it was a last-minute goal that secured the win for Lightning, but this time it was Poole, Alez Perez and Toni Alasaarela who were the goalscorers of the evening.

Having beaten both teams, Lightning are sitting at the top of their group.

■ **THIS weekend Lightning start their league campaign, they are at home to Sheffield Scimitars on Saturday, face-off is at 7pm.**

And away to Bracknell Bees on Sunday, face-off is at 6pm.



Gary Clarke: Four goals in the one game