# Peter Hickman declares North West 200 farewell after controversial carbon wheel disqualification



This year's Briggs Equipment North West 200 unfolded with a burst of excitement, marred by controversy and culminating in a dramatic announcement from Peter Hickman, one of the event’s most revered competitors. Hickman, after a series of tumultuous events, expressed that he has partaken in his last race at the iconic north coast event.

The stage was set for what was expected to be a thrilling showdown in road racing history. However, the atmosphere soured quickly due to a contentious disqualification involving Hickman’s FHO Racing team. Amidst ongoing discussions about the usage of carbon wheels—a subject that has sparked considerable debate within the racing community—FHO Racing found itself in hot water. Despite the team’s preparations, they were ultimately disqualified from the competition, leading to their withdrawal from the event altogether.

Hickman, reflecting on the decision, voiced his discontent over what he termed “wheelgate.” He expressed frustration not only towards the officials’ ruling but also at the situation that unfolded, citing the confusion surrounding the rules as a significant contributor to the turmoil. His insights reveal a broader concern within the sport regarding the implications of such rulings and how they potentially tarnish the spirit of competition. He noted that his choice to remain and race, despite the FHO team's withdrawal, was born out of a desire to deliver a strong performance against the odds, illustrating his dedication to the sport.

The North West 200 organisers have since clarified the disqualification ruling, confirming that it stemmed from a misunderstanding of the technical regulations regarding carbon wheels. Their statement acknowledged that the enforcement of these rules had led to significant upheaval among competitors, signalling a potential need for clearer communication moving forward.

For Hickman, this year's event will be remembered not solely for the racing but for its ramifications. The disqualification and subsequent fallout have prompted discussions about the future of road racing in the region. Hickman’s announcement signalling his exit from the event has left a somber tone, as loyal fans of the sport process the departure of a star who has contributed extensively to its tapestry.

With the conclusion of the North West 200, it remains crucial for stakeholders within the sport to reflect on this episode. The controversy surrounding technical rulings and their impacts on competitors emphasizes the ongoing challenge of balancing regulatory strictness with the spirit of competition. As the dust settles, there lies an opportunity for the racing community to engage in meaningful dialogue, ensuring that the legacy of events like the North West 200 is preserved for future generations, while also addressing the pressing need for clarity and fairness in competitive regulations.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sunday-life/sport/road-racing-star-says-he-has-competed-in-last-north-west-200-after-controversial-ruling/a1419951465.html)
2. Paragraph 2: [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/motorsport/65567010), [[3]](https://www.bikesportnews.com/tt-and-roads/2023-north-west-200-hickman-brookes-out-after-fho-racing-thrown-out-of-nw200/)
3. Paragraph 3: [[4]](https://northwest200.org/statement-from-the-organisers-of-the-fonacab-and-nicholl-oils-north-west-200-3/), [[5]](https://www.mcnews.com.au/north-west-200-organisers-release-statement-on-fho-withdrawal/)
4. Paragraph 4: [[6]](https://www.rideapart.com/news/667077/north-west-200-bmw-withdraws/), [[7]](https://www.roadracingworld.com/news/north-west-200-fho-racing-bmw-withdraws-over-technical-rule-confusion/)
5. Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sunday-life/sport/road-racing-star-says-he-has-competed-in-last-north-west-200-after-controversial-ruling/a1419951465.html)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

* <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sunday-life/sport/road-racing-star-says-he-has-competed-in-last-north-west-200-after-controversial-ruling/a1419951465.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.bbc.com/sport/motorsport/65567010> - Peter Hickman reflects on 'wheelgate' at the North West 200, discussing the controversy over carbon wheels and his decision to stay and race despite FHO Racing's withdrawal.
* <https://www.bikesportnews.com/tt-and-roads/2023-north-west-200-hickman-brookes-out-after-fho-racing-thrown-out-of-nw200/> - FHO Racing BMW team withdraws from the 2023 North West 200 after being disqualified due to carbon wheels, leading to Hickman and Brookes' exclusion from the Superstock race.
* <https://northwest200.org/statement-from-the-organisers-of-the-fonacab-and-nicholl-oils-north-west-200-3/> - North West 200 organisers release a statement explaining the disqualification of FHO Racing BMW team due to carbon wheels, leading to their withdrawal from the event.
* <https://www.mcnews.com.au/north-west-200-organisers-release-statement-on-fho-withdrawal/> - North West 200 organisers release a statement on FHO Racing BMW's withdrawal over technical rule confusion regarding carbon wheels.
* <https://www.rideapart.com/news/667077/north-west-200-bmw-withdraws/> - Controversy at the 2023 North West 200 as FHO Racing BMW withdraws over technical rule confusion regarding carbon wheels.
* <https://www.roadracingworld.com/news/north-west-200-fho-racing-bmw-withdraws-over-technical-rule-confusion/> - FHO Racing BMW withdraws from the 2023 North West 200 due to technical rule confusion over carbon wheels, leading to Hickman and Brookes' exclusion from the Superstock race.