

Efficiency ratings introduced on fridges and freezers

LABELLING GETS GREEN LIGHT

MANWEB has introduced a new energy efficiency labelling initiative at all shops, giving customers a rating on every fridge and freezer on display.

For the first time, and only at Manweb stores, customers will now be able to compare products not simply by price, but in terms of how much electricity they use and how much they cost to run.

The initiative is part of a Government-sponsored national scheme to increase customer awareness of the energy they are using in their own homes.

Each fridge or freezer will carry two labels, a Government one giving an energy efficiency rating and Manweb's label giving an indication of the actual running costs of the product over a year.

Refrigeration appliances can account for about a fifth of the electricity units used in the home, and the difference in energy consumption between a high efficiency and low efficiency product can be as much as 50 per cent.

To celebrate the launch of the new scheme, Manweb is offering special incentives for customers who purchase refri-

geration products: a free energy efficient light bulb that lasts four years and uses 75 per cent less electricity, and £15 off Manweb 'Surecare' insurance.

Anyone taking advantage of the offer can also have their old fridges or freezers removed at no expense, and the harmful CFC gases extracted for recycling.

The labelling initiative is the latest in a number of measures taken by Manweb over the last few years to promote energy efficiency.

A leaflet has recently been published detailing the ways in which Manweb can help customers use electricity efficiently. It explains the Manweb Energy Efficiency Advice Line.

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'Bearing' gifts for Romania. Back row (l-r) Director Trading Peter Hopkins, Sales Assistant Laura Holmes and Superstore Manager Ian Johnson with visitors to Manweb's Energy Efficiency Day.

Super day at Chester

HUNDREDS of pounds worth of prizes were up for grabs when Manweb held an Energy Efficiency Day at Chester Superstore.

The special day was planned to promote two Government initiatives: the new labelling scheme that gives customers information about the energy efficiency and annual running costs of all refrigeration products and a campaign designed to increase public awareness of the greenhouse effect, global warming and the impact of energy use on the environment through the emission of carbon dioxide.

The campaign explains how the efficient use of energy in the home can affect not only domestic energy bills, but also the threat of global warming.

Manweb mounted a small exhibition in the Chester Superstore aimed at increasing customers' understanding of the impact of domestic energy use on the environment.

Every customer through the doors of the Superstore was

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Switch on for town's festivities

PICTURED working on Aberystwyth's Christmas lights is Manweb Public Lighting Attendant Dai Harries.

Manweb won the Christmas contract after the successful Aberystwyth Lazer and Lighting Spectacular two years ago, and the Christmas light display was designed by Manweb Public Lighting Engineer Clive Wintle.

The earlier Spectacular was a joint venture between Energy Marketing, Contracting, the Town Council and the Development Board for Rural Wales. Manweb also won the Summer Lights contract as a result of the Spectacular.



CHANGING FACES

Manweb Research Manager appointed

MANWEB has appointed Mr Tony Harper (pictured right) as Market Research Manager based at Head Office.

Originally from Nottingham Mr Harper (43) holds a degree in economics from York University. He has worked for several consumer-based companies including Rowntree and Colgate, and was also managing director of an advertising agency.

Prior to joining Manweb he was a partner in Birmingham-based Grove Park Marketing Solutions, specialising in management and marketing consultancy.

Mr Harper will be working

within Manweb's Power Marketing Division, which runs the company's electricity supply business and is also looking into projects with the company's other divisions.

He said: "We're constantly looking at customer service and satisfaction, and need to know what their uses and needs for electricity are and will be. We already have research available, and I'll be working to eliminate overlap and expand what we know to enhance our services."



Mr Harper lives in Churton near Farndon, and he is a keen follower of motor racing.

For he's a jolly good fellow!

SALFORD University is switching on its links with industry by appointing a new Fellow from Manweb to help teach economics.

Forecasting Manager Roger Smith (pictured) is to give students practical lessons in the use of economics in business.

A Salford graduate, Roger's role with Manweb is to forecast future trends in electricity use - something highly dependent on economic activity.

He is, therefore, no stranger to the everyday use of economics and is ideally placed to pass on his hard won experience to students in the University's Economics Department.

Roger is to join the Department as a part-time Visiting Fellow. Practical problems such as how to forecast demand for electricity in the North West will soon be on the curriculum.

Students on the University's Economics and Business Economics degree courses can learn at first hand how to tackle real world issues facing a key North West firm.

"I see this as a great oppor-



tunity for students to gain the benefit of business knowledge but also for Manweb to be kept up to date with current economic thinking and forecasting," said Roger, 48.

Father-of-two Roger, who lives in Chester, joined Manweb almost three years ago. He

was brought in to help establish a Forecasting Section to aid the privatisation process and provide the necessary forecasting expertise required in the new business environment.

He previously worked as an economist in the water, gas and coal industries.

Goodbye and good luck

GOODBYE and good luck to three Mid Mersey employees who took early retirement at the end of October. Jointer's Mate Derek Jones was based at Warrington for 32 years, while Keith Davies worked as a Jointer's Mate at St Helens Depot for 26 years. Roy Balmer, Craftsman Electrician Statutory, was initially based at Runcorn Depot, and when it closed in 1989 he transferred to Warrington. Roy had clocked up 29 years' service.

Depot's deep trouble

NOT a white Christmas, but a wet December at Manweb's Newtown Depot back in 1960 when the River Severn burst its banks resulting in severe flooding.

The picture was 'discovered' by Head Office 1st Engineer, Architectural and Building, Dennis Perrin as he sifted through the archives prior to his retirement. Newtown Mains Engineer Peter Phillips tells us that the palm tree - near the door in the left of the picture - is still there over 30 years on, though it now looks a little worse for wear!



Company hosts overseas visitors

THROUGHOUT the year Manweb has played host to several visitors from overseas.

Ambrose Tillet arrived in the UK from Belize in Central America. He had been awarded an overseas scholarship from the CBI in conjunction with Roger Hemington from Manweb's Network Services Division.

Ambrose is a qualified electrical engineer, and works for Belize's Electricity Board. A programme was drawn up which took him to work in Network Services sections in Head Office, the Central Field Unit in Prenton and Dee Valley.

Ambrose was impressed by the strength of Manweb's 'in house' engineering expertise, and the thorough training programmes offered to Manweb's engineering graduate trainees with whom he spent some time.

Ambrose is pictured (above right) with Manweb's Dave Callister at New Crane Street.

Staff from Brazil's electricity industry also visited Manweb during the year. Network Services and Human Resources arranged a busy two-day schedule for the pair, which included a visit to the Head Office



System Operation Centre. Pictured below in the SOC are 1st Engineer Bill Hackett (seated), Systems Operations Manager Jeff Hunt, Renato Pinheiro,

Gerente Do Departamento De Recursos Humanos and Otavio Marcelo Matos De Oliveira, Gerente Do Departamento De Distribuicao Regional.



All our yesterdays

LOOKING back at what Contact was reporting 15, 25 and 35 years ago.

December 1956

"Candles near Calder Hall" item pointed out contrasts between old and new. When Calder Hall power station (later Sellafield) began to feed the national grid with atomic energy, cottages less than half a mile from the plant were still relying on oil lamps and candles for light.

"Stop Press" item from Lady Webb's Women Talking column: "There's something about a black foundation garment that is very thrilling and sophisticated. 'Little X' is now obtainable in black." If anyone knows more about 'Little X' we'd be keen to hear more!

December 1966

Twelve Manweb workers to tour the United States and Canada as members of the 100-strong Rhos Male Voice Choir. During their tour they were to appear on the Ed Sullivan TV show to an estimated 100 million TV audience.

To avoid confusing their hosts with 25 Joneses, ten Griffithses and numerous Williamses, Davieses and Parrys each member of the choir was given a number!

Cable dating from the 1900s running along the Runcorn/Widnes railway bridge taken out of service. The former Mersey Power Company had laid the cable to supply Widnes from Runcorn's Percival Lane Power Station. The cable remained in working order throughout, but was rendered

obsolete through network reorganisation.

December 1976

Chairman Denis Dodds reported 1976 as "another year of mixed fortunes for the electricity supply industry". This largely reflected the country's economic difficulties. A modest rise in industrial consumption of electricity indicated the first uncertain steps towards recovery.

The popular teddy bear from electricity television ads did good work in Liverpool's Huyton Gate School where a teddy christened 'Wally' helped disabled children in their studies.

The bear, donated by Energy Sales Manager Roy Stewart, was used as part of a recognition exercise with children searching through magazines and newspapers to find the teddy, familiar from Think, Heat, Plumb, Cook, and clean Electric TV ads.

More next month. . .

CONTACT

The newspaper for staff and retired employees of Manweb plc, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR, telephone 0244 377111.

If you've an idea for a story or photograph, write, phone or come and talk to Editor Jackie Unsworth in Public Relations, Room 5E1, Head Office, ext. 2090, or Graeme Cooper on ext. 2099.

At the following locations you can talk directly to one of Contact's District correspondents:

North Mersey: Hilary Bradshaw, ext. 2204

Liverpool: Margaret Walsh, ext. 4141

Mid-Mersey: Mike Townson, ext. 2231

Dee Valley: Kath Sadowski, ext. 2193

North Wirral: Mike Townson, ext. 2202

Mid-Cheshire: Diana Wood, ext. 2117

Clwyd: Rod Taylor, ext. 2118

Gwynedd: Hefyn Thomas, ext. 2250

Oswestry: Ian Moulton, ext. 2230

Aberystwyth: Keith Jones, ext. 2202

Hoylake Training Centre: ext. 251

Money waiting to be claimed

THERE is still money waiting to be claimed from Manweb's Charity Chest by staff fundraising for local worthy causes.

Under the scheme, Manweb will match £ for £ up to a maximum of £150, the fund raising efforts of full and part-time employees in aid of community projects within the company's region.

There is now no limit on the number of times an employee can apply for Charity Chest Funding, although different charities should benefit from their efforts.

A limited budget is set aside every year and, should funds run out, the scheme will be withdrawn until next financial year. Applications may be reconsidered if further funds become available through donations from individuals and organisations who have raised or given money without a particular beneficiary in mind.

Decisions on whether to support projects are made on receipt of the application form rather than the date of the fund-raising event and on a first come, first served basis.

Application forms are available from Public Relations, Room 5E1, Head Office, ext. 2090.

Super day at Chester

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automatically entered into a prize draw - held every hour on the hour throughout the day.

Prizes included cuddly white polar bears, trees for planting, energy efficient lamps and videos of the Manweb-sponsored Liverpool Oratorio.

Manweb personnel trained to give advice on energy efficiency were also present to answer questions.

At 12 noon Manweb's Director Trading Peter Hopkins conducted two special big prize draws, one for adults and the other for children, and also presented energy efficient refrigeration equipment to local charities.

The winner of the adult draw was Mrs Caryl Brown, of Gresford, who collected a Norfrost chest freezer, while two-year-old Thomas Chambers, from Eastham Village, won an energy efficient pedal-powered racing car!

Representatives from local radio station Marcher Sound were also present to collect 25 of the toy polar bears for the Operation Christmas Child Appeal in aid of Romanian youngsters.

Just the ticket

THE answer to the 'Hard Times' competition recently on Manweb notice boards was 'Great Expectations'.

Winners were: Sheila Unsworth, Wrexham Shop Manager; Dawn Goulden, Frodsham Shop Sales Assistant; Paul Cunningham, 2nd Engineer, Cables and Development; Melanie Jones, Bangor Shop Sales Assistant. They each won a pair of tickets to see the Everyman Theatre's touring production of Charles Dickens' 'Hard Times'.

*The winner of the 'Liverpool Oratorio' competition was Managing Director's secretary Jan Blake, who has now received a double compact disc of the Oratorio.

Charity cards boost community forest appeal

MANWEB has chosen the Mersey Community Forest to benefit from sales of the company's charity Christmas cards to staff.

The surprise Christmas gift was announced to the Forest's Project Director John Burns (right) during a meeting with Manweb's Mid Mersey District Manager Des Lock to discuss the initiative, which aims to create wooded landscapes in Merseyside and North Cheshire for wildlife, recreation and education.

The Christmas cards, depicting a forest scene with a decorated tree, are printed on recycled paper and are available from Public Relations, Head Office, or from District Office Managers, costing £2 for 10.

John Burns said: "We are delighted that the Mersey Community Forest will benefit from the proceeds. We need the support of local businesses and the community at large if we are to succeed in significantly improving our urban environments."



Major restructuring plans are announced

MANWEB has announced plans for a major reorganisation within the Power Marketing and Network Services divisions aimed at improving customer service and increasing efficiency.

Within Income and Accounting three Regional centres are to be established in the existing district offices at Warrington (covering Mid-Mersey, Mid-Cheshire, North Wirral), Birkenhead (Liverpool, North Wirral), and Wrexham (Dee Valley, Oswestry, Clwyd, Gwynedd, Aberystwyth).

These will deal with the clerical aspect of customer accounts, such as the processing of bills, while District Offices will keep their role as local customer contact points, with the emphasis on improved service.

Taking advantage of new technology, the Regional centres will absorb a large proportion of existing District tasks, and in addition a number of activities currently carried out by Head Office Income section will be transferred to Districts, Regions and to other divisions.

Energy Sales and Marketing activities will be under Head Office direction, with three Areas being created, covering Liverpool/North Mersey; Mid-Cheshire/North Wirral/Chester Depot; Clwyd/Gwynedd/Oswestry/Wrexham/Aberystwyth.

Three new Area Sales Managers have been appointed; they are Cliff Haviland (Merseyside/Liverpool), John Sheed

(Cheshire/Warrington), and Bill Hatton (North Wales). They will be reporting direct to the Head of Energy Sales Bob Hodson. Their Area sales teams will consist of two distinct arms - Sales and Technical Support.

Assistance

The Head Office Energy Marketing Department will be restructured to provide the necessary assistance on Marketing, Technical Support and Advertising and Publicity.

Within Network Services the ten district structure will be retained, but a change in relationship with Power Marketing and the move towards improved customer service will mean a shift in the Districts' roles.

Network Services will focus on the efficient operation and maintenance of the distribution system and improving customer service.

Special report by Graeme Cooper

The division's work will be backed up by the creation of two new Head Office functions, District Support and Materials Procurement.

These changes, together with the impending retirement of a number of the District Managers, will result in new appointments.

Dr Jim McLennan, currently

Dee Valley District Manager, will become District Support Manager, and Geoff Abel, at the moment North Wirral District Manager, is to be Procurement and Services Manager.

Some of the divisions' restructuring plans are relatively straightforward, and can be implemented quickly, while other aspects - particularly in the Income and Accounting areas - have only been outlined, and the details have to be completed.

Changeover

It is expected that plans for Income and Accounting will be available early in 1992, but the changeover could take

around 18 months to implement.

Considerable relocation of staff will be involved and this will require sensitive and sympathetic handling.

Manweb's Corporate Services will not be affected immediately by the divisional reorganisation, but changes may be necessary as the operational needs of the main business divisions become apparent.

There will be ongoing consultation with staff and unions as organisational needs become clearer, and staff will be counselled individually to take account of their own aspirations.

New management line-up

TRADING has introduced a new management structure due to the planned retirement of Marketing Services and Development Manager Keith Sowden at the end of this financial year.

The Division's activities have been redistributed to its managers, with some changes in title. The team will consist of Paul Sharkey, who becomes Retail Operations Manager, Retail Purchasing Manager Stan Haw-

tin, Bill Gaywood, whose new title is Retail Marketing Manager, Contracting Manager Allan Littler and Divisional Accountant Simon Melville.

Appliance Servicing will be transferred from Contracting to Retail Purchasing in January, the move establishing a clear separation between Trading's Retail and Contracting areas.

Keith Sowden will be carrying out special projects within the Trading Division until his retirement.

Trading's activities will be split as follows:

Retail Operations Manager - Shop Portfolio (new shop projects/rent reviews), MERAS/Help Desk, Credit Check,

General Administration, Appliance Delivery.

Retail Purchasing Manager - Purchasing, Merchandising, Stock Control, Quality Control, Northern Consortium, Electra Brands Ltd, Appliance Repair and Servicing.

Retail Marketing Manager - Advertising and Promotions, Shop Displays, Market Research, Computer System Developments, Statistics, Manufacturers' Direct Delivery.

Contracting Manager - Contracting Business.

Divisional Accountant - Management Accounts, Financial Information, Budgets, Financial Appraisals, Captive Insurance Company, System Developments.

Labelling gets green light

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set up recently and manned at all Manweb districts and at Head Office by staff who have been specially trained to give advice in these areas.

The leaflet also gives tips on how customers can cut down on the use of electricity in their own homes, and provides a guide to understanding electricity bills and meters.

Manweb is also working with the Government on a 'Helping

the Earth Begins at Home' campaign to encourage customers to use energy more efficiently. Customers are being given the opportunity to make their own contribution towards tackling the threat of global warming, while saving money on their electricity bills.

A competition on this theme is being run for local schoolchildren aged between eight and 16, with home computers, software and trips to Dinorwig Power Station at stake.



Top class performance

NORTH Mersey Jointers' Mates Gary Shiels (left) and Eddie McGurk (centre) are pictured being congratulated on their City and Guilds examination success by North Mersey District Manager David Price.

Gary and Eddie both gained the 232 Certificate in Electronic Principles. They studied through a home-based open learning scheme, and attended Bolton College to sit their final examinations.

The open learning approach meant Eddie and Gary were not tied down to attending fixed classes. However, this put more pressure on other commitments.

Gary said: "The time was one of the hardest things to organise, but I'm glad it paid off. The course will come in useful and may open up opportunities."

Taking stock

CONTINUING his series of articles, Manweb's Accounting Manager Graham Morris looks at what has been happening to the share prices of the Regional Electricity Companies (RECs) around the end of October.

But first, the results of last month's competition. Out of only five correct entries, the winner was Alan Reid of North Wirral District, whose prize was a bottle of Champagne.

For those interested, the correct solution was: 1(b) 2(c) 3(c) 4(a) 5(b) 6(a) 7(b) 8(b). The answer most people got wrong was to question 2: to whom

does the Insider Dealing Act apply: the correct answer was anyone who is (or has been in the previous six months) connected with the company, not just current employees.

REC Share Prices

The month of October had the share prices of all the RECs moving but perhaps not as high

as expected from including the second instalment on the shares.

The payment of 70p per share should have added this amount to the price but there was very little interest in buying, with patchy trading over the month.

Added to this was the political uncertainty over a General

by Graham Morris



Cheers! Competition winner Alan Reid, 1st Engineer Network Services, North Wirral, receives his bottle of champagne from Accounting Manager Graham Morris (right):

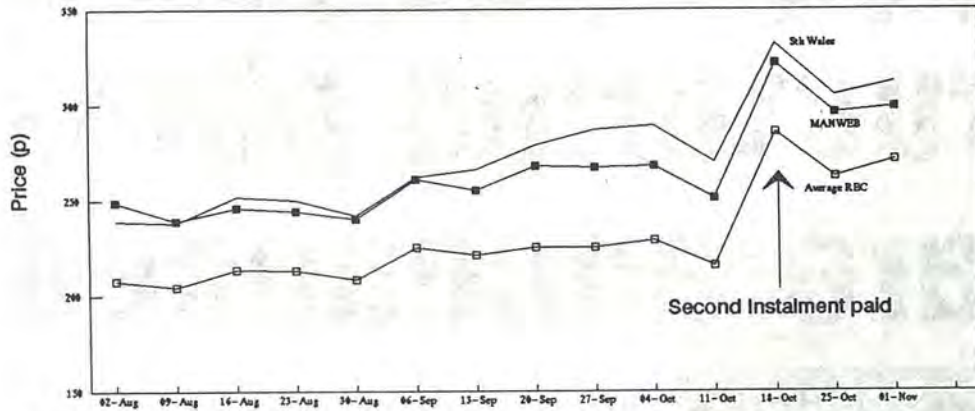
In brief...

DEE Valley District's Open Meeting of Employees will be held on Friday, January 31 at Chester International Hotel. Any Dee Valley retired member of staff who wishes to attend should contact either Mr Huw Phillips on ext. 2141 or Mrs Kath Sadowski on ext. 2183 at the District Office.

CONGRATULATIONS to Alison Griffiths, a Cashier at Dee Valley District Office, and her husband Paul on the birth of their son Jac Benjamin, who weighed in at 6lb 3oz on October 28. Baby, mother and father are all doing fine!

WEEKLY SHARE PRICE

REGIONAL ELECTRICITY COMPANIES



Package	1st October			1st November		
	Share Price (p)	Price/Earnings Ratio	Gross Yield %	Share Price (p)	Price/Earnings Ratio	Gross Yield %
Package	2,222.5	10.5	5.6	2,657.5	19.6%	9.7

Election combined with an announcement about pricing from the Regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, towards the end of October, which left the REC market very nervous.

The Distribution Companies

After allowing for the effect of the second instalment, shares of the RECs fell over the month, but with South Wales, Manweb and Yorkshire still the

three highest priced.

South Wales showed the highest fall over the month (down 50p) after being up 49½p the previous month. Eastern showed the smallest decrease (down 18p).

Gross Yields

Dividend yields have risen on the falling prices, with a spread of 5.7 per cent. Manweb remains one of the lower yields at

5.8 per cent. This compares, with an FT All Share index that has fallen to 4.7 per cent by the end of the month.

If you have any further queries on these matters you should take independent advice. Your solicitor, professional advisor, bank or building society will probably be best placed to help you.

THE GENERATING AND SCOTTISH COMPANIES

	1st October			1st November			
	Share Price (p)	Price/Earnings Ratio	Gross Yield %	Share Price (p)	Inc/dec %	Price/Earnings Ratio	Gross Yield %
Nat. Power	162.0	10.1	4.6	153.0	-5.6%	9.7	4.8
Powergen	175.0	9.9	4.4	161.0	-8.0%	9.4	4.7
Hydro-Ele	114.5	13.5	4.8	109.0	-4.8%	13.2	4.9
Scot. Powe	114.0	13.4	4.8	106.5	-6.6%	13.0	5.0
FT All Sh	1,266.0		4.9	1,238.6	-2.2%		4.7

Win a bottle of bubbly

PUT some sparkle into the festive season and win a bottle of Champagne in Contact's Christmas crossword competition.

Send your entries to: The Editor, Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb plc, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR, marking the envelope 'Christmas Crossword'. The sender of the first correct entry drawn after January 2 1992 will receive a bottle of bubbly. Some of the clues relate to Christmas, while the others are about general knowledge.

ACROSS

- 6. Units of rainfall (6); 8. In Germany, this decoration is made from pine branches (6); 10. 'Seven _____', the film which led to 'The Magnificent Seven' (7); 11. Scrooge's companion in 'A Christmas Carol' (5); 12. Stringed instrument resembling a halved pear (4); 14. Back-to-back winner of United States Golf Championship (7); 16. And 23 Down. 'Glory to the new-born King' is its second line (4,3,6,6); 20. Time of celebration after Christmas (3,4); 21. Her Christmas hit was 'It's Gonna Be A Cold, Cold Christmas' (4); 26. Intuitive feeling (5); 28. Florence Nightingale's profession (7); 29. 'The Great _____', a film often shown at Christmas (6); 30. Pilgrims visit this country at Christmas (6).

DOWN

- 1. Glittering decoration (6); 2. Much-married monarch who ate turkey on Christmas Day (5); 3. His Christmas hit was 'I Believe in Father Christmas' (4,4); 4. Defence organisation (4); 5. We rarely have this kind of Christmas (5); 7. One of Father Christmas' eight reindeer (5); 9. And 27 Down. The Beach Boys' Christmas Song (6,5,4); 13. Large deer (3); 15. Snakelike fish (3); 17. Packer, a Tokyo Olympic gold medallist (3); 18. These do a roaring trade at Christmas (3,5); 19. Colour of Father Christmas' robes (3); 22. Dobson, a former star of 'Eastenders' (5); 23. See 16 Across; 24. Number of French hens in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' (5); 25. Likely weather feature at Christmas (5); 27. See 9 Down.



Changes are in the air

DEVELOPMENTS in central air conditioning systems were the subject of another successful UTT seminar at the St David's Park Hotel in Ewloe.

Manweb's Technical Sales Development Manager Dr David Walker introduced the seminar, giving an overview of some of the issues to be addressed.

He said that new technology is not only providing better conditions in buildings, but also bringing about improvements in energy efficiency.

At the same time recent problems with the Legionnaire's disease bacteria, Legionella have highlighted the wider responsibilities of owners and occupiers of large establishments.

Hygiene

Dr Walker then handed over to Frank Stephens from EA Technology at Capenhurst, who dealt with hygiene in water services, including cooling systems.

Energy efficiency was addressed by Nick Pedder of York International, who told

the audience about low energy air conditioning.

Darryl Pinto from Temperatur Limited dealt with state-of-the-art reverse cycle systems, before handing over to Russell Benstead from EA Technology for a look at future development in air conditioning.

Manweb's Commercial Sales Development Manager Chris Liddicoat rounded off the seminar with a summary and questions session.

Commenting on the seminar's success, David Walker said: "We were extremely pleased with the response from the audience, which included representatives from ICI, Cheshire County Council, Chester City Council and Gwynedd Health Authority. Projects are already being investigated as a result of the seminar."

Pictured at St David's Park are (l-r) Russell Benstead, David Walker, Frank Stephens, Darryl Pinto, Terry Foster from York International, Nick Pedder and Chris Liddicoat.

1992 – the year of the directive

AS well as being the European Year of Health and Safety, 1992 will see major changes in British legislation as a result of directives coming from the European Commission.

The addition of Article 118A to the Treaty of Rome in 1987, which specifically provides for Health and Safety directives to be adopted by majority voting, has resulted in rapid development of legislation in this area.

No less than eight Health and Safety directives have now been adopted and must be incorporated within UK law by the end of 1992.

The Health and Safety Commission has just published the first consultative document, which will implement the requirements of the 'Framework' Directive. This document contains draft regulations and an approved code of practice and, if agreed, the regulations will be known as the 'Health and

by Colin Herbert

Safety (General Provisions) Regulations'.

The regulations impose specific duties on employers and employees and are aimed at generally encouraging improvements in health and safety of workers at work.

The draft regulations are very similar in style to the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH). They require employers to carry out assessments of hazards and the consequent risks to employees and anyone else affected by the employers' undertaking.

Once the assessment has been carried out, preventive and protective measures necessary to ensure compliance with the Health and Safety Legisla-

tive requirements, will have to be identified.

The next stage will be for employers to make arrangements for the planning, organising, controlling monitoring and reviewing of the preventative and protective measures identified.

The draft regulations also include the appointment of competent persons to assist in the application of the regulations. They also cover health surveillance and training of employees concerning the nature of the risks and necessary precautions associated with their work.

Finally, the regulations also put an onus on the employee to use all machinery, equipment and substances in accordance with relevant instructions and training provided by the employer and must report any serious defects in the employers' protective arrangements.

Urgent advice for pilots

MANWEB has issued urgent safety advice warning of the dangers of flying near electric lines after two serious incidents in which pilots were lucky not to have been killed.

Colin Herbert, Manweb's Health & Safety Manager is reiterating his warning to local hot air ballooning and micro-light clubs that they put themselves and the public at risk when flying near electric lines.

"Pilots must take the utmost caution. Overhead lines are built to high standards of safety but flying close to them is extremely dangerous. It is just weeks since a micro-light pilot was lucky not to have been killed and a balloonist recently had a narrow escape when he crashed at Marchweil, Wrexham," he said.

Manweb is issuing the clubs with pocket cards giving safety advice from the electricity industry on gliding, hang gliding, parachuting or ballooning.

Pupils spot the dangers

PICTURED at Manweb's safety display in Bromborough's Acre Lane Education Centre are Katie Morris (left), Joanne Taylor and Alan Maher (all from Brookhurst Primary School, Bromborough) with Manweb Electrical Fitter Steve Holmes.

The exhibition was organised with Bromborough Police, and to underline the safety message Manweb asked the pupils to spot dangerous faults on household electrical equipment, with prizes for the most safety conscious children.

Best overall school was Brookhurst Primary, Bromborough with Woodslee Primary (also Bromborough) runner-up. In an individual team contest the winners were from Poulton Lancelyn Primary, with the second placed team from Mendell Primary, Bromborough.

Six hundred and fifty children from local schools visited the week-long exhibition which was opened by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wirral, Councillor Gordon and Mrs Alma Pateron.

Other organisations represented included the police's own Accident Prevention and Road Safety Unit, the 'Stranger Danger' campaign, the other emergency services, British Rail, British Gas, British Telecom and Merseybus.



Toasting Sylvia's success

WATERLOO shop found a different way to "toast" success by presenting a toaster to the first customer through the doors of its refurbished premises!

Shop Manager John Quick is pictured presenting Mrs Sylvia Strain of Mount Pleasant with her toaster. Looking on are shop staff (l-r) Phil Atwill, Pat Gleaves and Sharon Kissack, with Manweb bears!



SAFETY SCENE

Take care at Christmas

THE risk of personal accident is something we all have to live with. Every day many of us are engaged in activities or use products in circumstances that can be hazardous.

However, not all accidents happen at work. Each year in the United Kingdom more than 5,000 people die and at least 3 million people are sent for medical treatment as a result of accidents in the home. Home accidents account for about 40 per cent of all fatal accidents and a third of all accidents treated in hospitals.

The main factor governing the risk to individuals is their age. The youngest members of the population have the highest rate of home accidents, whilst the elderly run the greatest risk of having a fatal accident.

Hazards

This article is not written to depress readers, but to remind everyone that Christmas is a time when everyone should take special care in the home and outdoors. Christmas festivities, the weather or even the Christmas tree itself can all be additional hazards, which must be taken into account.

The kitchen is an area which warrants special attention. Many accidents happen there and it is essential that we are extra careful at this busy time of the year. Many accidents happen when the handles of saucepans stick out over the edge of cookers and youngsters pull the contents over themselves. Take care not to overheat oil in chip pans, and avoid creating tripping hazards.

Attention

The advice about tripping hazards also applies to other rooms. Trailing flexes, for example, portable radios and other electrical appliances can cause serious accidents.

The Christmas tree also warrants special attention. Ensure the lights are in good condition, and that the right fuse is fitted before switching on. The lead should be of sound condition, also safely tucked away, but not under the carpet. Also remember when replacing bulbs it is essential that the lights are switched off.

These are just a few hints on how to make your Christmas a safer one. Enjoy it, keep safe, and best wishes from myself, Colin Herbert, Derek Jackson and Phil Hughes from Safety Scene.

Trial run for new teaching pack

FOR many years Manweb has tried to get the electrical safety message over to schoolchildren. The message basically has been that electricity is safe if treated with respect, but if abused or misused, can be a terrible adversary.

Publicity material has been sent to schools, press releases have been issued, but this very important safety message has had limited success.

Two new initiatives have been launched, which seem certain to get the message over.

This article will deal with one of the initiatives with Clwyd County Council, and next month we will outline the other.

Following the deaths of two boys when they entered a substation at Selston near Nottingham, the industry produced a video called "Powerful Stuff", aimed at secondary schools. Using graphic scenes, it illustrated the dangers of unauthorised persons entering substations and climbing pylons.

The video was sent to every secondary school in the Manweb area, however, a survey of 10 per cent of the schools indicated that very few had shown the film to their pupils.

An attempt was made to contact a number of Directors of Education in the Manweb area to ask what was going wrong. The Director of Clwyd Education, Mr Keith Evans, was most helpful and set up a meeting with Clwyd District Manager Doug Willacy, the Chief Inspector/Advisor for Clwyd Schools, Keith McDonogh, and Corporate Health and Safety Manager Colin Herbert.

It soon became apparent that if we wish to get our message over, it must be tailored to be incorporated in the school curriculum.

As a result, it was agreed that Manweb would fund the production of a resource pack for primary teachers. The subject would be Electricity with the safety theme interwoven.

As children progress from infant to junior schools, the safety message would be integrated into each of the core subjects.

A group of very enthusiastic teachers from primary schools in Clwyd, together with two schools advisors, Diane Wootton and Aeurwen Hulmston, volunteered to work on the project.

Manweb provided resource material and paid for relief teachers when the group worked on the project. After months of hard work, the draft pack was produced and thanks to Pat Byrne and his staff in Head Office Printing who pulled out all the stops, the pack was produced just in time for the launch of the trial, which is now underway in 20 schools in Clwyd.

The final version of the pack will be distributed to all primary schools in the county of Clwyd and, judging by the interest already, other authorities within and outside the Manweb area will be very keen to use it.

Celebrating long service

CONGRATULATIONS to the following staff who have clocked up 20 years' long service during November.

Head Office – Audrey Birtwistle, Clerical Assistant; Accounts Payable; Eileen Davies, Clerical Assistant; Credit Accounts; James Thornton, Chargehand Fitter, Queensferry; John Mason, Photographic Assistant; North Mersey – David Morris, Meter Reader; Liverpool – Robert Walker, Craftsman

Electrical Fitter, Network Services; Dee Valley – Stella Thomas, Cleaner; Mid-Cheshire – Jim O'Rourke, Manager, Knutsford Shop.

POST BAG

Drop us a line

DO you have a view you'd like to share or an opinion you'd like to air? Then why not drop us a line?

Write to: The Editor, Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb plc, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR, making sure you include your name and address or work location. All letters are dealt with in strict confidence and your name can, upon request, be withheld. There's a free Parker Rollerball pen for every letter published (offer applies to staff, retired employees and their families only).

Discount deal for employees

Dear Editor

We are pleased to be able to offer to all employees of Manweb special discounts on the purchase of auto parts from either of our branches:

T&G Auto Parts
Unit 20, Thornton Road Industrial Estate
Ellesmere Port
tel: 051 356 2125
Monday to Friday 8.30am-5.30pm
Saturday 9am-1pm
Sunday 10am-2pm

Chester Auto Parts
Unit 1, Brook Lane Industrial Estate
Chester
tel: 0244 378448
Monday to Friday 9am-5.30pm
Saturday 9am-3pm

Substantial trade discounts will be made available to any of your staff who identify themselves as employees at the trade counter or either T&G or CAP.

Thornton Road Industrial Estate is located next to EPIC Stadium in Ellesmere Port. Chester Auto Parts is in a prominent position on the Brook Lane Industrial Estate on the north side of the city.

Neil Tranter
Sales Manager
T&G Auto Parts

Money spinner for 'hungry kids'

Dear Editor

I like reading Contact and doing the crossword. I was wondering why we don't have another competition, like Spot-the-Ball, with the profit going to charity?

I think staff would be interested and all the morning papers have stopped printing Spot-the-Ball.

We could sent in £1 a go, with ten winners a month getting the same money. We could make a lot of money for hungry kids.

Dave Bennett
55B Lancaster Street
Liverpool 5

Editor's note: Whilst this is a very laudable suggestion to benefit children's charities, running a Spot-the-Ball or similar competition is not possible as it would be far too time consuming and would involve a great deal of administrative work. Your free Parker Rollerball pen is now in the post.

Teamwork is the key as intrepid Manweb staff get into the hills

A GROUP of five Manweb staff took to the hills on a 12-day Outward Bound course at the Rhowniar Centre near Tywyn, Gwynedd.

The philosophy behind the Outward Bound Trust is based on two beliefs: that everyone is capable of achieving more than they realise, and that too few people have a real appreciation of what can be achieved through teamwork and mutual support. Within this framework people

by Graeme Cooper

attending the courses work to meet personal development goals agreed with course tutors.

Carolyn Bent, a Clerical Assistant in Head Office Credit Sales, was one of those taking part, and as she explained, the challenge began even before she won her place: to qualify for a Manweb-sponsored place each candidate had to submit a paper to their manager.

Benefit

"I was nominated by our Executive Officer, Brian Carman, and then I had to write a report for the Head of Income and Accounting, Alan Wadcock, saying how I thought I would benefit from the course," said Carolyn.

Each candidate had different reasons for going on the course, and the instructors at Rhowniar were aware of these. This enabled them to design situations and exercises which would develop specific skills and address weaker areas.

Skills

Carolyn confesses that her personal concerns were to build her self confidence, leadership skills and decision making ability, and feels the course was successful, as well as being extremely enjoyable!

The initial exercises were to develop trust within the group. As well as the Manweb contingent people from other companies and individuals brought the group up to 12.

One of these exercises involved

climbing a rope ladder partner. Widely spaced rungs meant using the other person's hands to grab up the ladder.

Carolyn, who admitted to being terrified of heights, found the exercises particularly helpful.

One involved climbing a wooden pole section by section, then jumping and grabbing a trapdoor. Another was a 'Kryptonite' exercise.



Outward bound on the trapeze at the Rhowniar Centre.

Have you struck gold?

CALLING all Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Holders!

Manweb is helping the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme find out where Gold Award holders are now and what they are doing, and is keen to learn how many of its staff hold the Gold Award.

The D of E organisers would also like to know if you're currently helping with the scheme in any way. If so how, and if not would you like to promote the award within Manweb or your local community?

A brief account of a particularly interesting, memorable or unusual event which occurred while you were participating in the Gold Award would be helpful, along with details of any particular difficulties or challenges you had to overcome.

Manweb Training and Development Manager David Hannah is coordinating the information, and he'd be delighted to hear from Manweb Gold Award holders.

You can send details to him at Head Office Room 309 (Old Building). Please give him your name, address, home telephone number and position held in Manweb.

Insight initiative a better understanding of the industry

FEMALE students will have 'insider' knowledge of the world of engineering thanks to Head Office Engineer Sue Pilcher who took part in an initiative aimed at giving young women a better understanding of the industry.

Sue, a 3rd Engineer in the Equipment Development and Maintenance Section at Head Office, was one of five young female engineers acting as course tutors on the Engineering Training Authority's Insight 91 initiative, based at Salford University.

Fifty-five female maths and physics 'A' level students from all parts of the country attended the week long course, which included an introduction to engineering, project work, group problem solving exercises and talks on engineering as a career.

Visits

The course also included industrial visits, with Sue taking a group to Manweb's Mid-Mersey District Office to see electrical engineering in practice. A video was made by the ETA to be shown in schools.

Sue was resident at Salford throughout the week, taking responsibility for a group of girls staying in university accommodation.

Useful

She said: "I certainly would have found this type of course useful when I was at school before I went to university."

It gave the girls the chance to talk to the tutors informally as well as the opportunity to look around Salford University."

As well as Sue one other tutor was an electrical engineer, one a mechanical engineer, one from civil engineering and the other a control engineer, allowing the girls to see the differences between branches of engineering.

The mix of Salford University's academic staff and the working



engineer gave the course a round balance, which Sue found helpful.

"The girls were really reas they didn't have to carry mathematical theory

Manweb

Benevolent Society works for you

widows & widowers

Present & retired employees



Families

In need of help or information?
Ring: Mr J. Wilcock, Head Office ext. 2030

Manweb staff take to the hills. . .

Swing of things



... with a wooden support of zip wire, running down a steep wooded hillside. "Climbing the pole wasn't so bad," said Carolyn. "Even getting one foot on top of the pole wasn't too difficult but letting go with both hands as you put the other foot up was terrifying!" Nevertheless, everyone on the course completed all the exercises, and there were other challenging activities, such as hiking and overnight camps. For Carolyn sleeping out under

the stars on the slopes of Cadair Idris was particularly memorable, as well as a challenge to complete a number of exercises within 24 hours.

Situations

"Everyone took part in each activity, but the tutors were able to change the activities as they went along, forcing people into situations where they had to develop their skills," she said.

The Outward Bound experi-

ence is one Carolyn would thoroughly recommend.

She said: "While many of the activities looked like just physical challenges, they were really aimed at 'mind over matter' development, making you think your way through situations and plan ahead.

"It certainly builds confidence and gives you a better outlook. . . I think everybody should go on the course!"

Active gives girls understanding of the



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questions and becoming involved in discussions.

"Many of the girls are now firmly committed to entering engineering, and the ones who feel it's not for them have at least

been able to make an informed choice," said Sue.

In any event, Salford's intake of female engineering undergraduates looks set to rise thanks to the Insights course!



David Hannah is pictured (right) with CEWTEC Chairman Nick Reilly who is also Vauxhall Motors' Ellesmere Port Plant Director.

Investors in people

MANWEB has become one of the first companies in the region to take part in a new national training and staff development initiative.

The Government-sponsored Investors in People programme will give Manweb recognition and additional status as a company which acknowledges the central role people play in its success.

Managing Director John Roberts and Training and Development Manager David Hannah attended the initiative's regional launch at the Village Hotel in Bromborough in November, where Manweb was formally presented with its certificate of participation.

David Hannah is pleased about the scheme's adoption, particularly as Manweb is among the first in the region to take part.

He learnt of the initiative through his place on the CBI's National Education Policy Committee and the Cheshire, Ellesmere Port and Wirral Training and Enterprise Council which will measure Manweb's performance.

Mr Hannah said: "Manweb has always had a policy of giving its staff first class training, whether in-house or through external courses. This initiative will help us achieve a rounded, professional workforce which will be beneficial for people in their personal development and for Manweb in achieving its objectives."

To attain Investors in People status Manweb will need to prove it is giving training and development which meets with strict national criteria. With Manweb's strong track record David Hannah is confident of not only meeting but of exceeding these targets.

"We're moving forward from what is already a strong base," he said, "but the active support of our people themselves is the only thing which will make this initiative succeed."

A national assessor will work with Manweb's Training and Development staff to audit what the company currently achieves, and from this a plan of action will be formulated to put the Investors in People standards in place within an agreed time frame.

Working out the actual training which is most appropriate will be down to those who best know the work - the staff themselves and their managers. Skill audits and discussion about the best way to achieve personal and company objectives will feature strongly, as will monitoring and evaluation.

The approach is closely linked with Manweb's goal of maintaining and developing a professional, skilled workforce, underlining the fact that its people are the company's most valuable resource.

David Hannah said: "There is a whole new generation of people coming into Manweb who expect to be trained throughout their careers with the company. To keep the best people with us we need to recognise their goals and aspirations, and Investors in People will help us to do this."

An open letter (below) from Managing Director John Roberts to all employees outlines the scheme.

Manweb

Managing Director
John E Roberts

Manweb plc
Sealand Road
Chester CH1 4LR

Telephone (Direct) 0244 652005
Telephone (Operator) 0244 377111
Fax 0244 390725
Telex 61277

All Employees
Manweb plc

29 October 1991

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

As part of Manweb's strategic plan, the Company has declared its overall aim:

to be the most successful electricity company in the UK, by being a low cost, high quality utility.

Recognising that people are the most important and valuable resource, Manweb is committed to developing and training all employees to meet the business aims and objectives of the company.

The Directors of Manweb have made this commitment with an undertaking to achieve the status "Investors in People". This is an initiative which has been sponsored by the Government. CEWTEC, the local Training and Enterprise Council, will measure Manweb's status and progress against the nationally established criteria for the training and development of employees.

On behalf of the Directors, David Hannah (Training and Development Manager) will conduct an audit and examination of Manweb's training policy in order to assess our status. He will draw up the necessary action plans to ensure we more than achieve the required standard.

I would ask all Manweb employees for their full co-operation in supporting this major investment in our future together.

John Roberts

Registered Office
Sealand Road
Chester CH1 4LR
Registered in England
No 2568937

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to the hills on a the Rhowniar

by Graeme Cooper

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been able to make an informed choice," said Sue.

In any event, Salford's intake of female engineering undergraduates looks set to rise thanks to the Insights course!

Steering group's forward thinking

MANWEB has played an active role in the creation of the world's first market for trading electricity contracts.

A steering group made up of representatives from all 12 RECs and the eight main generators developed the Electricity Forward Agreement (EFA) market, which opened on October 31.

EFA's are contracts that could help Manweb towards stabilising its electricity purchase costs by locking the company into a fixed price for a number of kilowatt hours in a specified period.

Senior Engineer Sharon Rodriguez was Manweb's representative on the EFA Steering Group and also headed Manweb's EFA Trading Development Team, which had the task of setting up internal procedures and controls to enable the Power Contracts and Trading section to participate in the EFA market.

Key

Contract Analyst Angela Skinn played a key role in the Development Team and will be Manweb's regular trader, and Gill Willmer, seconded to the Team from the Pricing Section, has created a system for evaluating the company's contract cover and prices in the appropriate time slots.

The London-based broker GNI will receive prices from companies wishing to buy or sell EFA contracts. These prices are entered onto a trading information system in GNI's offices and relayed via satellite to a computer screen at Manweb and the offices of the other market members.



Prices will be relayed from London to Manweb via a satellite dish which has been installed on the roof of Head Office. Members of the Manweb EFA Development Group and representatives from GNI are pictured inspecting the new equipment. They are (l-r) GNI's David Newstead (EFA Broker) and Josh Danziger (Analyst); Senior Engineer, Power Contracts and Trading, Sharon Rodriguez; Principal Assistant, Pricing, Gill Willmer; GNI Director Anthony Norton; Contracts Assistant Mike Shields and Contract Analyst Angela Skinn.

Manweb, like all other RECs, has a portfolio of Contracts for Differences (CFDs) which offer some degree of stability in electricity purchase costs. The CFDs are not specifically related to the number of units Manweb buys from the pool so they do not always exactly match the purchases at

every point during the year.

Other RECs and generators may face similar problems and the EFA market allows market members to undertake short term balancing and fine tuning of the portfolio.

Sharon Rodriguez said: "Earlier in the year the Trading

Development Team went to look at the markets in London where stocks and shares and commodities like gold and tin are traded. However, whilst the EFA market will involve buying and selling contracts by telephone, the activities will be rather less glamorous than the popular image of city trading."



Heather gets her just rewards

A HONEYMOON holiday in Malta is planned by Manweb Sales Assistant Heather Davenport and her fiancé David Pask after Heather won the top prize in Shop Operations' Just Rewards incentive scheme.

Heather, who works at Crewe shop, and British Rail Electrical Engineer David plan to jet off to the sun after their wedding on May 30.

In the scheme all Manweb shops gain points for achieving targets in overall sales as well as Creditcare and Surecare.

Top shops for September were Barmouth (432 points), Oswestry (322), Bangor (661) and Crewe (651).

The names of all members of staff were entered into a draw and Heather scooped the holiday prize.

The happy couple are pictured (above) outside Crewe shop.

Lifesaver Lorraine

CONGRATULATIONS to Frodsham Shop Manager Lorraine Balmer who recently donated her 100th pint of blood at Liverpool's Blood Transfusion Centre.



Ambassador Club winners on their recent trip to Boulogne.

Closing date for prize draw

REMEMBER, the closing date for joining the EEIBA Prize Draw Club to be eligible for the special cash prize draw is December 31 1991.

Those planning to join should complete the form below and send it without delay to EEIBA Branch Secretary Jim Wilcock, Manweb plc, Welfare Section, Room 5E1, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

To: Jim Wilcock (EEIBA Branch Secretary)
c/o Manweb plc
Welfare Section, Room 5E1
Head Office, Chester

New Members

Please enrol me as a member of the PRIZE DRAW CLUB for ___ number(s).
For each number, I authorise deduction of *£1 per month from my pension until further notice. I agree to subscribe for a minimum of 12 months.

Existing Members

Please increase my number(s) in the PRIZE DRAW CLUB from ___ to ___.
For each number, I authorise deduction of *£1 per month from my pension until further notice. I agree to subscribe for a minimum of 12 months.

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Name: *Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address

Post Code:

Tel. Number:

Signature

Date

* Delete as appropriate

Food for thought

STAFF from four Manweb districts and their partners were served up a treat when they won the Ambassador Club's September 'Dinner for Eight' incentive.

The winners were B Westwood, of North Wirral, M Lyon, of Mid Cheshire, M Jones, from Clwyd, and Gwynedd District's A Jones.

The October incentive proved popular with Ambassador Club members, who obviously rated a 'Weekend in Boulogne' a winner and input leads to prove it!

The lucky members were North Mersey's G Ryan and A Palin, Miss C J Scott of Mid Mersey, C Bowyer from Dee Valley, E Naughton from Mid Cheshire, Clwyd's L H Archer, H W Owen from Gwynedd, Oswestry's G N Joseph and G L Smith, T M A Richards from Aberystwyth, and D R Butler, of Head Office.

Shop

'Lunch and Shop in Chester', the November incentive, also scored with Ambassador Club members and the results will be announced next month.

You still have time to input a valid lead for the December incentive and the winner, plus a companion, will be able to forget the winter blues with a weekend at five star Bodysgalen Hall, a 17th century mansion set in its own 200-acre estate above Llandudno, overlooking the Welsh coast with spectacular views of Conwy and Snowdonia.

Only valid leads input during December will qualify for this incentive. Every valid lead earns points which can be turned into prizes.

New joint design is a time saver

PICTURED installing a new 33kV joint designed by Manweb Cable Engineer Barry Harrison are Dee Valley Jointer Stuart Henry (left) and Jointer's Mate Rob Schroeder.

The installation, at Elton, marked the first time the joint had been made on site.

A second joint was installed in Mid Mersey at Percival Lane, Runcorn, by Jointer Pat O'Malley.

As a result of what was learnt with these trials, a third joint, at Chirk in Dee Valley, was installed by Jointer Derek Clarke without any problems and demonstrated the expected time saving capabilities.

The new design was well received by the Jointers.

Familiar

While the electrical elements within the joint will be familiar to any 33kV Jointer, a new casing is being used with heat-shrink outer protection.

The new joint will replace eight existing joint kits, with a further two types of joint being made obsolete.

Stocking only one joint kit rather than the ten which went before means purchasing will be simpler, and the number of items which have to be held will be reduced.



Barry Harrison said: "We will also introduce a modified 33kV cable.

"At the same time we'll be running courses at Hoyle for Engineers and Foremen to update them on the new joints and cables, and they will have the chance to see the new joint being made."

"There will be six one-week courses, and all 33kV Jointers will be attending. The courses

MPs on a fact-finding mission

LIVERPOOL District has strengthened its links with the community by playing host to a group of local Members of Parliament who were keen to learn more about Manweb's operations in the city.

Liberal Democrat MP for Mossley Hill, David Alton was the first to drop in to Lister Drive, where District Manager Bob McMahon and his team gave him an inside view of the district's approach to theft, and how Manweb has gained national recognition for the Knowsley Heights tower block refurbishment.

A group of Labour MPs, Peter Kilfoyle (Walton), Joe Benton (Bootle), Bob Wareing (West Derby) and Eddie O'Hara (Knowsley South), later visited the District and raised local issues, including the conditions and appearance of substations.

Bob McMahon said: "The MPs were very supportive of our policies on disconnection, and the caring approach we take to debt. They also agreed with the hard line we take on people who steal electricity."

Two MPs, George Howarth (Knowsley North) and John Evans (St Helens North) were unable to attend, but sent apologies and received a standing invitation to call in to Lister Drive.

Eddie O'Hara was extremely interested in Manweb's work at Knowsley Heights, and plans are afoot to take him on a tour of the flats.



Above: Mirror image... David Alton (right) studying details of tower block refurbishment with his lookalike, Manweb Development Engineer Roger Critch, who is often mistaken for the MP.

Below: Local MPs visiting Manweb in Liverpool. L-r are: Network Services Manager Bill Tubey, Energy Sales Manager Malcolm Cooper, MP Joe Benton, MP Peter Kilfoyle, District Manager Bob McMahon, MP Bob Wareing, Customer Accounts Manager Andy Pooley, MP Eddie O'Hara, Chargehand Storekeeper John Howson and Administrative Support Manager Paul Rosenberg.



Bob fixes it for local children

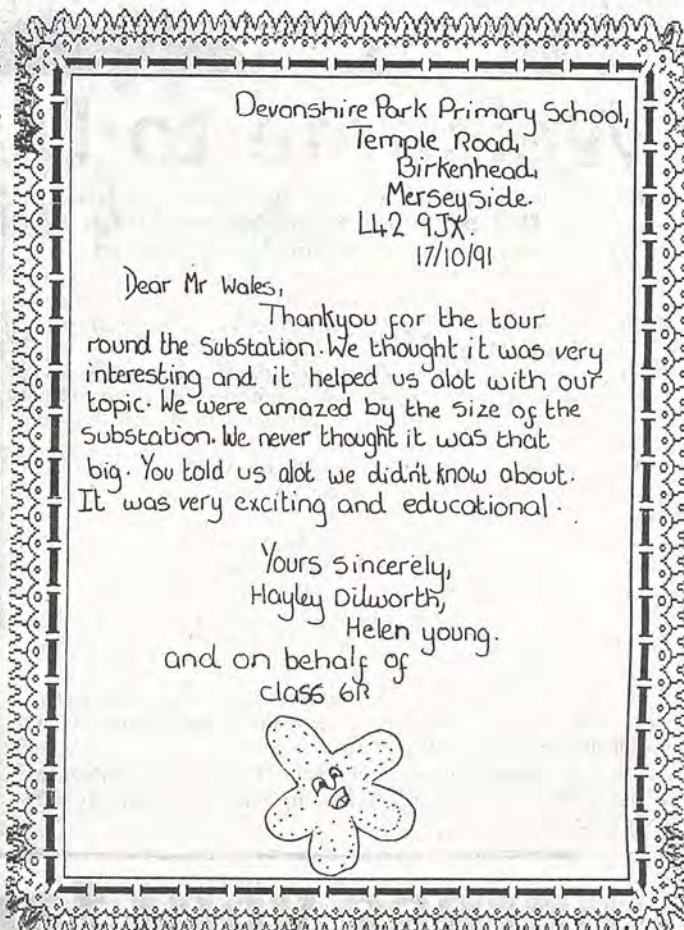
CHILDREN from a Wirral school were treated to a trip round a high voltage substation thanks to the Network Services Construction section and the Central Field Unit.

Prenton-based Construction Foreman Bob Wales 'fixed it' for the 11-year-olds from Birkenhead's Devonshire Park Primary School to visit the 275/132kV substation at Prenton with the help of CFU Manager Brian Mather.

Electricity formed part of the children's national curriculum studies, and during their visit they saw inside the substation control room. Field Unit Engineer Bob Cochrane and Construction Engineer Albert Butler helped escort the pupils, with Albert treating them to a presentation on Manweb's work.

Bob Wales said: "We took two classes of 30 around, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and the teachers as well as the children were very impressed. I don't think any of them realised how big these substations actually are!"

Following their visit the children wrote in with their thanks. Haley Dilworth and Helen Young's letter is shown below.



Win an EBAC Homedry... and solve your condensation problems

HERE'S your opportunity to enter this easy 'spot the difference' competition and enjoy a home free from damp and condensation this winter with our great prize - an Ebac Homedry dehumidifier worth £350.

Condensation can cause paint and wallpaper to peel, mould can form on clothes and in cupboards, bedding feels damp and plaster is damaged. Wood rots, metal rusts.

What's more, condensation and dampness can damage your health over a long period, particularly affecting the elderly and the young.

You may be surprised to learn that everyday activities such as washing, drying, cooking, having a bath or shower

can add as much as 20 pints of water to the air in our homes each day.

When the air comes into contact with a cold surface, such as a window, this excess moisture forms condensation.

An Ebac dehumidifier is a small electrical unit in an attractive cabinet, about the size of a modern hi-fi speaker, which plugs into a normal socket, and costs less than 2p an hour to run.

You need only one Ebac Homedry, positioned centrally in the home, to answer all your condensation problems and provide protection for a typical 3 or 4 bedroom house, creating a fresher, healthier environment to live in.

The Ebac Homedry simply draws in air, extracts the excess moisture and passes warmer, drier air back into the home leaving the moisture in the collection tank.

It has a variable humidistat which can be set to the level of dryness required.

The Ebac is also fitted with a temperature controlled defrost, so it can even operate at low temperatures.

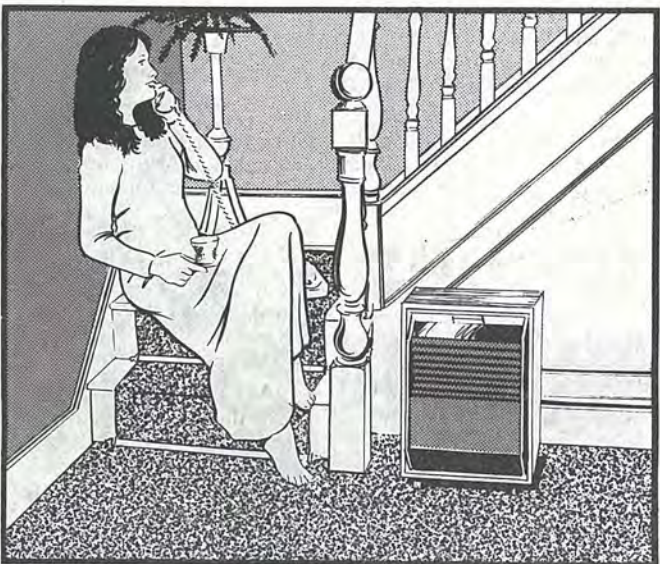


fig. A

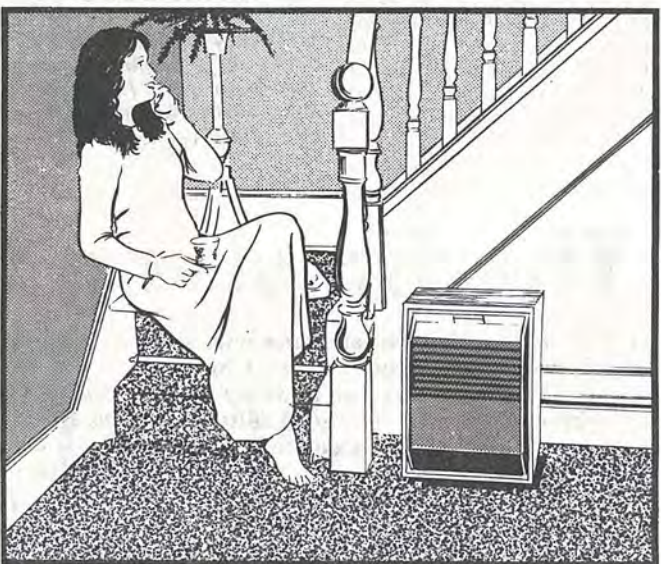


fig. B

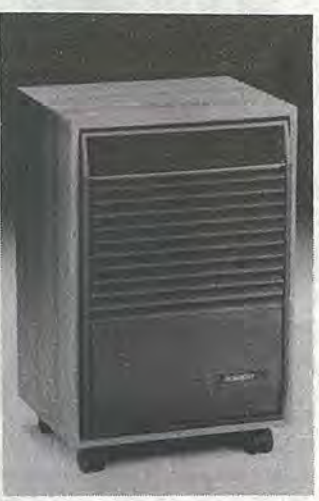
Ebac dehumidifiers are available locally from Manweb.

Rules

All you have to do for your chance to win an Ebac Homedry worth £350 is study carefully the two pictures and circle the six differences on picture 'B', fill in the coupon with your name and address and send your entries to: The Editor, Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

Please mark your envelopes 'Ebac Competition'. The prize will go to the first correct entry opened after the closing date.

1. All entries must be received no later than January 2 1992.
2. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
3. The prize is not negotiable and no cash alternative will be offered.
4. Employees and relatives of employees of Ebac Ltd, and anyone associated with running this competition are not eligible to enter.



The EBAC Homedry

Name.....
 Address.....

 Work Location.....
 Tel:.....
 ★ I would like more information on the Ebac range of domestic dehumidifiers
 ★ Please tick if applicable



Welcome to Manweb!

THREE new apprentices and their parents had the chance to find out more about Manweb when they attended a special evening at Mid Mersey District.

The newcomers, along with six apprentices from last year's intake who will soon complete the initial part of their training at Hoylake and at Birkenhead Technical College, were welcomed by District Manager Des Lock.

A talk on Mid Mersey District, its structure and the company as a whole, was given by Des, who also outlined the opportunities within Manweb. Distribution Manager Barry Judd then showed a video of the storm damage of 1986.

He then handed over to Eastern Region Contracting Manager Guy Wilcox, who gave a talk on the company's contracting business.

Finally, Hoylake Training Centre Manager Alex Smitton filled the new apprentices in on the details of their three years' training programme with Manweb.

The District Manager then presented certificates to two apprentices, John McWilliams and Steve Bredin, who have now completed their training.

During an informal buffet, the apprentices and their parents were able to chat to Section Managers about their prospects and opportunities within the company.

The new apprentices are Paul Foster (Distribution Craftsman), James O'Hare (Craftsman Electrician) and Craig Regan (Craftsman Electrician).



Above: Dress rehearsal! Mid Mersey District Manager Des Lock (right) with Apprentice Distribution Craftsman Paul Foster and his parents, Ken and Christine Foster. Top: Eastern Region Contracting Manager Guy Wilcox chats with Apprentice Craftsman Electrician Craig Regan and his parents Maureen and Allan Regan.

Going green

BOUGHTON Heath resident Jean Tonge helps Manweb's Dee Valley District Mains Manager John MacDonald put a little greenery into the area.

Manweb is supplying 260 hedging plants, 132 shrubs and several trees on half an acre of scrubland, owned by the company, at Caldley Valley, Boughton Heath.

"This area of land will hopefully become a haven for local wildlife as the plants mature," said John MacDonald.

"We always try to put something back into the environment after, by necessity, having to carry out tree cutting and pruning to make overhead lines more safe and to improve the quality of electricity supply."



Pension scheme AGM invitation

THE 9th Annual General Meeting of the members of the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme will be held at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2 on Wednesday, December 18 1991, at 1.45pm.

A copy of the official notice of the meeting and agenda, which is displayed on all notice boards, may be obtained from the Pension Section, Manweb plc, Room 5E1, Head Office, Scalnd Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

Accounts

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Scheme for the year ended March 31 1991 are now available and are displayed on all noticeboards.

The report contains a supplement which gives a separate report on the Manweb section of the Scheme. Any member can obtain a copy of the report from the Pension Section at the above address.

Impress your family and friends

TIRED of the same old turkey leftovers following your traditional Christmas dinner? Relax and make delicious quick meals from cooked turkey which are sure to impress your family and friends. You can use a variety of tender turkey cuts straight from the freezer.

Hot Curried Turkey Salad (serves 4)

1 medium onion, sliced; 1 tbsp curry powder; 1 tbsp sunflower oil; 1 stick celery; 1 small apple, cored and chopped; 150g can baked beans; 1 tbsp reduced calorie mayonnaise; 4 heaped tbsp mixed salad with sweetcorn in mild vinegar, drained; 4oz (100g) cooked dark turkey meat; 4 cooked large slices of white turkey meat.

Set oven to 375f 190c mark 5. Fry onion and curry powder in oil. Remove from the heat and

mix in celery, apple, beans, mayonnaise and pickled salad. Make a layer of dark turkey meat in a shallow ovenproof serving dish and top with the salad mixture. Top with the white turkey meat, then cover with foil and bake for about 20 minutes. Serve with brown rice.

Turkey Upside Down Pie

1oz (25g) sunflower margarine; 2 tsp made English mustard; 4 slices wholemeal bread; 8oz (200g) cooked dark turkey meat; 2oz (50g) cooked stuffing; 4oz (100g) cooked ham; 2

eggs; ¼ pint (125ml) skimmed milk; ground black pepper; 2tbsp fresh chopped parsley; 1 tomato sliced.

Line a 1½ (750ml) pie dish with foil and preheat the oven to 350f 180c mark 4.

Mash margarine with mustard. Spread on bread. Cut each slice diagonally and place spread side downwards, overlapping on the foil. Trim to fit, filling any gaps.

Chop the turkey, stuffing and ham together. Beat the eggs, milk and pepper together and mix in. Pour into the bread-lined dish and bake for 30 to 40 minutes until set.

Invert onto a serving dish, remove the foil and garnish alternate slices with chopped



By Marj Scregg

parsley. Top with sliced tomato and serve hot with jacket potatoes and baked tomatoes.

COOKING

Success on a plate

IT was success on a plate when television chef John Tovey brought his cookery roadshow to Manweb's Chester Head Office.

Well known for his love of cooking with electricity, John (pictured below left with Manweb's Domestic Sales Development Manager Mike Potts) treated an invited audience of builders, developers and domestic science teachers to a range of his appetising culinary creations.

As well as his "Entertaining on a Plate" BBC television series, John is the Radio Times cook and has recently launched a book of his popular recipes.



The finishing touches

SERVE up some festive cakes and puddings to add the finishing touches to your Christmas meals. Lemon Freezer Pudding is a refreshing alternative to the traditional Christmas pud while Chocolate Mousse Cake is simply delicious.

Lemon Freezer Pudding

3 eggs, separated; 4oz (100g) caster sugar; ½ pint (300ml) double cream; 2 lemons, grated rind and juice; 2oz (50g) digestive biscuits, finely crushed.

Line a 2 pint (1 litre) loaf tin with cling film. Whisk egg whites until stiff peaks form. Gradually whisk in sugar a little at a time.

In a clean bowl whisk together egg yolks and cream until thick. Fold in egg whites with lemon rind and juice. Spoon mixture into tin and chill for an hour.

Freeze for four hours until firm. Remove from freezer and turn out onto a serving plate. Peel away the cling film and press digestive biscuit crumbs on the outside with a palette knife. Decorate with lemon strips and slices. Freeze for up to a month.

Chocolate Mousse Cake (serves 8)

5 eggs; 1½oz (40g) caster sugar; 7oz (200g) plain chocolate, melted; ¼ pint (125ml) whipping cream; 2tbsp cocoa powder; icing sugar and cocoa powder for dusting.

Grease the base and sides of an 8in (20.5cm) loose-bottomed cake tin and line with greased greaseproof paper. Separate the eggs and beat yolks with 1oz (25g) of the sugar until pale and slightly thickened, then whisk into melted chocolate.

Whisk eggs in a separate bowl until stiff and dry, then gradually whisk in the remaining sugar. Using a metal spoon, fold a quarter of the whites into the chocolate mixtures, then fold in the remainder.

Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and cook at 350f 180c mark 4 for 30 minutes until well risen and beginning to shrink from the sides. Leave in the tin for 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Whip the cream with cocoa powder until just holding its shape. Transfer cake to a serving plate, spread cream over the top and sides of the cake and smooth with a palette knife. Dust the top with icing sugar and cocoa.

FREE ADS

Holidays

Caravan - Towyn, near Rhyl, six berth, two bedrooms, shower, fridge, fully fitted. From £75 per week. Tel: 0978 362615/352653.

Benalmadena Costa - Modern studio apartment, suitable for two. Lovely pool and gardens. Ten minutes beach. Why not get away for a break in the sun from £60 per week in the winter. We'll hold the booking while you find a flight. Tel: Joe Flanagan 0244 341097.

France - B&B, H/B, caravans and camping. Tarnet Garrone region close to junction 8 and 9 on Autoroute between Bordeaux and Toulouse. Excellent catering including French, Indian and vegetarian cooking. Much to see and do, or just relax in sunshine. EXSEB employee. Tel: David Boniface, 010-33 (63-95-95-20).

Pony Trekking - and farm holidays. Accompanied one hour to full-day treks for novices or experienced riders. Holiday cottages available. Self-catering, bed and breakfast or half board. Licensed restaurant open to non-residents. Lunch, afternoon tea, dinner. Private parties catered for. Further details: Hwylfa Dafydd Country Farm Holidays, tel. Colwyn Bay 516965.

Port Grimaud - Six miles St Tropez. Four/six berth caravans with electricity, hot and cold water, shower, on three star hotel site. Luxury coach travel from most areas. Tel: 0670 712399.

Porthmadog - Holiday bungalow, sleeps six, Black Rock Sands five minutes' drive. Convenient Ffestiniog Railway, Snowdonia National Park. Contact C. Jones, 2 Meadow Drive, Porthmadog, tel: 0766 512519.

Algarve - Privately-owned villa set in large gardens in the Monchique Hills. Split level dining room, good kitchen facilities, utility room, two good-sized bedrooms, terraces with garden furniture. Panoramic views of the west coast 24 kms away. Swimming pool, maid service, food hamper provided. Flights arranged, tel: 0352 86709 or fax: 0492 540457.

Anglesey - Self catering and coarse fishing holidays. Two lakes on 15-acre site overlooking Snowdonia. touring caravans and tents welcome. Brochure available, tel: 0248 713410.

Weston-super-Mare - Static caravan on farm. Six berth, separate double bedroom, shower, toilet, tv etc. All season price £70 per week. Tel: 0934 750 292.

Newquay - Cornwall. Guest house, sea views, two minutes from beaches. Quiet area close to town, good food, comfort, parking. BB/EM £65 - £80 per week. ESI staff. Tel: 063787 4291 (Mr Pleasants).

South of France - 6 berth mobile home near to Monaco, Nice, Cannes, St Tropez, all facilities on site, swimming pool, restaurant, bar, shop etc. Further details from Malcolm Williams, tel: 0544 267579.

Dolgellau - Traditional farmhouse cottage set in a seven acre smallholding in Snowdonia National Park. Sleeps seven plus cot. Tastefully modernised, fully fitted kitchen inc. dishwasher and microwave. Storage heaters and large inglenook fireplace. Ample parking and grounds. Kennel for pet by arrangement. Easy access to mountains and sea. Beautiful scenery and walks. Prices from £100 to £220 per week. Tel: 0341 423912.

Newquay - Cornwall. Guest house, sea views, two minutes from beaches. Quiet area close to town, good food, comfort, parking. BB/EM £65 - £80 per week. ESI staff. Tel: 063787 4291 (Mr Pleasants).

Llandudno - Rosaire Private Hotel, family-run and situated in lovely garden area of town, yet close to all entertainment and shops with no hills to climb. Free car park. Tea/coffee facilities, some en-suite rooms available, excellent home cooking, served at separate tables. Tel: 0492 77677 or write for brochure to Mr and Mrs G. Evans, 2 St Seiriols Road, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2YY.

Anglesey - B&B/Self catering summer let. Secluded farmhouse with panoramic views of the Snowdonia range. Within 10 minutes of the main town Llangefni and sandy beaches. Idyllic for bird watchers. Tel: Bodorgan (0407) 840038.

Snowdon - Quiet valley, modern flat with all facilities. Sleeps four. Beautiful views, free fishing. Contact Mrs A. Bohannon on 0286 85537.

Snowdonia - National Park, comfortable modern flat, all facilities. Sleeps four. Beautiful quiet valley six miles from Caernarfon. Close to shop and pub. Free fishing. Tel: 0286 85537.

Caravan - New 31', 6/7 berth, all mains services. Gas, electricity and colour tv incl. 1. Sited on Haven's Ty Mawr holiday Park near Abergele (Dragon Award). Free entertainments, heated indoor swimmingpool, family club, disco, children's Tiger Club etc. Near all major resorts. Tel: Chester 372860 for details. Families only, sorry no pets. Discount for Manweb employees and families.

Toomargoe, Rhyl - Take that break you've been promising yourself. Relax in a family hotel and enjoy good home cooking and fully licensed bar. Weekly rates for B&B and evening meal, weekends or mid-week breaks. Ring Len or Sandy on 0745 334103 or 677 3003.

Sailing Holidays - Artemis. Comet's 850 (28ft) bareboat charter. Moody 37, bareboat or skippered charter. Corfu-based. Tuition available. Full inventory. Contact H.J. Hargrove on 0270 67556.

South West France - Countryside guest house D'Astros le Pin, Auvillar, English hosts. Family, double or single rooms, B&B, half or full board. Water sports, swimming, golf, tennis and wine tasting nearby, open all year including Christmas. Special rates for ESI staff: B&B prices for low season £11 per person (until March 31, 1992). Telephone David or Jenny Boniface on 010 33 63 95 95 20 or, for brochure only, 0428 723207.

Criccieth - North Wales, house overlooking village green. Sleeps six, CTV. Beach and shops two mins. Tel: 0766 522 614 (Ann Tudor).

Orlando - Florida. To let, luxury holiday home on Buenaventura Lakes Golf and Country Club (15 mins from Disneyworld). 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, will accommodate up to 8 persons. Private swimming pool. Use residents' golf club. Full management service on hand. For further details ring 051 625 8202.

Lanzarote - Playa Blanca, 1 Bed villa on small development with pool, bar, tennis court, luxury kitchen, lounge, private garden with BBQ. Available May and November. Tel. 051 336 8678.

Snowdonia - Bungalow near Harlech with wide sea view, 3 double bedrooms with bunk/playroom with 6 bunks. Ideal for 1 or 2 families. TV, garden and ample parking. Prices from £150 to £250 per week. Tel: 051 336 1709.

North Wales - six berth caravan to let, fully equipped, peaceful countryside, £10 per day. Tel: 049084 208.

Pembrokeshire - Country bungalow near beaches. Sleeps 5, pets welcome. Ring 0437 731375.

For Charter - Luxury 56ft steel ketch, Uisce Beatha. Join us for the holidays of a lifetime cruising the beautiful Hebrides and West Coast of Scotland. Visit the islands of Jura, Mull and Skye. Luxury crewed yacht for 6 guests. No experience necessary, skipper looks after you. Good food and company in a relaxed atmosphere. Also ideal for incentives/promotions for staff and clients. Brochure on request, including details of winter season in Canaries. Telephone: Melfort Charters on 051 207 4069.

Malta - Bugibba, Topaz Aparthotel (timeshare apartment), sleeps 4, excellent facilities, £200.

Falaise - Normandy, 18th Century farmhouse, large gardens, tastefully restored. Near historic market town, sleeps 4-6, from £100pw. Tel. 0244 317820.

Pwllheli - North Wales, detached bungalow sleeps 6. Superb views, fully equipped, inclusive of linen and electricity, convenient to all amenities. Tel. Pwllheli 612353.

Colwyn Bay - Swiss style Chalet, sleeps 6, electric heating. Bathroom, flush toilet, fridge, colour TV, garden and parking. Situated in beautiful woodland dell near Eirias Park and beach. Weekly rates or weekend or mid-week breaks. Tel. 051 678 9854.

Caravan - Luxury 6-berth, Talacre Beach, nr Prestatyn. All amenities, satellite TV, award-winning site, club, sauna, swimming pool, tennis, bowls, horse-riding etc. Contact Sue Wilson on 051 531 8755 or int. ext. 710 2338.

Cumbria - Newly appointed cottage, ETB 4-key commended. Peacefully situated on small farm. Hadrian's Wall area. Sleeps four. Short breaks available, open all year. No pets. Tel 0228 75650.

For Sale

Gents Suits - At low prices. top quality suits usually retailing at up to £234 in well known stores, now just £99. Also range of Italian designer suits from £199 (usually over £350). Shoes, trousers, aftershaves etc. 'Suits U', c/o L for Leather, Church Street, Liverpool (near Central Station/Bold Street, next door to Thomas Cook), tel. 051 707 1255. Tell Julian you are from Manweb and claim a further 10% discount.

Cooker Hood - Tricity, hardly used, £25. Tel. 0244 376312.

Commodore C64 - Computer. C/W disk drive, printer, tape cassette, software etc, £300 o.n.o. Working and in excellent condition. Tel. Barry Judd on 0352 754103 or 730 2117 (Mid Mersey int.).

Wedding Dress - White satin, full skirt, size 14. Price £250 (cost £444 new). Also two peach figured satin bridesmaid dresses with underskirts. One to fit age 2-3, other to fit age 11-12, £75 each. All professionally made. Contact Peter Willows in Rhyl Stores, 770 2274 (Clwyd int.) or 0745 339354 evenings.

Waterbed - 5ft as new. Unwanted gift, heater included, £150 o.n.o. Tel. Lesley Ratcliffe, Frodsham Shop, 0928 574102.

Gas Cooker - New World full size in good working order, 8 years old, £50. Transport can be arranged. Contact Jean Needham on 0244 383248.

Slide Projector - Semi automatic with 50" x 50" screen, £10. Unused wall panel heater, £10. Belling 3kw convector heater with glow, £8. Tel. Mr K J Griffiths on 0744 23597.

Waders - Uniroyal Kingfisher, excellent condition, size 9, £25. Tel. 0244 532133.

Tools - various. Tel. Ita Akpan on 710 2205 (North Mersey int.).

Kitchen Table - Square, reversible white formica red tubular steel legs, four matching chairs, £25. Dark blue nylon velour thermal lined curtains, 2prs 66" x 72", 1pr 100" wide x 80" drop, good condition, £45. Tel. 0352 756113.

Fuel Pump - Morris Ital, unused. Cost £24, will accept £10. Other spares thrown in. Tel. Frodsham 33882.

Rocking Horses - Hand made, varnished, for ages 1-7, £45 each. Tel. J Letman on 0286 2134.

Atari 520STE - External 1mb drive, 3 joysticks, mouse, all cables including MIDI and TV, software, blank disks, boxes, magazines etc. All in excellent condition, ideal Christmas gift, £325 o.n.o. May split. Tel. Ian Stockdale on 0352 755740 or HO int. ext. 3019.

Property

Wallasey - 4-bedroom house in Rice Lane, 2 entertaining, large kitchen, £35,950. Tel. Graeme Cooper, Head Office extn. 2099.

Preston - Durlay Drive, 3-bedroom semi, double glazed, Econ. 7 storage heaters, fitted kitchen inc. hob and oven, carpets and curtains. Contact Mr S McGuinness on 710 2142 (North Mersey int.) or 051 608 0978.

Blacon - Saxon Park, 3-bedroom mid-terrace modern town house. Kitchen/dining area, lounge. Tastefully decorated throughout, £42,950. Tel. 0244 377258 or 383248.

Prestatyn - 15 mins from sea-side and shops, purpose built 1-bed upstairs flat with rear garden. Well maintained, inc. carpets and curtains, £31,650 o.n.o. Tel. 0745 887443.

Woolton Quarry - Liverpool, 2-bed bungalow, 1 bed with fitted mirrored wardrobes. Fitted kitchen and bathroom, gas central heating, well maintained gardens, £69,000. Tel. 051 428 9975.

Hawarden - 5 yr old 2-bed detached bungalow in sought-after area, convenient to Chester m/way. Fully fitted kitchen & bedrm, garage, conservatory. Tel. 0244 534393.

Halkyn - Detached stone cottage with outbuildings. Partly modernised. Three bedrooms, double garage, workshop. Quiet rural setting but within easy reach of A55 Expressway. Reduced for quick sale, £59,950. Telephone 0352 781362.

To Let - In select area of Wrexham, detached 3-bed furnished house. Tel. 0978 263666.

Coedpoeth - 3 miles Wrexham, detached 3-bed house, large tiled hall, L-shaped staircase, lounge, dining room, kitchen, laundry room, gardens 3 sides, lovely views, reduced for quick sale, £69,950. Tel. Ms J E Davies on 740 2167 (Dee Valley int.) or 0978 753979.

Mold - Large, newly built, executive 3-bed detached house, double garage, well-planned gardens, patio area. Gas c/h, reception hall with cloakroom, w.c. and washbasin, extensively tiled. Lounge with feature 'Adams' fire surround and 'living flame' as fire. Double doors to dining room, patio doors, large kitchen/breakfast room fully fitted, utility room. Master bedroom good size with feature fitted wardrobes, en suite shower room, large combined bathroom and toilet, fully double glazed, leaded light windows, not overlooked front or rear. Reduced for quick sale, £89,400 o.n.o. Tel. 0352 759829 or 0244 548985.

Vehicles

Humber Sceptre - 1963 Mk 1, MOT June '92. Non runner, ideal for restore project. Was used daily last 10 years. Tel. P. Willows on 770 2274 (Clwyd int.) or 0745 339354.

Volkswagen Beetle - 1200, M-reg, enthusiast's car in excellent condition. Pioneer radio/cassette, heated rear window, rev counter, oil temp gauge, opening rear side windows, fog lights front and rear. Beetle bouncer alarm, long MOT, £2,750 o.n.o. Tel. Geoff Lloyd on 750 2491 (North Wirral int.) or 0606 853896.

Personal

Crystal Karaoke - Laser, for private parties, office parties, weddings etc, reasonable prices from £45. Tel. 0352 770 429.

Wedding videos - Your most important day saved forever. High quality colour and sound, a real professional service giving you just what you want. One price, no extras, everything throughout the day captured but no one embarrassed too much! 20 per cent discount for staff. Please ring if you would like to see examples - no obligation - Gemini Videos, 051 645 1549.

Wedding videos - high class professional videos at low prices. Three copies including graphics and music. For further details contact Claire or Ian on 0978 855709 after 5 p.m.

Wedding Photography - Capture the informal pictures of bride, groom, guests, etc. that the official photographer misses. Let me be your 'back-up' photographer on the special day. 80 7.5" x 5" photos chosen from 100, £70. Contact Ken Smyth on H.O. int. ext. 3207 for details.

Photographer - Professional wedding and portrait. Let me create your wedding album, portfolios or portraits. Reasonable rates. Contact Mathew Harman on H.O. int. ext. 2777 or 0978 263448.

Knitwear - Achilles designer originals. Exclusive made-to-measure handknits, crochet etc. Contact Eileen on 0942 679898.

A&R Photographic - for your high quality wedding photographs and family portraits at highly competitive prices. Contact Ray Rowland on Chester (0244) 376369.

Painter - Decorator, artexing, property repairs. Free estimates, tel. 0244 549375.

Fishing rods - Walker 14' Hexagraph 10-12 Salmon Fly, normally £393, sale £295, Hugh Falkus 13' Hexagraph fly 9-10, normally £380, sale £275, Loch 10 1/2 3-piece 4-7 hexagraph fly, normally £233, sale £155, Avon Carp 11' hexagraph ideal salon spinner, normally £255, sale £160, JJ Reservoir 9'9" fly 9-10, very powerful, normally £160, sale £95, Walker 13' hexagraph fly 9-10, slightly soiled, normally £380, sale £250. Many other rods, new and second hand. Contact Gareth on 076676 2451.

Crazy Caricatures - The ideal gift for any occasion, leaving parties, retirements etc, 10 per cent discount for Manweb staff. Contact Sandra on 710 2332/3 (North Mersey int.).

Leisure

Fishing Trips - and pleasure cruises aboard the DTI vessel 'Cerismar' out of Beaumaris, Anglesey. Wreck, reef and general fishing. Pleasure cruises to Puffin Island. Competitive prices from £35. Full time skipper/owner Dave Jones, 2nd Coxswain Beaumaris Lifeboat and member of the National Federation of Charter Skippers. Contact D.A. Jones on 0248 810746.

Sea Fishing - On board Miranda out of Holyhead, Anglesey. Deep sea, reef or wreck fishing. Trips arranged for 4 to 12 hours, licensed and insured for parties of 12. Boat hire from £50. Rods, tackle and bait available. Contact Kevin Wright, Miranda Sea Angling, Mon Elian, Moelfre, Anglesey, Gwynedd, tel. 0248 88459.

Fly Fishery - Gweryd Lodge, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Mold. Superb fly fishing on a great 122-acre lake. Boats for hire. Contact John Stowell on 08243 230.

Tennis - Liverpool Electric Supply Tennis Club welcomes new members, established or beginners. Club sessions Sunday am/pm and Wednesday evenings. League matches played mid-week evenings. Contact Ken Rigby at Lister Drive, int. ext. 2170 or 051-254 1900.

Tuition

Driving lessons - Robin Jones School of Motoring. Department of Transport approved driving instructor. Member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists. ROSPA Advanced Driving Certificate. Member of the Motor Schools of Great Britain. Special discount for Manweb members. Beginners to advanced, motorway course, dual control Metro, free pick up service. For details tel. 0831 584643 (daytime) or 051 339 8135 (evenings).

PLEASE PRINT YOUR FREE AD. ON THIS COUPON OR ON PLAIN PAPER

(BLOCK CAPS PLEASE)

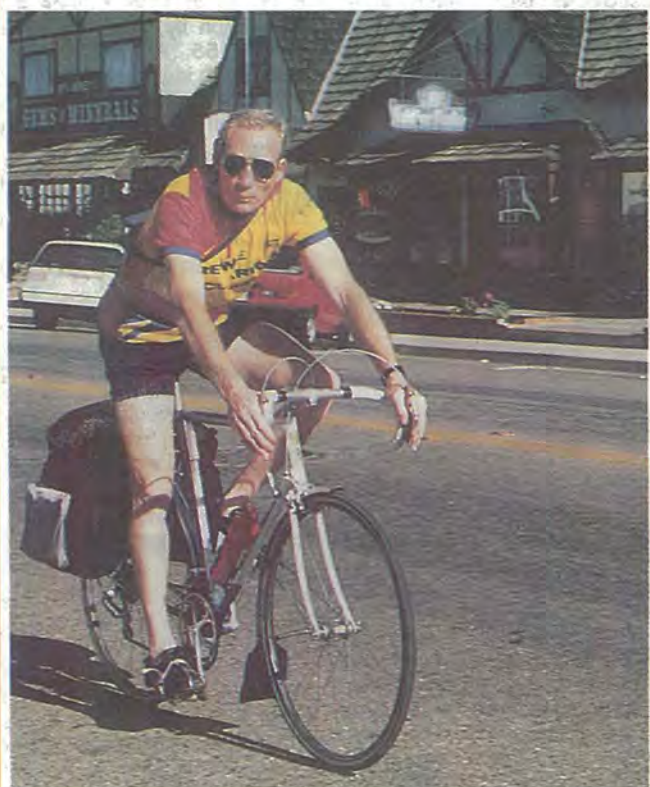
Name:

Work place (or retired)

Tel:

Send to: 'CONTACT' FREE ADS, MANWEB, SEALAND ROAD, CHESTER CH1 4LR.

On your bike!



ASK Linesman Bob Waddilove the best way to see America and his answer will be: "On your bike!"

After all, that was his mode of transport all the way when he recently went on a 500 mile tour of Yellowstone Park.

Bob, 57 (pictured above) who works in Mid Cheshire District, and his wife Audrey, a swimming teacher, joined a group of 11 other intrepid cyclists to spend a fortnight touring the two million acre park that boasts such wonders as the famous Old Faithful geyser and the spectacular scenery of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

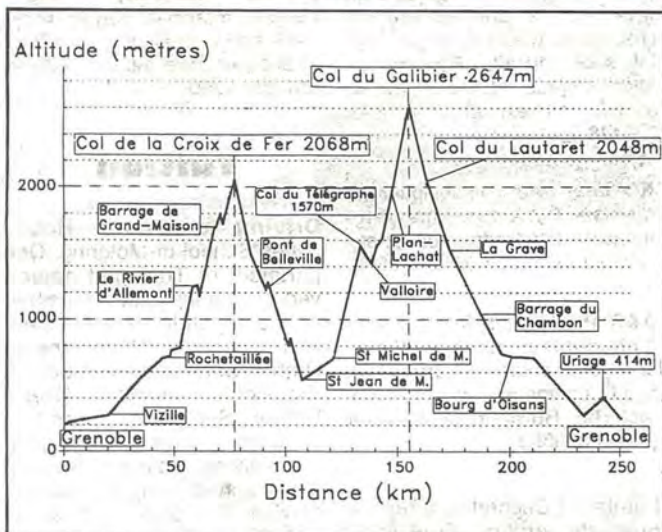
Super-fit Bob, who lives in Sandbach, has worked for Manweb for 41 years and reckons cycling is the best way to keep in trim.

Veteran

He races as a veteran for Crewe Clarion Wheelers Club and is the past record holder for most distances. He is also President of the National Clarion Wheelers and spends much of his spare time promoting the sport.

In addition to the 70 miles he weekly clocks up travelling to and from work, Bob covers at least another 100 miles touring the Cheshire countryside.

Previous cycling trips have included Scandinavia, Switzerland, Cyprus, Canada, France and Luxembourg, and next year he is planning an 18-day tour of South Africa's Cape Province.



The route of the Brevet de Randonneur des Alpes.

Pedal power...

IT was pedal power all the way when energetic Mains Development Manager Stan Roberts joined 3,500 cyclists on a gruelling bike rally across the French Alps.

Stan, who is also Oswestry's Acting District Manager, completed the challenging 150 mile course in 18 hours - earning himself a medal and certificate in the process.

The Brevet de Randonneur des Alpes is an annual event attracting cyclists from all over Europe. Participants aim to complete the round trip from Grenoble, over five major mountain passes, within 24 hours. The highest peak is the Col de Galibier, at over 8,000 feet and well above the snowline.

One cyclist in this year's event suffered a heart attack and died and several others suffered exhaustion.

And disaster almost struck Stan when one of his tyres blew out as he whizzed along the

winding road, approaching hairpin bends at speeds of up to 50mph. "I managed to avoid going over the edge, and it was a stroke of luck that the other cyclists didn't run into me!" he said.

"The Col de Galibier was the final big push and reaching the top was a wonderful feeling. But the best part was the comradeship shown by everyone and the sense of achievement. I really enjoyed taking part and will probably enter next year's rally," said Stan, who spent a week practicing on the passes before the main event.

He added: "The thing that will really stick in my mind, though, was the sight of a mad Frenchman alone on a tandem with a ghetto blaster playing 'The Ride of the Valkyries!'"

SPORT

Jet skier Gary's on the crest of a wave

WARRINGTON Superstore Senior Sales Assistant Gary Thompson is splashing out in the world of jet skiing with help from Manweb Trading Division and Sony.

Gary (27) became interested in the high-powered water sport about two years ago, and has been hooked ever since.

"I liked the look of it so I went out and bought one!" he says.

His current ski is a 550cc Kawasaki, which has much in common with its motorcycle namesake.

The high compression machine features a two stroke petrol engine and costs in the region of £3,300.

A member of the New Brighton based Wirral Jet Ski and Wet Bike Club, Gary is currently racing in the international World Watercraft Association series which is being televised on Sky TV.

More locally the club took part in this year's Mersey River Festival, with a field of more than 80 jet skiers, and have also put on exhibition races for Colwyn Bay Council at Rhos on Sea.



Gary with his 550cc jet ski.

Gary will soon have his ski kitted out in Sony/Manweb livery with the help of the Trading Division's Display Department, who are laser-cutting

special decals. So if you're near the open water or tuned in to Sky keep an eye out for the Manweb logo among the waves!

Rob's run for charity

MANWEB marathon runner Rob Hilton presents a cheque for £1,025 to Sister Irene Jones who received the cash on behalf of St John Ambulance.

Appliance repair electrician Rob, from Liverpool District, was sponsored by friends and colleagues in the London Marathon as part of St John Ambulance's 'Over to you John' fundraising campaign.

Ambulance

The cash was part of a £6,025 total he raised in the race and will go to the local St John Ambulance branch. The total included £150 from Manweb's Charity Chest which supports fundraising by the company's staff.

As well as the £1,025, Rob raised an additional £5,000 for St John Ambulance as the National Grid Company's 'adopted' runner.



Super-fit Stan Roberts takes a breather at Cima la Bonette, the highest pass in France, during a practice run.

Dee Valley anglers land the top prize in fishing contest

THE top prize was landed by Dee Valley Sports and Social Club in the annual fly fishing match against Head Office, held recently at Meadow Fishery, Mickle Trafford.

Although Harry Foreman (Head Office) soon had a fish of 4lbs 10oz in the net, the prize for the best fish of the day was won by Dee Valley's Cecil Barratt-Davies, who brought in a splendid specimen of 7lb 4oz.

Trophy

The Colin Bowyer Trophy for the best Dee Valley bag was retained by Keith Griffiths, whose catch included a 6lb specimen.

Any member of the Dee Valley or Head Office Sports and Social Clubs wishing to take part in future matches should contact either Keith Griffiths on Wrexham 841230 or Barry Harrison on Head Office int. ext. 2162.