

Improved Grange go nap against Grove

Team boss Martin Shepherdson was pleased with the improved performance as Grange beat Grove Menzieshill 5-1 in Edinburgh in the men's hockey Premiership.

He also felt his men played some good hockey for spells in the game. The home side opened the scoring after four minutes from a penalty corner conversion from Zach Talbot and Scottish international David Nairn made it 2-0 after 13 minutes.

John Donald pulled one back for Grove 16 minutes later from another penalty corner and it was Andrew Duke who added a third for Grange from the second phase of a penalty corner after 32 minutes.

Dylan Bean made it 4-1 from open play after 39 minutes and Aussie newcomer Ola Marshall added No 5 from open play with 46 minutes on the clock.

Shepherdson added: "We still have a lot of players to return to the squad and we are happy to remain unbeaten so far this season."

Tayside-based Grove are now ninth while Grange are in third position with nine points and with a goal difference of plus eight. Second-placed Watsonians also have nine points but a superior goal difference of plus 13 after they beat Clydesdale 4-0 at Peffermill.

Western Wildcats top the table with an unblemished record of

four wins for 12 points and a goal difference of plus 19 after they thrashed Edinburgh side Inverleith 9-0 at Auchenhowie. Inverleith are one of three teams who remain pointless and they slip to the bottom of the league.

The University of Edinburgh shutout struggling Dundee Wanderers 5-0 at Peffermill to be fourth with seven points. Wanderers are second bottom while Erskine Stewart's Melville (ESM) edged newly-promoted Dunfermline Carnegie 3-2 to record their first win of the campaign after two defeats and they are eighth with three points. Carnegie are tenth.

Elsewhere, Uddingston are fifth in the 12-strong table after they beat Hillhead 5-2 in Lanarkshire. Hillhead are now sixth.

Statistics show that Jamie Golden of Western is the top marksman with six so far and he is closely followed by teammate Fraser Moran with four.

Five players are on three, David Nairn and Dylan Bean both (Grange), Rob Harwood and Adam McKenzie (both Western) and Matthew Leiper of Watsonians.

FLASHBACK: Grange v Dunfermline Carnegie earlier this season.
Picture ***Nigel Duncan***