

Field hockey – Nelson says Scottish Cup is in the balance



Cammy Fraser (white shirt) and Lee Morton of Bromac Kelburne, two key players in Saturday's Scottish Cup Final. Picture Nigel Duncan Media

Chris Nelson admitted that Bromac Kelburne have not been on top form recently and the experienced player revealed the squad have been working hard on performances.

They delivered when it matter under pressure last weekend, edging Edinburgh University 2-0 to clinch their 13th straight Division One title.

Today Saturday the Paisley-based team square-up to Grange in the Scottish Cup Final at Glasgow's National Hockey Centre (push-off 4pm).

It was Grange's 3-2 home defeat to Western Wildcats last Saturday, collapsing after being 2-0 ahead, which let Kelburne in by the back door.

Scottish international Nelson and his squad eye the domestic Grand Slam but he stressed it was one game at a time.

And he added: "A loss had been coming for us as we have not been playing well and the defeat to Uddingston showed us that we are not as good as we think we are.

"It also underlined that we are not going to walk on the pitch and win so losing to Uddingston was good and we thought the (Division One) title had gone.

"Last Saturday the game against Edinburgh University, we

thought, was going to be about preparing for the Cup Final with Grange and the play-offs.

“I didn’t see Grange losing last Saturday and I was surprised at that but we’ve had good training in recent weeks.

“Our performances have picked up and we kept the pressure on Grange.

“Having a competitive league with two or three teams going for it helps keep interest and it keeps teams focused.

“One slip-up, as you saw from Grange last weekend, and you have lost it.”

The 32-year-old former Commonwealth Games player said last Saturday against Edinburgh was the first cup final of three.

He added: “We won the first to retain the title now we have the Scottish Cup on Saturday and the play-offs.

“Grange will be hurting (after last Saturday) and they have bonded well and are playing some really good team hockey. I think it will be 50-50 as to who wins the cup.”

On Sunday, Edinburgh University women face Milne Craig Clydesdale Western (push-off 4pm) at the same venue in the women’s final.