

Lightning back

MK Lightning bounced back from two cup defeats to beat Telford Tigers in the league.

But the 7-3 win over the Tigers could not take the sting out of their exit from the EPL Cup midweek.

A bizarre fault with the Milton Keynes countdown clock meant the game against Bracknell Bees was cut short by at least seven minutes as it counted down at a rapid rate.

The technical glitch went unnoticed during play but was spotted when player-coach Nick Poole viewed tapes of the game to dissect his side's performance.

Adding further to their misery, Lightning were unable to make their one-goal advantage from the first leg count as Bracknell progressed through to the final.

Gary Clarke and Matt Towalski managed to get Lightning in front with score reading 6-5 on aggregate but Matt Foord struck four minutes from time to take the game

into over time, where Bracknell hit two to knock MK out.

It did not get any better for Lightning as they travelled to Swindon Wildcats in need of a win which would have taken them through to the knockout cup semi-finals, but instead walked away on the wrong end of a 3-4 score line.

Clarke bagged two and Grant McPherson grabbed the other as Lightning held a 3-1 advantage over their hosts but Swindon turned on the style to overturn the deficit.

When Lightning managed to return to winning ways Clarke was once again at the centre of the performance with three goals to his name.

Ales Perez, Toni Alasaarela, Kurt Irvine and Mikko Skinnari rounded off the 7-3 victory which keeps Lightning third in the league.

■ MK Lightning host Wightlink this Saturday at 7pm, and then travel to Chelmsford on Sunday, face-off is at 6.30pm.