

CONTACT

Manweb's monthly newspaper
for staff and their families.

MID MERSEY LIVERPOOL NORTH MERSEY
DEE VALLEY HEAD OSWESTRY
GWYNEDD OFFICE ABERYSTWYTH
NORTH WIRRAL CLWYD MID CHESHIRE

Vol. 41. No. 3

March 1989

New divisions are created in the run-up to Manweb plc

PREPARING FOR PRIVATE POWER

THREE new Divisions have been formed by Manweb in a radical reorganisation to meet the demands of operating in the private sector. Each Division will represent a separate business with its own accounting system. One will be responsible for buying and selling electricity, the second will control the distribution network and the third will be a retailing division.

The Manweb reorganisation anticipates the requirements of legislation currently passing through Parliament. This will introduce regulation to those parts of the privatised electricity industry which will have a monopoly.

The Secretary of State, Cecil Parkinson, has appointed the existing Manweb Chairman, Bryan Weston, and his Deputy, Richard Gales, as Chairman and Managing Director designate of the new Manweb plc.

Financial Director of the corporate body, which is scheduled to come into being in 1990, is John Roberts, the present Financial Director. The remaining three existing Executive Directors of Manweb have been appointed to head

the three new Divisions. Engineering Director Denis Farquhar becomes Director, Network Services Division. His responsibility will be maintenance and development of the electricity network from the national grid intake points to

the meters of all electricity customers.

The Network Services Division will publish a tariff for use of the network by Manweb Power Marketing Division or any other licensed suppliers of electricity.

by Sam Doughty

Colin Leonard, former Manweb Secretary, is appointed Director, Power Marketing Division. His Division will seek to procure the cheapest electricity available, selling it to all classes of customer. The marketing and development of electric load will also come within his responsibility.

The sale of appliances will be under the control of the Director, Trading Division, Peter Hopkins, who has been until now the Commercial Director. He will have the 58 Manweb shops, electrical contracting and appliance servicing businesses to develop.

The reorganisation of Manweb starts immediately and Manweb Chairman Mr Weston commented: "It is fairly obvious now from the Bill before Parliament, and the details of the draft electricity licences, what the Regulator will require of the 12 distribution companies. I firmly believe this new structure will enable us to meet these requirements and allow us to develop business opportunities.

"Internally it means some reorganisation and redistribution of senior management responsibilities. Consultation with staff and trade unions has been very positive.

"I am impressed by their commitment to our pressing ahead with the changes. We have the people to succeed, and now we have the structure. These two key elements will help us to work with our customers in developing the prosperity of the region, and bring success to Manweb."

Fit for Work award for



Manweb

MANWEB has received a Fit for Work Award for outstanding efforts to employ disabled people. The Award was presented to Manweb's Chairman Bryan Weston by the Duke of Westminster, on behalf of the Department of Employment, at a special ceremony at Winsford Civic Hall, Cheshire.

The scheme was launched in 1979 to encourage employers to look at fresh ways to provide equal opportunities for people with disabilities, and Manweb was nominated for the Award by Chester Jobcentre.

Mr Weston paid tribute to Manweb's staff, and said it was their efforts being recognised. "The nomination came as a great surprise, as we feel we are doing just what any employer ought to be doing for disabled people. To be quite honest, we would like to do more."

Manweb actively encourages job applications from disabled people, and has a written policy which all staff are made aware of. Seminars on recruitment, promotion and training of disabled employees are held for senior staff. (Cont'd Page 3)

Picture by Mike Hall



Apprentices' big day

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Retirement round-up

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Open for business

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Family fun

PAGE 4

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Changing faces

Foursome take early retirement

DEE Valley District has said goodbye to four employees who have taken early retirement due to ill-health. All four finished work on January 31. They are:—

RONNIE CRABTREE, 54, a Chargehand Labourer at New Crane Street Depot, who had completed 33 years in the electricity supply industry.

WILLIAMERIC JEFFS, 63, an Electrician at New Crane Street Depot, who had clocked up 25 years' service.

ARTHUR OWENS, a 56-year-old Bricklayer's Mate at Legacy Depot, who had completed 33 years' service in the industry.

FRANK PRILE, 62, a Storekeeper at New Crane Street Depot, who had worked for Manweb for 14 years.



Foreman Joe ends his career on a high note

ENDING his career on a musical note is North Wirral Foreman Joints Joe Waring, pictured receiving his farewell gift from District Manager Des Lock, surrounded by colleagues. Joe has taken early retirement after more than 40 years in the electricity supply industry.

He started work in 1945 as an apprentice jointer, and from 1947 to 1949 did his National Service with the Royal Corps of Signals. He returned to Manweb in 1949 and the following year completed his apprenticeship and became a Jointer. In 1955 Joe was seconded to Hoylake Training Centre as an Instructor and after 12 months returned to his old job. The following year he was promoted to Foreman.

Ken clocks off after 41 years' service

A BLACK and Decker power drill and a Swan toaster were among the farewell gifts presented to popular Mid-Cheshire employee Ken Sandlands, who retired earlier this month after clocking up nearly 41 years with Manweb.

Ken joined the Board in September 1948, shortly after nationalisation, and worked with the overhead linesmen on construction work, which involved the electrification of Manweb's rural areas.

Security

In 1962 he was transferred to the Sandbach mains section as a driver, attached to the street lighting maintenance unit, remaining there until 1977 when the Board lost the street lighting maintenance contract.

Meter security was, at that time, being con-

sidered, and Ken was then given the job of resealing meters and cut-outs.

In October 1979, he became a member of the illegal abstraction team, as an assistant to the technician. He carried out these duties, in addition to debt control activities, up to his retirement.

His hobbies include woodworking and gardening and he also has an aviary of canaries.

Ken is pictured (right) receiving his retirement gifts from Mid-Cheshire Customer Accounts Manager Tom Johnson, watched by colleagues (left to right) Bryan Flint, Mike Almond and Mark Cooper.



A super discount if you're planning to have an April break

HOTEL group Trusthouse Forte has come up with a special discount deal for Contact readers during the month of April. During that month The Angel, Abergavenney, is offering cheap rates to Manweb employees and retired staff who book in for a minimum two nights.

The Angel started life as a magnificent private house before extensive renovation turned it into one of the great coaching inns on the road from London to Fishguard.

Pampered

You will be pampered throughout your stay at this fully centrally heated hotel, which offers traditional home cooking at its wholesome best. There is a charming restaurant and bar snacks are also available, with foaming pints of real ale at lunchtimes and evenings in the relaxing atmosphere of the popular Foxhunter Bar.

Each of the 29 bedrooms enjoys the benefit of a private bathroom. Colour television, telephone, radio, tea and coffee-making facilities and razor points are also standard features. Cots, high chairs and a baby listening service are available, and there is ample parking space in the car park for all guests.

The town of Abergavenney is a pretty and popular tourist

resort, offering a wide range of activities throughout the year to suit all tastes and ages, including fishing on the famous River Usk, relaxing on a leisurely boating trip down the Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal, climbing, caving, pony-trekking and rambling. For the sporting types there is also golf, grass skiing, swimming and hang-gliding.

The special rate at The Angel is £30 per person per night, including dinner, bed and breakfast. As there are only a few single rooms in the hotel, an £8 supplement will be charged for single bookings. The offer applies to any days of the week, including Saturdays and Sundays. The Angel normally charges £57 per person per night (double) or £47 for a single booking, and this does not include meals.

Minimum

A cheap rate of £38, with dinner, bed and breakfast, is available in Trusthouse Forte's Leisurebreak brochure, but this is based on a minimum two nights' stay, which must include a Saturday night.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the Contact April offer should telephone 0873 7121 and tell the receptionist it is a Manweb special booking.

Contact special offer . . . Contact special offer . .



Fit for Work

Cont'd from page 1...

Other positive steps include close liaison with the jobcentres, provision of aids and adaptations such as special chairs, participation in sheltered placement schemes in conjunction with the Spastics Society, and recruitment of disabled YTS trainees.

In addition, existing employees who become disabled and are unable to continue in their jobs are considered for alternative work, and at Manweb's Head Office in Sealand Road, Chester, ramps, lifts and toilets have been installed or adapted for wheelchair users.

Manweb will hold the Award for three years. It consists of a citation, plaque, trophy and flag.

Chairman Bryan Weston receives the Fit for Work award from the Duke of Westminster, watched by some of the Manweb managers and staff involved in the recruitment of disabled people.



Testing time

THE Part I examinations of the Incorporated Society of Estate and Wayleaves Officers will be held at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, on September 11, 12 and 13, 1989.

Candidates will be examined in agriculture, surveying, forestry and recreational land management, law of contract and land law, urban and regional planning.

Any interested Manweb staff can obtain further details, syllabus and application forms from the Society's Secretary and Registrar—R. J. B. Carruthers, ARICS, MRAC, HMSEWO, 3 Hyde Green, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1QL.

Chance to win £500

ENTRY forms are now available at Head Office for the Energy Horizons 1989 competition, in which a top prize of £500 and a five-day trip to America are at stake.

For an entry form and further details, contact Debbie Parry in Public Relations, Room 5E1, Head Office, ext 2091.



District Manager Bob Hodson presents Certificates of Craft Training to (left to right) Robin Parkinson, Neil Broadbent and Ian West.

Red letter day for Dee Valley apprentices

IT was a proud moment for a trio of Dee Valley apprentices when they received their indentures after completing four years' training with Manweb. Robin Parkinson and Ian West, both aged 19, are now fully-fledged electricians, and 23-year-old Neil Broadbent is a cable jointer.

They received their Certificates of Craft Training from Dee Valley District Manager Bob Hodson at a recent "Apprentices' Evening", held at Head Office.

Fourteen first year apprentices accompanied by their parents also attended the event, organised to give them the chance to meet the District's management team.

Along with Bob Hodson, those present were

Installation Manager Arwel Lloyd, Mains Manager Brian Doyle and Office Manager Keith Griffiths. Hoyle Training Centre Manager Alex Smitton and Dee Valley Admin Assistant Myfanwy Davies also attended.

The apprentices, who joined Manweb in August last year, and their parents were shown a film about the electricity supply industry, and Mr Hodson gave a talk about the work of the District.

Congratulations

RETIRED MEMBER G. Boswell was the £300 prizewinner in the EEIBA's January draw, with the lucky number 1625. The other winners were as follows:—

£200—P. A. Cross, Head Office (365); £150—J. B. S. Heywood, Plessey (243); £100—G. S. Jaros, Head Office (999); £75—E. E. Marshall, retired (2378); £75—D. Bidwell, North Wirral (2402); £50—J. B. Brassington, Mid-Mersey (689); £50—E. Dodd, retired (1896); £50—V. Millington, retired (1951); £50—J. C. Cave, retired (1493); £30—B. Sheppard, Head Office (436); £30—C. A. Simkiss, Gwynedd (2625); £30—A. Bent, Mid-Mersey (646); £25—K. Crabtree, Mid-Cheshire (276); £25—R. G. Roberts, retired (2337); £25—A. P. Jones, Gwynedd (2713); £25—O. Edwards, Gwynedd (101); £25—G. H. Goodband, retired (1542); £25—A. M. Ellis, Gwynedd (1065); £25—A. Perrett, Head Office (733).

Long-serving staff

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Manweb employees who have completed, 20, 30 or 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry during February.

40 YEARS: North Mersey—Robert Charnock (Customer Accounts Manager); Oswestry—Eric Wainwright (Craftsman Electrician).

30 YEARS: North Mersey—Patrick Lee (Crafts Operative) and Leonard Morris (Craft Attendant); Liverpool—Ronald Mosses (DRC Switchboard Attendant); Aberystwyth—Brian Williams (Linesman).

20 YEARS: Head Office—Irene Matthewson (Telecomms Supervisor); North Mersey—Stuart Mitchell (Craftsman/Mechanical Fitting); Liverpool—Pat Montgomery (Office Cleaner); Dee Valley—Myfanwy Davies (Admin Assistant, Personnel).

Nappy news

BEST wishes to Head Office Energy Marketing Engineer John Sheed and his wife Wendy, following the birth of their first child, Baby Samuel was born at the Countess of Chester Hospital on February 16, weighing in at 8 lb 5 oz. Mother and son are both doing well.

Give us a call

WHAT'S new in your District or Department? Have you a view you'd like to air or an idea for a story? Then why not let Contact know?

Write, phone or come and talk to Contact Editor Jackie Unsworth in Room 5E1, Head Office, ext 2090, or get in touch with one of the District Contact reps. They are as follows:—

North Mersey: Edna Courtney, ext 2167; **Liverpool:** Teresa Kelly, ext 2117; **Mid-Mersey:** Ena Harding, ext 2231; **Dee Valley:** Steve Parry, ext 2112; **North Wirral:** Mike Townson, ext 2202; **Mid-Cheshire:** Pat O'Neill, ext 2111; **Clwyd:** Rod Taylor, ext 2118; **Gwynedd:** Malcolm Donaldson, ext 2250; **Oswestry:** Sid Warburton, ext 2230; **Aberystwyth:** Keith Jones, ext 2202; **Hoyle Training Centre:** Pauline Lewis, ext 251.



Dee Valley first year apprentices and their parents are welcomed to Head Office by District Manager Bob Hodson.

Fun at Frodsham



CUSTOMERS got more than they bargained for when they called in at Manweb's Frodsham shop recently and discovered a charity "Fun Day" in full swing. Manager Mark Hodgetts, who has since moved to Widnes shop, had the bright idea to drum up some extra business during the town's busy market day . . . and the event really pulled in the crowds.

Over £100 was raised for the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity, and at the same time the shop's business for the day was more than quadrupled. Delighted shoppers were treated to tea and biscuits, and there were balloons and paper hats for the younger visitors. But the highlight of the day was a raffle, with super prizes including a dinner service, telephone, baking set and video tapes.

Business remained brisk and the shop stayed open late into the evening, when the final event, a party, was held for customers. More than 50 people

attended and were treated to wine and sandwiches.

Regional Shops Manager Julian Jenkins said: "The Fun Day was a huge success and brought in plenty of extra business. Our customers really enjoyed themselves and said we should do this more often."

● Mancot Hospital, near Queensferry, was given a £214 boost when staff at Shotton shop held a "Fun Day". The money will be used to buy special beds for the terminally ill.

Shop Manager Chris Jones said: "We organised a variety of events for our customers, including a raffle, lucky dip, free gifts for people who spent over £50, tea and biscuits, and sweets for the children.

"It was a huge success and we were really pleased with the amount of money raised for charity and, of course, the extra business generated on the day. We're now planning to do the same again next year."



Above: Free balloons for little Emily Buckley, from Frodsham.

Below: Regional Shops Manager Julian Jenkins hands out tea and biscuits to a delighted customer.



Top: The microwave demonstration provided some food for thought for customers during Frodsham Shop's Fun Day programme.

Above: Shop Manager Mark Hodgetts and his staff with some of the super prizes which were raffled in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Below: "Shopping isn't usually this much fun . . .". Christopher Wright, from Frodsham, is treated to some balloons by Shop Manager Mark Hodgetts.



ARTRHITIS RESEARCH

Arthritis strikes at any age. Now your donation can work harder towards an earlier cure.

Arthritis has no respect for age. Although two out of three people over 65 in our Country suffer from it, so do millions of not-so-old - including, tragically, some 15,000 of our children. The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council has helped bring about many advances in vital areas like diagnosis, treatment and replacement surgery. But the ultimate cure remains elusive. Your help can play a crucial role in bringing it about through Payroll Giving.

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'Really Wild' judging team



THE team which presents BBC Television's Really Wild Show will help to judge the 1989 Electricity Council Young Environmentalists of the Year Competition, for the children of supply industry staff. Broadcasters Terry Nutkins, Nicky Davies and Chris Packham have helped Cyril Littlewood, Founder and Director of the Young People's Trust for Endangered Species, to devise the projects which make up this year's contest. They will also join the judging team.

Youngsters aged from eight to 16 are eligible, and this year the competition takes the form of a natural history quiz, plus different projects for the 8-12 and 13-16 age groups. The closing date for entries is August 31, 1989.

The national winners in both age groups and their families will be invited to a celebrity lunch in London, along with winners from other companies who sponsor similar competitions in association with the Trust.

The winners will receive an "Otter Oscar" trophy and a week's environmental discovery holiday in Dorset with a friend. Supply industry winners and runners-up will also enjoy their own celebration and special prize giving ceremony.

Children in the junior 8-12 age group will be asked to become wildlife authors by writing their own account of "a day in the life of..." an animal of their own choice.

They will need to find out something about its life and habits, food and enemies, and the project will probably enable those who choose the commoner animals to make personal observations.

Entrants in the older age group will need to complete a project on "our heritage" and should look for an example of British history close to home or school.

This could be a castle, cathedral, church, ancient burial mound or ruins, standing stones, battlefield, bridges and canals, a stretch of old pavement, road or wall, or a building with historic links.

All children or grandchildren of electricity supply industry employees and retired staff in England and Wales are eligible to enter. Entry forms and full competition details will be available in April.



Aberystwyth Shop Manager Terry Butcher presents a delighted Miss Jones with her bouquet, surrounded by Manweb staff, from left to right, Sales Staff Yvonne Williams, Linda Ingram and Bryn Richards, and Regional Shops Manager Ray Hughes. The new cooker and the 1949 vintage model it has replaced are in the foreground.

A surprise in store for Doris

MANWEB "cooked up" a surprise for Aberystwyth customer Doris May Jones when she decided to trade in her old electric cooker. Mrs Jones was one of the first people from the village of Bow Street to splash out on an electric appliance when the power was first switched on in that area in 1949.

So staff at Manweb's Aberystwyth shop decided to celebrate when she ordered a modern replacement for her 40-year-old model. Shop Manager Terry Butcher marked the occasion by presenting the delighted customer with a huge bouquet.

He said: "Incredibly, the old cooker—a Revo Princess—was still in good working order, apart from a broken grill door, and Mrs Jones was even able to let us have the original instruction leaflet."

"The cooker has been in constant use since the day she bought it, and although it is in superb condition, she just decided it was time she had a new one."

Happy

It was a happy coincidence that Mrs Jones, who bought her original cooker for the princely sum of £30, should choose 1989 to trade it in for a £230 Belling 430N. She bought it during Manweb's 40th anniversary sale.



Homes win top award

ONE of Manweb's most prestigious awards, the Civic Shield, has been presented to the energy saving Polish Homes at Penrhos, Pwllheli. As part of an on-going development programme at the former RAF camp, 22 bungalows and a warden's flat have been built with heating systems designed by Manweb. The cost-effective systems are based on convective storage heaters using Economy 7 cheap night rate electricity.

Manager of the 130-resident homes which are run by the Corlan Housing Association, Andrew Kicman, is pictured (far right) at the award presentation with, left to right, George Kreyser, Deputy Manager; Doug Barnes, Manweb Energy Sales Manager; Dick Owen, Manweb District Manager; and Barry Painter, Manweb Energy Sales.

Battle of words gets under way

THIRTY-ONE Manweb employees will battle it out for a place in the national final of the electricity supply industry's Public Speaking Competition 1989.

As with previous years, the majority of the entrants—19 men and 12 women—come from the two Merseyside Districts, ten from Liverpool and eight from North Mersey.

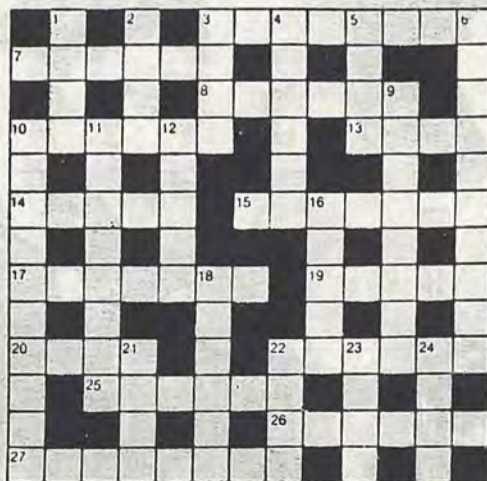
Once again the number of entries from Head Office, where the most staff are based, is disappointing, with just five people wishing to take part, and Mid-Mersey, Clwyd, Gwynedd and Aberystwyth Districts will not be represented.

The area heats and those taking part are as follows:— Heat 1 (North Mersey) April 3, 1989: John Marsh, Paul Dobson, Paul Fitzgerald, John Bryn Jones, James Briggs, Malcolm Bebbington, Andrew Harrington, Yvonne Pryor, Marie Bates, Linda Hinton, Christine Pighills.

Heat 2 (Liverpool) April 4, 1989: Howard Keating, David Bates, Brendan Rogers, Mike McNally, Len Dorr, Stephen Tilley, Francis Binks, Valerie Higham, Jeanette Brennan, Anne Simmons.

Heat 3 (Dee Valley) April 6, 1989: John Lawes, Robert Johnson, Calum Kennedy, Andrew Underhill, Alex Battisti, Mike Bailey, Fiona Logon, Jane Bowers, Cheryl Saunders, Andrea Woollett.

Crossword No. 8



Solution on Page 11

Across

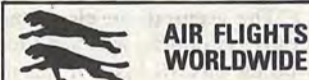
3 Breach with drug eccentric (8). 7 Dance jacket (6). 8 Park official in a football club (6). 10 Hard rock in the game sphere (6). 13 Seem to see Father backing out for some fruit (4). 14 Unpleasant refusal to admit a good person (5). 15 Take over from the derelict centre the night before (7). 17 Noble Spaniard who concealed the wretched Olga (7). 19 Not very clever at cutting dainty sandwiches? (5). 20 Gift before leaving when given the push (4). 22 One hopes to pull out after having a bite (6). 25 Hatred of reform being the continuous link (6). 26 Pay someone else to take the risks (6). 27 Take in only so as to put in order again (8).

Down

1 Going round without the railway duty list (4). 2 It gives one higher standing in a way (4). 3 Business about to show heart (4). 4 Lady embracing former husband away from the main building (6). 5 Retain the old defence build-up (4). 6 Injure one who snatches a sentimental work (4-6). 9 Military craftsmen face special sort of teaching (8). 10 Scream, then go to pieces in the city (10). 11 Payment for accommodation to include the team living here (8). 12 Devoted Lola worried about journey's end (5). 16 Scintillating passage of classical significance (5). 18 Teatime intake opening a university (6). 21 A hit perhaps but it might be dull (4). 22 Acknowledge being heartless in creating an opening (4). 23 Blow at the end of the month (4). 24 Listener and learner, noble fellow! (4).

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On the Wire

Mark does a roaring trade

I'D like to award ten Brownie points to enterprising Shop Manager Mark Hodgetts for his recent efforts to boost business. Before taking charge at Widnes shop, Mark was Manager at Frodsham, where one of his last duties was to organise a charity Fun Day (see page 4).

Everything had gone well, with the chosen charity—Guide Dogs for the Blind—all set to benefit by over £100 and Frodsham shop's takings for the day quadrupled.

Doomed

But the final event, a planned "party" for a select group of cherished customers during the evening, seemed doomed to failure when, at 7.30 pm, none had yet turned up.

There seemed no alternative but to call it a day . . .

Hating the sight of an empty shop, Mark (Motto—Never Say Die) decided some drastic action was needed. And a coach-load of women arriving for a night on the town—starting at the restaurant next door—was a golden opportunity too good to pass up.

Incredible

Shop staff were duly impressed when Mark, learning the ladies had landed in Frodsham half an hour too early for their meal, invited the coach party in.

Regional Shops Manager Julian Jenkins takes up the



Enterprising . . . Shop Manager Mark Hodgetts.

story: "We couldn't believe our eyes when these 50 women trooped into the shop. And, of course, while they were having a glass of wine with us, they started to look around at the goods on sale, and quite a few of them ordered things. It was incredible.

"Soon afterwards, the customers we had invited started to arrive too, so we really had a shopful. Before they left, the group of women told us they had really enjoyed themselves, and that they hoped we would do this sort of thing more often."

Meter meddling—a thing of the past

THE problem of illegal abstraction is nothing new, as the following article from *The Electrical Engineer*, dated August 11, 1899, shows. My thanks to Liverpool District's Ted Bostock, who spotted the illuminating article, headed *Theft of Electricity*, which had previously appeared in *The Times*.

"At the Central Criminal Court before the Recorder, Luigi Armani, on bail, was indicted under the Electric Lighting Act of 1882 for stealing a quantity of electricity belonging to the Metropolitan Electric Supply Company Limited.

Tampered

"Mr R. D. Muir prosecuted, and Mr Sinclair Cox and Mr F. W. Sherwood defended.

"The accused, an electrical installer, of 4 and 5 Warwick Court, Holborn, was supplied by the prosecuting company with the electric light. It was noticed, in March last, that there had been a considerable falling off in the quantity of electric current registered by the meter as having been used, and eventually police court proceedings were instituted.

"In the course of these proceedings it was alleged that the meter was defective, and on an examination it was found that it had been tampered with in such a way that the disc which registered the quantity of electric current consumed ceased to act.

Incriminating

"The prosecution alleged that the accused himself had tampered with the meter, and evidence of an incriminating character was given by an employee in the defendant's service.

"The jury found the defendant guilty, and sentence was postponed."

Mayor of Warrington cuts the ribbon at the VIP launch Open for business, Mid-Mersey's new showpiece office

ENERGY efficiency in buildings was the clear message from Manweb when Warrington's Mayor, Councillor Geoff Orange, opened the new Mid-Mersey District Office last month. The two storey pagoda-style building in Wilderspool Causeway, Warrington, is highly-insulated and has the latest computerised "Trend" building energy management system. This controls the mechanical plant, lighting and the temperature of the environment.

Story: Sam Doughty
Pictures: Max Cooksey



During a tour of the new District Office at Wilderspool Causeway, Warrington's Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs Geoff Orange, were shown the new computerised accounting facilities which will speed up customer queries. Also pictured (left) is Accounts Supervisor Jean Seddon and (seated) Clerical Assistant Susan Hill.

Housed in the new offices are the 400 engineering, accounts commercial and clerical staff who administer the electricity service for the 450,000 population of the 161 square miles of South Lancashire and Cheshire.

The roof space contains the air conditioning plant. Two York Energypak heat pump units heat or cool the building. They supply 3kw value of heat for every kilowatt they use by extracting warmth from the atmosphere and upgrading it by compression.

Efficient

The building has two large open plan offices, one on each floor, plus other small offices and restaurant and conference facilities. The coffered ceilings ensure an even and efficient spread of light from the fluorescent tubes.

Air conditioning vents in the ceiling supply warm or cooled air as required, and stale air and surplus heat are extracted by the heat pumps or expelled if cooling is required.

The floors, covering a total of 3,286 square metres, have an access gap beneath so that power, telephones and computer terminals can be placed anywhere in the offices, without trailing flexes.

Computer terminals link the Warrington office into the Man-

web electronic network and the main frame computer at Chester.

Operators have instant access to customer accounts records and a range of other information which speeds up the service to the customer.

The terminals are also part of a developing electronic mailing system linking all Manweb offices from Bootle to Aberystwyth.

Confidence

The towns of Frodsham, Runcorn, St Helens, Widnes and Warrington form the most industrialised area in the North West, and this £4 million plus development by Manweb demonstrates the company's confidence in the region.

Staff have now completed the move from the 100-year-old adjacent premises they had occupied for 40 years. Part of the old building will now be demolished and part completely refurbished for workshops, garages, stores and staff facilities.

The architects for the prestigious project were the Biggins Partnership of Chester and the





Above: The new Mid-Mersey District Office, with the century-old former headquarters for the District in the background.

Below: The Mayor of Warrington, Councillor Geoff Orange, cuts the ribbon and declares the new building open for business, watched by the Mayoress, Mrs Wendy Orange, District Manager Glyn Norbury and his wife Shirley.



main contractors Pochins Ltd of Middlewich, with the heating and ventilation system installed by How Engineering Services of Manchester.

Supervised

The quantity surveyors were W. T. Davenport of Warrington,

electrical consultants were Parkman, Tooth and Davies of Birkenhead, with the Manweb contracting department carrying out the electrical installation work.

The Manweb men who worked closely with those responsible for building the new offices were Architectural Manager Ben

Foster, from Head Office, who co-ordinated the work of the consultants; Lew Carter, 1st Engineer, Installation and Service, who supervised the Manweb team who did the electrical installation in the offices; and Keith Beech, Mid-Mersey Office Manager, who was liaison man for all the companies working on the site.



Above: Catering staff served up a super spread for the VIP visitors attending the official opening.

Left: A welcome to the new District Office for the Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington, Councillor and Mrs Geoff Orange, from District Manager Glyn Norbury and his wife Shirley. Also pictured is the Mayoral Chauffeur Frank Burdett.



A trio of Dee Valley overhead linesmen "model" the three types of helmets now available to Manweb employees. They are (left to right) Bob Squirrell, wearing the peakless overhead linesman's helmet, Neville Cartwright, trying out the apprentices' red helmet, and Michael Williams, wearing the general purpose helmet.

Use your head and stay safe while working

SINCE Manweb launched its safety campaign last year, a number of initiatives have been introduced in a bid to put the brakes on the alarming increase in the number of accidents at work. In the first of a series of articles specially written for Contact, Manweb's Safety Adviser Colin Herbert looks at safety clothing and equipment, in particular the new-style helmets now in stock.

by Colin Herbert
Safety Adviser

There are more than 11 million workers directly engaged in production work in Britain, in such diverse industries as chemicals, mining, steel, and, of course, our own industry. They all need various types of work clothes and protective equipment to enable them to carry out their jobs safely.

It is not always easy to separate protective clothing and protective equipment, but in general terms one can describe such things as overalls, boots, shoes and gloves as protective clothing, whereas helmets, ear muffs, goggles and face masks are protective equipment.

Military

The importance of head protection has been recognised in a military context since the time of the Ancient Greeks. Helmets have been developing in design since that time and the two protective functions—to prevent penetration and absorb impact—have been recognised throughout.

Outer shells have been made of many materials, including bronze, steel and, latterly, thermoplastics. Shock absorbing media have included horse hair, wool, straw, leather, cloth and, in recent times, foams and extensive inner cradles.

The modern helmet is manufactured to a British Standard (BS5240) which, in addition to specifying the physical requirements of the helmets, states that the helmets should be marked with the following information:

- The British Standard number
- Country of origin
- Name and identification mark of manufacturer
- Year and quarter of manufacture
- Type of helmet.

The helmets stocked in Manweb comply with the requirements of the Standard, and there

are three types now available. These are a white general purpose helmet, a white helmet for overhead line staff, which has no peak, and a helmet for apprentices and YTS trainees, which is red in colour. All new-style helmets now carry the Manweb logo.

It should be noted, however, that the helmets previously stocked, which were yellow in colour, were to the same British Standard and therefore there is no need for them to be replaced unless damaged or over five years old.

It is all very well to have a safety helmet, but it is important that it should be worn in all situations where head protection is necessary. The wearing of safety helmets in certain situations will soon be a legal requirement under specific legislation to be drafted by the Health and Safety Commission. It is already a general requirement under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Prosecuted

In Manweb, safety helmets must be worn by staff involved in construction or construction-related work, or where they are endangered by it. They should also be worn when carrying out overhead line work and/or endangered by it.

It is for the wearer's benefit that head protection is provided. Anyone who receives head injuries at work while not wearing a safety helmet in the circumstances listed above may well have more to worry about than unnecessary pain and suffering. They may be prosecuted.

Remember the old safety slogan: "Keep ahead—get a hat . . .".

RL match provides high voltage action

RUGBY League supporters enjoyed some electrifying action recently when Warrington's "Wires" crossed with the powerful Wigan team in a match sponsored by Manweb. With Wigan's team currently being sponsored for a three-year period by neighbouring Norweb, it was hardly surprising that sparks were flying both on and off the pitch during the high voltage game. Sadly for Manweb's Mid-Mersey District, whose idea it was to sponsor the match, home team Warrington was defeated 10-4.



Warrington scrum-half Paul Bishop receives the Man of the Match award from Mid-Mersey District Manager Glyn Norbury.

The game coincided with the completion of the new Mid-Mersey District office, just a short distance from the Warrington RL ground. So, to make it an extra-special occasion, a reception was held for 150 guests, including Manweb Directors, Managers and customers, who were given a "sneak preview" of the smart new office before its official opening.

by Jackie Unsworth

Energy Sales Manager John Ellis said: "The Warrington v Wigan match was originally scheduled for January 22, but was later postponed.

It worked out really well because the delay meant we were able to entertain our guests in the new building, instead of the old office.

"We provided a bar and buffet in our new restaurant, so that guests could have something to eat before going over to the match."

After the game District Manager Glyn Norbury presented Paul Bishop, the 21-year-old

Warrington scrum-half, with the Man of the Match Award.

Then Mr Norbury received an engraved clock, as a memento of the occasion, from the Warrington RL Club Chairman, Peter Higham.



ABOVE: District Manager Glyn Norbury is presented with a memento of the match by Warrington RL Club Chairman Peter Higham (left). BELOW: High voltage action during the match. BOTTOM: Catering staff laid on a super spread for visitors to the new District office's first function.



Electrifying stuff . . . Manweb gets the message across to Warrington and Wigan supporters.

Picture special by Max Cooksey



Kim picks up points

LIVERPOOL District Clerical Assistant Kim Timlin was the 50,000 points winner in Manweb's monthly Ambassador Club draw. Kim, who works in the Customer Accounts Department at Lister Drive, is an active member of the Ambassador Club and her prize is worth more than £150.

Ambassador Club Liaison Officer Calum Kennedy, 2nd Engineer, Energy Marketing, said: "Kim is a prime example of how profitable active membership of the Ambassador Club can be.

"People with office-based jobs often complain that they are unlikely to be able to bring in leads that will earn enough points to be really worthwhile, whereas engineers may be able to identify large jobs resulting in thousands of pounds worth of sales and the ensuing

points.

"This is very true in part. But although most of Kim's leads have only resulted in the standard 300 points, through the various draws and promotions Kim has won a day out on a recent Vintage Car Treasure Trail, a Parker Rollerball pen, an Ambassador Club sports bag, £10 worth of Manweb vouchers, and now 50,000 points.

"I hope this will show others the possible benefits of being an active member of the Ambassador Club."

Kim is pictured receiving her giant "cheque" from District Manager Gerry Haughan. Also pictured is Calum Kennedy (left) and Debt Control Electrician Peter Deane, who was the 40,000 points winner in the Liverpool District Ambassador Club draw.



Making the most of your microwave oven

THE microwave oven when used to its greatest potential is probably one of the most useful and versatile kitchen appliances on the market today, and complements perfectly the freezer. Microwaves are ideal for families whose patterns of life demand quick meals at varying times, when both husband and wife are out at work, and they are useful for thawing, cooking frozen food and reheating prepared dishes.

Anyone who finds themselves living alone, for example the elderly or young, single people, will find a microwave ideal for cooking individual frozen meals. It's also far more economical than using a conventional oven for cooking small portions. In addition a microwave solves the problem if kitchen space is limited. Home-made soup from the microwave saves time and conserves the flavour, colour and natural goodness.

VEGETABLE SOUP. Power setting full (100 per cent) for 15 minutes in a 650 watt oven. Serves two.

50g (2oz) frozen peas; 1 medium carrot, diced; 1 medium onion, sliced; 1 medium potato, diced; 50g (2oz) cabbage, chopped; 1 x 250g (8oz) can chopped tomatoes, with juice reserved; 1 teasp dried mixed herbs; 1 tblsp freshly chopped parsley or 1/2 teasp dried; 425ml (3/4 pint) hot vegetable stock or 1 vegetable stock cube with 425ml (3/4 pint) water; salt and ground black pepper.

Place peas, carrot, onion, potato and cabbage in a microwave-proof 2 litre (3 1/2 pint) bowl and cook, covered, for eight minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir half-way through cooking process.

Stir in tomatoes, herbs, parsley, stock and seasoning and cook, uncovered, for seven minutes, again stirring half-way through.

Add more seasoning if necessary. If you prefer a smooth soup, blend in a food processor with 150ml (1/4 pint) stock. Serve with crusty bread or toast.

Freezing Notes: To freeze, pour into a polybox when cool, leaving 2.5cm (1 inch) headspace. Label and use within three

months. To serve from the freezer, reheat in microwave-proof bowl for six to seven minutes on full (100 per cent).

LEMON BAKED TROUT. Power setting full (100 per cent). Serves two.

2 225g (8oz) prepared trout, thawed if frozen; 1 lemon; 25g (1oz) butter; lemon slices and watercress to garnish.

Arrange trout in a large, shallow dish. Pare the rind from the lemon with a potato peeler and cut into fine, matchstick strips. Squeeze lemon and pour juice over trout. Sprinkle the lemon strips over the trout and season with salt and ground black pepper.

Dot with butter and cover with cling film. Pierce and cook for five minutes on full power. Check fish half-way through cooking and change their positions to ensure they are cooked evenly.

Garnish with lemon slices and watercress, and serve with new potatoes and mangetout.

To finish your meal, why not serve mouthwatering super-mousse for a quick dessert? They come in a variety of flavours and you can keep a supply handy in your freezer. They are obtainable from most supermarkets and frozen food shops.



Energy efficient homes win a Medallion award

ENERGY-EFFICIENT retirement homes in Rhos-on-Sea have earned a prestigious Medallion Award from Manweb.

The 40 all-electric one-bedroom flats, plus a two-bedroom warden's flat, are at Penrhyn Park, Penrhyn Avenue, and were built by Roman Homes (Developments) Ltd, of Albrighton, near Wolverhampton.

Economy 7

Each of the flats contain two storage heaters, a downflow heater in the bathroom, and an Economy 7 water heating system. There are also storage heaters in the corridors and the communal lounge.

Manweb's Clwyd District Manager Doug Willacy is pictured (left) presenting the Medallion Award to Mr Brian Lawson, Group Chairman of Roman Homes, during the official opening of the development by the Mayor of Colwyn Bay, Councillor David Hughes.

Retirement round-up

Chester AGM

THE tenth annual general meeting of the Chester and Head Office Retired Staff Association will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 1989, at Sealand Road, starting at 2.30 pm.

The election of officers will be proposed at the meeting, so a good attendance is vital.

Social meetings are also held at Head Office on the last Wednesday of every month at 2.30 pm, and monthly outings are arranged. New members are welcome to attend.

Further information is available from the Secretary, Del Hall, 127 Hartington Street, Handbridge, Chester, or Treasurer Carmel Austin, 2 Sefton Road, Hoole, Chester.

Doris has contest all stitched up

DORIS Bailey's superb crochet work earned her the overall winner's prize in a craft exhibition organised by the Liverpool Retired Employees' Group.

The exhibition was held at the Liverpool Electric Power and Lighting Sports and Welfare Club, Thingwell Road, before the Group's annual general meeting, and Manweb's Administrative Service Manager Tom Hamilton was among the judges.



Pictured, left to right, with their entries are George Hewitt (photography), Joe Bailey (furniture), Phyllis Hignet (crochet), winner Doris Bailey, Winifred Herbert (crochet), Doreen Pope (embroidery), Arthur Petch (wine) and John

Brown (carved wooden Welsh love spoons).

● If you have an idea for a story or a picture, write to

Contact Editor Jackie Unsworth, Room 5E1, Manweb, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR, or telephone ext 2090.

A pat-on-the-back for Manweb staff

LETTERS glowing with praise for Manweb and its employees have been piling up on the Contact newsdesk. Satisfied customers have been writing in to say how pleased they are with the service being provided.

North Wirral District has passed on three letters praising staff who carried out installation work. John Edwards, of West Kirby, is ecstatic about the three floodlights fitted at his home, and congratulates Commercial Assistant Alastair Wilson and Electrician Jim Powell for being "extremely efficient, co-operative and helpful".

He goes on to say: "We shall be looking to update our security system and possibly have some rewiring done in 1989 and I shall not hesitate to ask Manweb to do the job."

And Mrs Winifred Holborrow, of Bebington, has written to say how pleased she is with the work carried out by Electrician Paul Thelwell and Apprentice John Mitchell, who rewired her home and fitted an intruder alarm.

Friendly

"They were absolutely first class and worked excellently as a team," she says of the Manweb workmen. "They were friendly and cheerful and I really enjoyed their company. They were so careful when removing fittings. All the stories I had heard about having to redecorate every room were just rubbish!"

Electricians John Rigby and David Cross-thwaite have been given a pat-on-the-back by Mr Barrie Brigham for their excellent rewiring work at his Moreton home. In his letter he says: "I, and the rest of my family, congratulate you on the staff you employ. Both John and David were excellent workers, very clean and tidy. They did their work with very little damage to the décor and were always most pleasant around the home. Please thank them on our behalf for an excellent job."

Jeff Scott, North Wirral's Installation Manager, said: "These letters are a sample of those recently received by the District commending our customer care and quality of work on contracting."

"Staff are responding well to a drive to increase customer satisfaction and quality initiated by a need to achieve the highest standards on security system installation work in support of Manweb's application to join the National Supervisory Council for Intruder Alarms (NSCIA) and become registered installers of security systems."

"North Wirral was chosen as the pilot District for carrying out work to NSCIA standards and introducing the rigorous documentation required to meet NSCIA approval."

"And the quality standards are rubbing off on our other areas of work, such as rewires."

Mr Cliff Iveson has written from the Isle of Wight to thank staff at the St John's Precinct shop for their thoughtfulness when he ordered a microwave oven as a wedding present for his daughter in Liverpool.

The shop staff went to great lengths to make it a memorable occasion by specially gift-wrapping the microwave, attaching a wedding card and delivering it by hand.

In his letter, the thrilled father-of-the-bride says: "Thanks to you and your staff for the kind help and service in delivering the microwave to our daughter. She was delighted with it."

Gwynedd District received a thank you note from a satisfied customer in Anglesey for the prompt attention given by Manweb during a Boxing Day power cut.

Mr R. Blackburn, of Holyhead, was delighted when the power was restored in less than two hours by Linesman T. H. Roberts and his mate R. W. James, both from Llangefni Depot.

He said: "They had driven from Llangefni in adverse weather conditions and were of a most cheerful and helpful disposition, in spite of being called out on a cold and wet Bank Holiday. I would like to express my sincere thanks for the prompt service."

Staff at Ellesmere Port shop have been praised for showing true Christmas spirit to a customer whose freezer, packed with food for the festive season, developed a fault.

Mrs Frances Gray wrote to our Shop Operations Manager to say: "Your staff responded promptly to my predicament and immediately offered me your shop model, which saved the day—and Christmas—for myself and 24 other people."

"I was very grateful, and would like to say a very big thank you to you and your staff at Ellesmere Port."

Nancy and Walter Jesson, from Birkdale, Southport, have written to Manweb's "Compliments Department", c/o Contact, to praise staff at North Mersey District involved in supplying and fitting two heaters.

Immaculate

They write: "The initial sale of these was made by William Haspery, from Bridle Road, whose appearance, conduct and excellent advice, plus the follow-up service, was positively brilliant."

"The fitting, done by David Richards, was immaculate, and the attendance of the foreman indicated the efficiency of Manweb. Many thanks to all concerned for a job well done."

Mrs Gladys Davison has written to Dee Valley District to say how pleased she is with her warden-controlled bungalow at Griffiths Court, Shotton, which is a Civic Shield installation.

"The heating is great and I've had no trouble with it. It's like being in paradise. I would like to say thank you for the comfort it has given me. It has made my life a lot happier."



Safety-conscious Karen is presented with her prize

KAREN McLean, of the Drawing Office, Head Office, is pictured receiving a Barbour cotton waxed jacket from Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston, after winning Contact's recent safety competition. Also at the presentation were Clwyd District Manager Doug Willacy, Chairman of the Committee for Safety Initiatives, and Derek Jackson, 1st Engineer, Safety.



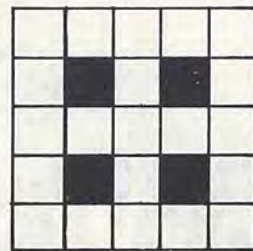
It grows on you

THE solution to the first clue in each line below is a three letter word. The next word in each line can be found by adding a letter—in any position—to the previous word without changing the order of the letters

1. WRATH ----
- FATHER ----
- STEEPLE ----
- HOPE ----
2. BOWLER ----
- WARMTH ----
- OPEN LAND ----
- FIRESIDE ----
3. POSSESSES ----
- OVERACTS ----
- DAMAGES ----
- FASCINATES ----
4. POINT ----
- STUMBLE ----
- UNDRESS ----
- CHEVRON ----
5. ON FIRE ----
- SEVER ----
- FISSURE ----
- LIMBSUPPORT ----
6. COOKING UTENSIL ----
- DIAGRAM ----
- LEVEL ----
- URANUS ----

Send your answers to BOTH teasers to: Fred's Puzzle Corner, Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR. The senders of the first two correct entries (both puzzles) drawn out of the Contact postbag will each receive a £5 prize.

A Square Deal



REARRANGE the letters to make words that fit into the square. There is a clue to one of the words, but you have to work out where it fits in the grid!

AADDEEE
IHLMNO
OPRRRTT

Clue—Kingdom

Coaches cater for visitors to exhibition

PICTURED on the Manweb stand at the North Wales Catering Exhibition at the Aberconwy Centre, Llandudno, are (left to right) Manweb energy marketing representatives Dilys Jones, Gwynedd, and Christine Monks, Clwyd, with Ian Clow of Mealstream and Kevin Williams of Clwyd.

This was one of a series of exhibitions organised by the Districts in co-operation with John Sheed, Head Office Energy Marketing Engineer.

Visitors from all over the region attended, with two coachloads being organised to take caterers to the exhibition from Mid-Mersey District.



Obituary

IT is with sadness that Contact reports the deaths of the following retired Manweb employees during January and February.

THOMAS HERBERT MILLICHOPE, a former Dee Valley Clerical Assistant, died on January 11, aged 73. He started work at Chester in 1933 and retired in 1980.

HELEN SINGLETON, a former Clwyd Saleswoman, who retired in 1984 after 15 years' service, died on January 12. She was 64.

ROBERT ROWBOTTOM, a 4th Assistant Engineer, Area 1, up to his retirement in 1967, died on January 14, aged 86. He began his career in 1920 with Liverpool Corporation.

WILLIAM APPLETON, a former Mid-Mersey Street Lighting Attendant, died on January 15, aged 74. He began his career in 1951 as a Meter Fixer in Runcorn and retired in 1975.

JESSIE ELIZABETH FAULKNER, a former Area 4 cook up to her retirement in 1968, died on January 19, aged 81. She started work in the Sub Area Office 4 Canteen in 1947.

DOROTHY MAY DANIELS, widow of former Mid-Cheshire Craft Attendant

Albert Daniels, died on January 21. Her husband retired in 1981 and died in 1986.

CHARLES LAWRENCE SHERRIFF, a former Head Office Principal Assistant, died on January 22, aged 69. He started work in 1950 as a Sub Area 3 Accounts Clerk, and retired in 1982.

MOSES PARRY, a former Dee Valley Linesman up to his retirement in 1972, died on January 29, aged 74. He joined the industry in 1948.

MARY JANE PRICE, widow of former Rhyl Chargehand Linesman Herbert Price, died on January 31. Her husband retired in 1969 and died in 1981.

JAMES STAFFORD LAWSON, a former North Mersey Clerk, died on February 1, aged 77. He started work as a Clerk in the North Western Division and retired in 1977.

WILLIAM EDWARD RUSHTON, a former Bricklayer's Mate at Liverpool up to his retirement in 1974, died on February 7, aged 77. He joined the industry as a Builder's Labourer in 1947.

Privatisation news in brief

SAXTON Bamfylde International have been appointed to advise on suitable candidates for the post of Director General of Electricity Supply, the regulator for the privatised electricity industry in England, Wales and Scotland. The appointment was announced by Energy Secretary Cecil Parkinson and Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland.

The Director will head the Office of Electricity Regulation (OFFER) and will monitor prices, quality of service, security of supply and the efficient use of energy. He or she will have a statutory duty to protect consumers' interests and will be responsible for setting up the new regional Consumers' Committees.

The appointment will be made under Clause One of the Electricity Bill currently before Parliament. It is hoped the Director designate will be identified in time to participate in the process of establishing OFFER, but he or she will only take up the post after Parliament has approved the legislation and the new industry structure is in place.

Eastern promise

ENERGY Secretary Cecil Parkinson and the Chairmen of the 12 Area Electricity Boards in England and Wales have jointly appointed Nomura International Limited to act as Japanese Financial Advisers for the flotation of the supply companies as part of the electricity privatisation programme.

Nomura International will advise on the prospects for an offer in Japan to help decide whether the proposed flotation should include overseas offers.

Crossword No. 8

ACROSS: 3 Crackpot, 7 Bolero, 8 Ranger, 10 Marble, 13 Pear, 14 Nasty, 15 Relieve, 17 Hildago, 19 Thick, 20 Sent, 22 Angler, 25 Thread, 26 Insure, 27 Readjust.

DOWN: 1 Rota, 2 Kerb, 3 Core, 4 Annexe, 5 Keep, 6 Tearjerker, 9 Remedial, 10 Manchester, 11 Resident, 12 Loyal, 16 Latin, 18 Gateau, 21 Thud, 22 Adit, 23 Gust, 24 Earl.

HOLIDAYS

Brittany/SW France—Caravans and mobile homes. Self-drive pack. Tel: Crewe internal 178 or 0270 766675 (Ian Linford).

Caravan—Towyn, Near Rhyl. Six-berth, two bedrms, shower, fridge, fully fitted. From £75 per week. Tel: 0978-362615/352653 (Mrs Jones).

Cardigan—12 miles. Lux. six-berth static caravan, near beaches. Families only. Tel: 0492 580 253 (evenings).

Carmel—Caernarfon. 19th Century stone cottage in own grounds. Excellent views. Three bedrooms, bathroom, lounge and parlour. Large kitchen with cooker, fridge and freezer. Tel: 0286 880 749. Alwyn Pritchard, 16 Maes Hyfryd, Carmel, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

Criccieth—North Wales. House overlooking village green. Sleeps six. CTV. Beach and shops two mins. Tel: 076671 2614 (Ann Tudor).

France—B & B, H/B, caravans and camping. Tarn et Garrone Region. Close to Junctions 8 and 9 on Autoroute between Bordeaux and Toulouse. Excellent catering, including French, Indian and vegetarian cooking. Much to see and do, or just relax in sunshine. Ex-SEB employee. Tel: David Boniface, 010-33 (63-95-95-20).

French Riviera—Six-berth caravan, all amenities on site, within easy reach of Monaco, St Tropez, etc. Golf, riding close by. SAE to M. Williams, The Lodge, Lingen, Bucknell, Shropshire, or tel. 0544 267579.

Newquay—Cornwall. Luxury caravans with shower, and economy vans. Colour TV, flush toilet, etc. Pleasant site near town and beaches. Cleaned and maintained by owner. From £50 per week. Tel: 0637 876589 (Gill).

Costa Del Sol—Puerto Cabopino, situated between Marbella and Fuengirola. Superior two-bedroom apartment, plus settee in lounge converts to two single beds. Superb views over yacht marina and sea. Lovely beach and swimming pool. Ideal for family or golfing holiday, being situated in central position. Supermarket, video bar, restaurants, etc on site. Fully equipped for self catering. Available two weeks, Saturday, October 14 to Saturday, October 28. Rental includes electricity, linen, towels, etc, plus weekly maid service. Contact J Bird, Southport (0704) 38645.

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

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

Port Grimaud—Six miles St Tropez. Four/six-bth. caravans, with electricity, h. and c. water, shower. On three-star hotel site. Luxury coach travel from most areas. Tel: 0670 712399.

Porthmadog—Holiday bungalow, sleeps six. Black Rock Sands five minutes' drive. Convenient Ffestiniog Railway, Snowdonia National Park. For infmtn.: C. Jones, 2 Meadow Drive, Porthmadog. Tel: 0766 2519.

Tenerife—Get away to the sun. From £30 per week. Aptmnts. in Los Christianos. Access to two large pools, tennis crts., two restaurants, maid service. Only 50 yards from a golden beach. Flights arranged. Tel: 061-483 8314.

Weston-sup'r-Mare—Static caravan on farm. Six-berth, sep. dbl. bedroom, shower, toilet, TV, etc. All-season price £70 per week. Tel: 093472 292 (Mrs Huett).

Newquay—Cornwall. Family-run guest house with good home cooking. Family rooms. Friendly atmosphere. Sea views. 200 yards from town centre. Dinner, bed and breakfast from £70 per week. Former Merseyside family will make you welcome. Disc.

for Manweb empls. Apply Avondale, 28 Georges Road, Newquay, Cornwall. Tel: 0637 872234.

Llandudno—April Court. Small family-run private hotel (Welsh Tourist Board—two crown). Close to local amenities, beaches, town centre, theatres, golf courses, etc. New Alpine Ski Complex in beautiful natural setting. Ideal base for exploring beauty-spots of Snowdonia. Good home cooking and comfortable, friendly atmosphere. Children welc. Tea-making facilities. Car park. Bed and breakfast, with or without evening meal. Enquiries to April Court, St David's Place, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2UG. Tel: 0492 77898. Disc. for Elec. Board employees and families (both past and present).

Free Ads

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

Abersoch—Luxury eight-berth caravan situated on pleasant farm site, close to beach and shops. Shower, TV, flush toilet, 240 V, H & C, cooker, fridge, sink, gas fire, etc. Vacancies March to November. Families only. £100 per week. Tel: Buckley 549248.

Anglesey—Tal-y-Bont Cottages, Dwyran. Luxury cottages set in a 17-acre smallholding, 1½ miles from shingle beach of Menai Straits and four miles from long sandy beaches of Llanddwyn. Nature reserve, bird sanctuary, sea zoo, shops and restaurant nearby. Weekly prices—July/August £220, September 1 to 15 £180, September 16 to 30 £160, October £130. Telephone Deeside 819768 for further details.

Algarve—Privately-owned villa set in large gardens in the Monchique Hills. Split level lounge/dining room, good kitchen facilities, utility room, two good-sized bedrooms, bathroom, terraces with garden furniture. Panoramic views of the West Coast, 24 kms away. Swimming pool. Maid service. Food hamper provided. Flights arranged. Tel: 0352 741552 or 0352 88762 for brochure.

Costa Del Sol—La Cala De Mijas Costa. Luxury villa, sleeps six. Month of September in group share for sale. Phone: 051-427 6247 for more details.

FOR SALE

Randger—Hard-top trailer tent. Sleeps 2/4. End kitchen and many extras. Easy to erect. Excellent condition. Used very little. £825 ono. Tel: Chester 371734 after 4 pm.

Wheel—For Swift caravan. Fitted with Dunlop 5.60-13 crossply tyre. Unused. £25. Tel: E Richardson, HO ext 2082.

Pram—Silver Cross hard-bodied pram with detachable chassis. Excellent condition. £95. Contact Robert Ledsham, Service, New Crane Street.

Ford Orion—1.6GL (June 1985). Excellent condition. Red. Average miles. Sunroof and usual refinements. Five-speed. Recent service, tyres and exhaust. MOT and long tax. Genuine reason for sale. £3,795 ono. Tel: work HO 2098 or home Deeside 821554.

Caravan—Towyn, Near Rhyl. Six-berth, two bedrms, shower, fridge, fully fitted. From £75 per week. Tel: 0978-352653 or 264172.

Please remember to include your telephone number when submitting free ads for insertion into Contact. A number of advertisements had to be left out this month because telephone numbers had been omitted.

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

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CONTACT Sport



On top of the world...that's Manweb's mountain man

MANWEB'S Mains Engineering Manager Stan Roberts is feeling on top of the world after completing a mountainous task. A keen climber, Stan recently reached the "peak" of his achievements when he scaled Creise, a 3,600 ft mountain in the Scottish Highlands.

Scotland has 277 mountains over 3,000 ft high, known as the Munros after the man who first listed them in 1891, Sir Hugh Munro. Eight years ago Stan vowed to climb them all, and Creise, near Glencoe, was the last on his list.

by Jackie Unsworth

He said: "I felt elated when I reached the top and I celebrated with a bottle of champagne. To date only about 600 people are listed as having completed them all."

Elusive

The mountains stretch from just north of Glasgow to near Cape Wrath in the far north-west and some of the islands, and Stan's "Munro bagging" was done in all weathers at weekends and holidays.

"I often had to go back-packing into remote areas to climb some of the more elusive Munros," said Stan, who usually goes climbing with his close friend George Lamb, and occasionally with his wife Nesta, who also enjoys mountaineering.

Now 51, Stan became interested in climbing when, as a 17-year-old apprentice, he was sent by Manweb to the outward bound school in Ullswater.

Attraction

"I've followed the sport ever since, and have climbed in all areas of Britain and in the Alps. I also enjoy ski mountaineering.

"The attraction is being able to pit myself against the elements, the isolation, the scenery and the historical aspects. I also enjoy the battle between myself and the mountain I am climbing. As for the dangers, mountaineering is only as dangerous as you make it."



Man at the top . . . Stan Roberts celebrates with a bottle of bubbly after climbing Creise.

Stan is now taking a well-earned rest after completing the Munros, but in April he is planning a ski mountaineering trip to the Alps. He then aims

to return to some of his favourite Scottish mountains and also concentrate on some of the hills under 3,000 ft high and rock climbing.



On cue for some expert coaching

SPORTS and Social Club members were given some expert coaching when professional snooker player Colin Roscoe visited Head Office recently. Colin, who is a world ranked player, gave a demonstration of his skills, performed trick shots and competed against some of the Manweb players.

He is pictured with members of the Head Office snooker squad (left to right) Len Phillips, Mark Flanagan, Mike Hughes, Joe Flanagan, Bill Swann, Hugh Farrow and Keith Roberts.

Trivial pursuits

STAFF from Liverpool District proved themselves to be "top of the pops" when they took part in the fifth annual inter-departmental Pop and Total Trivia Quiz, held recently in the Head Office Restaurant. Lister Drive's Customer Accounts team, going by the name of "Kissing the Pink", emerged as the winners after beating 75 other teams of four.

It was a case of third time lucky for the super squad—Captain Neil Whamond, Dave Walsh, Frank King and Don Woan—whose attempts to take the trivia crown had failed in previous years. The fantastic foursome each received a trophy after scoring an amazing 249 points out of a possible 267.

As one of the team remarked: "We put our success down to the fact that there was more trivia than in previous years. Pop music of the '60s and '70s is more our forte—not the '80s."

The event was organised by Peter Baron and his colleagues in Estates and Wayleaves, Head Office. Pete said: "The quiz has grown in popularity each year, and this time we had a record number of teams taking part, including many from the Districts.

Bigger

"Next year we hope there will be an even bigger turnout, and we're aiming for at least 100 teams to take part."

The teams faced 18 rounds of questions on such topics as '60s television themes, name the faces, identify household sounds, name the record and artist, hits played backwards, cartoon characters and general knowledge.

Two Head Office teams shared second place. "The Swinging Eugenes" (Captain Eugene Gallagher, Lesley Rogers, Luci Bailey and Dave

Hill) and "Sally Monella and the Eggheads" (Captain Sally Heap, Peter Booth, Steve Ward and Mike Williams) each amassed 246 points and were awarded runners-up trophies.

The most difficult game was "Guess the Song Lyrics", and another Lister Drive team, "Joan Jet and the Blackheads" (B. Keely, L. Robertson, K.

Lewis and J. Cummins) won the special prize for getting full marks.

The best team name award went to Gill Farren's squad for "Denis Dodds Dad's Dog's Dead", and the booby prize, for the lowest score, went to "Capitol Hits", whose identities are being withheld to spare the blushes!

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