

22nd September 2013

OPEN LETTER TO UCI NATIONAL CYCLING FEDERATIONS

Prime Minister Winston Churchill won us the Second World War but Britain voted him out of office immediately after the war. UCI President Pat McQuaid has launched an aggressive and uncompromising assault against the cheats in cycling, but even before the battle has been fully won, some want us to blame and crucify him. The sustained attacks against Pat McQuaid and the unsubstantiated attempts to blame him for the dirty deeds of coaches, doctors and team officials driven by greed, is a dishonest attempt to taint a champion of anti-doping in cycling.

Were it not for the leadership of Pat McQuaid, the scandalous behavior of many participants in the sport would not have been uncovered. Cycling has led the way under the leadership of Pat McQuaid and other sporting disciplines must now follow and clean up, like cycling is doing.

Those of us who genuinely appreciate the work that has been done and recognize that strong and determined leadership is required to complete the job, understand that the certainty and continuity of Pat McQuaid must be secured. However, those who would rather that the clean-up and globalization of cycling be interrupted, are trying desperately to taint Pat McQuaid. They are deliberately distorting the facts and dishonestly ascribing blame by association to Pat McQuaid. So never mind that Pat McQuaid is Cycling's undisputed champion of the anti-doping cause; for his opponents, since he is the President under whose tenure the cheats were caught, then he must be considered an accomplice.



Affiliated to the St. Lucia Olympic Committee & the Union Cycliste Internationale





CASTRIES ST. LUCIA, P.O.BOX 823
Email: slu_ca@hotmail.com

President: Cyril Mangal: 1-758-721-7756
Secretary: Roderick Cherry: 1-758-724-9816
Treasurer: Leslie Serieux: 1-758-285-3906

Vice President: Melvin Henry: 1-758-718-7578
Assistant Secretary: Shana Clifford: 1-758-717-2687
Public Relations Officer: Andre Charles: 1-758-584-8105

But Pat McQuaid is the one who led the fight, so how can we now sacrifice him for a candidate whose main backers are the commercial interests whose demands may well have caused the cheating in the first place? To condemn Pat McQuaid for the unscrupulous acts which we know his policies helped uncover, is as ridiculous as calling for the head of Steve Johnson of USA Cycling for the Lance Armstrong doping scandal, knowing full well that Johnson was in the forefront to bring Armstrong to justice.

So we cannot accept this fatally flawed and fallacious argument from the Cookson camp. Neither must we accept their blatant and flagrant attempts to suppress the democracy of the UCI and use subversive legal tactics and intimidation to prevent the nomination of Pat McQuaid for the Presidency. And having succeeded in getting two countries to rescind their nominations of Pat McQuaid, the Cookson camp now wants to challenge the authority of the UCI Congress to amend the constitution to prevent a hostile takeover of the UCI. When will they stop and why are they so afraid of the democracy of the UCI? Why is the Cookson camp so bent on eliminating a Pat McQuaid candidacy?

They know, as do the majority of UCI members, that Pat McQuaid is not the problem but the solution. They also know that Pat McQuaid has worked and won the respect and admiration of the majority of UCI members by promoting the development of cycling across the globe and by dealing decisively with the doping issue. Pat McQuaid has an indisputable record of achievement which can only be sullied by dishonest accusations and propaganda. It is time for the Cookson Camp to come clean and abandon its devious and dishonest campaign to unseat Pat McQuaid by subversive and undemocratic tactics.



Affiliated to the St. Lucia Olympic Committee & the Union Cycliste Internationale





CASTRIES ST. LUCIA, P.O.BOX 823
Email: slu_ca@hotmail.com

President: Cyril Mangal: 1-758-721-7756
Secretary: Roderick Cherry: 1-758-724-9816
Treasurer: Leslie Serieux: 1-758-285-3906

Vice President: Melvin Henry: 1-758-718-7578
Assistant Secretary: Shana Clifford: 1-758-717-2687
Public Relations Officer: Andre Charles: 1-758-584-8105

If Brian Cookson is truly interested in "cleaning up" the UCI's image, then a dishonest campaign cannot be the platform upon which this goal is built. A free, fair and open election is the only option for Cycling now, and the UCI Congress must restore the democracy which Brian Cookson and his legal and financial backers have tried to take away from us. The UCI must therefore do what is right; not what is convenient.

The Cookson camp seems to have managed to get a majority of European Federations to oppose the proposed amendment of Article 51.1 which is being abused by them to subvert the democracy of the UCI. Cookson is using the argument that we must follow rules, and we agree. In fact, those same rules give us the right to change them and Cookson and his camp cannot deny us this right, especially when it is clear that there is a loophole being blatantly abused by their own selfish and capitalist interests. This is tantamount to a prostitution of the UCI's values and the introduction of intimidation and gangster politics in the UCI's electoral process.

South Africa had rules in the Apartheid era which were discriminatory and perpetrated atrocities on the majority of population for decades, until the world said enough is enough. The Cookson campaign is reminiscent of this scourge of history as they try to bully the majority into accepting their way. In 2013, this must not be allowed to succeed and the UCI Congress as Cycling's highest decision making body must assert its right to change a rule which has clearly been abused, to try to subvert rather than enhance democracy in the electoral process. This is a struggle to secure the soul of Cycling and it is bigger than Pat McQuaid or Brian Cookson.



Affiliated to the St. Lucia Olympic Committee & the Union Cycliste Internationale





CASTRIES ST. LUCIA, P.O.BOX 823
Email: slu_ca@hotmail.com

President: Cyril Mangal: 1-758-721-7756
Secretary: Roderick Cherry: 1-758-724-9816
Treasurer: Leslie Serieux: 1-758-285-3906

Vice President: Melvin Henry: 1-758-718-7578
Assistant Secretary: Shana Clifford: 1-758-717-2687
Public Relations Officer: Andre Charles: 1-758-584-8105

We recognize Europe as a major player in cycling, but how can Europe alone have 14 delegates which is one third of the total UCI votes? Why is Article 47 so heavily biased in favour of Europe? Out of 10 elected members why must 7 be from Europe? Is this the UCI or the European Cycling Union?

The National Federations from the other continents must wake up to this undemocratic and discriminatory provision which will be very difficult to change unless there is full support from the other continents to get two thirds, or unless European countries willing agree to give up their power in favour of the full globalization of cycling. But that is hardly likely to happen and so we have to fight for the liberation of Cycling like the majority had to do in South Africa to dismantle apartheid.

Russian Cycling Federation President Igor Makarov who is also a member of the UCI Management Committee and a major sponsor of European Cycling; has gone on a frolic of his own in his deceptive campaign against President Pat McQuaid. Now tell me, what gives Mr. Makarov the right to independently hire private investigators and unilaterally decide that the UCI Ethics Commission is not independent? Who gave Mr. Makarov the authority to completely ignore the disciplinary mechanisms of the UCI and decide that USADA is the appropriate authority to deal with his corruption allegations?

So are we supposed to believe that Mr. Makarov is independent and that he alone can decide who is independent? If there is genuine doubt why can't Mr. Makarov and company take their complaint to the highest authority which is the UCI congress? Is it that Mr. Makarov doesn't trust the National Federations also? It is that type of arrogance which perpetrated the dreadful apartheid system on the majority of South Africans by a selfish oligarchy.



Affiliated to the St. Lucia Olympic Committee & the Union Cycliste Internationale





CASTRIES ST. LUCIA, P.O.BOX 823
Email: slu_ca@hotmail.com

President: Cyril Mangal: 1-758-721-7756
Secretary: Roderick Cherry: 1-758-724-9816
Treasurer: Leslie Serieux: 1-758-285-3906

Vice President: Melvin Henry: 1-758-718-7578
Assistant Secretary: Shana Clifford: 1-758-717-2687
Public Relations Officer: Andre Charles: 1-758-584-8105

Why must we accept Mr. Makarov's view that the USADA would be independent in the matter? Isn't it the same USADA which had challenges from current UCI President Pat McQuaid, who has stood up to defend our sport against those who want to police the sport, yet do not want to spend enough on detection, as they failed miserably in detecting Lance Armstrong through testing?

Mr. Makarov's unwillingness to go through the Ethics Committee of the UCI has done more damage to the UCI. Since it was his investigation and he hired the investigators, how can he now disassociate himself from the leaks? Mr. Makarov's actions suggest that he is Judge, Jury and Executioner, and that he and his candidate will throw enough mud at Pat McQuaid in the hope that some of it sticks.

And how can Brian Cookson distance himself from the dossier, when the same dossier is presented to some American continental delegates at the same time he is making his campaign for the Presidency of the UCI?

Attempting to deny the UCI Congress a choice of candidates for the UCI Presidency, is tantamount to a hostile takeover and a blow to real democracy. St. Lucia has confidence in the American delegates elected to represent our continent and will not succumb to any pressures from selfish interests with their narrow agenda, who want to question the elected leaders entrusted to make decisions on our behalf. Steve Johnson of USA Cycling has decided that his preference is for Brian Cookson, contrary to the majority view in the continental federation and so be it. Although St. Lucia does not agree, we will not enlist lawyers or succumb to powerful interests to question where he is going to vote.



Affiliated to the St. Lucia Olympic Committee & the Union Cycliste Internationale





CASTRIES ST. LUCIA, P.O.BOX 823
Email: slucycling@hotmail.com

President: Cyril Mangal: 1-758-721-7756
Secretary: Roderick Cherry: 1-758-724-9816
Treasurer: Leslie Serieux: 1-758-285-3906

Vice President: Melvin Henry: 1-758-718-7578
Assistant Secretary: Shana Clifford: 1-758-717-2687
Public Relations Officer: Andre Charles: 1-758-584-8105

We may not agree, but we are confident that the other delegates will do the right thing in line with the thinking of the majority of the Federations of the American continent, and not that of the most financially powerful.

We look forward to a free, fair, open and democratic election and hope that whoever is victorious will work in the interest of all UCI members. St. Lucia is very concerned that when we were contacted by someone supporting Cookson, the person indicated "I would like you to be on the right side after the election, so you are on the priority list of the Federations which would be helped." We sincerely hope that this would not be the way Mr. Cookson would operate should he win the Presidency of the UCI.

It is our hope that the wisdom of the UCI Congress will restore the democracy of the organization and permit an election between Pat McQuaid and Brian Cookson. We see no reason why the Cookson's camp should object to an open election, which it is the prerogative of the UCI Congress to decide. So let the Congress decide and stop trying to constrain it with selfish legal hurdles.

Yours sincerely

Cyril Mangal
President
St. Lucia Cycling Association



Affiliated to the St. Lucia Olympic Committee & the Union Cycliste Internationale



