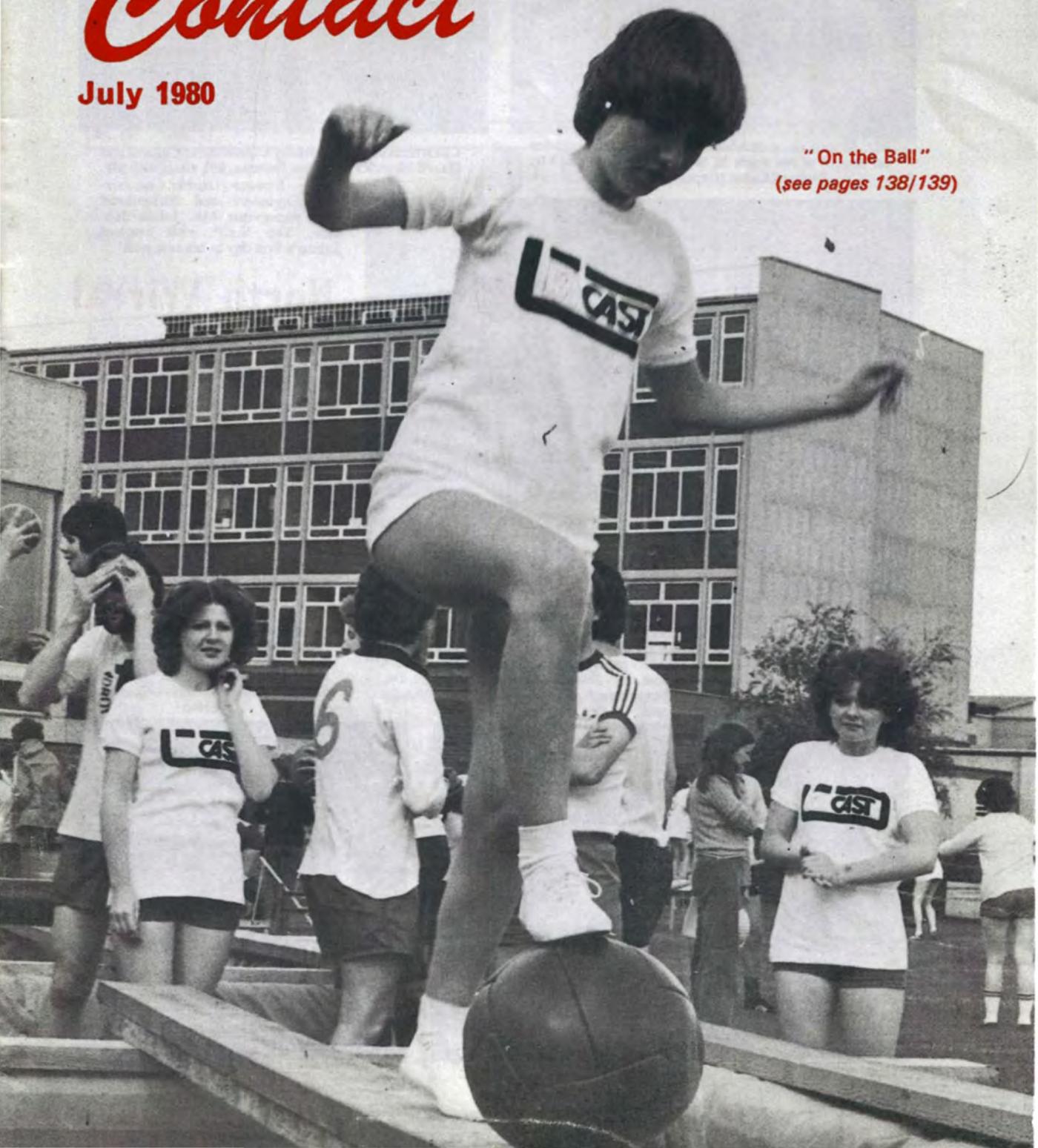


# Contact

July 1980

"On the Ball"  
(see pages 138/139)





**Mr. Mike Lee (switchboard attendant), left, explains an aspect of his work in the Control Room to Mr. Richard Gales (Deputy Chairman).**



**Chairman of the Electricity Consultative Council and Board Member Mr. Alex Duncan, left, chats with Mr. George Bowers (District Commercial Engineer) and Birkenhead shop supervisor Mr. Julian Jenkins. The V.I.P. visit marked Julian's first day in his new post!**



**Above: Mrs. Hilda Turner and Mrs. Betty Haslett (clerks—Personnel) carry on with the job as Mr. Jim Barraclough (Group Manager) chats with Board Members, Dr. Robert Cummings and Lord Sefton of Garston.**

**Below: Mrs. Ruth McBride demonstrates the VDU to her audience; from left to right: Lord Sefton of Garston, Mr. John Scudamore (Secretary), Dr. Robert Cummings, Mr. Jim Barraclough, Mr. John Roberts (District Administrative Officer) and Mr. Ben Hastings (Chairman).**

## North Wirral Walkabout

Some of our Board Members visited North Wirral District Offices and the Birkenhead shop prior to their recent monthly meeting. They met and talked to many members of the District staff before hearing from Mr. Harry Foreman (*Assistant Chief Engineer—Civil*) of the plans for the new District Offices to be built on a site at Prenton.

Board Members show a keen interest as Mr. John Roberts explains the work being done by Miss Shirley Roberts (clerk—Customer Accounts).



# Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
MERSEYSIDE AND  
NORTH WALES  
ELECTRICITY BOARD

Vol. 32 No. 7

July 1980

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## THE LIGHTER SIDE

FEW PEOPLE would question the truth of the old saying that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". The same principle undoubtedly applies to Jill—especially in these days of liberated ladies.

In the course of the month-by-month job of producing 'Contact', the editorial staff try to strike a balance between the stern-and-earnest business of providing more than three million people with their electricity and the more relaxing aspects of the lives of our colleagues. We never cease to be amazed by the variety and originality of the many spare-time interests which come to our attention.

A fair proportion of this number is devoted to such away-from-the-job pursuits. Hours of painstaking effort producing fine works of art and craft, the antics of anything-for-a-laugh 'Supersports' fans, and a colleague who has a houseful of trophies for fish (breeding them—not catching them) are all featured.

On the back cover we announce details of this year's photographic competition—an annual 'Contact' feature which never fails to attract a good entry from the many camera enthusiasts on the staff. They certainly don't do it for the money—perhaps the prospect of seeing their masterpieces reproduced as winners is the spur? We look forward to a bumper entry for the 1980 competition!

## Editorial

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Please let the Editorial staff know of any large-scale or unusual engineering schemes or commercial projects going on in your department. We are interested in people too! Contact us about your interesting personalities with a story to tell.

# Contracting and Service— TARGETS SMASHED

## Dee Valley break £1-million barrier

DEE VALLEY District's highly talented team, headed by Mr. Joe Forrester (*installation engineer*), topped the elusive £1-million mark with contracting and service work carried out during the last financial year.

Target-time began two years ago, when our Installation and Service section aimed for business worth £6-million for the year. At that time, the economic climate presented many problems for our industry and electrical installation work was hard to come by. Competition too was very keen, giving some of our Districts an almost impossible task in order to reach their particular target figure.

It was to everyone's credit that, at the end of the year, the total income was just short of the £6-million target.

Undeterred, the section faced up to their new target of £7-million-plus for the year 1979/80. A fairly large proportion of this figure was taken by Dee Valley District, with their own target of £999,000.

**They went into action immediately and set about picking up business, large and small, from all quarters. Their hard work and positive attitude subsequently helped them to become MANWEB's first District to shatter the £1-million barrier.**

Each of our other Districts did a marvellous job during the year and achieved some excellent results. Needless to say, the section gained their target of £7-million-plus.

### New Target

To prove that our Installation and Service section never rest on their laurels, a target of £9-million has been set for the year 1980/81. This is a 50 per cent. increase on the seemingly impossible target set only two years ago! Quite a jump—even in these days of galloping inflation!

*The £9-million target can be smashed with the assistance of every member of the Board's staff throughout the area. No matter what your particular job is, if you are with MANWEB, you can help your District—or Head Office—to achieve their targets.*

Talk to your friends and neighbours about the Board's excellent installation offers—shower units,



Mr. Graham Wright, left, an engineer with Colas Products Limited of Saltney, Chester, chats with two men from MANWEB on contacting work, Messrs. John Wolfendale (*electrician*), centre, and Keith Murray (*apprentice*).

re-wiring, insulation and, for your affluent friends with valuables around their homes, don't forget our intruder alarm systems. Jobs you bring in will help keep our electricians and apprentices in work.

**MANWEB engineers and electricians are among the best-trained people in the country. They are true tradesmen and always do a good job. You don't have to call them back!**

So, if in your pub, or your club, or anywhere else, you hear of someone who wants an installation job doing, recommend MANWEB and get it right first time!

## Air Conditioning to the Rescue

CLWYD District were quick off the mark in this year's Air Conditioning Campaign, when senior energy sales engineer Mr. Arthur Thompson picked up a rather tricky job at Plas Elwyn hotel at St. Asaph.

Here, the owners had a big problem with their gas kitchen, giving off a tremendous amount of surplus heat, making conditions rather uncomfortable in the dining-room.

Arthur's first solution was to get them to throw out the gas and replace it with efficient, 'cool', electric catering equipment. However, this was not the time.

So he decided on air-conditioning with a split-system unit fixed in the dining-room. This did the job perfectly and made dining at the Plas Elwyn a pleasure—even though the food is cooked by gas!

The kitchen heat also presented yet another problem, as it prevented the owners from using the guest-room immediately above. Once again Arthur came to the rescue, when he arranged for another, smaller air-conditioning unit to be installed in the room.

As a direct result, the owners of this very pleasant hotel have another guest-room available, the income from which will, no doubt, go some way towards paying for the well-planned and efficient air-conditioning installation by Men from MANWEB.

Taking a break for our photographer whose picture shows, from left to right: John Milne and Philip Jones (2nd and 3rd engineers—Installation and Service), David Parry (apprentice), Sean Broe (electrician), and Frank Jones (foreman—Commercial).



## DEE VALLEY DISTRICT TEAM IN ACTION

A very special contracting job at a local factory meant much hard work for our team based at the Legacy depot. It was another big step forward towards this year's target figure.



In the switchroom are electricians Mike Young, left, and Paul Forrett.

Up in the air we see, from left to right, Bill Samuels (electrician), Geoff Edwards (installation inspector) and Bob McCluskey (electrician).



Examplng the co-operation and team effort among our Dee Valley District staff are these men from MANWEB who are, from left to right: Vaughan Parry (electrician's mate), Barry Lloyd (electrician), Arwel Lloyd (3rd engineer—Installation and Service), Kelvin Jones, Geoff Jones and Steven Jones (electricians), Ken Williams (public lighting attendant), Mike Young (electrician) and Dennis Foulkes (driver/public lighting attendant).





Some of the artistic men who exhibited. From left to right: Bill Copeman, Adrian Hendry, Hugh Hughes, Steve Dunning, Chris Oxtoby and Jeff Baker.

## 'All my own work' Exhibition



Above: Some of the 'crafty' ladies whose work was on display. From the left: Barbara Vickers, Wendy Newman, Mary Perrin, Brenda Johnson and Alison Dentith.

Below: Two of the photographers who exhibited, Ann Thompson and Ray Rowland.

Bottom right: Just one of the excellent paintings submitted by Bill Copeman.

Some 70 items were on show at the recent "All My Own Work" exhibition staged by the Head Office (Chester) Sports and Social Club recently.

The exhibits by Club members, on show for three days, included paintings, drawings, knitting, embroidery, crochet work, poetry, sculpture, model-making, photography and philately.

The standard was so high that Club Secretary Gren Roberts reported several enquiries from prospective buyers for various items of work.

Our Display Section, under the leadership of Gordon Lewer, made an excellent job of arranging the exhibition.



## OTHER PEOPLE'S HOBBIES

# Family Success

## The Fisherfolk of Southport

Bernard, Eileen and Janet Baldwin surrounded by just a few of their prize trophies.



EVERYWHERE you look in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Baldwin at Southport, you see silver cups, medals and trophies of every description. These are just a few of the many hundreds which have been won by the family in recent years—more are stored in the loft and wardrobes upstairs.

This magnificent accumulation of awards has been gathered by Bernie, his wife Eileen, and eight-year-old daughter Janet, with their prize-winning tropical fish in competitions all over the country.

Their interesting hobby started shortly after Janet was born, when Bernie and Eileen bought a few fish and popped them into a 12-inch tank. Since then, like Topsy, it 'grow'd and grow'd', and now their lounge and dining-room are graced with much larger, beautiful tanks, giving a restful and soothing effect with their concealed soft-lighting and the gently activated water washing around the many multi-coloured tropical fish.

Bernie goes in for breeding the fish too, with six large tanks in an insulated, heated outhouse. His fish count runs to many hundreds and, amazingly, he can identify most of them from the 3/4-inch-long Pigmy to the mighty Catfish at 18 inches. "It will be about two feet long when fully grown," he told us.

"You have to be extra careful when mixing the fish in the breeding tanks," he went on. "In a matter of seconds, one rogue fish can kill off hundreds of pounds-worth of potential champions."

The Baldwin family are all members of the 140-

strong Sandgrounders Aquatic Society at Southport. Bernie is their very busy secretary who, among his many other duties, organises the Society's very popular and competitive annual show. He is also secretary for the Northern Area Committee of the Catfish Association of Great Britain. At the Association's annual show, held recently in London, Bernie and Eileen had the best Corydor catfish and took the runner-up prize for the best fish in the whole show.

As a family, they travel over a wide area to competitions held nearly every week between March and October. The 'Big Show', held at the end of the season at Belle Vue in Manchester, has rewarded the family with a host of prizes. Last year, they came home with two huge trophies for the best pair of Loach and for the best team of six Livebearing fish. They also picked up a couple of second-place awards.

These well-earned prizes, won against expert competition, now have pride of place in their collection—that is, until the next competition!

*Bernie Baldwin is an electrician based at our Southport depot. He joined us in 1969 and, after a spell at the former District Office in Marsh Lane, he returned to his home town. He is a member of the North Mersey District Local Advisory and Works Committees. When not busy with his fish, which is not very often, he enjoys a round of golf.*

## TALES FROM THE ROAD

A selection of myths culled from road safety records (with acknowledgements to RoSPA and others).

"I don't believe in seat belts. If I saw a crash coming I would brace myself against the wheel. I've got strong arms . . ."

"With modern tyres, you can't get punctures any more, so you

don't have to keep putting air in."

"If you see a car coming towards you with the headlights on full beam, shut your eyes for ten seconds and you won't lose your night vision."

# WE GET LETTERS . . .

## Customer Care

On the final day of work at a customer's house, two of our Mid-Cheshire District contracting staff found the following letter addressed to them. The customer had gone out, leaving our two men to complete their work with complete confidence.

*"Please accept this as a way of saying thank you for your care and consideration while you have been here. I made the decision to have the home rewired but was most anxious as to how Mother would cope.*

*"I need not have worried. You have been first class and your work pleases us enormously.*

*"Take care."*

The two taking care of the customer were **Stephen Millington** (electrician) and **Philip Bridgewater** (apprentice).

## Enthusiasm

A Colwyn Bay builder has a general thank you to the members of Clwyd District, who were involved in laying on supply to his site:—

*"We would like to extend our thanks for the co-operation and enthusiasm shown by your staff and workforce whilst carrying out the service and installations at our Tyn-y-Groes development."*

## High Calibre

Following another rewiring job in Liverpool, this letter was received from the customer, which helps to prove that MANWEB staff really do care.

"May I on behalf of my wife and myself express my appreciation of the fine and efficient workmanship of your employees **Derek Hargreaves** and his assistant **Andy**. I think his surname is **Callaghan**.

"It was quite refreshing to deal

with good workmen, and I feel that there is still some hope for the country if you continue to employ and train such good lads of the high calibre of these two boys.

"I must admit that I was dreading the rewiring of my house, but I need have had no fears with these two lads."

Indeed, the satisfied customer was right—the 'two lads' were **Derek Hargreaves** (electrician) and his apprentice **Andy Callaghan**.

## Courtesy

Many members of the Clwyd District engineering staff were involved in dealing with a Denbigh gentleman's problem:—

"With reference to our correspondence regarding the voltage of our electricity supply, my wife and I would like to express our appreciation for the prompt and courteous response to the matter.

"We are leaving here this week but would not like to do so without conveying our thanks for your kind attention, which greatly improved the supply of electricity."

## Excellent Service

A lady and gent from Maghull express their thanks for another job well done by North Mersey District staff:—

"Recently we had our house rewired through your firm, and would like to take the opportunity of thanking MANWEB most sincerely for the speedy and excellent service given.

"Also our sincere thanks to the men involved in the work, who were electrician **Derek Hargreaves** and his apprentice **John McAvoy**, and the plumber, **Danny Devlin**, for the superb and neat workmanship carried out, and to your chargehand **Harry Cooper**, who was most helpful and attentive.

We found the men very trustworthy, courteous and willing, and it was a pleasure to have them in our home and if and when in the future we need any further electrical work doing, we shall not hesitate to call MANWEB."

## Magnificent Effort

From the managing director of a North Wales factory in our Clwyd District:—

"It is not very often I find myself writing to a national body praising them for the contribution they have made to our Company's well-being.

"The power supply to our new Mochdre factory was handled by your **Mr. John Ellis** and **Mr. Ray Valentine**, after I appealed to them for help in expediting the work to enable us to start production.

"Their help and fulfilled promises were a magnificent effort and, on behalf of the Company and myself, I would like to say thank you for a job well done."

## Welcome Workers

A happy Dec Valley customer writes:—

"I would like to thank **Bill Sammels** and **Steve Gillett** for their fine job in rewiring my home.

"They had a very hard job, as my house is getting old, but the two lads worked hard, and it was a pleasure to have them in my home."

## and Hard Workers

From a Liverpool customer who paid-up promptly and sent the following letter:

"I enclose cheques in payment of the attached account.

"We were very pleased with the way the job was done. We thought the two young men who did it were very hard workers."

And, the workers were **Stephen Gore** (electrician) and **Michael Tolborne** (apprentice).

On the MANWEB stand at Warrington "Industries Fair". From left to right: Messrs. David Binns (General Manager, Warrington Development Corporation), Glyn Norbury (District Commercial Engineer), David Tinsley (1st engineer—Industrial), James Mason (Chairman, Warrington Development Corporation), Mrs. Eve Townley (The 'Girl from MANWEB'), Messrs. Fred Crossley (Installation Engineer) and Kenneth Appleton (Energy Sales Engineer).



## WARRINGTON INDUSTRY ON SHOW

OUR Mid-Mersey District colleagues joined 30 locally-based companies in exhibiting their achievements in the industrial and commercial fields at Warrington New Town's first 'Industries Fair', which was staged a short time ago at The Grange Industrial

Estate. The exhibits were housed in one of the large industrial units, with a floor area of 20,000 square feet.

A post-mortem on the event considered that it was an unqualified success and plans are already being made for another show in 1981.



When the exhibition closed, Mr. Appleton was delighted to receive a letter from the Chief Estates Officer for Warrington New Town Development which read:

*"Following the tremendous success of the Warrington New Town Industries Fair last week, I feel I ought to write and thank you and your staff for the excellent job your company did in installing temporary electrical fittings to individual stands. The work was carried out with minimum inconvenience to exhibitors and absolutely total co-operation with our own organisers, and I believe great credit is due to you and your staff for MANWEB's unstinting support of the Fair from the very beginning.*

*"We naturally hope to hold this Fair on an annual basis now, and we very much hope that we can count on your support in future years to the same extent.*

*"Once again, thank you to you and your colleagues for a thoroughly professional job."*

Our 'Professionals' included many members of the Mid-Mersey District Installation team.

Our impressive stand at the "Industries Fair", cleverly designed by Mr. Ron Sand (supervisor) of our Head Office Display Section, attracted approving comment and many visitors to our exhibit.

# SUPER SPORTS '80

There were 126 contestants and 42 judges for the seventh annual Chester Super Sports event. The 21 teams of three men and three ladies played 21 games on this cold and blustery evening.

The contest for the best mascot was won by 'Cooks and Looks' from the H.Q. Restaurant, with a Computer's team, 'Devil's Own', placed second. The computerised scoring made the teams 'Rough and Ready' and 'Bangers and Smash' joint winners, both from Computers. The scoring programme was devised by winning team captain Brian Sheppard: however, independent manual scoring confirmed the computer's verdict. Third were 'Plain Sailors'.

Board Chairman Ben Hastings expressed surprise at the enthusiasm of the contestants in this MANWEB version of the Highland Games, and offered two bottles of champagne for the best performance at one of the

**OUR COVER PICTURE** shows clerical assistant Sheila Williams guiding a medicine-ball over a plank of wood, above 18 inches of cold water.

Our other pictures show other games at the 1980 Supersports Contest.

wettest games—'Passing Water'. Two teams shared the prize—'Dave's Wino's' and 'Anabolic and the Steroids'. The booby prize went to the ill-named 'Winning Streaks'.

The games were refereed by Hugh Farrow and Gren Roberts, who was also the compère. Eifion Jenkins was chief scorer, and the Farrow-Roberts-Jenkins partnership were responsible for devising the games and organising the event. After drying out, the competitors and spectators enjoyed a chicken and chips supper, with 600 revellers from three to 80 enjoying a real family Barn Dance, to the country sound of 'Fox's Bark'.



The joint winning teams—Above, 'Bangers and Smash', left to right, Roy Casey, Colin Brocklebank, Carol Swinton, Jane Sheppard, Linda Worrall and Brian Sheppard with Chairman Ben Hastings. Below, 'Rough and Ready', left to right, Christine Lyon, Karen Dunning, John Bruce, who receives the winner's trophy from Ben Hastings, Lynn Garner and Paul Davies. Dave Tomlinson missed our photo-call.





# Understanding Electricity

THE importance of junior and middle school pupils having an understanding of everyday technology was emphasised recently by Mr. Roger Farrance, a member of the Electricity Council.

"We must face the fact that today's technology is not understood by a significant number of reasonably intelligent people," he said. "Some are even frightened by it and sheer nonsense can be seen to obscure important issues.

*"How many of us know of others who have a more efficient cosy for their teapot than for their hot-water cylinders? You may like to wonder at the fact that, whereas 75 per cent. of homes in the Midlands have lagged hot-water cylinders, the figure for London is only 46 per cent. I have no need to point out, I hope, that wasting energy on this scale is unique in that it is anti-social, highly expensive and not at all enjoyable.*

## Heat Pumps

Up to 40 per cent. energy savings in commercial buildings during the heating season can be achieved with the use of heat pumps.

Many national multiples have installed heat pumps to provide an integral cooling and economic heating system while conserving energy.

While most shops have a need for cooling, the basic requirement is often first seen to be heating. Although installation of heat pumps needs consideration of the individual circumstances to ensure correct application, their dual heating/cooling duty offers great potential for year-round environmental benefits. The fully automatic nature of the heat pump allows rapid change from heating to cooling as internal requirements change.

There is no loss of floor space as the unit is normally sited outside the building.

"We believe we have a duty to help teachers to communicate the basic facts that lie behind the simple switch on the wall. This service, "UNDERSTANDING ELECTRICITY", is freely available to all schools. It is provided because the electricity supply industry is very conscious of its obligations to the

## Civic Shield Award Scheme

SINCE the introduction of the Civic Shield Award Scheme for Energy-Saving Homes about nine months ago, several hundred dwellings have been erected by local authorities to meet the Scheme's specifications.

In this era of spending cuts in the public sector, it is essential that the capital investment in every home and heating system is secured throughout the planned life expectancy.

The tenants too should have the satisfaction of warm, comfortable homes, with acceptable running costs.

The Civic Shield Award encourages local authorities to make the best use of ratepayers' money, providing well-insulated dwellings designed to use economic electric heating.

The Scheme is not only applicable to new housing, but also to rehabilitated existing dwellings and upgraded existing electrically-heated homes.

Advice from Electricity Board staff is available to local authorities on the interpretation of the Civic Shield specifications and on the correct design and installation of electrical systems and services.

Great importance is also placed on free advice to tenants of Civic Shield homes. Visits can be arranged by our staff, who will demonstrate the correct use of electric heating and any other

community it serves.

"Whether you are involved in science projects or industrial studies, agricultural subjects or the environment, cookery classes or home economics, we have a wide range of printed and audio-visual material to back up your work and maintain student interest.

"The generating side of our industry has a full range of educational material. Nuclear generation is included, of course, and there are excellent field study centres and nature trails."

appliances. They will also discuss with the tenant ideas to assist the efficient running of their homes by, for example, budget billing.

## MEDALLION HOMES

THE success of the Medallion Award Scheme, launched by The Electricity Council nearly three years ago, can be seen in the fact that there are now over 5,000 Medallion standard homes either built or in progress.

Benefits of building and owning a Medallion Home were shown at a specialist building exhibition held at Olympia, London, last month.

Terms of the Medallion specification are regularly reviewed to allow for upgrading as fuel costs rise and as insulation methods and materials improve.

Advice on current specifications is available to builders from all Electricity Board staffs, who also give advice to Medallion home owners in an after-sales service. This ensures that the maximum benefit is gained from the all-electric energy-saving homes.

# Talking Notes

## CITY SUPPORTERS

**T**WO members of the Head Office staff are chairman and secretary of the Chester and Distict Branch of the Manchester City Supporters' Club. **Nigel Crossley**, the chairman, is an assistant in the Superannuation section, and **Fred Owen**, the secretary, is a principal assistant in the Legal section.

The parent club keeps in close contact with the Chester branch, and players and officials meet their Cestrian followers regularly. A recent meeting was attended by the Manchester City Chairman, Mr. Peter Swales, who spoke to members openly about topics in which

the fans were keenly interested. Although the club was third best supported in the Football League, the team had only just avoided relegation, and the supporters wanted to know what the directors proposed to improve the team's results. Malcolm Allison had come

under fire from the press and the terraces, and Mr. Swales made it clear that Malcolm would be at Maine Road with a tighter rein on his activities in the coming season. There was no contract, so his stay would depend very much on the team's progress.

After discussing the England team's prospects in the European Championship, and relating some footballing anecdotes, Mr. Swales was presented with a memento of his visit by Nigel Crossley.



Chairman of Manchester City Football Club, Peter Swales, right, receives mementoes of his visit to the Chester Branch of the Supporters Club from Nigel Crossley (chairman), left, and Fred Owen (secretary).

## Guiders

Two of our ladies at Head Office, in addition to holding down responsible jobs, have important and worthwhile work to do away from the office.

**Carole Louise McLennay** (secretary to the Deputy Chief Commercial Officer) is Assistant Guide Guider with the 2nd Vicars Cross Company in Chester. She has been running the Company in the absence of the Guide Guider, who has been on

Leading Guiders Carole McLennay, left, and Sandra Morrey.



a sabbatical to take examinations.

Carole has been assisted in her Guide duties by **Sandra Morrey** (*secretary to the Assistant Chief Accountant, Revenue*), who has become so interested in Guiding that she has decided to take it up permanently.

Sandra's husband, **Chris**, was recently appointed principal assistant—Cash, at Head Office.

### "Plug-In"

The latest Marketing Department publication—*"The Time Machines—We Have the Power to Help You"*—discovers an exciting new world of electric cooking—the range of 'plug-in' cookers.

It deals with the world of multi-purpose cookers, contact grills, deep-fat fryers, slow cookers and micro-wave cookers, all accompanied by an appropriate recipe.

### Industrial Relations

Our busy Education and Training Section have just held two four-day courses on basic industrial relations at their training centre at Head Office. The first was for administrative and clerical staff and the second for industrial staff.

Both had the same objective—to equip those attending with a better appreciation of committee work and procedure and to help them become more effective committee members.

All the delegates were newly elected members of committees, and were serving for the first time, coming from all over the Board's area.

Representatives from Head Office, the trade unions and the Electricity Council spoke on a range of subjects: human and industrial relations and behaviour, the role of the committee and the unions' view, were just some. Delegates also heard about committee procedure and briefing, how to use grievance procedure and were able to study case histories.

### On the Air

In a particularly successful debut recently as the principal guest of Jimmy Young on his BBC2 Radio show, Duncan McGrouther, a full-time member of The Electricity Council, 'cleared the air' for a number of our industry's customers when he answered their questions.

In this energy special, dealing specifically with electricity, Mr. McGrouther dealt with a wide



**Duncan McGrouther, left, seen here with J.Y. the D.J.**

range of 'phone-in' questions. The BBC switchboard was kept very busy during his hour-long performance.

His soft, lilting Scottish accent impressed the listeners and prompted one to ring up and remark: *"What a refreshing change it makes to hear a repre-*

### NJIC COURSE

*From left to right: John Bostock (E & T Section), John Chadwick (Liverpool), Owen Jones (Oswestry), Bernie Baldwin (North Mersey),*

*Roger Briscoe (Mid-Mersey), Jim Egan (North Wirral), Jim Nolan (Liverpool), and Fred Clague (Mid-Mersey).*

### NJC COURSE

*From left to right: Roger Wood (Liverpool), Dave Buchanan (Head Office), Joyce Roberts (Dee Valley), Mabel Powell (Head Office), Stephanie Porter (Mid-Cheshire), Joyce Taylor (Mid-Cheshire), Eileen Lewis (Head Office), Colin Moston (Mid-Mersey) and Eric Richardson (E & T Section).*



sentative from a nationalised industry speak without the all-too-common waffle."

Mr. McGrouther looked as if he enjoyed the experience of being on a show which regularly attracts ten million listeners—but he insists that looks can be deceiving!

He is now finding one of the penalties of instant success can be the fan-mail still arriving at Millbank.

### Invested with B.E.M.

A foreman in our engineering department in our Mid-Cheshire District, **James William Foster**, was recently invested with the British Empire Medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lord Leverhulme.

After a lifetime of work in the electricity supply industry, Jim is due to retire in about 12 months time. He has been a very active man at work and in his spare time.

He was a member of the former Knutsford Urban District Council during the 1960's and became chairman of the Housing Committee. He has also served as a school manager.



Lord Leverhulme, left, congratulates Jim Foster after investing him with the British Empire Medal.



Champion cook in the Merseyside and North Wales regional finals of the Tricity Junior Cook of the Year Competition, Michelle Wood is seen here with Anne Roney-Smith, left, Bill Shires (Chief Commercial Officer) and Joan Dittrich.

### Junior Cook

Ten children, aged between ten and 16 years, created and cooked their own recipes in the Merseyside and North Wales Finals of the Tricity Junior Cook of the Year 1980 Competition in Liverpool recently.

After a traumatic session at the cooker, Michelle Wood, a 13-year-old pupil from Range High School, Formby, was adjudged to be the winner.

For her fine effort in this regional final—one of 15—she received a Tricity President cooker, a Ferguson portable

television and a place in the national finals.

These will take place in September at the Savoy Hotel in London, when the Tricity Junior Cook of the Year, as part of her—or his—prize will receive a two weeks' holiday in the South of France and tuition in *haute cuisine* from Roger Verge, one of the Master Chefs of France.

Among the judges at the Liverpool competition were our own **Joan Dittrich** and **Anne Roney-Smith** from Head Office Commercial department.

Michelle's menu consisted of Baked Avocado with Walnut Butter; Plaice in Soured Cream Sauce and Surprise Chocolate Mousse.

The main dish was prepared and cooked as follows:

#### Ingredients:

Two fillets of plaice; salt and pepper; ¼ pint soured cream; ¼ level teaspoon ground ginger; ¼ level teaspoon dry mustard; ½ level teaspoon thyme; paprika; fresh parsley to garnish.

#### Method:

Put fillets of plaice into a lightly greased, shallow, oven-proof dish. Season with salt and pepper. Lightly whisk the soured cream and add mustard, ginger and thyme. Spread this over the fillets of fish. Place in a

pre-heated oven at 350 deg. F. for 20-25 minutes. Serve immediately with paprika and fresh parsley.

### M.P.'s Visit

Two of the new members of the House of Commons were guests of MANWEB Chairman, **Mr. Ben Hastings**, recently, when they visited Head Office in Chester.

Mr. Jock Bruce-Gardine, the Tory member for Knutsford, and Mr. Keith Best, who won the Anglesey seat for the Conservatives, had a working lunch with Mr. Hastings and the Chief Officers.

The Board officers were able to ensure that the M.P.'s were fully aware of the services MANWEB gave their constituents and were able to discuss



Above: **Jock Bruce-Gardine**, M.P., left, with our Chairman, **Ben Hastings**. Below: **Bob Evans** (Assistant Chief Accountant—Revenue), right, points out items on M.P. **Keith Best's** account brought up on the VDU by **Chris Simm**, seated. Completing the picture is **Hugh Hughes** (p.a.—Revenue), left.



areas where problems might arise. The meeting also enabled the M.P.'s to raise any questions they had on the electricity industry in general and MANWEB in particular.

Following lunch, Mr. Best was able to make a brief tour of the building, seeing the computer complex and how the visual display units were used to check customers' accounts, with his own account being raised on the unit.

### Elected

Former meter mechanic in our Liverpool District, **Thomas Smith**, has been elected as a Members' Committeeman on the Electricity Supply (Industrial Staff) Superannuation Scheme.

He was voted in by past and present members of MANWEB and the South Wales Board.

### MANWEB Affair

The wedding which took place a short time ago at the Trisant Chapel between **Iona Evans** and **Andy Stubbs** was very much a MANWEB affair, since the bride has been a telephonist at our Aberystwyth District office for the past seven years and the groom is a 3rd engineer—System in the same offices.

At an informal ceremony prior to the wedding, friends and colleagues gathered to present the happy couple with a number of gifts. One of these—particularly requested by the couple, which caused much amusement—was a magnificent, shiny dustbin! It was decorated for the occasion with fanciful portraits of the recipients.

Incidentally, we hope that the gift was not a reflection on Iona's cooking! No, it couldn't be!!

After the wedding reception at the Bay Hotel, Iona and Andy spent their honeymoon in Jersey. Unfortunately, that is now



**Andy and Iona Stubbs**

over—at least, we think it is—and the happy couple have set up home in Bow Street, Aberystwyth.

### Wedding Bells

We offer our congratulations on the occasion of his wedding to **Dave Catherall**, who is 24, and his bride, **Susan Brannan**, who is 21.

Dave is an assistant in the Power Accounts section of the Head Office Finance Department and Susan is employed by a Chester tailor.

The ceremony took place at St. James Parish Church, Christleton, Chester, with the reception being held at the Stafford Hotel. The happy couple enjoyed a touring honeymoon in North Wales.

**Dave and Susan Catherall**

Picture by **Ray Rowland**





Gwynedd District long-service staff, some with their families, are joined by Mr. Glyn Dodd and senior District Officers—and the organisers of the occasion—for this commemorative picture.

## Long Service Staff at Gwynedd District

COMMEMORATIVE Certificates were presented to members of our Gwynedd District long-service staff by Mr. Glyn Dodd (*Group Manager*) at a ceremony held a short time ago at Llanunda.

Thanking them for their long and loyal service, Mr. Dodd went on to speak of some of the changes which had taken place in our industry during their years of service. He then called on Messrs. Russell Shaw (*District Engineer*) and Doug. Willacey (*District Commercial Engineer*) to introduce each member of their staff who had qualified for Certificates.

They were as follows:

**30 Years:** Messrs. John Beach (*linesman*), Arthur Bunton (*2nd engineer—Supply*), Emlyn Evans-Hughes (*installation inspector*), Dick Hughes (*linesman*) and Austin Jones (*foreman—Engineering*), Miss

Dilys Jones (*shop supervisor*), Messrs. Will Jones (*linesman*), Frank Littler (*energy sales engineer*), John Owen (*foreman—Engineering*), Will Owen (*driver*), Idris Roberts (*street lighting attendant*), Len Roberts (*1st engineer—Production*), Alun Rowlands (*foreman—Engineering*), Ariel Thomas (*Production Engineer*), Mrs. Blodwen Williams (*saleswoman*) and Mrs. Mabel Winterburn (*administrative assistant—Commercial*).

**20 Years:** Messrs. Hugh Davies (*linesman's mate*), Huw Davies (*installation inspector*), Gwilym Jones (*foreman—Commercial*), Keith Jones (*District Administrative Officer*), Alan Owen (*electrician*), Dick Owen (*electrician*), Richard Owen (*clerical assistant, deceased*) and Jack Worrall (*linesman's mate*).

—After receiving his own 20-year Certificate, Mr. Keith Jones proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Malcolm Donaldson (*principal assistant—Admin.*) and to Mr. Hefin Thomas (*administrative assistant—General Services*) for the professional way in which they had organised such an enjoyable presentation ceremony.

## Obituary

*It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of our former colleagues:*

**Mr. Albert Appleton**, aged 79, who was a meter reader until his retirement, in our former St. Helens District.

**Mr. Derek G. Pittman**, aged 42, a bachelor who had worked for the Board for 20 years, was killed in a traffic accident on his way to work at North Mersey District, where he was a principal assistant.

**Mr. Eric G. Townsend**, aged 53, who was married with a teenage son, had completed 32 years' service. Eric was in charge of the cash office in Derby House.

**Mr. Richard (Dick) Owen**, aged 49, a clerical assistant at our Gwynedd District office. He had just completed 20 years' service with the Board.

**Mr. Gwylm Evans**, aged 69, a former assistant storekeeper at St. Helens Road, Caernarfon.

*We extend our sincere sympathy to their families and friends.*



**Mrs. EDITH D. PRICE**

Popular member of our photographic section at Head Office, Mrs. Edith Dorothy Price has now retired from her job as photo-print room assistant.

During her time with us, in addition to her regular duties, "E.D." has copied on micro-film around 180,000 engineering drawings and plans. "She was extremely hard-working"—a quote from her boss—and very well liked by her colleagues, who presented her with a variety of farewell gifts.

Our picture, above, shows "E.D." (4th lady from right) with some of her many friends.

## RETIREMENTS

**Mr. D. ELLERTON**

Friends and colleagues gathered at Macon Way, Crewe, to say farewell to Mr. Dennis Ellerton, the engineering clerical supervisor for the Mid-Cheshire District. At a brief ceremony, Mr. Graham Zeiher (*District Engineer*) thanked Mr. Ellerton for his loyal service.

He joined MANWEB in 1953, at the former Area 2 Office in Sandiway, as a clerk working for the Area

Engineer, and, after a brief spell at Head Office, went to the Mid-Cheshire District in 1971.

He is married and, with his wife Dorothy, shares the hobbies of painting and walking. They plan to walk the length of the Pennine Way in the near future.

**Mr. E. G. WHITTAKER**

After 49 years' service to the Electricity Supply Industry, Mr. Ted Whittaker retired from Liverpool District at Lister Drive, where he was a 3rd engineer in the Contracting Section.

He served an apprenticeship as an electrician with the Liverpool Corporation, completing his time in

**Mr. Ellerton (3rd from left, front row) with some of his colleagues at Macon Way.**



1936. He worked as an electrician until 1940, when he joined the Army and served with REME in Burma, Norway and India, returning to civilian life and the Corporation in 1946.

In 1958, he became an assistant consumers engineer at Hatton Garden, the former Area 1 Office, and moved to Lister Drive as a 3rd engineer with the Board reorganisation nine years ago.

He has a reputation for being a conscientious worker and was always very punctual. He is a very active man, walking to work every morning—refusing lifts, even in bad weather. In his retirement, he plans to continue an active life, gardening, playing bowls and swimming. We also hear that he and his wife Jessie plan to take up the game of golf.

#### Mr. S. PAUL

A regular army man from 1932 until 1945, Mr. Stephen Paul served in a Tank Regiment and was decorated for his driving on active service in North Africa, Italy and Germany.

He left the forces to join the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department as a cable hand. He soon took up driving again and was employed on vehicles up to five tons—child's play to Stephen! He was quickly upgraded to take on the 'big 'uns'!

Very popular with his colleagues in our North Mersey District, Mr. Paul was presented with their farewell gift some time ago. This was coupled with best wishes for a long and happy retirement.



**Popular member of our North Mersey District staff, Mr. Robert Carter, (seen here centre in light suit), surrounded by friends and colleagues on the occasion of his retirement presentation.**

#### Mr. R. CARTER

Keenly interested in vehicles from a very early age—he learned to drive on a Model T Ford when he was 14 years old—Mr. Robert Carter recently retired from his work with our North Mersey District. His job? A driver of course!

Mr. Carter joined the Board 24 years ago at our Pumpfields depot. During the war years, he served with the REME and was with the Eighth Army as a fitter, maintaining all types of vehicles, including heavy tanks.

Very popular with his colleagues, Bob intends to enjoy his retirement with his favourite hobbies—angling and caravanning.

#### Mr. P. PICK

A driver with our Liverpool District for the past 15 years, Mr. Philip Pick slipped quietly off into retirement recently.

For the past eight years, Phil has delivered many thousands of meters to depots throughout the Board.

Friends at Lister Drive who were quick enough to hear about his retirement subscribed to present this very quiet and reserved man, who hated fuss, with a parting gift.

#### TWO GO FROM GWYNEDD DISTRICT

Two members of our Gwynedd District staff who retired from the Board's service recently are Mrs. Mary Davies, a typist at St. Helens Road offices, and Mr. Hugh O. Davies, a linesman's mate based at the Pwllheli depot, whose ill-health brought about his premature retirement.

#### MID-MERSEY PENSIONERS

The much-travelled Mid-Mersey Pensioners Association, under the guidance of Mr. George E. H. Wheeler, recently spent a lovely day on a coach-run through Llanwrst and Colwyn Bay. They also enjoyed lunch as special guests of our Clwyd District colleagues.

Last month, the pensioners had another beautiful sunny day, this time at Southport. In the evening they went to see a play at the St. Helens Theatre.

Their most recent outing was to the Ironbridge Museum—and lunch as guests of the Ironbridge Power Station Sports and Social Club—greatly appreciated by our Mid-Mersey pensioners.

# Calling All Photographers

## PRIZES TO BE WON IN OUR ANNUAL COMPETITION

IN the 'Contact' Photographic Competition last year, we were delighted to receive a record number of entries from a record number of entrants. We are now hoping that the trend will continue in this year's competition and look forward to even more pictures from even more people.

To encourage everyone who has entered before and to interest newcomers in the competition, we are changing the class descriptions and offering more prizes.

We still have quite a number of 'Black and White' enthusiasts, so this class will remain as part of the

competition. There is a prize of £10 for the Best Print.

In the past, our judges have experienced a few difficulties when comparing the quality and colour of transparencies against prints in the various classes. Therefore, we have decided to offer £10 prizes for the Best Colour Transparency and for the Best Colour Print in EACH of the following classes;

1. Best Scene;
2. Best Action;
3. Best Portrait;
4. Best Humour;
5. Best Nature Study (*animals, birds, etc.*)

There will also be a £15 prize for the entrant who submits the Best Over-All Picture.

A set of Rules may be obtained from *The Editor, 'Contact', MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR (internal phone 2167, 2166 or 2164).*

**The closing date for entries in this competition is FRIDAY, 3rd OCTOBER, 1980.**



*"Step-ladders optional!"*

## "Silly Sign" —ON CAMERA COMPETITION



*"It beats barrels!"*

A MAN with a sharp sense of humour and a quick eye for a comic situation is Mr. Ray Stobbart, an electrician in our Clwyd District.

Ray, a keen cameraman, regularly enters his pictures—and wins prizes—in our annual photographic competition.

A couple of his colour transparencies gave us the idea to run a "Silly Sign" competition, to precede our main photographic event later this year.

*At this point, we do apologise to Ray for our black and white reproductions, illustrated here, which do not do full justice to his colour pictures.*

However, we encourage all you amateur photographers to follow his example by keeping your eyes open and your camera handy, for you will most certainly come across other humorous signs.

Take a picture, in colour or in black and white, give it a caption, and send it to *The Editor*. "Con-

*tact*", *MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR, to arrive before 30th September, 1980.*

We will pay £5 each to the sen-

ders of the best "Silly Sign" pictures—with the Editor's decision final.

Our competition is open to all members of MANWEB staff, past and present, and their immediate families.

## Are You a Model Girl?

Members of the MANWEB Head Office Photographic Society are looking for young ladies who would be willing to 'pose' at their monthly photographic sessions. Our feminine friends can be assured that they would not be asked to be photographed in 'Page Three' situations!

Society members meet on the first Tuesday evening of every month (commencing September) at Head Office. The 'models' would be required for about two hours, so, if you would like to help out, come along and bring a friend. At least you will get a good collection of pictures!

Contact Mr. Frank Astbury, Drawing Office, internal telephone 2451.