

Scottish independents join the NTDA

August proved to be another busy month for the Association and although many people may be concerned about BREXIT, or even a break-up of the Union, two well-known Scottish independent tyre distributors have elected to join the NTDA, further boosting its already impressive 2019 intake of new tyre specialist members across the UK.



TYRES DIRECT (STIRLING) LTD based in Stirling, is a small, established, family run tyre fitting company with a 6-man team sharing over 100 years of experience in the tyre trade and who are always on hand to provide expert advice, personal service and local knowledge along with an excellent range of tyre brands to suit all pockets and vehicles.

Tyres Direct covers most areas around Stirling including Airth, Alloa, Bannockburn, Bridge of Allan, Clackmannan, Cowie, Dunblane, Fallin, Falkirk, Kincadine, Plean and Stenhousemuir and in addition to tyres provides an extensive range of other automotive aftercare services.



Established in Dumfries in 2012, **Solyre Ltd** is another rapidly growing independent tyre supplier, supplying and fitting tyres for all types of vehicles from cars to HGVs and agricultural machinery.

From its depots in Airdrie, Brechin and Dumfries and further satellite sites in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Perth it is able to respond quickly and efficiently stocking a wide range of tyres including Bridgestone, Firestone, Hankook, Kleber, Michelin, Mitas and Pirelli and can also source any make of tyre customers require.

Commenting on the new members, NTDA Chief Executive Stefan Hay said: *“The NTDA already has a number of outstanding tyre specialist members in Scotland and the addition of Tyres Direct and Soltyre is excellent for the Association as it increases not only our membership, but also our network coverage in that very important NTDA region. Traditionally, Scotland was one of the most active NTDA regions and historically provided us with some of our finest Presidents and Regional Chairmen and we are now, finally, in a position to fully reactivate the region and are excited at the prospect of re-engaging with all of our Scottish members on a local, one-to-one basis.”*

NTDA research shows members still in favour of a part worn tyre ban



In July, the NTDA engaged Aria Public Relations Ltd to conduct extensive research into tyre distributor members' current attitudes to part worn tyres. This research revisited many of the issues identified by Aria in the 2017 research conducted in preparation for the NTDA's **Manifesto for Change**.

What became very clear, is that members are still very much in favour of a ban on dangerous and unsafe part worn tyres. Firstly, almost 94% of respondents said that there needs to be better enforcement of the regulations relating to part worn tyres and more than 51% disagreed with the suggestion that part worn tyres are fine, even if tested, inspected and marked.

More than 89% of NTDA members were also very clear that they would never consider selling fully tested and stamped part worn tyres even if enforcement was better.

In the absence of a total ban, again more than 89% of respondents agreed that all part worn tyre dealers should be independently audited and subject to a 'licence to sell', although 80% are still in favour of an outright ban.

Part worn tyres arriving from the Continent came under specific scrutiny with more than 91% of NTDA tyre specialist members stating that they should definitely be banned, primarily due to the fact that they are discarded winter tyres and not suitable for general UK motoring conditions. There was also overwhelming support for imported part worn tyres being subjected to an environmental protection tariff, as an interim deterrent, in the absence of the ban.

On the question of whether members destroy tyres removed from customer vehicles, (e.g. sidewall drilling or bead cutting), to prevent them possibly being sold on as part worn tyres, which became popular due to the pioneering campaign work carried out by leading NTDA members such as **Micheldever Group Ltd**, a significant increase was apparent with more than 53% of respondents stating that they always, usually, or frequently destroy casings. Of those who do not, currently, destroy casings, 60% said they will consider doing so in the future.

Stefan Hay said; *“Part worn tyres still remain the main, and very frustrating, agenda item for NTDA members. Our tyre distributors are sick and tired of dealing with the consequences of part worn tyre dealer's often shoddy workmanship and general lack of knowledge and awareness of what constitutes a safe tyre. 93% of members are now supportive of an 'NTDA Members Say No to Part Worn Tyres' campaign which we will be launching at the Tyre Industry Conference at the ICC Birmingham on 3rd October, so watch this space!”*