



NASA Directors' Update No 2 June 2022

Following the recent resignations of four board members there has been a concerted effort in some areas to destabilise the remaining board and the sport itself.

For clarity the board has decided the easiest way to explain what has been going on behind the scenes is to produce a timeline of events and decisions made.

This started way back on 27 February this year when two members of our sport who supply tyres made a detailed written complaint to the board that two unnamed directors had acted in a way that had been inappropriate and to the detriment of their business.

The following day they were being hounded by one of those directors constantly trying to call them. They made contact with Chris Allanson and pointed out that as the matter involved two directors, they feared that it would be swept under the carpet. They sent basic information to Chris including invoices and bank statements that morning.

Several days later at a board meeting it was decided that a team of chairmen would investigate the situation. The details that had been given to Chris were passed by him to that team of chairmen.

They produced a report. Prior to its publication they received threats of legal action from certain members of the sport regarding the way they had carried out that investigation and as to how it should be presented to the chairmen.

The report was read out to the chairmen at a meeting. The matter was discussed and a proposal was put forward for it to be kept secret. This was seconded and a vote taken.

Both the proposer and seconder had a financial interest at the time in the sale of tyres and hence the outcome of the vote. This fact wasn't declared or picked up on by the chairmen during that decision making process.

The chairmen concluded that "based on the evidence and information disclosed prior to the report then the matter was closed"

Further evidence then came to light in the form of e mails, texts, county court judgements and witness testimony. This was passed directly to Chris Allanson, who looked into its validity.

He had a conversation with Phil Rogers where contradictions between the first report's findings and the current position were apparent. Based on that Chris decided to carry on and test the validity of this new information.

It is relevant that for the past few months the chairmen were aware that the board was not functioning correctly. An approach to the board in the circumstances would have been impossible.



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Eventually, on 12 May, Chris was in a position to discuss his findings with the rest of the board. He communicated that, in his view, offences had been committed by two directors concerned in carrying out a deal with Kingpin tyres.

A board meeting was held on 19 May where the basic information was relayed to the directors. The matter was discussed at length and it was concluded that Phil Rogers should be made aware that his actions had breached our rules under company law. At that time Chris concluded that Vernon Mackenzie hadn't committed any offences and acted inappropriately.

That in effect closed the matter down. It was expected Phil would be written to; however due to the lack of cohesion in the board this never happened.

Four days later, on 23 May, Chris was contacted by a very irate ex director of Kingpin tyres, complaining that there were counterfeit tyres being sold in our sport. He made credible threats to take NASA to court over the matter because the words NASA DRIVE appeared on the sidewalls of those tyres.

A pair of tyres was purchased immediately. They were counterfeit. As a board we then had to make some difficult decisions.

Four of the board members didn't engage at all in these decisions. They failed to attend a zoom meeting to discuss the situation.

At that time there were several issues to consider. First, the threat of legal action against NASA by Kingpin. Second the quality of these tyres. Third, the legal implications for members of the sport.

Selling counterfeit goods carries a ten year prison sentence. We knew that at least three licence holders were involved in the sale of them to our members plus an outside company. Once we had this information, and had verified it was correct, we as a board could not readily condone its continuation.

We needed to check the position with our insurers. This was in the week in the lead up to the MAP Open.

The tyres did not comply with our current rule book. The decision was reluctantly made to stop the tyres being used and an announcement was made to that effect.

On reflection the board acknowledges that we should have given the background reasons for why we made that decision, so that the members understood the position clearly. The reason it wasn't announced was simply that the fear of litigation stopped us from doing so.

The reaction was huge from members who had purchased these tyres and the board, in particular Chris, took a lot of abuse for that decision.

What it did achieve was a meeting the following night where four leading scrutineers attended along with all the chairmen and eight board members.

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It was agreed that the Kingpin tyres could be used in the immediate future, to give time for the matter to be resolved the following week. This was achieved by "adding" the tyres to the Option A list and approving them. The Option A and B lists hadn't been updated for five years and this was a stop gap measure.

The tyre situation had become a major issue to the sport and it was directly linked to the problems within the board.

The chairmen held a meeting on 26 May where they discussed firstly the issues within the board. They decided to try and identify where the issues lay and went through each member of the board, one at a time, to establish who it was felt was functioning correctly and who was not. Five directors were identified in that process. The chairmen then intended to return to their leagues and seek input from their local members.

At the meeting it was requested that Chris Allanson present his findings to the chairmen the following Saturday, 28 May.

By that time further evidence had come to light, implicating Vernon Mackenzie. At the conclusion of the presentation by Chris on the 28th he was asked to carry on the investigation and to report back to the chairmen with his findings. The chairmen also wanted a face to face meeting at Walsall where the matter could be discussed and any witnesses that Phil and Vernon wished to bring could attend. A room was booked for 11 June with that in mind.

Four directors then resigned in quick succession. This was prior to the minutes of the chairmen's meeting being released, in which the five directors were identified as having been "non-functional".

From that point the board started to pick up the pieces and meetings were arranged where duties were switched around. New directors to be involved in scrutineering and marshalling were identified. Several scrutineers' meetings were held where the tyre issues were addressed. Marshals' meeting was held and positive steps were taken to continue the sport.

It was agreed that the counterfeit tyres would be allowed to be used, providing certain steps were taken by the importer and the dealers.

This primarily meant that all identification numbers are removed from the sidewalls that identify them as Kingpin. The existing stock can be used. No new tyres will be imported without correct identification on them. The use of stick-on labels will cease and new tyres will have bonded in ones as per the rule book.

Agreement was reached with Maxsport that the tyres already in racers' possession and those held by dealers could be used up until further notice. Kingpin tyres also agreed they were happy with the measures taken and would not take action against the sport. A third tyre manufacturer has been sourced and tyres will be submitted for testing shortly.

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Behind the scenes there has been a huge amount of work within the various departments and the feeling of cooperation between the board and those involved augers well for the future. We would like to thank everyone who has rallied round to assist us in achieving what we have so far.

The investigation into the initial tyre matter has now been closed.

Chris prepared a report which outlined his findings and the offences it identified. It was sent to the chairmen as requested for them to read. Normally disciplinary proceedings would be taken at this juncture. However, some chairmen expressed a wish for the matter to be closed as the two directors involved had resigned prior to an official hearing being held.

We are in some respects in a state of limbo on this matter with rumour and supposition going around the members. It is true to say that this has not been a pleasant experience for all those involved.

To allow Phil and Vernon an opportunity to put their case then discipline procedures should take place. But countering that argument is the fact that the board is now fully functional and operating as a unit. Do we gain anything by taking disciplinary action? As a board we have taken the view that we should carry on working and leave this as it is now.

To further complicate matters, two leagues sent letters expressing they wanted the chairmen's committee to take a "vote of no confidence" in Chris. The grounds quoted were that he "continued a course of action that he was repeatedly asked to leave alone" Chris strongly denies that assertion.

There will be a vote of no confidence taken by the league chairmen in early July. Chris has exercised his right to defend himself and part of that defence involves the evidence gathered during the investigation and the timing of receipt of new evidence etc.

Some chairmen wanted to see the hard evidence Chris had gathered during the investigation as rumours have been started that there was no hard evidence whatsoever. Chris has already shown some chairmen this information and will continue to brief chairmen on the situation.

The board would like to point out that it is now fully functional. All positions are filled and we would like to welcome Callie Cooper onto the board as a co-opted director and board secretary.

Furthermore, the board fully supports the fact that if there are allegations made to any board member or senior official of wrongdoing by any member, we expect them to carry out their duties to the full. The actions taken by Chris throughout this investigation were appropriate at the time and we would expect this standard of commitment and integrity from all senior officials going forwards. He has our full support on this matter.

Finally, can everyone send all NASA correspondence to Callie Cooper for her attention