

# Early form deserts Lightning

**MK LIGHTNING paid a harsh price for losing only their third league game of the season as they slipped down to fourth place in English Premier League table.**

After setting an early pace Lightning are now being faced with the backlash of teams who are slowly finding form themselves.

But following defeat to Guildford Flames, who are now up to second place, Lightning had their spirits uplifted with a win over Romford Raiders in the Knock-out Cup.

On Saturday Lightning travelled to the Flames with a good record against them this year having beaten them three times in cup competitions.

However, they were caught off guard by Guilford's fast start and Rob Lamey put the Flames a goal in front after ten



**Gary Clarke**

Picture Jez Tibbetts

minutes to give them the edge at the break.

Lightning were a much brighter side in the second as they forced Guildford to defend some intensive pressure, but they were not getting the luck they deserved and found themselves two goals down going into the final period after Milos Melicherik doubled his side's lead.

Taras Foremsky then chose to score his first goal for the

Flames three minutes into the third period to give them a three goal advantage but Lightning were quick to hit back.

It was Gary Clarke who finally found Lightning's way through to goal two minutes later with a little bit of help from Adam Carr and Toni Alasaarela.

With eight minutes remain Adam Radmall narrowed the Flames' lead when Clarke played him through on a power play.

Just as it looked like Lightning could form the comeback Foremsky notched up his second to ensure the Flames took the points.

MK were able to bounce back from the loss with the important cup win over Wightlink the following day.

Mikko Skinnari gave Lightning the perfect start as they

took advantage of a power play to take the lead eight minutes in, Alasaarela then joined in to put the side 2-0 up at the break.

Lightning continued to dominate proceedings with Matt Towalski adding the third a minute into the second period before Ross Bowers struck 12 minutes later.

The Raiders hit back through Shaun Wallis on 34 minutes although Lightning were still in full control.

A disputed second from Andrius Kaminskas pulled the Lightning's advantage back to two but Kurt Irvine rounded off the scoring to give MK a 5-2 win.

■ LIGHTNING host Sheffield this Saturday with face-off at 7pm and they travel to Wightlink for Sunday for their 5.30pm face-off.