

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

North Wales Police (Brunstrom) are considering setting up a mounted Division! So we had a look at the reality of the costs involved.

The only real reason for a mounted division is for crowd control-- One place would be Wrexham F.C- country side searches are rare, Town patrols basically vision only, not effective, plus vehicles hazards Most units feel that **6 horses is a minimum** requirement for effectiveness. Minimum supervisory management would be an 'Inspector'.

Estimated Costs ...Set up costs

6--3 to 4 yr old 17 hand plus horses @	between 7 to 20K-Av 10k	£ 60,000
1 Horse Box vehicle 4 to 6 dividers @	100K	£100,000
8 unit wooden purpose built stable unit @	3to 4K	£ 32,000
1 Roughage store, 1 Feed store, 1 Medical store		£ 7,000
1 Tack room---toilet and washing unit	4/5 K	£ 5,000
Horse and vehicle Insurance		£ 3,700
Saddles , bridles and other harness bits	6 x 1000K	£ 6,000
Purpose built exercise yard. Guess		£ 20,000
Set up costs, approx Total =		£234,700

Annual running costs

Veterinary expenses. Rough guide	£ 2,500
Farrier (road work) 4 shoes x 6 x 6 months @£15/ft	£ 720
Feed costs, Hay at £90 per ton, straw @ £30 per ton	
Shavings at £40 per ton. Concentrate feed @ £230 per ton	
Vitamin / Electrolytes etc = £2 per day x6 = £12 per day	
20 Lbs hay per day @ £90 p/ton = £1 per day x 6 = £6	
Concentrate feed 10 Lbs per day = £1.50 per day x 6 = £9	
Total food costs per day roughly £30	£ 11,000
Labour costs (6 x £22,000 + £30,000)x 2 for overheads	£324,000
Rental of stabling at the National Trust Erdigg estate	£ 25,000
Running cost Total =	£360,000

We estimate that Police work effectiveness in a mounted unit is only a max. of 50% as 50% is lost to grooming and exercising.

The PPP comments We looked at this over a year ago and he is still pursuing it. We don't see any justification for a mounted unit in NWPF... it's another of Brunstrom's whims! The need for a mounted unit is so limited that the 50% availability is more than is needed in N.Wales. They will be on standby much of the time or used inappropriately.

We would much prefer 10 fully effective FULL TIME CBMs.

We are also concerned about the horses' safety in a society where vicious attacks on innocent people are common and horses have been attacked sadistically in the past. The recent (December2006) hiring of two officers and horses from Merseyside at £1300/shift compares very unfavourably with the annual cost of 2 CBMs at say £50k or £1000/week or £200/shift. The above advantages of CBMs is an underestimate because the cost of horses is greater due to overtime to service them and training costs etc.