

# **“ PPP ”**

## **People for Proper Policing in North Wales**

**Ex-Police officer took on North Wales Police over speeding fine**  
**May 19 2008 by Steve Bagnall, Daily Post**

A FORMER police advanced motorcycle instructor who **fought for 13 months** to prove his innocence over a speeding charge has had his case thrown out. North Wales Police are now investigating a complaint by furious Bob McMillan after he claimed the case should never have gone to court.

Mr McMillan, who was also a former general manager of Honda UK Motorcycle, is sure he and two friends were not over the speed limit when they were stopped on the A4212 in April last year.

The 60-year-old has reported North Wales Police to the Independents Police Complaints Commission. It took Mr McMillan, also a former police advanced car driver with Staffordshire Constabulary, **over a year of battling before the CPS threw the case out.** But he insists he and his two friends were innocent of the speeding charge when they were stopped near Fron Goch between Bala and Trawsfynydd.

Mr McMillan and one of his friends decided to contest the case, but the other **decided to take the penalty points fearing a long legal battle.** Mr McMillan, who has also operated speed trap equipment himself, claimed he was worried about the police evidence used against him and he also obtained video footage taken by the police helicopter used to charge him. **It was claimed the three had been speeding as a convoy at about 83mph.**

Mr McMillan, who also won a Prince Michael Award for a motorbike safety course, claimed **the video had been edited, was focused on another unknown sole rider travelling in the opposite direction, and at no point showed the three riders speeding.** He believes the decision to give the three motorbikes that speed – 83mph – was made to boost numbers caught speeding. Mr McMillan believes the unknown motorcyclist travelling in the opposite direction was speeding and was clocked by a speed trap (Vascar) officer and video operator while in the helicopter.

Mr McMillan, who moved from Harlech to near Oswestry, said: *“I want to make it clear **that this is not an anti-police rant, having spent 10 years as a patrol officer and being proud of that time.** I have denied this speeding allegation from the time that I was stopped. We have spent hundreds and hundreds of hours and hundreds of pounds to prove this. It was not the £60 fine or three points on the licence but the principle. I was defending myself because I had nothing to hide and there is no possibility that any of the points gained would make me lose my licence.”*

A NWP spokeswoman confirmed they were investigating a formal complaint She said: *"North Wales Police in consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service have decided to discontinue speeding offence cases which were due to be heard at Dolgellau Magistrates Court on June 10."*

*"The cases involved the use of speed detection equipment carried on board the force helicopter. **The decision to discontinue proceedings is based purely on administrative matters that were identified that were not completed satisfactorily.** North Wales Police emphasise that this decision has nothing to do with **the tactics used involving use of the helicopter**, and the helicopter will in future still be a tactical option in operational policing matters."*

An IPCC spokesman said: *"As in cases like these we have forwarded the case to North Wales Police – that was on March 10. It is up to them to record the complaint and investigate themselves. **If Mr McMillan is unhappy with the outcome he can appeal to ourselves.**"*

**The PPP comments .... this is another of the many abuses of the speed camera technology which has destroyed the British road safety culture and the perversion of the course of justice by the so called partnerships. It is costing lives and livelihoods. It also seems to be a costly misuse of a very expensive public asset probably at the whim of an obsessed chief officer!**

**The conclusion has to be that the Police and the system is institutionally dishonest which is very disturbing.**