

The Manchester Metrostars came to town on Saturday night and railroaded the Phantoms to a 6 - 3 defeat. The home team got off to a poor start making life hard for themselves by taking 4 penalties in the first period, one of which led to a power play goal while a further 2 goals were conceded at even strength.

The second period was much better for the Phantoms, getting onto the score sheet within the first 2 minutes courtesy of a superb, unassisted, coast to coast effort by Simon Pilkington. The Metros returned the compliment within 5 minutes to restore there 3 goal advantage and looked like they might stretch it further when the Phantoms received the first of 2 penalties for the period. However, fate was on the side of the Phantoms this time as Ludo Krempasky got the home teams second marker, shorthanded, with assistance from Mal Singleton. A little under 4 minutes later Tom Hanky made it a one goal game, netting the third from a pass by Simon Pilkington. The Phantoms then took there second penalty of the period but defended well and the period ended with no further goals for either side.

With the score at 4-3 and the Phantoms looking the stronger of the two teams during the second period there was the possibility that the home team could take advantage in the third and end up with a victory. Sadly, it was not to be. The guests regained their composure from the first period while the Phantoms lost the focus they'd found in the second. The Metros scored within the first minute of the last period and added another less than 2 minutes later. The Phantoms were unable to find an answer to the Metros game plan and couldn't add to their total; again, the home teams efforts weren't helped by taking 3 more penalties during the period.

Overall it was a good game and, although the scoreline was disappointing, it was enjoyed by all the Phantoms players.