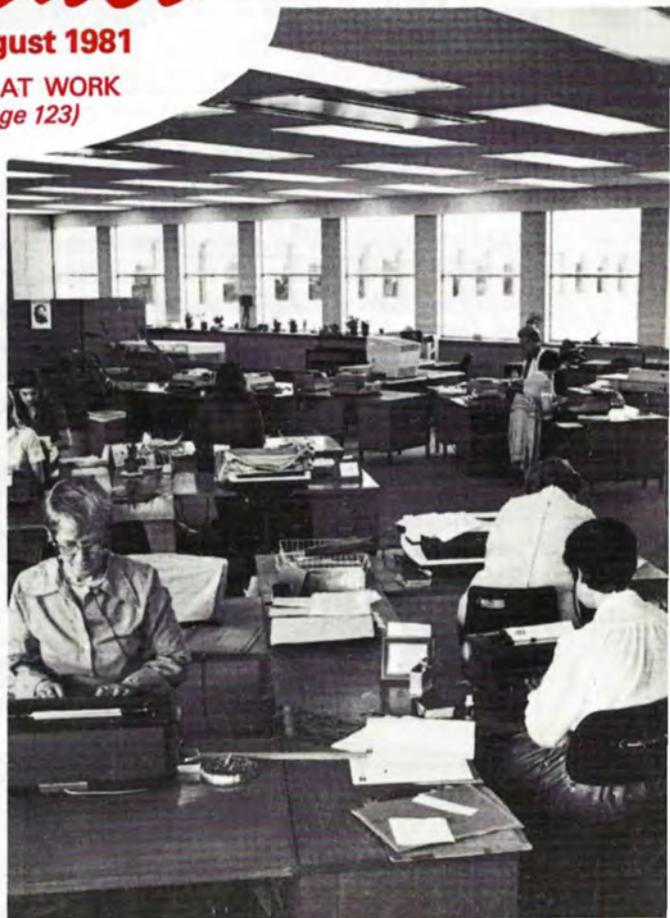




Contact

July/August 1981

MANWEB AT WORK
(See page 123)



New Appointments in our Districts

MANWEB's first Customer Services Manager has been appointed, in the person of **David Mellor**, District Commercial Engineer at Clwyd District since 1970. David took up his newly-created post as CSM for Clwyd in June. **Alan Wadcock**, who had been acting as District Administrative Officer on a secondment basis since May of last year, has returned to Head Office.

Further Customer Services Manager appointments are expected to be made in some other Districts in due course. The next to be announced will be at North Wirral.

In combining the responsibilities of the District Commercial Engineer and the District Administrative Officer, these new management posts will provide much more of a challenge for the officers appointed. They will also enable us to achieve greater co-ordination of service to our customers.

COMMERCIAL POSTS

In seven Districts responsibility for energy sales and supply has been combined under one head, and the following appointments have been made:

John Walker (North Mersey), **David Tinsley** (Mid-Mersey), **Don Hinsley** (Dee Valley), **Terry Keenan** (North Wirral), **Malcolm Cooper** (Mid-Cheshire), **Ron Carter** (Clwyd) and **Frank Littler** (Gwynedd).

The situation in Liverpool, Oswestry and Aberystwyth Districts is still under consideration.

LETTERS

From a West Kirby senior citizen to our North Wirral District Office:

"Just this last week we had your firm doing re-wiring through the house. I felt that I must write to tell you what a very nice young man we had doing the job. He never wasted a minute and was kindly and helpful.

"A nurse comes daily to change my husband's dressings, and your young man moved elsewhere if he was in the room where the nurse was. He worked round us. It was a great pleasure to have him in our house. He did a first-rate job and I would like to say a very big 'thank you'. We did appreciate his services. (Signed)."

The helpful young man was electrician Pete Morley—that's what we call "Customer care".

Dee Valley installed some storage-heaters in the Y.M.C.A. at Ellesmere Port. and the secretary wrote to Energy Sales Representative Barry Griffiths:

"Just a short letter of thanks for your swift and efficient co-operation with regard to the installation of our storage-heaters recently.

"They are working well and it's really effective, also much appreciated by the staff.

"Once again, my thanks for your swift co-operation. (Signed)."

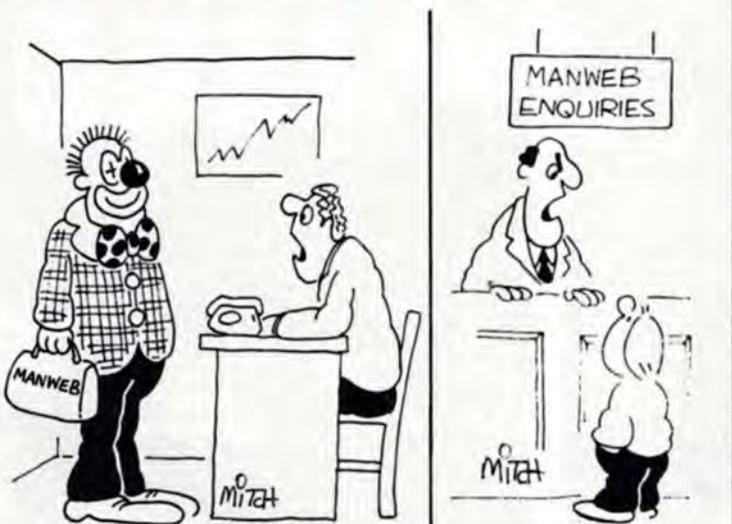
The efficient Dee Valley electrician who did the job was Stuart Montgomery.

And from a Prescot (Merseyside) lady to Liverpool District:

"I just wish to compliment the two gentlemen who installed my new shower. They were extremely efficient, there was no mess, and not one tile broken despite the fact that the bathroom is fully-tiled. I felt that as the public are often so quick to complain I should let you know how pleased I am."

The efficient men from MANWEB were Messrs. **D. Loyley** and **D. Allen**, electricians,

Laugh with Mitch . . .



"Service with a smile is all very well, Williams, but . . ."

"No, I don't know who scored the winning goal in the 1953 Cup Final!"

Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE
OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND
NORTH WALES
ELECTRICITY BOARD

Vol. 33 No. 8

July/August 1981

*On other
pages...*

Call to MANWEB Staff	124
Talking Notes	126
Badminton Teams	131
£1¼ Million Reinforcement Project	132
Supersports at Chester	134
Oswestry District— Safe Drivers	136
Retirements	137
Gwynedd District— Long Service	140

A TOUGHER TEST

EVERYONE has to depend on the electricity supply industry, as they do on such bodies as the water authority, the Post Office and the local councils. All these organisations are monopoly suppliers of services without which society cannot survive, and it follows that people expect them to be conducted in a way which is beyond reproach. Any shortcomings are invariably highlighted and condemned by vociferous critics.

All essential services are tested from time to time, and MANWEB is no exception. It is almost universally taken for granted that when gales and blizzards beset us we can be relied upon to spare no effort to meet such tests. Periods of industrial unrest, when there was not enough electricity to meet demand, were met by our industry in a way which evoked widespread respect and appreciation.

The problems spelled out in our Annual Report and Accounts for 1980/81 (summarised with this copy of 'Contact') face MANWEB with a test of a different and even more formidable nature. Rising costs, coupled with the falling demand for electricity which accompanies the slump, confront us with long-term difficulties much more serious than those created by the worst blizzards or the most crippling strikes.

Our customers will most certainly judge us on our response to this latest and toughest test.

Editorial

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OUR COVER PICTURE—tying in with the publication of the Board's Annual Report and Accounts—is a composite, showing some of MANWEB's staff at work in the Commercial, Engineering, Financial and Secretarial departments.



Members of the MANWEB Management Committee, from left to right: Messrs. Tom Hamilton (Assistant Secretary—Administration), Committee Secretary Colin Leonard (Management Services Controller), Norman Maden (Group Manager), Geoff Barnes (Chief Accountant), Jim Fisher (Chief Engineer), John Scudamore (Secretary), Glyn Dodd (Group Manager), Ben Hastings (Chairman), Jim McLennan (Personnel Manager), Richard Gales (Deputy Chairman), Jim Barraclough (Group Manager) and Peter Hopkins (Chief Commercial Officer).

“Get Involved” —call from the top

CCO ADDRESSES COLLEAGUES ON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A CALL for every MANWEB employee to get involved in a campaign to stimulate the wider and wiser use of electricity in the home was backed by the Board's Management Committee at their June meeting.

Chief Commercial Officer Peter Hopkins told the Committee:

“Every member of the staff has the opportunity to sell the electric way of life on a person-to-person basis, both at work and in their leisure time. Many of us, including meter readers, electricians, installation inspectors, clerks and shop staff often have cause to discuss customers' problems, either face-to-face or over the phone.

“We must carry all the staff with us,” he declared. “It is up to us to enthuse them with an increasing sense of loyalty to the fuel—the sale of which provides their

livelihood—and also to MANWEB, which constantly strives to adapt practices and results to meet the ever-changing attitudes of customers and society in these very challenging times.”

A paper setting out the CCO's views went for discussion at the July meeting of the District Joint Advisory Council and at the August round of LAC meetings.

The main points from the paper are:

- ☆ Britain is suffering its worst slump since the 1930s. Merseyside and North Wales are particularly hard-hit by excessive unemployment.
- ☆ *Our oil and gas reserves will become more scarce and expensive. Cost and public opinion will play a big part in the rate of fuel use. “Renewable” sources—wind, wave and solar—are not likely to meet more than two to three per cent of our needs this century.*
- ☆ Secretary of State David Howell has made the following points about gas supplies:

Cheap gas is a rapidly declining asset. New supplies from distant waters could cost up to ten times as much. The Government has decided that the price of gas for domestic use will rise by ten per cent above the inflation rate. People may switch to gas only to find that in following years they will face very big price increases. The price of domestic gas in Britain is only about half that in Germany and France. Many industrialists say that there

should be a big rise in the price of domestic gas.

- ☆ Coal and nuclear power will be the main basis for electricity generation. Government and electricity industry policy will be to develop these energy sources, transferring demand from scarce oil and gas.
- ☆ *In promoting this transition the electricity industry will always emphasise "wise use".*
- ☆ Storage radiators will be heavily promoted. From a low sales level of 3,000 radiators in 1978, the introduction of "Economy 7" stimulated sales to 6,000 last year. Night-rate "Economy 7" electricity costs only 1.82 pence a unit—the daily cost of running a large storage radiator is equivalent to the cost of a pint of milk or four cigarettes.

- ☆ *Special efforts will be made to help and advise off-peak tariff customers who are not making the best use of their installation.*
- ☆ We will continue to emphasise the benefits of insulation.
- ☆ **The low-energy all-electric housing idea—including Medallion Homes, and Civic Shields for local authorities—will be vigorously promoted. (More than 400 Medallion Homes, at sites ranging from Aberystwyth and Anglesey to Liverpool and Crewe, are in the pipeline. Our first two Civic Shield developments are at Buckley and Connahs Quay.)**
- ☆ Energy-saving domestic appliances, including cookers with dual-circuit rings and dual grills, microwave ovens and shower units, will be promoted.

Crede's superbly-styled TSR storage heater.



Just a few of the energy-saving domestic appliances.



APPLIANCE OWNERSHIP IN THE MANWEB AREA—OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

<i>Appliance</i>	<i>Percentage Ownership</i>	<i>Typical Annual Consumption (units) for a family of three</i>
Electric Cookers	46	1000
Refrigerators	69	300
Fridge-Freezers	20	600
Freezers	24	1000
Washers	71	500 (cold-fill type)
Showers	21	300
Dishwashers	2	500 (cold-fill type)
Storage Heaters	6.8	9600 (three heaters)

Talking Notes

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

TWO new baby cots, purchased with the £250 raised by a dozen members of our Clwyd District Sports and Social Club, were presented to H. M. Stanley Hospital at St. Asaph recently.

Their novel method of realising the cash was by being sponsored to spend a night in the haunted mansion of Plas Mawr, Conwy.

They settled down in the Lantern Room, where legend records that, on a dark and stormy night many years ago, two people met an untimely end. Now their uneasy spirits are said to haunt the chimneys and passages around the mansion.

Throughout their long ordeal, the dauntless dozen fortified themselves with traditional beverages to help ward off any "evil spirits". At last came the dawn and, at eight o'clock, a tired but grateful contingent received a confirmatory signature from the curator of Plas Mawr to acknowledge their overnight stay and so satisfy the sponsors of the £250.

The good people taking part

go on record as **Terry Condé, Peter Hitchcock** (*shouldn't that have been Alfred?*), **Maria Howes, John and Betty Hughes, David Miller, Gillian Reeve, Keith Roberts, Lesley Roberts, Karen Snape, Rodney Taylor and Rosemary Tomlinson.**

Believers or not, we think that they were all very adventurous to tackle this most unusual way of raising money for a most worthy cause.

Wet Walk

On what could only be described as one of our wettest Sundays this year, 28 brave 'soles' gathered at Bromborough to start a 12-mile cross-country

walk in an effort to raise much-needed cash for the Clatterbridge Cancer Research Trust.

The walkers came from MAN-WEB staff at our North Wirral District Office, Birkenhead shop and Head Office—together with their unsuspecting friends.

Undeterred by the atrocious weather, all retained their enthusiasm, despite the unexpected obstacles like the swollen stream which had to be crossed and the lengthy detours caused when trying to read rain-sodden maps.

The actual mileage traversed ranged between ten and 14, dependant upon navigational skills or, in some cases, the number of hostelries encountered *en route*.

Thankfully, everyone managed to get back to the starting point in varying states of fitness and sobriety. The joggers were easily outnumbered by the hobblers—proved by the number of blisters displayed on feet the following day.

However, everyone decided that it was all worthwhile when organiser **Barbara Chambers** (*Debt Control*) disclosed that the walk's sponsors had subscribed £470 which, together with the £30 raised by a raffle, brought the grand total to £500 for donation to the Trust.

All the walkers wish to thank their sponsors for the cash, those who devised the route and provided the maps and the brave band who gave invaluable moral support as "cheerleaders" along the route.

The Trust, in turn, sent a nice

Presenting the cheque for the cots, we see, from left to right: Sister Cliff, Maria Howes, Divisional Nursing Officer Miss E. Lloyd, Rodney Taylor, Gillian Reeve and Mr. and Mrs. John Hughes.



letter of thanks for the splendid donation and for the marvellous effort put in by the wonderful walkers.

First Tope

The active fishing section of the Chester Sports and Social Club have recorded their first tope of the season. The angler was club member **Pete Harburn**, a keen and successful regular on the section's deep-sea trips.

The tope, a member of the shark family, was caught using mackerel bait near the seabottom. It took Pete about ten minutes to play and "boat" the fish. The trip was aboard the Conway-based "Jac-y-Daw", owned and skippered by John "Dumpy" Roberts, with whom the club regularly book trips. It was John who found the "mark" five miles out in the Irish Sea.

The trip, with ten fishermen aboard, landed 15 skate, several large mackerel, a couple of whiting and codling and numerous dabs. The anglers were made up from a wide range of members, from two 16-year-olds on their first trip to veteran angler and retired Group Manager **Harry Telfer**.

Without doubt the tope was the highlight of the trip, and the

Pete Harburn with the first tope.



Golf competition winner **Dave Griffin**, second left, receives his trophy from **George Harrison**. Runner-up was **Mike Wittenburgh**, third left, and in third place was **Keith Spencer**.

35-lb. fish makes Pete a member of the exclusive "Tope Club". The fish was not killed—it was brought aboard to check the weight and pose for photographs, before being lowered gently over the side to quickly disappear beneath the choppy green Irish Sea.

Memorial Trophy

Open to all MANWEB members of Nalgo, the annual golf competition for the John Greenhalgh Memorial Trophy was won by **Dave Griffin** (*Computer Services*).

Although not blessed with the customary sunny weather, the rain did manage to avoid Padeswood and Buckley golf course for the duration of the competition, much to the relief of the 21 entrants—including three ladies!

Dave won this keenly-fought Stableford competition with 34 points. **Mike Whitenburgh** (*Personnel*), with 33 points, was placed second on a card play-off with **Keith Spencer** (*Computer Services*).

In the unavoidable absence of **Colin Leonard** (*Management Services Controller*), who had a virus infection, the trophy and

prizes were presented by **George Harrison**, the MANWEB Nalgo Sports Secretary, who won the competition last year.

Mrs. Betty Greenhalgh, who takes a keen interest in this popular and now firmly-established competition, donated a bottle of ten-year-old malt whisky to the winner.

Wedding

We offer our congratulations to **Brian Tomkins**, a storekeeper at our Oswestry District offices, and his bride, Elaine Barton, on the occasion of their marriage which took place a short time ago at the Oswestry Registry Office.

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Tomkins.





Chester bowlers, from left to right: Brian and Jane Sheppard, Don Andrews, Lyn Williams, Gren Roberts (S & S Club Secretary), Dewi Jones and Wyn Jones.

Friends and colleagues in the District subscribed to present the happy couple with wedding gifts of a canteen of cutlery and a set of saucepans, with their best wishes for many years of wedded bliss.

Bowls Contest

A very pleasant evening as spent by the Bowls Section of the Chester Sports and Social Club, at the West Cheshire Hos-

pital's clubhouse and on their greens.

The occasion was the annual bowls competition, in which 16 men competed for the title. Winner this year was **Wyn Jones**, who beat last year's title-holder **Dewi Jones** fairly convincingly in the final.

Dewi showed his true form in the final of the mixed doubles contest, in which, together with partner **Lyn Williams**, he soundly thrashed the husband and wife

team of **Jane and Brian Sheppard**, by 15 games to nil.

The victors celebrated and the vanquished drowned their sorrows in the West Cheshire's bar after the match. Section Secretary **Don Andrews** organised the very successful event.

Off On Course

Having resigned from his post as civil trades foreman in our Dee Valley District, **Anthony Tonks** is to take a Clerk of Works course organised by the Manpower Services Commission at Liverpool College of Further Education.

Tony started work with MANWEB as a carpenter/joiner in the former Chester District some 17 years ago. He transferred to Dee Valley District, where he has been a foreman for the past ten years.

He made many friends during his time with us, and, as a keen badminton player, was a member of MANWEB's successful team in the electricity supply industry championships a few years ago.

At a farewell presentation ceremony, **Mr. Arthur Jones (1st engineer—Production)**, who has worked closely with Tony for

Dee Valley District friends and colleagues bid farewell to Tony Tonks, centre left, as he receives their parting gift from Arthur Jones.





STEADY WORK FOR ELECTRICIANS

While in Wrexham some time ago, we came across a team from the Contracting section of our Dee Valley District, working on a £50,000 contract for the Wrexham Maelor Borough Council. They were busily engaged on the wiring of a four-storey office block extension to the Guildhall—a job which is scheduled for completion later this year.

Our picture shows, from left to right: Bob McLuskey (electrician), Chris Allen (apprentice), Richard Williams (apprentice), Barry Lloyd (electrician), Andrew Brown (apprentice), Sion Broe (electrician) and Frank Jones (foreman electrician).

many years, thanked him for his unstinting help and co-operation with his work and, on behalf of all his friends, wished him every success in his studies and his future career.

Calling Musicians!

On the look-out for musical talent among his MANWEB colleagues is **Bob Griffin**, a storeman at our New Crane Street, Chester, depot, who plays the drums in the Bob Allen Group in his spare time.

The Group plays at clubs and private engagements in and around the Chester area, and Bob is now hoping to hear from instrumentalists of all kinds—particularly a tenor sax and an alto sax—with an eye to expansion in the future.

Bob has been involved in the musical scene for around 40 years, going back to the wartime Royal Air Force No. 2 Dance Band.

"I would be delighted to hear from any MANWEB employee living within a 30-mile radius of

Chester," says Bob—who can be contacted at home on Chester 314109, or internal extension (New Crane Street) No. 40.

Pro-Am Tournament

Keeping up with the times, our golfing colleagues in the Dee Valley District Sports and Social Club introduced their "Pro-Am" Better Ball Stableford Competition on the Wrexham course a short time ago, with the lower handicap players considered as the "Professionals".

First in the clubhouse were

MANWEB'S FIRST CIVIC SHIELD HOMES

Councillor Colin Bithell, Vice-Chairman of the Alyn and Deeside District Council, hands over the keys to one of the first tenants to move into the new "Civic Shield Award" bungalows at Buckley, Clwyd. Councillor John P. Edwards, Council Chairman, is pictured receiving the Electricity Council's Award from Mr. Peter Hopkins (Chief Commercial Officer).

The progressive Alyn and Deeside District Council has qualified for two awards—this one at Buckley and another at Connahs Quay. All the homes have been built especially for the elderly, and are designed to conserve energy by efficient use and to provide comfort conditions for the tenants, with reasonable running costs.



Norman Clarke (*Production Engineer*) and **Ken Edwards** (*2nd engineer—System*), with 41 points which proved to be unbeatable.

Close behind on 38 points came **John Young** (*principal engineer—Planning H.O.*) and **Dennis Jones** (*clerical, Material Control*). In third place was **Brian Doyle** (*System Engineer*) and **Bob Norfolk** (*fitter electrical, Legacy*).

Arrangements for this most competitive and enjoyable match were made by **Hywel Jones** (*2nd engineer—Management Service*) and the prizes were presented by **Trevor Edwards** (*1st engineer—Energy Sales*).

Golden Days

Former section leader in the Drawing Office in the Love Lane days, **William E. Steers** recently celebrated his golden wedding anniversary with his wife, Elsie.

On leaving school, Bill went to work for the Wallasey Corporation Electricity Department. During the war years, he served in the Army and was evacuated from France on board the "*Lancastria*". On the way home, the ship was bombed and sunk and Bill found himself in the sea—to be rescued once again.

We now join with their friends in offering our congratulations to Bill and Elsie on their 50 years together. They now live at 1 Sandhole Cottages, Woodford Lane, Winsford, Cheshire.

Stork Visit

Our heartiest congratulations go to **Arthur Ellinson** (*District Administrative Officer, Dee Valley*), whose wife, Anne, gave birth to a baby boy, John Gareth, on 22nd June.

The newcomer will have three sisters looking after him as he grows up.



Paddle partners Keith Bell, front, and Peter Lawn.

Canoe Team

One of the two men in a boat or—to be more accurate—canoe, who paddled their way to Birmingham and back in an effort to raise money for projects at St. John's Church, Rhosymedre, was **Keith Bell**, a groundsman at our Legacy depot.

His paddling partner was Peter Lawn, a local company director. Neither had been in a canoe until about a month prior to setting off from Trevor Wharf, near Llangollen, at four o'clock in the morning a couple of weeks ago.

When they arrived back at Trevor on the following afternoon, they had paddled their canoe for 200 miles along the waterways.

Keith, who started his working life as a motor mechanic, later managed a local supermarket before joining MANWEB four years ago.

He is married to Violet, and they have two sons.

Overcome by Gas!

The beautiful grounds of Eaton Hall were the setting for a cricket match between the MANWEB Head Office team and one from the North Western Gas Board.

Batting first in the 40-over-a-side game, the gasmen knocked up 177 for eight wickets. **Amyln ab Iorwerth** took five of the wickets, two were run out and the remaining one was claimed by **Dave Spencer**.

The steady bowling of **Dave Linton** kept the gasmen's score down, but his tight overs failed to give him the reward of a wicket. However, with the promising start to the MANWEB innings by **Tony Murphy** (36) and **Keith Dyer** (27) crumbling with a succession of falling wickets, it was Dave Linton who slogged away to a quick 46 and, together with Dave Spencer (23), the partnership added 54, giving the electricity team a fighting chance.

The last man was run out on the last ball of the match, with MANWEB still needing 12 runs—and succumbing to "gas pressure".

Green Roberts and **Cliff Houlbrook** were the organisers of the game, which was played in a very friendly spirit.

TO LET

Luxury seven-berth caravan on select site overlooking Menai Straits, near Caernarfon. Showers, shop, nice club, heated pool, kiddies' games room. August—£60 p.w., Sept. £50 p.w. 'Phone *Waunfawr* (0286-85) 525.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Kinnerton, Near Chester—4-bed. det. house, integral garage, lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, utility, downstairs w.c. Fully-tiled bathroom, coloured suite. Built-in wardrobes. Oil-fired central heating, loft and cavity wall insulation, plus double glazing. £27,500 for early completion. 'Phone Kinnerton 660125 after 6 p.m.

Creditable Performance

Our two teams who competed in the 12th Annual Electricity Supply Industry Badminton Championships put up very creditable performances against the 18 other teams in the tournament.

Hosted by our colleagues in the Southern Electricity Board and held a short time ago at the Bracknell Sports Centre near Reading, the Championships saw MANWEB finish second in one group and fourth in another.

Our Board's first team also reached the semi-finals of the Plate event before losing to the eventual winners.

The main championship was won, for the fifth year in succession, by the powerful team from the East Midlands Electricity Board.

MANWEB's team captain and manager, **Paul Wilkinson** (*1st engineer—System*), said that he was pleased with the overall performances this year and was encouraged by the play of several newcomers to the teams.

"This promises much for the future," he commented.

"However, we are always on the look-out for new talent," he went on. *"If we are to beat seemingly invincible teams like the East Midlands, then our players must be of good league standard, as these tournaments are played at a very skilful level."*

If you would like to see if your standard of play meets the requirements—or if it can be improved—then Paul will be very happy to arrange a trial for you. He can be contacted at our Liverpool District in the Engineering section—internal telephone 575.

"MANWEB won the tournament on several occasions some years ago," he said. *"We are eager to build teams to return to our former glories."*

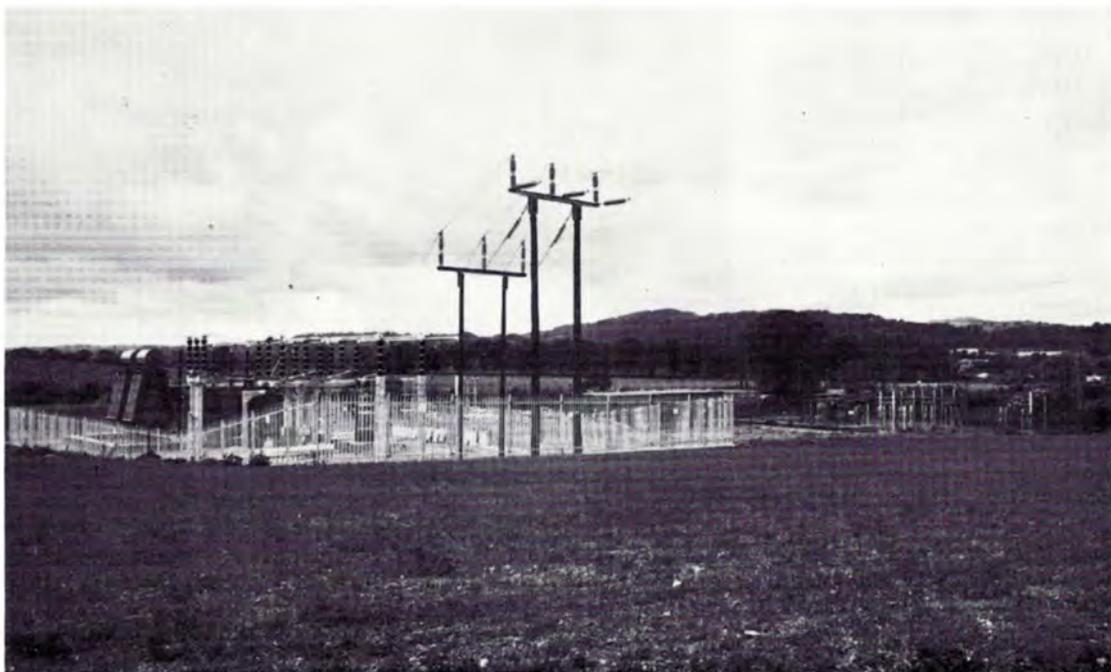


MANWEB's first team in the recent badminton competition. From left to right, standing: **John Ford** (Head Office), **Paul Thomson** (North Wirral) and **Paul Wilkinson** (Liverpool). Seated: **Jennie Ashton** (North Mersey), **Marie Blair** (Head Office), **Maureen Donaldson** (Head Office) and **Carol Booth** (Head Office).

Badminton Tournament Teams

Our second team, who also played very well, seen here, from left to right, standing: **Martin Bazely** (Head Office), **Joe Pugh** (Head Office), **Dave Fazakerley** (Aberystwyth) and **John Ashton** (North Mersey). Seated: **Audrey Garmory** (Head Office), **Heather Lumb** (North Wirral), **Joan Hughes** (Head Office) and **Doreen Rushton** (North Wirral).





The neat and new site at Welshpool, housing the 132/33-kV supply point.

Top engineers on the £1¼-million project. From left to right: Messrs. Jack Critchley (1st engineer—Construction Project Group), Geoff Price (senior engineer—Construction) and Arnold Houghton (1st engineer—Construction Project Group).



Cost Savings on Network Reinforcement Programme

**Trident line
utilised**

WITH the establishment of a new 132/33-kV supply point at Welshpool, engineers from our Plant and Construction section at Head Office have recently completed another major project.

This £1¼-million reinforcement of the network will successfully overcome the problems previously experienced on the Oswestry-Welshpool-Newton 33-kV system when, because of the long distance involved, it was not possible to maintain satisfactory voltage levels whenever a fault occurred.

A considerable reduction in the overall cost of the project was effected by utilising a redundant 45-MVA 132/33-kV transformer from the Hawarden grid sub-station, together with various other items of surplus plant from sub-stations at Connahs Quay, Hooton Park, Mollington and Oswestry.

New work included the complete refurbishing of the existing 33-kV site at Welshpool, to bring the station up to fault-level requirements associated with a present-day grid supply point. Nearly 140 cubic metres of concrete was poured, to set and form the three-metre-deep plinths to take the 45-MVA transformer tank and cooler.

Despite the extensive area covered, the new site is screened from the nearby road by a high hedge and, being built in a dip in the landscape, is barely visible from more than a few hundred yards across the open countryside.

Further cost-saving, as well as environmental consideration, was obtained by constructing the new 132-kV overhead circuit on the MANWEB-developed low-profile wood-pole "Trident" line. This was pioneered by our Board on an eight-kilometre stretch at Amlwch in Anglesey, and it is now generally accepted for the economies it creates as well as for the great reduction in visual impact. The new line, spanning the full 29-kilometre route, is a record-breaker in being the longest run of this type in the country.

The whole project was started in the middle of last year and the new supply point was commissioned recently, just one week ahead of the scheduled programme date of completion!

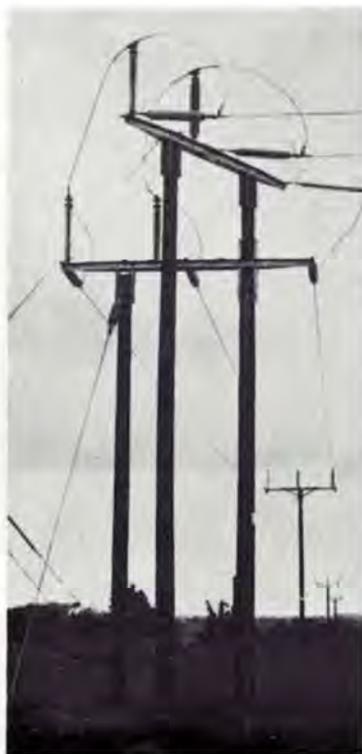
A close-up of a new type of porcelain insulator used on part of the 132-kV Trident line. At this moment in time, these proved to be much more economical than insulators made from other materials.



NESTING SAFE!

Nestling comfortably amongst the heavy switchgear equipment in the 33-kV section of the grid sub-station at Welshpool was a blackbird, pictured right, hatching her eggs. Despite the work going on in readiness for the big "switch-on", our staff made sure she was not disturbed.

Another story featuring one of our feathered friends comes from Aberystwyth District, where, in just one week, a blackbird built a nest and laid two eggs in—of all places—the engine of a Transit van. Not wanting to disturb the bird at so critical a time, our colleagues did not take a photograph on this occasion.



TRI-POLE

An efficient functional way of overcoming a difficult non-standard line-entry into the Oswestry 132-kV grid sub-station was achieved by using a tri-pole installation designed by Mr. Michael L. Hughes (senior engineer—Lines) at Head Office. Another first for MANWEB!





SUPERSPORTS AT CHESTER



For the eighth consecutive year, it rained on the Chester Supersports Contest, but it failed to dampen the spirits of the 17 teams of three men and three ladies. After the 19 games, the winners were a Computer team "Decrepid Decathletes", pictured opposite with Chief Engineer Jim Fisher, the Club President.

Our 'Contact' cameraman was on hand to record the scenes; so too were press and other photographers. We have included pictures by Tony Kelly, Ray Rowland and Gareth Owen.







Superintendent Michael Lane, Commander, North Shropshire Sub-Division, West Mercia Constabulary, presents Mr. Les Purcell with his 15-Year Medal.

PRESENTATIONS TO SAFE DRIVERS

Some of our safe drivers based at Oswestry District office look on, as Superintendent Michael Lane presents Mr. Norman Mason with his award.



Staff in our Oswestry District who qualified for safe driving awards were invited to presentation ceremonies held a short time ago at three venues in the District.

In addition to a number of Diplomas, other awards presented were as follows:—

Silver Bar to 20-Year Medal:

Messrs. Walter H. Jones and Cecil C. Lewis (*Newtown and Welshpool*). Mr. R. Arthur Boyling (*Whitchurch*).

15-Year Medal:

Mr. Leslie Purcell (*Whitchurch*).

Bar to Ten-Year Medal:

Mr. Gareth M. Joseph (*Newtown and Welshpool*). Messrs. Ivor Jones and Norman C. M. Mason (*Oswestry*). Messrs. Eric Field and Jack H. Leach (*Whitchurch*).

Ten-Year Medal:

Messrs. T. Hywel Ellis and William Ellis (*Oswestry*). Mr. Charles H. Taylor (*Whitchurch*).

Bar to Five-Year Medal:

Messrs. J. W. Harry Davies, W. Stanley Holloway, Robert T. Hughes, D. Lewis Jones, H. Emrys Morris and T. Allen Owen (*Newtown and Welshpool*). Messrs. Raymond Owen, John J. Pritchard, R. T. Sidney Pugh, Gwyn Roberts, R. Glyn Thomas and Herbert J. Williams (*Oswestry*). Messrs. Leonard J. Brookfield, Brian E. Johnson, Frank D. Jones and Eric Wainwright (*Whitchurch*).

Five-Year Medal:

Mr. Jack E. Joseph (*Newtown and Welshpool*). Messrs. Malcolm Cartwright, R. Anthony Conde, Ronald Entwistle, W. Vernon Evans, Harold Higgins and J. Brian Smith (*Oswestry*). Mr. Terry Edge (*Whitchurch*).

Pictures from the Welshpool/Newtown presentation ceremony were unfortunately not available at the time of our going to press.



Popular linesman in Dee Valley District Mr. Ernie Cartwright, centre right, says his farewells to Mr. Norman Clarke and his colleagues.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. J. E. CARTWRIGHT

Ill-health brought about the premature retirement for a very popular linesman in our Dee Valley District, Mr. J. "Ernie" Cartwright, after nearly 30 years' service with MANWEB.

In making a farewell presentation of a cassette radio and a commemorative card signed by more than 70 workmates, Mr. Norman Clarke (*Production Engineer*) spoke of Mr. Cartwright's time with the Vauxhall Construction Unit during the busy period of the North Wales Rural Development Programme and of his subsequent work with the overhead line team in the District. "A career which he could look back on with considerable pride," he concluded.

Friends and colleagues tendered their best wishes to Mr. Cartwright for a rapid return to good health to enjoy many years of happy retirement.

It was not without some emotion that Mr. Cartwright thanked his friends for their parting gift and for the many happy years of their comradeship.

Mr. S. ADAMS

For most of the past 45 years, the electricity supply industry has benefitted from the work carried out by Mr. Stanley Adams, who has now retired from his job as principal assistant in our Mid-Mersey District customer accounts section.

Beginning his working life with the former Warrington Corporation Electricity Department, he was soon to spend four years serving with the Army in Iran, Iraq, Palestine and, finally, Italy.

On his return home, he was again on his travels to work at St. Helens, Eversley, Head Office, and then back to Warrington.

In his private life, Mr. Adams lists amongst his

At a "quiet, informal ceremony", Mr. Stan Adams, seen here with his wife, Rose, received many parting gifts from his friends and colleagues in Mid-Mersey District.



pastimes—in between walking the dog—swimming, gardening, music and reading.

Friends and colleagues gathered at District Office recently to hear Mr. Dennis Hodgetts (*District Administrative Officer*) thank Mr. Adams for his many years of loyal service, before presenting him with a host of parting gifts, which included luggage and a power-tool kit. His wife, Rose, received a bouquet of flowers.

Miss J. HANNAH

An attractive log-effect electric fire and a beautiful onyx-marble table-lamp were the centre-pieces of a display of gifts from friends and colleagues to mark the recent retirement of Miss Jean Hannah, private secretary to our Chairman, Mr. Ben Hastings.

Although she was christened as Jane, she became popularly known as Jean when she came to work for MANWEB in 1948. Previously she had been employed by a firm of chartered accountants and a shipping line in Liverpool.

Her first post with the Board was as secretary to the former Chief Engineer, Mr. P. D. Stowell. In 1962 she became private secretary to former Deputy Chairman Mr. D. G. Gwyn and, 11 years later, moved into the top spot as private secretary to the then Chairman, Mr. D. G. Dodds, until our present Chairman took office.

Born and bred on Merseyside, Jean lived in Liverpool until she moved to Wallasey a short time ago.

When we asked her what her future plans were, she commented: *"I've always taken life as it comes and I intend to continue this philosophy into my days of retirement. When working, you tend to lose touch with family and friends, so now I shall be able to pick up the threads again and make more visits."*

In thanking Jean for her helpful co-operation in the

past, we in the Information Office now join with her many friends in wishing her happy and full years in retirement.

Mr. J. S. WHEAT

A storekeeper in the Mid-Mersey District, Mr. John S. Wheat retired from the Board after 48 years' service in the electricity industry.

Jack—as he was known to his friends and colleagues—is a quiet but very popular member of the Runcorn depot. He joined the Mersey Power Company in 1932 and served continuously, apart from a break for war service in H.M. Forces.

Although Jack—a bachelor who lives with his sister—requested "no fuss", we could not let such long and faithful service go unrecorded. We wish him a happy retirement to enjoy his hobbies of gardening and walking.

Mr. A. HAUGHTON

On his last day at work, Mr. Arthur Haughton spent part of his time in breaking and entering houses. As a joiner employed in our Mid-Mersey District, part of his job included working for the debt recovery section. This meant that, in some extreme cases, his expertise was required to get into the homes of difficult customers in order to cut off their electricity supply.

Mr. Haughton served his time as a tradesman with his uncle in St. Helens. After working for various local firms, he joined MANWEB in 1950 at the Carlton Street depot.

In between times, he had some lively experiences in the Royal Engineers, working on airfield construction during the war years. After service in Iceland, things warmed up a little when he took part in the D-Day landings and the events thereafter. On demobilisation,

Friends at Head Office give a happy send-off to Miss Jean Hannah, as she receives a parting handshake from Mr. Ben Hastings (*Chairman*).





Mr. Arthur Haughton, centre left, on his last day at work, says farewell to some of his many friends in Mid-Mersey District.

he held the rank of Company Quartermaster Sergeant.

A keen chess player who also enjoys reading, gardening and motoring, Mr. Haughton is married to Hilda, and they have a daughter and a son.

Friends and colleagues in the District, in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Haughton many years of happy retirement, subscribed farewell gifts of a wrist-watch and an electric hedge-trimmer.

Mr. G. GOSS

Probably the smallest member of our staff driving the largest vehicle at our Llandudno Junction depot, Mr. Gordon Goss, has now taken to a life of retirement.

Before joining MANWEB in 1948, Mr. Goss was a stable-lad and he has retained his keen interest in horses ever since—even though he transferred to horse-power.

His first job with the Board was as a tractor driver with the construction teams engaged on the North Wales Rural Development Programme. When this project was completed, he stayed with us as a driver.

Friends at the depot subscribed to present him with farewell gifts of a digital clock radio and a bouquet of flowers for Mrs. Goss.

Mr. T. H. JONES

Friends and colleagues at Oswestry subscribed to present Mr. Thomas Humphrey Jones with a barometer on the occasion of his early retirement from his job as a meter reader in the District.

In making the presentation, Mr.

Tegwyn Williams (*District Administrative Officer*) thanked Tom for the conscientious service and friendship offered over the years to customers and staff alike.

It was unfortunate that ill-health forced Mr. Jones to retire after 24 years' service with MANWEB. However, his many friends join in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Jones many happy years of retirement together, and trust that Tom will make further progress with his Welsh lessons!



Above: Diminutive Mr. Gordon Goss receiving his colleagues' farewell gift from Mr. Islwyn Morris (*Production Engineer*).

Below: Mr. Thomas Jones, centre right, with his retirement gift from friends, presented by Mr. Teg. Williams.



Outings for Retired Employees

Getting out and about are members of Mid-Mersey Pensioners Group. One recent visit took them to Heaton Hall, a 17th Century building being renovated by the Manchester Council. The day had started with a thunderstorm, but cleared up after lunch, in time for a scenic tour of the Derbyshire Dales and the Peak District.

The rain seems to be attracted by the Mid-Mersey Group for, at another trip—this time to North Wales—it again rained, but they must be a righteous lot, for the sun came through again. A Welsh

woollen mill in Snowdonia, lunch at Rhyl and a pleasant afternoon at Llandudno completed another successful outing.

A 49-strong party of North Wirral pensioners went on a coach trip to York. The outing was organised by the committee of the Manual Workers Benevolent Society. The chairman of the society, Mr. John Powell (*District Engineer*), was there to wave them off on a fine sunny morning. After a day of sight-seeing and shopping, the party returned home in the late evening, having had a most enjoyable day.

LONG SERVICE STAFF AT GWYNEDD



40-Year man Mr. Wilfred H Blunt, left, with Group Manager Mr. Glyn Dodd.

Members of our Gwynedd District staff who had qualified for long-service awards received their commemorative certificates from Mr. Glyn Dodd (*Group Manager*) at a special ceremony held a short time ago at Llanwanda.

Those who received awards were as follows:—
40 Years: Mr. Wilfred H Blunt (*2nd engineer*).

30 Years: Messrs. Graham L. Davies (*administrative assistant*), O. Frank Ellis (*supply engineer*), Aaron Eynon (*linesman*) and Arthur Ernest Jones (*shop supervisor, retired*). Miss E. Wyn Jones (*typist, retired*). Messrs. Robert T. Jones (*2nd engineer*), Gwylim P. Morris (*administrative assistant*), Hugh Roberts (*electrician*), Doug. J. Willacey (*District Commercial Engineer*), Glanfor Williams (*2nd engineer*) and Thomas Williams (*linesman*).

20 Years: Messrs. Delwyn Hughes (*electrician*),

John Rees Jones (*linesman*), Owen R. Pritchard (*electrician*), Gwynedd Roberts (*administrative assistant*), Ernest Rogers (*former energy sales engineer*) and Hugh Williams (*joiner*).

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

You will see your favourite photograph in print if you win one of the classes in our Annual Photographic Competition.

Last year, we had nearly 500 entries, but many of the pictures were not up to our usual high standard. So, in order to cut down on the quantity and perhaps raise the quality of the pictures, we are restricting the number of entries in any ONE CLASS to three per person instead of five.

A full set of the rules, classes and conditions of entry will be published on all notice-boards. Individual copies may be obtained from the Information Office, 5S1, Head Office.

So, line up your picture, press the button, get it developed and enter it in our competition. In addition to getting your photograph published, you will also win some cash!

But please hurry . . . closing date for entries is 25th September, 1981.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we report the deaths of the following former colleagues:

Mr. John M. Humphries, aged 60, who died suddenly at work after 30 years as a linesman based at Blaenau Ffestiniog depot.

Mr. Frederick W. Ince, aged 78, a former sub-District clerk at Whitchurch.

Mr. D. G. Ivor Owen, aged 70, a former timber-feller and labourer at Welshpool and Newtown.

Mr. Charles G. Smith, aged 61,

a former installation inspector in our Dee Valley District prior to his ill-health retirement in December 1977.

Mr. Harold Temperley, aged 74, a former sales assistant at our Widnes shop.

We extend our sincere sympathy to their families and friends.

In a letter from Mr. Joe Stead, a retired electrical fitter from North Mersey District, he asked us to publish his sincere thanks to his friends for their help and concern during his recent bereavement.

Electricity Supply Industry Trout Championships 1981

TAN-Y-GRISIAU LAKE
Blaenau Ffestiniog

Saturday, 5th September
1981

Fishing 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

£150 worth of prizes

NO BAG LIMIT

*Optional Pool
could be £150*

Send s.a.e. for entry form
to

Liz Griffiths
Secretary's Dept.
CEGB North Western
Region
Europa House
Bird Hall Lane
Stockport SK3 0XA
