

Men's hockey – Leonard praises his improving squad



Mike Leonard urging his men on from the touchline. Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

Watsonians claimed a vital road win at struggling Kelburne with rising star Fraser Heigh top scoring with two goals.

The Edinburgh side were 2-1 ahead at the break and Roddy Craig, Ben Allen and Danny Cain also netted in the narrow 5-4 victory.

Coach Mike Leonard said it was great result for the club against the former champions and it was, he said, a decent performance.

Leonard, a former Scotland captain, said he has been encouraging his Watsonians side to play better hockey.

They showed improved form despite losing 1-0 to champions Grange at Peffermill on Saturday.

One split-second lapse two minutes into the second-half proved the difference.

Leonard was concerned about the reaction to that defeat but 24-hours later this men performed against Kelburne in Glasgow to earn three valuable points.

Leonard said: "My recent theme has been on playing better and not necessarily concentrate on winning matches.

"I think we've done that over the last couple of weeks and against Grange we created some good opportunities and played better hockey.

"Against Kelburne it was a decent performance and it was good to win."

Leonard's men now have a break until February because of the winter shutdown in outdoor hockey and he said the irony was that the squad have improved their game just as the first-half of the season ends.

He added: "We're playing at a good intensity every week which you don't get in Division Two.

"We need to play more games of this intensity and, hopefully, we'll be competitive in the second-half of the season."