

Valley's Eisteddfod site problem

IF the National Eisteddfod is to come to the Rhondda, a site other than Ystradfechan, Treorchy, will have to be found.

This week Rhondda councillors decided to tell the Eisteddfod Court to look elsewhere in the valley. They were told if Ystradfechan was used, Treorchy Cricket Club, who play on the pitch, could lose their League places.

The members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee were not prepared to allow this. They were at pains to point out that despite a Press report the cricketers would not be responsible

The committee was told that three Rhondda sites were considered by officers of the National Eisteddfod. These were at the Banana Tip, Ynystefo and Ystradfechan.

Only Ystradfechan was suitable, but this was already being used by Treorchy Cricket Club and other sporting organisations. In a letter to the committee the Treorchy club said they had made inquiries about using another pitch during the time of the Eisteddfod.

"These have proved unfruitful. Cricket grounds in other valleys as in Rhondda are over-subscribed."

If fixtures for the first and second sides could not be filled it would mean "dismissal from the League," said the club.

Coun. Alice Boxall said the cricketers should not be held responsible if the Eisteddfod did not come to Rhondda. And Coun. Roy Hicks added: "It would be the Eisteddfod Court, not the cricket players who are responsible."

He said the cricket was not a weekly effort, but Treorchy were the "banner bearers" of the sport in the Rhondda. If the Eisteddfod Court genuinely wanted to come here in 1982 they would look for

But he added: "They can't expect to come here and deprive any organisation which has been going for ten years." Coun. Hicks said he hoped there would be no repetition of putting the blame on Treorchy Cricket Club.

Coun. Glyn James said he was sad about the image it might give the Rhondda if no alternative site could be found. "It will be a blackspot in the history of Rhondda."

The committee decided to inform the Eisteddfod Court that Ystradfechan was unavailable and they should consider other sites in

Prisoner in Spain fights to escape drugs 'rap'

BY LEADER CHIEF REPORTER CERI JONES

THE Ton Pentre man sentenced to seven years in a Spanish jail for drug smuggling is still awaiting the outcome of his appeal — a year after being sentenced.

Alan Jones, aged 37, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jones of Wyndham Street, Ton Pentre, is being held in a prison near Santander in the Basque region of northern Spain.

He was arrested two years ago on July 11 at Cueta in Spanish Morocco and charged with smuggling 23 kilos of hashish — worth about £30,000 on British market — over the Spanish Moroccan border.

He denied the charge and

said the drug was planted on him by two people from London to whom he had given a lift.

But after a year awaiting trial he was found guilty by a Spanish court and sentenced on June 8 last year.

Since then, he has appealed for leniency through a Spanish lawyer and his parents still wait anxiously for news.

She said at first they did not think they would be able to appeal because the Spanish lawyer demanded £500 before he would take the case.

But another son, Norman, who lives in Porth got in touch with a London-based

society which helps people in trouble abroad and they were able to find the money for them.

But since then they have heard nothing.

In his last letter to his parents written earlier this month, Alan Jones — who has consistently claimed his innocence of the charge — wrote: "I don't know if it takes weeks or months before I get to know anything and even if I fail to get my freedom through the appeal, I will still continue to fight".

And he added: "I have one or two things I can do here myself in Spain if all else fails".

It is this which worries Mrs. Jones. One of her deepest fears is that her son may try and make a break for it. He was involved in an earlier escape bid before the trial which ended in a severe beating from the Spanish guards.

"I did not sleep for two nights after reading that. All I hope is that he does not do anything silly", said Mrs. Jones.

She said the last year had been a particularly trying one both for her and her husband.

She herself was in hospital before Christmas with a heart complaint and they had lost two close relatives in tragic

circumstances within months.

"We have had such a run of bad luck, I've felt dreadful", she said. "I'm getting better now but I would feel much better if we had a little bit of good news about Alan. I would be so chuffed."

"I keep wondering and I know my husband does too — did he have anything to do with it? He says the drug was planted on him but at the back of your mind you wonder whether he was involved."

"If he was, then he has got to take his punishment but if he wasn't, this is all terribly wrong".

Staggering

to pubs

TO a staggered start, the Rhondda Beer Walk will get underway at noon from the Rheola Hotel, Porth, tomorrow (Saturday) — and volunteers in fancy dress will be welcome.

This is the second beer walk with the competitors stopping to have half a pint in each pub or club on the way.

Prizes will be given to the fastest team and to those with the fancy dress.

All proceeds will go to charity as the "aeling" marchers will walk (stagger) to Ferndale.

It should be quite an occasion, and if you fancy taking part in this event, the organisers will be delighted to see you.

It should be a staggered start and an even more staggered finish — all for charity.

Ratepayers' boss hits out at councillors' 'jaunts'

A DIABOLICAL waste of public money! That's what a leading Rhondda ratepayer thinks of councillors' expenses.

Rhondda Borough councillors claimed nearly £34,000

in expenses last year, £2,000 more than the previous financial year.

And one person hitting the roof about the cash claim is the chairman of Rhondda's Ratepayers and Tenants

Association — Mr. Jim Lewis.

Mr. Lewis told the Rhondda Leader that at a time of cutbacks he did not see how councillors and staff could tell Rhondda people to suffer and yet not deprive themselves.

"It's a diabolical waste of public money," he said. And he particularly hit out at the amount of money spent on conferences and courses.

He said two councillors had flown up to Edinburgh for a conference and another had gone to Belfast for a conference — all of which he claimed were totally unnecessary.

"What is more important the benefit of people of the Rhondda or Rhondda coun-

£1355.59, E. Evans £1,178.69, B. McGrath £1,166.89, E. M. Evans £1,130.22, T. Rees £1,046.24, A. J. Davies £1,045.96, M. Collins £960, E. Brown £890.68, J. G. Bevan £853.67, D. Morgan £784.59, D. G. Jones £782.86, A. Powell £728.40.

R. Dentus £710.35, K. Morgan £671.78, D. May £632.94, G. P. James £630.65, E. Hopkins £600.10, H. S. Blight £577.55, M. Chard £561, D. J. Brooks £500.02, L. G. Jones £492.38, M. J. Jones £458.70, R. Ashman £330.92, R. C. Morris £292.10, M. M. Williams £236.39, D. Murphy £197.77, T. J. Davies £186.69, R. Newman £185.26, H. J. Lawless £160.31, A. Lewis £72.84, T. H. Matthews £32.10

Bleak for young

THE number of unemployed youngsters in the Rhondda rose last month while the number of unemployed adults out of work marginally fell.

In the month ending June 13, there were 1,927 men, 618 women, 290 boys and 291 girls in Rhondda's sole census

which includes Llantrisant, Pontypridd and Tonyrefail, the figures are 10.3 and 9.2 per cent respectively. This compared with UK figures of 7.9 men and 5.2 women out of work.

In the five weeks ending June 6, Rhondda's Job Cen-

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