

May 1971

Still waiting for his trial in North African prison

THE Rhondda man being held in a Spanish Moroccan prison on a drugs smuggling charge is still waiting for a new trial date.

Alan Jones, aged 36 of Ton Pentre has now been in prison for ten months awaiting trial.

He was arrested in Cueta in Spanish Morocco last July and accused of trying to smuggle 23 kilos of hashish across the border.

Mr. Jones has always said he was innocent and the drug was planted on him by two

people to whom he was giving a lift.

After being held in Cueta Jail for a number of months and after an abortive escape attempt from that prison — not renowned as one of the world's best — he was transferred to Cordoba prison on the Spanish mainland.

This March he was transferred back to Cueta and it looked as if a definite trial date had been set for March 7.

However it was adjourned pending further investigation by Interpol. It is understood

the international police organisation is interested in the two people to whom Mr. Jones gave the lift.

A new trial date was not set.

Conditions back in Cueta prison where Mr. Jones now is are known to be dire.

In his last letter to his brother Norman, a ventilation officer at Lewis Colliery, he wrote that the conditions were disgusting, the food terrible and in the five weeks he had been there he had already lost a stone in weight.

Banned for two years

Philip Mathews had almost three times the legal amount of alcohol in his blood when he was stopped by police at Penygraig.

Mathews, aged 26, of Heol Mair, Penrhys, admitted driving a car while having a blood/alcohol level of 230 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood.

He also admitted failing to provide a specimen of breath.

Mathews was stopped last December because he was driving erratically, moving from the near side to the off side and back again. When he was given a breathalyser test, he put it to his mouth but made no attempt to inflate it.

Mathews told the court he had drunk about 12 pints. "It was rather foolish. It was the first time I had done it and it will be the last", he said.

Mr. D. Alun Phillips, the stipendiary magistrate, fined him £150 in the drink-driving charge and disqualified him from driving for two years. He was fined £20 for refusing to provide a breath test, £10 costs and £12.25 doctor's fee.

Driver of Hot drive

STEPHEN HAWKINS, whose temper cost him a year in Ystrad Court was convicted of assault on Hawkins, aged 24.

Cruising along Rhondda roads

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