

Mark St John is not on FB and has asked that this be posted here:

Statement from Mark St. John

As some of you will know – it's very unusual for me to become involved in anything on the Internet and I usually maintain a low profile to keep the focus on the artists that I manage.

However, because of the special nature of The Bay City Rollers' fans and their incredible loyalty and support – and because of the misleading statements made by Dave Herron – DJ Dizzy – in this case I'm going to make an exception.

I make no bones about the fact that neither myself, nor the members of The Bay City Rollers that I represent (everyone except Les), are happy about DJ Dizzy's actions and activities. He has publicly stated that:

“I received an email from an individual called Mark St. John who claims to be the manager of the Bay City Rollers and claims to represent Derek, Eric, Stuart and Alan Longmuir. I have yet to confirm whether this Mark St John has any authority to make such claims...”

Hmmm...

This is a surprising statement for someone who claims to be a major fan of the Band to make. Most of you genuine, hard core fans will be well aware that I am the Mark St. John who was responsible for re-uniting the original Bay City Rollers line-up and bringing back major, worldwide focus to the Band on the global stage. Under my care they recorded major TV shows – The BBC documentary “The Bay City Rollers – Remember”, VH1's “Behind The Music” – and the Channel 4 documentary about their missing money – “Who Got The Rollers' Millions” – where I was the featured expert witness for the show. I was featured in all those shows. And, under my care, the impossible happened and the Band actually performed live – every true fan recalls their iconic Millennium Hogmanay performance. Throughout this period, I was representing all of the Band – even Les... So if DJ Dizzy is in such close contact with Les (as he reports), it is not believable that he doesn't know who I am. That's a highly disingenuous statement, Mr. Herron.

From the time of my first involvement, I have been principally focussed on retrieving the Band's lost royalties and damages. It was my actions, in dialogue and correspondence with their record company, that protected their rights and ensured that their legal position would be secure in the event of the formal legal Action, which is now underway. I am the lead witness in the Trial Action for all the band members – including Les – and it's fair to say that their prospects of success rely heavily on my involvement, knowledge and testimony. This Action is of fundamental importance to me, to all the Band and to all the true fans, who know how much they've suffered and how

much this long-standing dispute has cost them in every way. My principal role is to make sure they are eventually paid, which I will try to do. It's a tough job, and not made easier when people who should know better exploit the Band for their own ends and make unnecessary and disingenuous statements in public and on air, that hurt the boys (and their families) and actually damage their already fragile position and their rights. That is not the action of a fan.

It is incredibly insulting of DJ Dizzy to suggest that any of the Band – and especially Alan, whom he has singled out – could be controlled by any third party and blocked from doing something that they wanted to do. We all know the boys have minds of their own – that they don't always agree and that they choose their own path. It would be impossible for me, or anyone (especially after years with a manager like Tam Paton) to make them do anything – and I would never try. To suggest that is insulting to all of them, especially Alan. They're grown men, Mr. Herron – not idiots.

So we are all clear, when Alan suggested that he might attend DJ Dizzy's event, he was not fully aware of the nature of the event, nor its implications. When he discovered (as he wasn't told by DJ Dizzy) that Ian Mitchell, Pat McGlynn and possibly Nobby Clark would be attending, of course he decided to withdraw. We have been in court for the past three years with those three gentlemen, who took an action to become part of our Claim, which has only recently been dealt with. The possibility of all the parties being thrown together in a fan-based event would have been very foolish. Feelings have run high and, of course all the parties believe passionately in their own case, whether legally right or wrong. DJ Dizzy didn't make this clear to Alan and, when he discovered this, he chose to withdraw. He certainly didn't need any input from me to make his mind up – he's a big boy, he makes up his own mind.

The basis of the problem is that DJ Dizzy claims to be a major fan of the Band and to only have their best interests at heart. Yet he doesn't know who I am, was (seemingly) unaware of the dispute between the various people he had invited to his event and has been disrespectful to Stuart, his wife, Denise, myself and now Alan, whom he thinks can't make his own mind up.

Additionally, he has utilised the Band's name, likeness, images and "Shang A Lang" rights for his own use, without legally obtaining the rights for anything. Initially they turned up on products and all kinds of promotional items, and certain images and name use is still embedded in his advertising and promotion. He makes the point that some of this is utilised on the Internet by various third-parties, whom we can't find or stop. Right on Dave – that's absolutely true. But they're not running a public Radio Show or a Fan Festival with attendant surrounding promotion – all based on how much they love the Band and want them to succeed. They are the enemy – more people ripping off the Band – more money the boys will never see and more difficulties for the Band, myself and the lawyers to overcome. Is that how you wish to be seen, Mr Herron – is that the

behaviour you want to be aligned with? I sincerely hope not – because it's illegal. Not the right thing for a Community Radio Station, or a Fan Festival, to be aligning itself with. I am sure you agree.

I have no problem with any radio station doing the Band the service of creating a show to celebrate their music and their legacy. I have no problem with a genuine Fan Festival that has been set up specifically for the boys' loyal fans and I have no problem with any bona-fide event celebrating, supporting and remembering The Bay City Rollers' wonderful music, incredible talent and unparalleled history. What I have a problem with is people who do that without obtaining the necessary, legal, clearances that form an everyday part of all radio station and event management. And who behave as if they have rights to the Band, which are more important than the Band's own rights and feelings. Not only is that illegal – it is harmful.

You have set up a Fan Festival with a big ticket price, you advertised on air that many of the original Band members would be attending, without having their confirmation that they would. You used their copyrighted Band name, personality rights and images - without permission. When I asked you to stop or provide the necessary legal clearances, you ignored me and went global with Internet statements that utilised parts of my e-mails out of context, in order to create a false impression. I asked you nicely to get in line with the legal requirements that any big name band would require – and you ignored and insulted the Band and me for asking for what is legally due. I am not happy about that. It is mean-spirited and unhelpful and – most important of all – it misrepresents the facts and the Band to their fans – who are the most important people in all of this.

So, perhaps you would like to reconsider your position and your statement, Mr Herron, I think Stuart, Alan and Denise are due an apology. As are the fans for being given suggestions that were not backed by fact and the support of the Band. And – if you are genuinely a true fan of this great Band, perhaps you will support my long-running and continued efforts to get our favourite Band paid for the great music they made, and align with my hope and intention that, when this onerous court case is over, it may be possible to re-unite the original Band and make everyone – especially the fans – happy again. Then we might be on the same page.

Mark St. John