

Monarchs hold nerve to claim first league win

Stellar Monarchs claimed their first win in the Cab Direct Championship this season, taking the lead in Heat 3 and were never behind but never more than four points ahead.

The home side held their nerve in Heats 13 and 15 against the powerful duo of Sam Masters, a former Monarchs skipper, and British star Scott Nicholls, to take the points with a 46-44 win.

Last heat hero was Josh Pickering (pictured) with a last to first burst, but full credit also to Justin Sedgmen who made the start in that finale and prevented Masters and Nicholls getting ahead for what might have been a match-winning 5-1.

Alex Harkess, Monarchs' team manager, said: "A bit too tight for my liking, though it was always going to be tight. I was certainly happy with the determination the team showed, throughout the side from 1 to 7.

"Paco Castagna kept his excellent form going, Kye Thomson and Lasse Fredriksen won heats when it mattered, and Sedgy (Justin Sedgmen) played a full part in that last race, an incredible ride by Josh."

Edinburgh Monarchs (46): Josh Pickering 11+0, Lasse Fredriksen 5+1, Kye Thomson 5+1, Paco Castagna 10+0, Justin Sedgmen 9+0, Max Perry 1+1, Connor Coles 5+1

Oxford Cheetahs (44): Sam Masters 13+1, Luke Killeen 2+0,
Jordan Jenkins 4+2, Cameron Heeps 8+0, Scott Nicholls 11+0,
Jacob Hook 6+1, Jody Scott 0+0