

Speedway – Bandits aiming to stay on top of section

Berwick Bandits visit Armadale on Friday (tapes-up 7.30pm) in the Championship Shield and the Borders club have beaten Newcastle home and away and hold a home win over Glasgow.

Edinburgh Monarchs are third in the group with three points from the same number of matches and Berwick will be minus Nikolai Busk Jakobsen, who is riding in Denmark, and former Monarchs rider Jye Etheridge who is injured.

Track specialist Josh Bates comes in for Jakobsen and Bandits will have a rider replacement for Etheridge which allows extra races for all their riders except for former Monarchs star Aaron Summers.

Alex Harkess, Monarchs' team manager, reminded his squad that Bandits celebrated a six-point road win at Edinburgh last September.

He said: "I feel we have a score to settle. We didn't do ourselves justice last September racing in very wet conditions and the Bandits came here and turned us over.

"Berwick are topping our section because they have started strongly and we need everyone at their best to get the results we are looking for."

In Glasgow, Craig Cook (pictured) is a big pal of Newcastle Diamonds' top rider Steve Worrall, but this is business and Cook, Glasgow Tigers' No 1, is determined to collect maximum points from Friday's (7.30pm) SGB Championship clash with the Tyneside team.

Cumbrian-born Cook is also keen to continue his early-season purple patch having reeled off another 15-point maximum as

Tigers mauled arch rivals Edinburgh Monarchs on Sunday in the same competition at the Peugeot Ashfield Stadium.

Diamonds have not yet found the cutting edge in the Borders Section of the SGB Championship Shield and prop up the four-strong league with only three points from four fixtures.

Tigers are second with six points from three matches and are desperate to close the four-point gap between them at pace-setting Berwick Bandits who have appeared in four fixtures.

Cook, who was this week named in the Great Britain squad in the Speedway of Nations, the world's biggest team event, is looking forward to clashing with Worrall.

But the Cook warned Worrall and the visitors: "We're looking for another win and I'm hoping to continue my good form.

"The atmosphere here (at Glasgow) has been fantastic and we want to keep building on that."