



Ben Hastings going . . .

## Change at the top

OUR Chairman, Ben Hastings, leaves us next month after seven years in the 'hot seat' to take over Chairmanship of the North Western Electricity Board from Mr. Denis Ball, who is retiring.

In his place we shall welcome Mr. Bryan Weston, 55-year-old Deputy Chairman of the Yorkshire Electricity Board. Mr. Weston in an engineer by background, but has also held commercial appointments in the course of his career.

When he has had time to settle down with us we hope to make him better known to MANWEB staff through the pages of a feature edition of CONTACT.

More details on page 2.

. . . coming Bryan Weston



# £42m STRIKE COST — oil burn scorches reserves

**T**HE miners' strike of 1984/85 cost MANWEB £42.3 million, turning an expected profit of £3.2 million into a massive loss.

This is revealed in our Annual Report and Accounts for the year which ended on March 31st, published on August 1st.

The strike cost the electricity industry as a whole £2,020 million, mainly because expensive oil had to be used instead of coal to generate electricity in order to maintain supplies. Throughout the strike and afterwards the industry's view was that the electricity customers should not be called on to pay the extra cost involved, through

higher prices. Now it has been agreed that the cost will be shared equally between the CEGB and the Area Boards, and that they shall be written off against the Boards' reserves.

Area Boards will carry their share of the burden on a basis proportional to their purchases of electricity from the CEGB, subject to the limitation that the charge to each Board shall not be more than half the amount standing to the credit of the Board's Area Reserve on 31st March 1984.

## New pay deals

FOLLOWING a ballot by members of the electricity supply industry's staff, an agreement on pay and conditions has been reached.

For MANWEB's 2,650 industrial staff, pay rises of an extra £7 to £12.50

a week will be paid to employees from general duties assistants to foremen.

Improvements in the standby payments and in pre-retirement leave have also been agreed. A statement has been made on the introduction of new technology and a working group

has been set to look into the Band 5 issue.

For members of the Board's staff covered by the NJB Agreement, salary increases ranging from 5.9 percent for the lower grades to 6.7 percent at the top have been agreed. Improvements in standby and associated payments and pre-retirement leave have also been agreed.

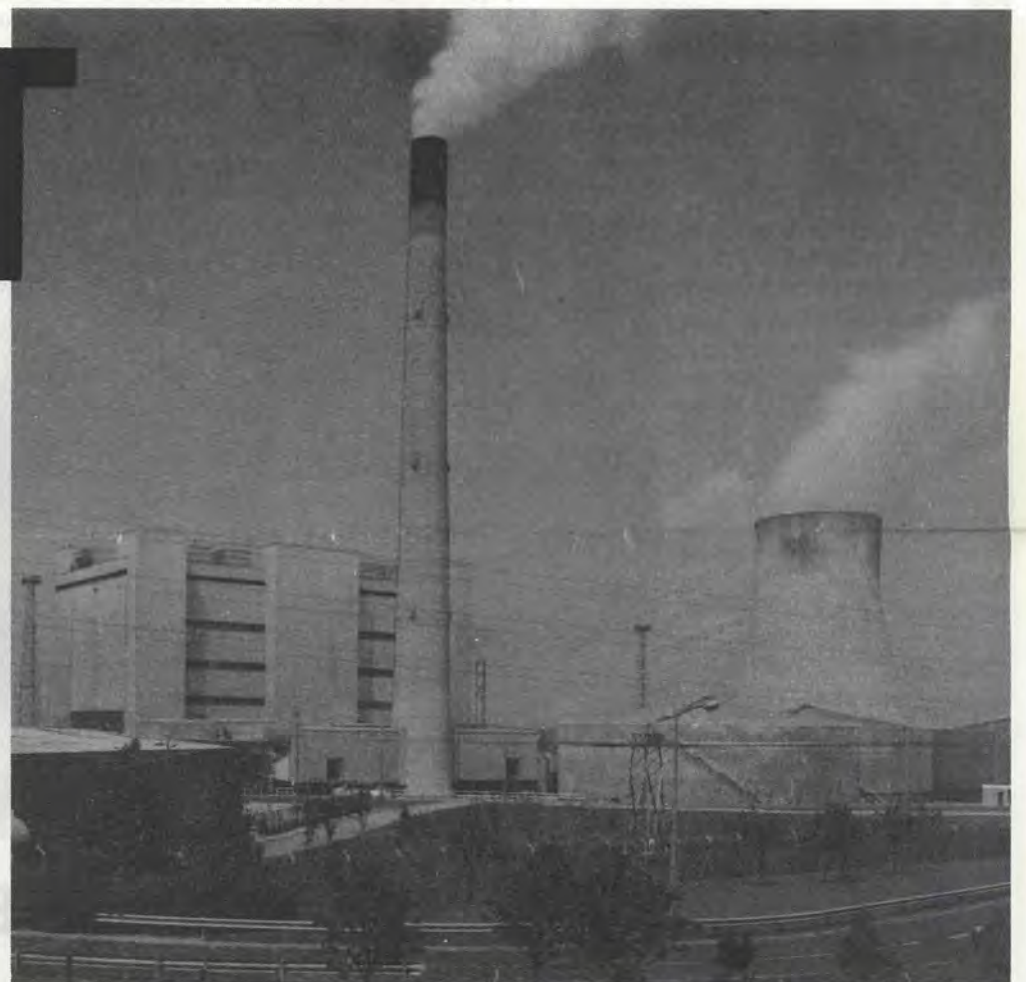
Pay talks for the NJC staff are still in progress.

On this basis MANWEB's share is £42.3 million.

The main result of this situation is that for the first time in eight years MANWEB's indebtedness has in-

creased. The MANWEB share of the strike costs appear in the Accounts as an "exceptional charge".

● Annual Report details  
centre pages



Ince 'B' Power Station, one of the oil burning stations which helped maintain power supplies during 1984/5.

## FREE FROM DEBT BY 1990

THE electricity supply industry will have probably cleared all its external debts by the end of this decade, Philip Jones, Chairman of The Electricity Council, told a London conference recently.

He said that the industry was rapidly repaying external loans totalling £4,000m which had been taken out to finance major projects such as the building of power stations and the expansion of the National grid.

## Moving on...

AFTER eleven years with MANWEB - the last seven as Chairman of the Board - Ben Hastings is leaving us to take over as Chairman of the North Western Electricity Board in succession to Denis Bell, who retires next month.

Mr. Hastings' new appointment, announced by the Secretary of State for Energy, runs for five years from September 3rd. He will remain a MANWEB customer, however, commuting to Manchester from his home at Farndon.

He came to MANWEB in 1974 as Deputy Chairman, joining us from the South of Scotland Board, where he had been Management Services Controller. Prior to entering the electricity supply industry he was with the Mullard Radio Valve Company in Surrey.

Brought up in Scotland and educated at Glasgow University, he served his National Service with the REME, reaching the rank of acting Captain.

A keen all-round competitive sportsman in his younger days, he remains an enthusiastic golfer.

Mr. Hastings is married with one son and one daughter.

## THE NEW MANWEB CHAIRMAN

... moving in

NEW Chairman of MANWEB is Bryan H. Weston, aged 55, who moves from his present post as Deputy Chairman of the Yorkshire Electricity Board.

Mr. Weston was educated at the St. George Grammar School in Bristol and the Bristol, Rutherford and Oxford Technical Colleges.

His career in the electricity supply industry commenced when he joined the South Western Electricity Board as a student apprentice in 1949. Four years later he took up an engineering appointment with the Board prior to his two years National Service in the Royal Engineers.

He returned to SWEB in 1956 and held a variety of engineering and commercial appointments in the Districts and at Head Office. He became Commercial Manager in 1973 and, two years later, Mr. Weston was appointed as a Board Member.

In 1977 he moved to the Yorkshire Electricity Board as their Deputy Chairman.

He is a Chartered Engineer, a Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers and a Member of the British Institute of Management.

Mr. Weston is married to Heather and they have two daughters and two sons. He enjoys his garden, walking, caravanning and all forms of DIY.



IT IS estimated that about 5,500 people are killed each year as a result of accidents occurring in the home. This startling statistic prompts us to highlight home safety in this month's contribution to the 'Safetywise '85' campaign.

Every responsible adult should adopt safe procedures when undertaking jobs about the house and in the garden.

Make sure that all electrical appliances have cables and flex in good condition and that plugs carry the correct fuses. How old is the wiring in your home? Is it safe? If in doubt, have it checked.

Do not allow young children to tamper with electrical appliances, plugs or socket outlets.

It makes for bad publicity is a member of the Electricity Board is involved in an electrical accident!

Fires in the home too can prove dangerous to life and are often costly. It is important to locate and eliminate fire hazards around your home. Chip pans should never be left unattended on a heated cooker. Handles of saucpans protruding over the edge of the cooker or working surface may get caught and

result in the contents of the pan tipping over and scalding or burning you, or maybe your child.

Think about getting a fire extinguisher or a fire blanket. When you have thought, go out and buy one and put it in handy place near the kitchen. Get to know exactly what to do in case your home catches fire.

Slips, trip and falls are the most common home accident. Individual care and attention will eliminate most of these. Do not leave objects - books, toys, etc. - lying around the floor. Clean up wet or slippery surfaces immediately - you may forget. Be alert to hazards and remove the dangers as quickly as you can. This will help to ensure the safety of your family and yourself. Find the hazards before they find you!

Making your home safe is a family affair. Get together and talk about it tonight!

"Redcroft", the attractive complex of 64 luxury flats built to 'Medallion Award' standard by Redrow Developments at Greasby, was officially opened recently by Wirral West Member of Parliament, David Hunt.

In addition to the 'Medallion' load, our North Wirral District Installation section won the wiring contract.

Pictured presenting the 'Medallion Award' certificate at the opening ceremony we see, from left to right: Des Lock (District Manager), John Williams (Construction Director), Redrow Developments, David Hunt, M. P., Councillor David Williams (Deputy Mayor, Wirral Borough Council) and Colin Honan (Sales Director, Redrow Developments).



## North Wirral Medallions and Dee Valley Civics

On site at Ravensholme Court, Tattenhall, for the double presentation ceremony of 'Civic Shield Award' certificates. From left to right: Councillor Richard Short, (Chairman of Chester City Council Housing Committee), Geoffrey Blackburn (Housing Manager), Lyn Price (Dee Valley District Commercial Manager), Trevor Edwards (1st Engineer, Load Development), Brian Bailey (Deputy Chairman of Chester City Council Housing Committee), Bill Ellis, (Director of Technical Services) and Keith Hibbert (Dee Valley District Load Development Engineer).



## Chester City Council receive Civic Award

TWO 'Civic Shield' Awards for energy-saving homes were recently presented to Councillors and officials of Chester City Council by MANWEB on the site of the award-winning developments at Ravensholme Court, Tattenhall.

On a particularly attractive site, the first phase of 21 elderly-people's bungalows and flats have been built in keeping with the distinctive character of the surroundings. Each home is heated by Creda Super-Auto storage heaters which have been installed by the Board.

The second award was for the City's development of five houses and twelve flats in the Yorke Street area near the City centre.

The 'Civic Shield' Award is made by The Electricity Council to local authorities who build new, or refurbish accommodation meeting the strict specifications for roof and cavity wall thermal insulation. There must also be the correct provision for electric space and water heating using the Economy 7 low-price tariff.

These factors help to provide a comfortable and pleasant environment for the tenants and can be achieved with very low running costs using the minimum amount of electricity at maximum efficiency.

## INDUSTRIAL SALES — UP AGAIN

MAY 1985 was another good month for sales of electricity to industry, with an overall increase of 6.4% over the same month last year. Oil refining, chemicals and steel were the sectors mainly responsible for the rise.

## APPLIANCE SALES DIP

AFTER a good start to the financial year in April, sales of domestic appliances from MANWEB shops were down by a marginal 2.9% in May, compared with the same month last year.

Most categories of appliances showed reductions, but microwave ovens, clothes driers, direct space heaters and especially cleaners were in most demand.

The aggregate figure for the two months April/May was 7.4% up on 1984.



Emyr with the winners shield in the Corwen Shop and those old and new appliances.

## Old and new theme wins competition

AN attractive and interesting display featuring 'Old' and 'New' appliances used in the home won the prize for the Best Window Display in the recent Corwen Toc H Carnival Week.

Popular shop supervisor Emyr Jones was helped with his winning window by Elsie

Edwards, a former cleaner at the Corwen depot. Most of the 'ancient' appliances — lamps, irons, etc — were provided by electrician Gwyn Williams who collects items from a bygone age.

A feature of the display was an original photograph of Sheila Jones, the very first Corwen Carnival Rose Queen way back in 1958. Sheila is the daughter of another former cleaner at Corwen shop, May Jones, who recently retired. Her little Rose Queen, now married as Sheila Thomas, had the honour of crowning this year's Rose Queen.

Emyr, himself a long-time member of the local Toc H, told us that the Carnival expects to make about £600 profit for donating to local charities.

## ASSEMBLYMAN

FOLLOWING his success in the ballot for membership of the Engineering Council Assembly, Cliff James, a second engineer based at our New Crane Street depot in the Dee Valley District, proffers sincere thanks to his proposers, seconders and colleagues who voted for him.

Cliff has been an active member and ex-officio member of the Mersey and North Wales Centre of the Institution of Electrical Engineers for the past 22 years. He has been a Chartered Engineer for 19 years.

On the Engineering Council Assembly he will represent Chartered Engineers of the IEE and other electrical institutions in Group 3 of the region

covering Liverpool, Chester, Shrewsbury and North Wales (excluding Warrington and Southport).

The Assembly will be composed of 60 Chartered Engineers and 30 Technical Engineers representing the 51 constituent institutions of the Engineering Council. Its inaugural meeting is to be held on September 3rd and 4th at Birmingham University.



Cliff James

Other members of the Electricity Board and CEGB staff serving on the Assembly are, Dennis H. Brown (East Midlands Electricity Board), Christopher Crane (Midlands Electricity Board), Gilbert Firth (Yorkshire Electricity Board), John Lewis (South of Scotland Electricity Board), and, from the South West Region of the CEGB, A. G. H. 'Jim' Batt and Dr. David W. James.

Our man Cliff has worked for MANWEB since 1963. He first joined the industry 33 years ago as a craft apprentice under the East Midlands Electricity Board training scheme before moving to Nottingham.

He is married to Brenda and they have three children, Susan, David and Barbara. The first two are married and Barbara is at Durham University.

## Long Service

WE offer our congratulations to the following members of the Board's staff who have completed, during the month of July, 40, 30 or 20 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

40 YEARS — Head Office: **Marion Adamson** (administrative assistant, Financial).

30 YEARS — North Mersey District: **John W. Beardwood** (craftsman, jointing). Liverpool District: **Joseph Crawford** (craft attendant) and **Donald Struthridge** (general duties assistant). Mid-Mersey District: **William Ratcliffe** (storekeeper). Clwyd District: **John S. Jones** (craftsman, jointing). Head Office: **Robert W. Roberts** (foreman, Queensferry Stores).

20 YEARS — North Wirral District: **Raymond J. Clarke** (craftsman, electrical fitting). Mid-Cheshire District: **James A. McGuire** (driver/general duties assistant). Clwyd District: **Glyn Evans** (driver/general duties assistant). Head Office: **J. Franklyn Byles** (general assistant, Security), **Walter Campbell** (craftsman, electrical inspection, Lister Drive) and **Barbara K. Jones** (clerk, Financial).



Left, Mike Mole updates the main frame computer with the latest figures, and, right, Graham Morris prepares data on the micro ready for the Electricity Council to call off.

## Towards the paperless office with Ledgers on Computer

by BOB EVANS (Assistant Chief Accountant)

**THE days of the large bound books of accounts and the quill pen are over in MANWEB. The computer age has arrived. Earlier this year the transfer of all our financial records on to the computer began. Now all the information needed to produce the Board's financial accounts may be obtained from VDU screens.**

This is part of the final stage of a development programme which over the last year or two, has created a store of expenditure data on the computer. It is accessible throughout the Board using an on-line interrogation system and authorised personnel now have access to the information on a more frequent basis than in the past.

The new financial ledger computer system will eliminate the need for laborious hand written entries in the ledgers and the tedious task of adding up columns of figures and balancing the books. The computer will automatically carry out this work with the minimum of clerical intervention.

In recent years the Financial Accounts section has been required to provide a much wider range of financial information to meet the needs of both the Industry and Government. The new system will meet these needs with a greater speed and flexibility.

In harmony with the main-

frame computer a greater use is being made of micro (or personal) computers in all aspects

of this section. An important feature of the development is the use of the micro to store information required by the Electricity Council. This is then called up directly on to their own VDU screens through a telephone link. Another step on the way to the paperless office.

How it used to be done. Author Bob Evans entering the ledgers 30 years ago when he was an accountant in training. Standing are retired Assistant Chief Accountants Reg Huyton and Michael Thomas.



## FATHER AND SON

FOREMAN Bill Brown and his son, Nick a general duties assistant, work together at our Llandudno Junction depot in the Clwyd District.

Bill joined the Construction unit at 'The Junction' 36 years ago. He worked on the rural development schemes around Conwy Valley and as far inland as Newtown and Dolgellau.

In his spare time he renovates Ford Capri cars, breeds goldfish and does a spot of decorating.

Son, Nick, a strapping young man who looks as if he could move mountains, joined the Board just over a year ago. His aim is to become an engineering craftsman and eventually hopes to



Bill and Nick Brown

rise to the exalted and powerful rank of foreman — like Dad! Nick enjoys shooting, fishing, cycling and football.



## Comment from The Chairman . . .

WHEN it became obvious that the miners' strike was going to cost Britain a great deal of money, everyone realised that sooner or later the British public would have to foot the bill.

In recent years the electricity industry has been very successful in holding prices down, well below the level of inflation. Throughout the strike, and after, we urged the Government that the cost of the strike, hitting our industry in the form of greatly increased fuel costs, should not be imposed on electricity customers in the form of heavy price increases. We believe that such a development would undo much of the good work of recent years in attracting customers of all classes to the use of electricity which is in the best long-term interests of the country.

The need to write off this large sum against our Area Reserve is, of course, a heavy blow. During recent years we have consistently reduced our indebtedness, and thus it would not be many years before MANWEB was com-

pletely debt-free. The cost of the miners' strike therefore amounts to a set back. We should not be too disheartened, however. The underlying trend is towards a continuous strengthening of electricity's position in the nation's economy and in the market-place, and this reverse to our fortunes should rapidly be overcome.

The effects of the strike apart, 1984/85 was a satisfactory year for MANWEB. Despite the battered state of the economy in some parts of the MANWEB area, electricity sales showed a slight increase and in a normal situation we would have ended the year with a modest, but encouraging profit.

This would not have been possible without the co-operation and hard work of staff at all levels, a feature of the year's work which is much appreciated by the Board".

*Ben Hushay*

## Electricity sales — up slightly

DESPITE a depressed economy, and high unemployment, total sales, at 14,823 million units, were up by 1.9%. All sectors of the market showed some degree of improvement.

### Industry

Sales to industry were up by a marginal 0.8% to 7,861 million, the highest figure since 1979/80. There is evidence of expansion by some industries, including some completely new developments, while in other sectors, closures have taken place.

There was increased demand from the iron and steel and paper industries, but coal mining, quarrying, and food and drink were all areas of decline.

### Commerce, Farms, Public Lighting

The commercial market was our strongest sector during the year, with unit sales up by 6.7% to 2,350 million. Sales to farms, public lighting authorities and combined business/domestic premises remained static at 478 million.

### The Home

Some very cold winter weather was reflected in an increase of 73 million units to the domestic market, bringing the total to 4,134 million. The average home used 3,571, compared with 3,545 the previous year.

## DISCONNECTIONS DOWN AGAIN

STRENUOUS efforts to help people in difficulties with their bills resulted in a 4% drop in the number of disconnections for non-payment.

The Code of Practice was carefully observed, and a further 11,400 slot meters were installed, bringing the MANWEB total to 149,000 - the highest of any Area Board. There were pilot schemes in two Districts in the use of plastic

tokens to operate meters in circumstances where it is not safe or practical to install ordinary prepayment meters.

At the end of the year there were 14,900 customers who were paying for their electricity by direct reduction from their state benefits, and sales of MANWEB £1 Savings Stamps continued to grow - by 2.6% to £5.3 million.

Altogether about 27% of our customers now avail themselves of one or the other of the various easy payment schemes operated by the Board.

### Chasing thieves

THE theft of electricity continued to be a big problem, and anti-theft measures were stepped up during the year, with improved liaison with local Police forces.



## PRICE RISES PEGGED

ALTHOUGH prices are rising by an average of 5% during the current year, during the year under review they were increased by only 2% - following a year when there was no increase at all.

This means that our price rises are running well below the inflation rate - one of the Board's main objectives.

The Report says that this year's increase is due to rising power station fuel costs, but stresses that it does not include any element to cover costs incurred as a result of the miners' strike.

## TARGET E

THE Government target of a return average net asset years 83/84 and exceeded, with an of 1.72%.

## SCHEME

THE Standing Charge r help small users by e Charge paid was not high used, was dropped, with tative Council. In practi real beneficiares were second-home owners pensioners.



THE Board's main compu during the year to provid applications.

"Point of sale" terminal were extended to nearly and procedures for handlin at Head Office were imp

**NORTH MERSEY** **MANWEB**  
**LIVERPOOL**  
**ANNUAL**  
**NORTH WIRRAL**  
**CLWYD** **AND ACCOUNTS**  
**GWYNEDD** **DE**  
**1985**  
**ABERYSTWYTH**

NORTH MERSEY

# Manweb

MID-MERSEY

LIVERPOOL

## ANNUAL REPORT

NORTH WIRRAL

CLWYD

## AND ACCOUNTS

DEE VALLEY

MID-CHESHIRE

GWYNEDD

### 1984/5

OSWESTRY

ABERYSTWYTH

### The year

- Turnover £649 million.
- Surplus £3.2 million (1.72% return on assets)
- Losses of reserves due to miners strike £42.3 million. (MANWEB share of the £2,020 million national cost).
- Total number of customers rose from 1,279,460 to 1,292,830.
- Unit sales rose by 1.9% to 14,823 million units, 7,681m Industrial, 2,350m to Commerce and 4,134m Domestic.
- The average domestic customer used 3,571 units—26 more than last year.

### £21 MILLION SPENT

THE expansion and development of the electricity distribution network cost £21.3 million during the year. Major schemes completed included providing supply to a new paper mill at Shotwick Deeside, and providing new and additional supplies to industrial estates and big customers in Wrexham, Deeside and Liverpool areas.

This latter work included supplies for the Albert Dock Redevelopment Scheme and a modernisation programme in the South Docks area which made supplies available for the International Garden Festival.

The programme to improve reliability of supply



### PRICE RISES PEGGED

ALTHOUGH prices are rising by an average of 5% during the current year, during the year under review they were increased by only 2% - following a year when there was no increase at all.

This means that our price rises are running well below the inflation rate - one of the Board's main objectives.

The Report says that this year's increase is due to rising power station fuel costs, but stresses that it does not include any element to cover costs incurred as a result of the miners' strike.

### TARGET EXCEEDED

THE Government's financial target of a return of 1.45% on average net assets for the two years 83/84 and 84/85 was exceeded, with an average return of 1.72%.

### CUTTING COSTS



THE agreed performance aim of reducing real controllable costs by 4.25% between 82/83 and 84/85 was comfortably achieved, with a reduction of 7.2% in real terms, per unit of electricity sold.

Overall turnover for the year was £649 million.

### SCHEME DROPPED

THE Standing Charge rebate scheme, designed to help small users by ensuring that the Standing Charge paid was not higher than the cost of electricity used, was dropped, with the blessing of the Consultative Council. In practice it had transpired that the real beneficiaries were mainly people such as second-home owners, rather than old age pensioners.



### Computer development



THE Board's main computer was 'upgraded' during the year to provide capacity for new applications.

"Point of sale" terminals for cash receipting were extended to nearly all receipting points, and procedures for handling payments received at Head Office were improved by installing

remittance processing machines which are cutting bank charges.

Personal computing facilities were extended to give better information, and in the engineering field a fault reporting system was implemented.

### Building the

STABLE electricity prices provided a firm foundation for more and more customers in industry and commerce to recognise that electricity is often more cost-efficient than other fuels.

The decisive change in the balance of costs in favour of electricity for home heating led to further big advances in this market. The number of Medallion Award houses built was twice the total for the previous seven years and the number of Economy 7 customers rose to 33,000 - an increase of 29%. This was reflected in the sale of 14,500 storage heaters (20% up). There has been continued growth in this area every year since 1975/76, when 62,500 were sold.

### SHOP

MANWEB shops had another excellent year. Turnover, at £20 million, was 10% up on 1983 and the year's profit was £1.1 million. Microfridges showed a 50% increase in sales, refrigeration products and cleaners also did well. Electronic point-of-sale receipting equipment



**web** MID-MERSEY

**REPORT**

**COUNTS**

VALLEY MID-CESHIRE

4/5 OSWESTRY

## The year at a glance

- Turnover £649 million.
- **Surplus £3.2 million (1.72% return on assets).**
- *Losses of reserves due to miners strike £42.3 million. (MANWEB share of the £2,020 million national cost).*
- Total number of customers rose from 1,279,460 to 1,292,830.
- **Unit sales rose by 1.9% to 14,823 million units, 7,681m Industrial, 2,350m to Commerce and 4,134m Domestic.**
- *The average domestic customer used 3,571 units—26 more than last year.*
- Appliance sales were £20 million with a profit of £1.1 million.
- **Contracting turnover was £7.1 million with £400,000 profit.**
- *218 kilometres of mains and 160 transforming points were added to the network.*
- At the end of the year we had 404 staff for every 100,000 customers compared with 469 four years ago.
- **Total staff fell from 5,223 to 5,162. Streamlining of the management structure reduced management posts from 50 to 43.**

## £21 MILLION SPENT ON THE NETWORK

THE expansion and development of the electricity distribution network cost £21.3 million during the year. Major schemes completed included providing supply to a new paper mill at Shotton, Deeside, and providing new and additional supplies to industrial estates and big customers in the Wrexham, Deeside and Liverpool areas.

This latter work included supplies for the Albert Dock Redevelopment Scheme and a modernisation programme in the South Docks area which made supplies available for the International Garden Festival.

The programme to improve reliability of supply

in rural areas by installing automatic reclosing equipment which restores supply after transient faults continued.

Progress was made in several new technology fields, including the introduction of a fibre optic circuit in a live conductor as an aid to communications, the extension of a computer-based tele-control scheme in North Wales and the development of microprocessor applications in network protection and control.

Despite some extremely cold weather during the winter, with substantial snowfalls in some areas, the network did not suffer extensive supply interruptions.

## CUTTING COSTS

THE agreed performance aim of reducing real controllable costs by 4.25% between 82/83 and 84/85 was comfortably achieved, with a reduction of 7.2% in real terms, per unit of electricity sold.

Overall turnover for the year was £649 million.

## Building the electrical load

STABLE electricity prices provided a firm foundation for more and more customers in industry and commerce to recognise that electricity is often more cost-efficient than other fuels.

The decisive change in the balance of costs in favour of electricity for home heating led to further big advances in this market. The number of Medallion Award houses built was twice the total for the previous seven years, and the number of Economy 7 customers rose to 33,000 - an increase of 29%. This was reflected in the sale of 14,500 storage heaters (20% up). There has been continued growth in this area every year since 1975/76, when only 2,500 were sold.

Great strides were made in the catering field and also in sales of air conditioning and heat-pump systems.

The two MANWEB-area entrants in the industry PEP—Award scheme both received awards in the national finals, taking second and third place in their respective categories.

**PEP  
CIVIC  
MEDALLION  
ECONOMY 7**

## SHOPS BOOM

MANWEB shops had another excellent year. Turnover, at £20 million, was 10% up on 1983/84, and the year's profit was £1.1 million. Microwave ovens showed a 50% increase in sales, while refrigeration products and cleaners also did well. Electronic point-of-sale receiving equipment

has proved valuable. Our re-developed Caernarfon shop was opened, and a similar improvement is planned for Norris Green, Liverpool.

**Contracting steady...  
... service better**

DESPITE difficult trading conditions in the contracting business there was an operating profit of £400,000 on a turnover of £7.1 million, which compares well with the private sector.

Over a thousand appliance repair jobs were carried out each week, and improved efficiency was helped by computerised work control and stores replenishment systems.



## EXCEEDED

Financial return of 1.45% on the two 85 was exchange return

## DROPPED

A scheme, designed to bring that the Standing on the cost of electricity blessing of the Consul had transpired that the only people such as other than old age



## Computer development



as 'upgraded' remittance processing machines which are capacity for new cutting bank charges. Personal computing facilities were extended to give better information, and in the engineering field a fault reporting system was implemented. by installing



Some of the North Wirral retired group on 'Emmerdale Farm' trip.

## Active in retirement

OUR North Wirral Retired Staff Association have an excellent programme mapped out for the next few months.

At their regular meetings in the restaurant at Prenton Way District Office on the first Wednesday of every month, they have an interesting line-up of speakers covering a wide range of topics.

On August 7th, a lady will be discussing "What the stars say about you in retirement".

A month later, on September 4th, the guest speaker will no doubt keep his audience buzzing when he speaks on "Forty years of bee-keeping".

Then, for a change, on October 3rd, there is to be a

"Bring and Buy Sale". So, if you have anything to sell, put it on one side now. If, however, you are looking for a bargain, go along to the sale.

Finally, the life and adventures of climber Chris Bonnington, is the subject of a talk by his Mum, Helen Bonnington on November 6th.

Following the interesting visits to 'Emmerdale Farm' and Harrogate and to Shrewsbury and Bridgenorth, with some of the members enjoying a nostalgic trip on a steam train, two

more outings have been arranged.

The first, on Monday, September 30th, will be to the world-famous Dinorwig power station. As there will be a considerable number of stairs to be climbed, this trip will not be suitable for all members of the Association. Flat shoes and cardigans are the order of the day for the ladies who go along. Tickets are available at £6 per head.

A trip to Blackpool, always a thrill, to take-in 'The Lights' on Wednesday, October 9th, will cost £5 - to include a light meal. The coach will leave Eastbourne Road, Birkenhead, around 2.30 p.m.

## A 'GRAND' WALK

North Mersey charity event raises £1,000

THE Multiple Sclerosis Fund in Liverpool should benefit by a donation of over £1,000 as a result of a recent sponsored 'Fancy Dress' walk by members of the Board's North Mersey and Liverpool District staff and their friends.

A group of 55 walkers assembled outside the Bridle Road offices with weather conditions ideal for the six-mile hike. Costumes worn by the walkers varied from St. Trinian's girls — and boys — nurses, babies, Harem dancers, the odd Dracula or two, a few clowns and Wee Willie Winkie. First to complete the course were Diana Bilsborrow (typist) and Dave O'Meara (records draughtsman), who admitted

that they did a bit of running. As organisers they wanted to be first back in order to welcome the others. The actual winners were Angela Farrar from Material Control and her friend Louise Hemans.

When fully recovered, all the walkers enjoyed a delightful buffet and went on let their hair down at a lively disco.

Just a few of the North Mersey fancy dress walkers who helped raise cash for the Multiple Sclerosis Fund.

Picture - Bootle Times



Jock Turner pictured in front of his North Mersey colleagues.

Mr W. TURNER

Mr. W. LEE

OVER 30 years ago, William 'Jock' Turner arrived in Liverpool from Glasgow to join his brother. Shortly afterwards, his brother left and Jock decided to stay.

He started work for the Board as a driver at the Pumpfields depot. Later he moved to Marsh Lane as a chargehand driver. When the new District Office complex was established at Bridle Road, Jock moved over.

During the war years he

served on board minesweepers.

He is married with two children and five grandchildren.

An excellent musician, he enjoys playing the accordion with a local band for dances in and around the Liverpool area.

Friends in North Mersey District subscribed to present him with farewell gifts of a portable TV set, a camera and, naturally, a bottle of Scotch whisky.

A MAN who 'hit the headlines' a couple of years ago as our Mid-Mersey District's oldest marathon runner, Walter Lee, has now retired from his job as craft attendant.

Walter first came to work for MANWEB in 1954 as a mate in the building section. He only remained with us for a short time.

He returned in May 1961 to take up a job as joiner's mate. This time he stayed.

Unfortunately, back trouble has forced an early retirement for Walter, from his work and from marathon running. However he is still a keen walker.

Friends at Wilderspool Causeway subscribed to present Walter with a leaving gift of a leather wallet and from the LJCC he chose a book on Sebastian Coe.

Mr. T. OWENS

SUBSTATION attendant in our North Mersey District, Tommy Owens has now retired after 31 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

A former 33-kV joiner, ill-health forced him to transfer to duties in the District substations.

He is interested in amateur boxing and cycling.

In retirement he hopes to continue as the team manager-cum-mechanic for a group of young enthusiasts of pedal power.

In presenting farewell gifts from colleagues, Paul Wilkinson (Production Engineer) voiced everyone's best wishes for many happy years ahead for Tommy.



Time to say goodbye as David Needham right presents Trevor Hughes with a watch from colleagues.

Mr. T. HUGHES

AFTER 33 years' service with MANWEB, all at the Mold depot, craftsman, overhead lines Trevor Hughes has retired. He was the last of three brothers to serve the Board at Mold over the years, and tributes to the work they had done in emergency conditions were paid when colleagues gathered to wish Trevor a happy retirement,

and less trouble from the ankle injury which has kept him off work for some time.

On behalf of friends he was presented with a watch by Production Engineer David Needham, and with a bouquet for his wife Gwyneth. In retirement Trevor will have plenty to occupy his time, with six granddaughters to think about.

Mr. O. LLOYD

TAKING early retirement after 35 years' service with MANWEB is Education and Training administrative assistant, Oscar Lloyd.

After joining the Board in 1950 he worked in the Secretarial Department in the former

Area 2/3, before moving to Educational and Training in 1970. Many engineers will recall the way Oscar helped administer their progress through technical training.

Oscar is a keen golfer playing with the MANWEB Golfing Society, and is a former captain and secretary of his club at Holywell.

He joins his wife, Beryl in retirement - she has just left her post with the Health Authority.

Surrounded by colleagues Oscar Lloyd third from the left, receives a giant cheque from Education and Training Officer Denis Kernan, 2nd from the right.



## Mr. G. SHOESMITH

CHRISTMAS came to Bridle Road, Bootle, in June this year, by special decree of retiring District Administrative Manager, George Shoesmith.

His MANWEB 'family' in the North Mersey District, and his many friends throughout the Board expressed their affection for a 'kind and caring man' with their words and their gifts. Rarely had the veterans of retirement ceremonies seen such a profusion of cards and personal presents.

A native of Accrington he became an articled clerk for a firm of chartered accountants. His studies were interrupted by the Second World War, and he served in the army and was mentioned in despatches.

In 1946 he returned to his studies and qualified as an accountant. He joined the electricity industry in 1953 with the Yorkshire Board in their audit section. Three years later he came to MANWEB when he was appointed as Assistant Area Accountant in the former Area 1. With Board re-organisation in 1970 he was appointed District Administrative Officer of the combined North and Southport Districts, which formed the new North Mersey District.

Group Manager, Jim Barraclough, paying tribute to George commented "George has come to regard the staff who work for him as his 'family'. He was always pleased to talk to them — about their happy events and their sad ones, about their successes and their disappointments. He cared about them and they responded".

Quite a number of people wished to have their say but Mr. Barraclough restricted the number to four to keep the speeches down and Stan Gordon acted as timekeeper. Bob Charnock confirmed the affection he and George's staff had for him. Assistant Chief Accountant Peter Falcon was 'taken on' by George, and engineer Roy Osborne expressed thanks for the friendly co-operation with other departments and finally Trade Union representative, Roy Fallows, added his appreciation of a Manager whose 'door was always open'.

In addition to the array of personal gifts there were two garden chairs, and an unusual parting gift from the Board's staff, a holiday for two in Spain. We join in the wishes for a long and happy retirement for George and his wife.



"To George", is the toast from the multitude who gathered to wish a fond farewell to George Shoesmith, at Bridle Road, and a long and happy retirement. He is in the centre of our picture.



Colleagues past and present gather to see Stan Roberts, Assistant Chief Engineer, wish Denis Hughes happiness and health in retirement. Denis is centre left.

## Mrs. M. POTTS

CANTEEN assistant in Dee Valley District, Mary Potts, sister-in-law to Reg, also retired recently after 19 years' service.

Mary was presented with a variety of gifts, including a carriage clock and an electric kettle, by Teg Williams (Administration Manager).

A combined Social Evening was held for Reg and Mary with over 70 guests going along to wish them both long, happy and healthy retirements.

## Mr. D. W. HUGHES

THE Chief draughtsman from Head Office, senior engineer Denis Hughes has retired early after 36 years with MANWEB.

He served an electrical apprenticeship with Harland and Wolff from 1942 to '47, after which he became a draughtsman. It was as an engineering draughtsman that he joined the former Area 1 in 1949. He became senior draughtsman in 1954 and was appointed chief draughtsman in 1967. He transferred to Head

Office just before the move to Chester in 1970.

Denis and his wife Bunty have two daughters, Jill, who worked at Head Office for a while, and Julie, and a total of three grandchildren.

A keen driver, he likes tinkering around with engines. He has rebuilt old motorcycles and builds model aeroplanes, which he flies using remote control equipment, and has won prizes for aerobatics.



Seated in the front of our picture with his gifts from colleagues is Ted Potter.

## Mr. E. R. POTTER

STARTING his working life in 1935 as an apprentice electrician with a private contractor in his home town of Derby, Edgar (Ted) Potter recently retired from his post as a 2nd engineer-Installation in our Liverpool District.

During the war years, as a volunteer in the RAF, Ted worked on radar installations and spent three years in India.

Returning to his civilian occupation in Derby for a short time, Ted then moved to Liverpool to work on an oil installation contracting job. Shortly afterwards he became 'legitimate' and joined MANWEB in 1960.

He married Dorothy a Liverpool lass in 1951. They now have a married daughter, who once worked for the Board, a married son and another son still at home.

For years Ted has built and operated radio-controlled model power boats. He is also a very keen gardener with two greenhouses and an allotment.

Before he left Lister Drive, friends subscribed to present him with gifts of a Black and Decker sander and planer and, from LJCC, he chose books on gardening.

After a quiet farewell at the office, Ted had a 'grand do' at the Tudor Rooms in Prescott Road. Many colleagues, past and present, turned up to wish Ted a long and happy retirement.

## Mr. R. POTTS

A FAREWELL gift of a portable television from friends at Dee Valley was presented to Reg Potts (clerical assistant) by Keith Griffiths (principal assistant - Administration).

Reg, a bachelor, started his working life in 1935 with the Wrexham Co-operative Society

in the grocery trade. For six years during the war he served in the Army as a tank commander.

Twenty years ago, Reg came to MANWEB at Rhostyllen from where he recently retired.

Now he will devote more time to his gardening and play a few more games of bowls.

Keith Griffiths, left, gives reg Potts a farewell handshake.



## RETIREMENTS

### Farewells to friends and colleagues

## Mr. F. PARKINSON

A SENIOR engineer in the Civil section of the Chief Engineer's Department at Head Office, Frank Parkinson, has taken early retirement after 48 years' service to the electricity supply industry.

He started his career with the Lancashire Electric Power Company in 1937 as an apprentice junior draughtsman. Five years later with the nation at war, Frank became a pilot with the RAF, flying Catalinas for Coastal Command.

He returned to the LEP in 1946 which became part of the nationalised Norweb two years later. He joined MANWEB in 1952 as a section leader in the former Area 3 Drawing Office,

Assistant Chief Engineer, Harry Foreman, says farewell to Frank Parkinson centre left, watched by engineering colleagues.

and became chief draughtsman two years later.

He was appointed to the Civil Section at Head Office in Liverpool in 1964 as a 2nd engineer. Ten years later and after the move to Chester he was appointed senior engineer.

Over the years he was actively involved in the Electrical Power Engineers Association and has been a member of the Technical Staff Committee.

Frank and his wife Irene, have a married son and two grandchildren. He enjoys gardening and caravanning, but his main interest is golf. He has been a leading member of the MANWEB Golfing Society, having been captain last year and was secretary of the club.

## WREXHAM RETIRED GROUP'S ANNUAL OUTING

THE Honorary Secretary of the Wrexham Area Branch of the Dee Valley Retired Members Association, Bill Thomas writes to tell us that their annual outing this year was a visit to Coventry and Stratford-upon-Avon.

Members took the opportunity to look around the famous Cathedral and later enjoyed a walk-about in the footsteps of Bill Shakespeare!





# FLY FISHING CONTEST

Jim Fisher with one of his rainbow trout.



A TEAM of fly fisherman from Capenhurst trounced a MANWEB team in the second annual contest recently. It was the Electricity Council men's revenge for an equally convincing defeat at the hands of a MANWEB team last year.

A fine summer's day in the attractive setting of the Felin-y-Gors Trout Fisheries opposite the 'marble' church at Bodelwyddan, near St Asaph, made the contest a pleasant day out for the competitors, even the seven who had empty nets at the end of the days fishing.

The top MANWEB fisherman was the aptly named Chief Engineer, Jim Fisher, who landed two beautiful rainbow trout weighing in at over 7lbs. Capenhurst captain, Brian Moore bagged the top catch with four fish weighing almost nine pounds.

Twenty-five fishermen, 14 MANWEB and 11 Capenhurst, had free range to fish any of the four pools in the nine hour contest. The average weight for the team counted as the method of determining the winner.

The proprietor, David Monshin's sons were patrolling the lakes and were on hand to help and advise the anglers. The fish were feeding deep and those who used sinking lines found the fish.

A trophy, currently held by MANWEB will be presented to the Capenhurst team by Jim Fisher, at a social evening to be arranged to celebrate a good day's fishing organised by Barry Harrison from Head Office and Dee Valley's Keith Griffiths.



Anglers Harry Foreman left Head Office, and Keith Griffiths, Dee Valley.

## Wedding

### FISHER - SNAPE

CONGRATULATIONS go to Linda Karen Snape, a clerk working in our Clwyd District Office, on the occasion of her recent marriage to Darren Fisher, a civil servant.

The ceremony took place at the Christ United Reformed Church in Rhyl.

Friends at the office subscribed to present Karen with a most useful gift of a pottery bread crock.

Karen and Darren have set up home in Rhuddlan.



Picture by Ian Davies Photography

# The C5 Special

PROBABLY the first customised Sinclair C5 electric vehicle will take to the stage of Theatr-y-Werin, Aberystwyth, later this month.

Sprayed with gold paint and decorated with additional lights, the C5 will be featured in the production of "Joseph and his Amazing Techniclor Dream-coat".

The idea was the brainchild of Brian Sainsbury, chief electrician at the Theatr and technical controller for Bronlais Hospital Radio.

His colleague, and Chairman of the radio station, our own Tomos Davies, a clerical assistant at Aberystwyth District Office, said, "The day after Brian rang me and suggested the idea we saw an advert for a second-hand C5 in the newspaper.

"With only five miles on the clock it was offered for sale at a bargain price of £299 - just £100 less than the cost of a new machine. It was an opportunity we couldn't miss".

Raffle tickets will be sold during each of the 43 summer season's performances of "Joseph" from 16th July until 31st August.

It is hoped to make at least £1,000 for the hospital radio

charity which is in desperate need of new sound equipment.

### 'CONTACT' PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Open to past and present members of the Board's staff and their immediate families.

Rules, Classes and conditions of entry will be displayed on notice boards in offices, shops and depots. Individual copies may be obtained from: 'CONTACT' Information Section, MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

Tel: Chester 377111  
Ext. 25/26/27  
or Internal 2106/ 7/8

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES**  
**30th SEPTEMBER 1985**

## Coarse Anglers Wanted

THE annual coarse fishing championship for the Electricity Supply Industry, will be held again this year on the River Trent, near Nottingham.

MANWEB have once again entered a team which will compete against the best in the industry on 11 September. A team consists of 15 anglers and the MANWEB captain is looking for good fishermen for his squad.

Anyone interested in being considered for the team should contact captain John Tyreman at head office, internal telephone number 2078.



first prize. Runner-up was Ieuan Evans (1st engineer) whose run on the back six put Dennis Jones from Material Control into third place with 33 points.

The trophy and prizes were presented to the winners by former Load Development Engineer for Dee Valley District, Don Hinsley.

The match was also used as a guide for selection of the District team entering for the MANWEB Inter-District Competition.

### Inter-District Contest

THE MANWEB Inter-District annual golf competition, held this year at Helsby, resulted in a win for the Head Office Commercial team of Malcolm Cooper, Andy Critchley, Warwick Saunders and Bill Swann.

They beat the Dee Valley District team into second place. Their players were Trevor Edwards, Ieuan Evans, Dennis Jones and Bob Norfolk.

Winner of the 'Best Individual' prize with a score of 42 points, was Crad Pritchard from the Oswestry District team.

The trophy and prizes were presented to the winners by the captain of the MANWEB Golf Society, Brian Doyle from Dee Valley District.

A total of twelve teams of four players competed.

The 'Geoffrey Barnes Memorial Trophy' played for at the Rhuddlan Golf Club recently, was won by Harold Mahew, former principal engineer at Head Office.

Mrs. Hazel Barnes presented the cup to the winner.

MEMBERS of the Dee Valley Golf Society held their ninth annual Trophy Competition at the Wrexham Golf Club a short time ago.

The 14 competitors played in a steady downpour of rain. The course was in good condition but it was soon evident that any stray shot would be severely punished in the wet rough.

Tom Morris, a foreman at Legacy garage, scored a very favourable 35 points to take the

Left: Dee Valley winner Tom Morris, centre, with Ieuan Evans, left and Dennis Jones.

Below: Inter-District winners, from left to right: Andy Critchley, Warwick Saunders, Bill Swann and Malcolm Cooper.



## SQUASH CHAMPIONS

Three predominant members of the MANWEB Chester Squash team and their trophies for winning the Greenall Whitley Sunday League and cup competition. Pictured left to right are Mike Pearson, Queensferry, Alan Gibbons and Graham Haslett. The league and cup competition are held at the Christleton Leisure Centre.



## CROSSWORD WINNERS

THE lucky three to win our £5 prizes for their all-correct solution to our June crossword are:

**Linda Richardson**, Personnel North Mersey.

**Ron Trowler**, Technical, New Crane Street depot, Chester.

**John H. Stephenson**, retired, H.O. Commercial.

The solution to the puzzle is available, on request, to the 'CONTACT' Office.



## Marathon raises cash

OVER sixty people responded to the request for sponsors in the April 'CONTACT' by London Marathon Runner, Bob Faulds. His run raised over £200 for the fund for Sarah Jane Williams, who suffered brain damage during an operation.

Queensferry storechecker, Bob was moved by the story of Sarah Jane published in our March edition of 'CONTACT' and offered to run the Marathon to raise cash for the fund set up to help Terry Williams, Oswestry shop supervisor and his wife Joyce.

It was Bob's fourth London Marathon and he completed the course in three hours, 27 minutes. This was 18 minutes better than his previous best.—

