

# Speedway – Barker threat to pace-setting Monarchs



Ricky Wells has been a consistent performer for Edinburgh Monarchs and he's on duty at Redcar on Thursday. Picture Nigel Duncan Media

Ben Barker powered to an impressive performance in the British Final.

The former Glasgow Tigers and Berwick Bandits rider was fourth in the meeting and could pose a real threat to Edinburgh Monarchs on Thursday.

The SGB Championship leaders visit Redcar Bears and their hosts could be minus Jason Garrity.

He was struggling with his hand injury in the British Final and withdrew from his final ride.

Bears, who are fifth in the table with 24 points from 15 fixtures, could introduce a guest rider if Garrity is not fit enough to ride.

Edinburgh top the table with 38 points from 17 matches and will bring in former captain Theo Pijper to replace crooked Mark Riss if the paperwork required is completed in time.

Alex Harkess, Monarchs co-promoter, said: 'We welcome Theo back. He was a pretty obvious signing as he can walk straight back into the team.

"Of course, we wish Mark a speedy recovery but Theo will fill in the position for us.

"The hospital says six weeks. Mark says four weeks but it certainly won't be less than that."