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Webling Wins Teretonga Formula Ford Round

Oakura's Stefan Webling notched up his second round win in the New Zealand Formula Ford Championship, after three hard-fought races, and emerged as the new championship points leader with the next round being at Timaru this coming weekend.

Webling qualified on pole ahead of his Superlux team-mate, Andre Heimgartner, and former champion, John Whelan. Then came Tim Vickers ahead of points leader, Matt Williams, and Richard Vickers – the top six cars covered by 0.25 seconds.

Webling won the start of the first race but was challenged by Heimgartner and Whelan, these three changing places until Tim Vickers joined them. Williams then began closing on the front four. Down to the finish line and it was Webling from Whelan, Tim Vickers, Heimgartner, Williams and Ralph Goodwin.

Race two was on a drying track, but the patchy damp caused Webling to be slow away and then Richard Vickers made a great start to grab the lead but then was also caught by a damp patch and spun. Tim Vickers and Thomas-Kircher also both made great starts and finished the first lap ahead of Heimgartner, then a gap back to Webling, Whelan and Williams. Vickers took the win from Thomas-Kircher with Webling third, ahead of Whelan, Williams and Heimgartner.

The third feature race over 12 laps saw the usual five-car classic tussle throughout the distance, with Webling making the best start but soon overhauled by Heimgartner, then a closely dicing Williams and Whelan with Tim Vickers right in behind them. Williams made a desperate move to pass Webling for second while Tim Vickers displaced Whelan. Going into the first sweeper turn on the final lap, Williams was leading but Heimgartner made a brilliant move around the outside of him to take the lead and eventually the race win from Williams, Whelan, Webling, Tim Vickers, Thomas-Kircher etc., the first five cars crossing the line within half a second of the winner.

“That was very close, tough racing – especially on Sunday in those changing conditions. My Superlux team gave me an excellent car so I could concentrate on finishing each race to gain maximum points

in the conditions. The only problem I had was a clutch bearing failure near the end of the first race, but that was easily fixed for Sunday's two races," said Webling.

Points: Webling 545, Heimgartner 532, Williams 526, Tim Vickers 487, Whelan 468, Thomas-Kircher 421, Vincent 345, Godwin 330, R Vickers 308.

Next round : Jan21-23 Timaru Levels Raceway

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A free-to-use photo is attached of Stefan Webling dicing with Matt Williams at Teretonga. Please credit: Geoff Ridder.