

## Mark breaks the ice with local team

Mark Lancaster broke the ice with a sporting team by going to see them in action for the first time.

Appropriately during the cold snap, the Milton Keynes North MP took a trip to Planet Ice on Sunday to see the ice hockey team MK Thunder take on Bristol Pitbulls in the English National League.

He saw the players, who feed into the English Premier League side MK Lightning, put on a show as they strove to a 6-2 win.

Mr Lancaster stepped onto the ice to present the Man of the Match award – a crate of beer – to Thunder player Ross Bowers, from Milton Keynes, whose father is the coach of the under 10s in junior club MK Storm.

Afterwards Mr Lancaster said: "It has been an up-and-down time for Milton Keynes sport over the last few weeks, with Red Bull 'doing the double' last month, followed by the MK Dons stadium sadly missing out on the chance to jointly host the 2018 World Cup.

"So it was great to come to see another sporting success in action. The fast-paced game was nail-biting to the end and I was honoured to hand over the man of the match prizes – though I was much happier in my seat than on the ice. I would encourage everyone to go along, as it is very rare now to be able to get a great night out for just £5."

Thunder chairman Ian Cook said: "We were delighted to welcome Mark to Planet Ice and show him an exciting, victorious game. It's great to see our local MP supporting his local sports teams."