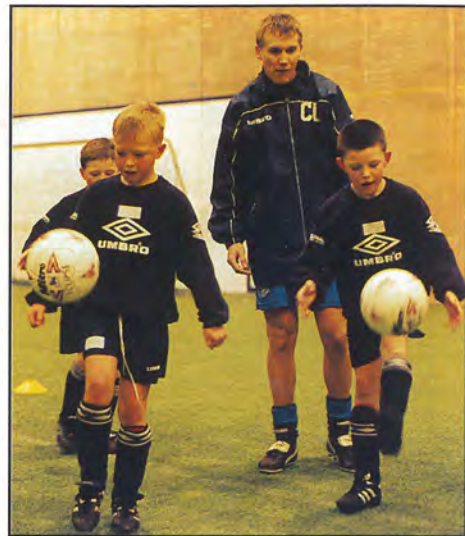




Business Development Engineer Chris Lloyd training the under-10s group at Everton.



Developing business and soccer talents

DURING the week Chris Lloyd develops business for Manweb – but in his spare time he develops the footballing talents of youngsters at one of the north west's major clubs.

Chris, Business Development Engineer at Prenton, brings on eight to 16-year-olds at the Everton FC Centre of Excellence, having been "head-hunted" from a post as coach to the Wrexham FC youth teams. He had no hesitation in signing up with

the club he's supported since he was a boy. "It's a massive set-up at Everton with the emphasis very much on youth development," he enthused. Now in his second season with the club, Chris's proteges have already made their mark.

"We had a trip to Spain for a tournament against top Continental sides, beating the likes of the youth teams at Real Madrid, AC Milan, Barcelona and Benfica," he said.

But he added: "Although we've a good winning side, results don't matter that much. We concentrate on creating good

players, teaching skills techniques and ball control."

Now owner of a UEFA coaching licence, Chris is aiming to become one of the best youth coaches in the country.

He also runs a soccer school in Chester for boys and girls aged from five to 13, where the top treat is a visit to Goodison Park, thanks to his connections.

And as if he wasn't busy enough, Chris has worked on strengthening the leg which he broke at the age of 16 so that he can play himself again at an amateur level.

Husband and wife team bid for glory

MANWEB is unleashing a powerful husband and wife combination for this year's Electricity Industry Badminton Championships.

Among the team members will be overhead linesman Dave Raiswell, aged 31, and his wife Ruth, from Crewe who have more than 40 years playing experience between them. The couple, pictured left, regularly play in the Crewe League, and Dave is a Cheshire County player.

Ruth, who gave birth to son Jack only eight weeks ago, inherits her skills with a shuttlecock from her father Paul Wilkinson, a former Manweb District manager at Crewe, who played in the Liverpool League. "Dave and I are both very keen on the sport," she said. "Soon after we first met he took me to his local badminton club and I thought - he's the one for me."

The EI Badminton Championships are to be held at Doncaster from April 3-5, hosted by Yorkshire Electricity.

Manweb, who will be entering under the name of ScottishPower group, has already won the tournament three times in the past.

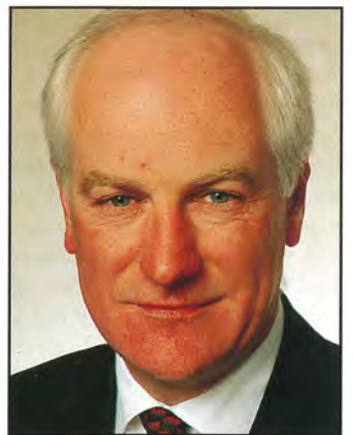


CONTACT

NEWSLETTER FOR MANWEB PEOPLE

MARCH 1998

KEY MOVES READY FOR A NEW ERA



Charles Berry paid the following tribute to the Manweb team:

"I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support during my time at Manweb and for your tremendous contribution to yet another strong yearly performance."

"The Manweb job has been the highlight of my career so far - the teamwork is exceptional. I know Bill is looking forward to taking up the reins and moving down to the Manweb region with his wife Jessie. I will continue to work alongside him on the Manweb Board to ensure the significant opportunities in this region are developed to their full potential."



Bill Landels, Manweb's new Managing Director

TWO key management moves at Manweb have been announced to strengthen the ScottishPower group's leading position as the energy market opens up to full competition.

Charles Berry will become Managing Director of ScottishPower's Energy Supply division and responsible for implementing the group's UK-wide customer growth strategy. He will continue to be a member of the Manweb and Southern Water Boards and as Chairman of the Manweb Pension Scheme.

Opportunities

Bill Landels will join Manweb as Managing Director, using his experience in ScottishPower's energy supply and electricity distribution businesses to ensure the company is well placed to seize the opportunities of full competition. ScottishPower and Manweb were the first in the field of 13 existing suppliers to test and trial all the systems needed to cope with full competition in the domestic market, which opens in the Chester postcode area in September.

Book is a piece of cake

GETTING her recipe book published is a piece of cake for Yvonne Partridge – thanks to help from Manweb. Yvonne, aged 65, was a "Woman of the Year" winner in last year's Manweb/Chronicle Community Champions Awards.

Following the contact she made with Manweb's Community Relations Co-Ordinator Jane Hall at the presentation, the company has offered to pay the publication costs of the cook-

book which Yvonne is producing to raise money for Marshfield Bank community centre at Crewe.

Yvonne is pictured, right, alongside Jane Hall with a cake – the recipe of which was given to her by Jane's mother – at Manweb's Crewe depot where members of the Marshfield Bank Residents' Association have use of the Open Learning centre.

● Focus on task of judges at the awards, see centre pages.



Leading light retires – Page Three Anita's seventh heaven – Page Six

Price reviews team director is appointed

FORMER Cheshire Regional Manager Steve Wood has been appointed Systems Programme Director for the forthcoming round of Offer price reviews.

Steve said: "The price reviews are of considerable importance to the business because of their effect on the amount we invest and the service we give to customers."

"I am delighted to have been asked to lead the Power Systems team through this challenging task although I am sorry to be leaving Cheshire after 18 months."

"The region is beginning to come together but there is still a lot to do. I wish my successor Gerry Halas every success."

Steve, who is married with two children, has worked for Manweb since leaving school and has held a variety of posts throughout his career,

including District Manager for the old Gwynedd District and Design and Projects Group Manager.

He will now be based at Cathcart and working with him will be Price Review Managers Graham Morris and his assistant Wendy Mantle, both based at Manweb House, and Barbara Jenkinson, who is based in Scotland, together with David Thornton, who is leading the Transmission Price Review in Scotland.

The Transmission and Distribution businesses of Power Systems form a major part of the ScottishPower and Manweb business.

The allowed prices set by Offer are of vital importance to the way the company runs its business, not just for Power Systems but also for the group. A price review in Transmission is already underway and the distribution reviews for Manweb and Scotland get underway in spring.



And new Cheshire Manager named...

THE new Cheshire Regional Manager is Gerry Halas, pictured above.

It is a return trip to Manweb for Gerry, aged 46, for he was the Construction Manager in Wales, as well as Construction Manager in Forth and Western regions.

He began his career with the South of Scotland Electricity Board in 1970 as a student apprentice, and then worked as a Distribution Engineer until 13 years ago.

Following privatisation he moved to Dumfries as a Resources then System Manager and also worked in Fife as a District Manager.

Gerry, married with a son aged 21 and daughter aged 18, said: "I enjoyed my last spell in Manweb and look forward to meeting staff and renewing some old acquaintances from last year."

He is presently commuting from Bannockburn, Stirling, while looking to relocate to the Manweb area.

Rowing club make waves

ACHESTER-BASED rowing club made waves in a national competition – and caught the eye of sponsors including Manweb.

With the resulting cash donation the Grosvenor Rowing Club have been able to buy a new boat which they have named the Duchess of Westminster after the wife of their President, the Duke.

Manweb, National Grid Company and First Hydro Company pulled

together their support after the junior women's crew took the silver medal in the prestigious 1997 National Championships.

The sponsorship from the three companies, matched pound for pound by a Sportmatch, a Government scheme, enabled the purchase of a new racing boat.

● Pictured are members of the Grosvenor Rowing Club by the River Dee.



Leading light retires after 38 years' service

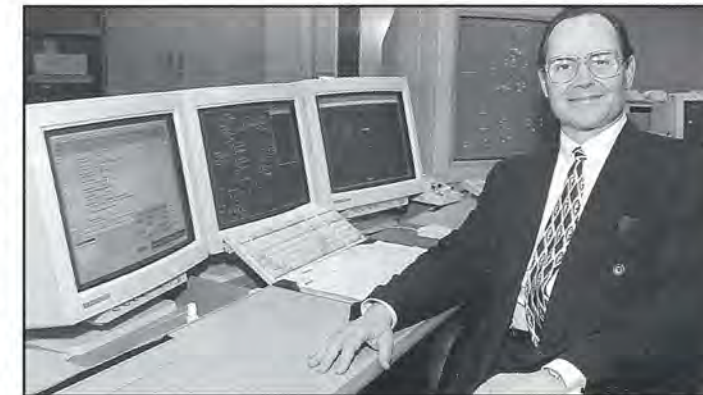
ONE of the leading lights of Manweb is taking early retirement at the age of 54.

Central Operations Director Geoff Abel can look back over a career that saw him rise from the lowest rung to the highest echelons of the organisation.

He began life with Manweb as a student apprentice fresh from school, playing a part in taking the first power lines to remote north Wales in the 1960s.

Moving from engineering to management services, where he was involved in depot location exercises, domestic appliance distribution and numerous mechanisation projects, he was promoted to become Purchasing Services Manager.

Almost 40 years on from his



traineeship, having become Director of Distribution Operations and then Central Operations Director, Geoff found himself taking a leading role in the smooth integration of Manweb into ScottishPower.

It's been a varied and distinguished 38 years - and Geoff remembers the early days vividly.

"At the age of 16, straight from school, I went into a number of posts in engineering activities in Wrexham and north Wales," he said.

"There was a sense of excitement as we took power lines out to customers who had no mains supplies in places like Cerrigydrudion."

Geoff remembers his

colleagues as he progressed in the company as "tremendous people – very competent, committed and with a great sense of humour and unflinching enthusiasm."

He compares Manweb to a family - a description that still applies after integration with ScottishPower.

"We are still very strong at team working," said Geoff. "It's been an exciting and emotional time over the last two years, and very fulfilling to see how quickly we have been integrated into ScottishPower with a two-way transfer of good ideas and practices."

Pilot

Geoff, who will continue to serve as a company-nominated trustee of the Manweb Pension Fund, is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Sandra and their family, and to achieving his ambition of gaining a light aircraft pilot's licence.

Manweb Chief Executive Charles Berry said: "Over 38 years Geoff has made a valuable contribution to the success of the business."

"The executive team of ScottishPower group is particularly grateful to him for his leading contribution as Manweb was integrated into the group. We wish him well for his retirement."



Award for quality systems

TEAMWORK has earned Manweb a top quality award, ISO 9002 accreditation, for its OFFER standards reporting systems.

It is believed that Manweb is the first regional electricity company to gain this recognition across the whole company - not just a particular division. The award is for the reporting of guaranteed, overall and network performance standards to electricity watchdog OFFER.

Although there is an OFFER requirement for all Regional Energy Companies to commission external audits by 1997, there is no requirement to obtain full quality accreditation.

"Having done so much work and knowing we more than met the standards, we decided to go for full accreditation," said Community Relations Manager John Kennedy.

The ISO 9002 standard applies to all parts of the company. There are 10 guaranteed

standards set by OFFER which require payment to customers if any of these standards are not met.

A further eight overall standards include performance targets agreed with OFFER, and there are also four network performance standards. Throughout the year's programme processes were subject to three separate internal audits and a final external audit by EAQA (Electricity Association Quality Assurance).

"It's been a magnificent team effort by everyone concerned," said Manweb Chief Executive Charles Berry.

"This an internationally-recognised award. It is recognition of our continued commitment to customer service and shows just how well we are doing."

● Pictured is Charles Berry, centre right, receiving the certificate from Trevor Wilmer of EAQA Ltd, and the Manweb team.

North Wales music visit

ELDERLY customers were recently treated to a Theatr Clwyd St David's Day concert by musicians from the charitable organisation Live Music Now! as part of a Manweb-sponsored north Wales tour of residential homes. Community Relations Manager John Kennedy is pictured leading members of the group together with customers.



Mr and Mrs game show throws up surprises for our couple

A CAERNARFON employee and his wife thought they knew each other well enough – but that was before they went on a TV game show.

The questions on *Sion a Sian* (Mr and Mrs) aim to test whether spouses are aware of each others' preferences, with a top cash prize on offer.

Service Co-Ordinator Kevin John Owen and his wife Catherine went before the cameras in HTV's Cardiff studios – but failed to answer many of the posers correctly.

Catherine said her husband would choose a greenhouse for the garden from a list of options, whereas Kevin said he would prefer a swimming pool.

She guessed he would want lessons for driving a racing car – he said he would prefer a motorbike. "It was all good natured fun," smiled Kevin. "We only did it for a bit of a laugh."

Thanks for Manweb 'Samaritans'

THE hunt is on for two Manweb employees who acted as Samaritans. The pair helped a disabled woman whose Ford Orion car broke down on a roundabout in Chester.

Beryl Roughsedge, aged 52, was stranded when her engine cut out on the dual carriage way near Frodsham Street, but she was assisted by the men who were passing in a Manweb van. She vows to trace them to pass on her thanks.

"I have a spinal complaint and I could not get out of the car," said Beryl, from Wrexham. "The men were so considerate and enquired if I was alright before giving my car a bump start. I would like to offer them my thanks."

THIS year will see the judging of the 10th annual Manweb Community Champions Awards, which recognise the endeavours of individuals who add to the life of their local communities. Readers of Chronicle Group newspapers, including those of North Wales Independent Press, are asked to name their local heroes or heroines for Champion

Man, Woman, Environmental Team/Person, and Young Person of the Year across north Wales and Cheshire. Just how difficult is it to choose a winner when there is such a wealth of worthy entrants, and such a wide range of nominations in five different categories? CONTACT spoke to some of last year's judges to find out.



The judges at last year's North Wales Champions Awards judging evening (left to right): Jeff Eames, Editor, Caernarfon Herald; Kath Evans, Editor, Visitor Series; Mark Brittain, Editor, North Wales Weekly News; Gaynor Kenyon, Head of Communications, Manweb; Paul Taylor, Advertising Director, Chronicle Newspapers; David Parry-Jones, Executive Editor, Chronicle Newspapers; Simon Dixon-Phillip, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Chronicle Newspapers; Jan Cahill, Public Relations, Manweb; Dave Grady, Business Support Manager, Manweb; Colin Blundell, Network Manager, Manweb; Bob Clough-Parker, Bob Clough-Parker Organisation.



Michelle Lewis, aged 15, the reigning Champions Awards Overall Champion – for her "courage, bravery and inspiration to others in the community."

Why selecting award winner is so difficult

FOR Ray Hall, Regional Customer Service Manager based at Warrington, judging the Community Champions Awards is one of the most difficult parts of his job, because of the high standard and the variety of entrants.

Last year the spectrum of winners ranged from a hospital fund raiser suffering from terminal lung cancer to a 15-year-old who despite undergoing 28 operations puts on an annual charity variety show.

"There are so many people doing so many different things," he said. "However, a decision has to be made and for my guidelines I ask – What's their contribution to the community, what are they giving back to the community and how is the community benefiting and reacting?"

Colin Blundell, Network Man-



The reigning Chester Young Person of the Year, James Blythe, being presented with the award by celebrity Vince Earl. Left is Charles Berry, Manweb Chief Executive, with David Faulkner, Managing Director of Chronicle Newspapers (centre,) and Trevor Green, of Granada Television, who was Master of Ceremonies.

ager at Caernarfon, stresses the difficulty of choosing a winner from people who are all highly valued by their communities, but in their own very distinctive ways.

"It's a very difficult job," he said. "It's not like comparing apples with apples – everyone

nominated is different, but in his or her own way, deserving of a prize."

For Jane Hall, Community Relations Co-Ordinator based in Prenton, the judging is also a difficult challenge.

"A winner, in my view, is someone who puts time and

effort into the community without expecting any personal rewards," she said. "But they are all winners because these are the sort of people who keep nothing back for themselves and give everything to others."

John Kennedy, Manweb Community Relations Manager, agreed it was difficult to choose a winner from among so many worthy applicants. "The admirable thing about many of them is that they serve the community despite various disabilities and disadvantages," he said.

For the judges the experience doesn't end with the final selections. They are invited to presentation awards dinner, hosting a table of winners, local dignitaries and MPs.

This can lead to the start of a relationship between Manweb and a good cause, as in the support for Woman of the Year Yvonne Partridge and her cookbook which will raise money for charity.

Trust's dividends are confidence and skills



As these happy snaps show, Prince's Trust activities are great fun in idyllic countryside.



THE experience of being a team leader on the Prince's Trust Volunteer scheme has paid rich dividends for three Manweb employees.

Rachel Shorney, Steve Gauller and Richard Parry have masterminded a series of projects which benefited the team members, local communities – and the leaders themselves, who have all gained in confidence and team-working skills.

The PTV is an initiative by the Prince of Wales to help young people aged between 16 and 25 develop their motivation and skills while helping the community. In north Wales, it is run by Manweb as the franchise holders, with financial support from the European Social Fund and local Training and Enterprise Councils.

With this year's PTV programmes about to start in Rhyl, Caernarfon and Wrexham, the message from Rachel, Steve and Richard is: being a leader is good fun, hard work and an invaluable learning experience.

Abseiling

Leaders select the members of their team, often from the unemployed, and organise a residential week of activities including abseiling, canoeing and creative activities.

Community projects are then undertaken. "My team built a pond and wildlife area at Minera Lead Mines and Country Park," said Rachel, Overhead Maintenance Engineer, Cheshire Region. "It is now used for educational projects by Wrexham County Borough Council. By taking part in the PTV scheme I have gained invaluable experience in team management skills."

The culmination of each venture is a major project of value to the community. "We took groups of disadvantaged children on days out to places like Chester Zoo, Camelot Theme Park and Granada Studios," said Steve, who works with the Revenue Protection Unit.

Guidance

Llangefni live-line engineer Richard, whose project is still underway, said: "Our main task is to decorate and improve facilities at the Penrallt Community Centre."

He added: "The volunteers are taking more responsibility upon themselves and growing in confidence. As for myself, I never realised I had the ability to lead. I can now be more supportive, give guidance and listen to others."

This year, for the first time, a Manweb employee is being seconded to the PTV for a whole year. He is Kevren Keswell, previously with the MSP project, who will run the Wrexham team.

Anyone who is unemployed, aged between 16 and 25, and who would like to be a volunteer team member, should contact Roy Jones, Franchise Manager, PTV and Open Learning Co-Ordinator, Manweb, on 01244-652051.



Kevin Patterson and wife Grace with picture showing their former waistlines

Super Kevin's slimline tips

FORMER Manweb employee Kevin Patterson has shed an amazing seven stones and is now one of the first male slimming consultants in Wales.

Before he left his job as substation attendant in Rhyl last year, he had cut his weight from a colossal 21 stones to 13 stones 6lbs.

Still with his weight under control at just under 14 stones, and still dieting, Kevin now combines a new job of gardening with running classes at Slimming World in Denbigh.

After being named North Wales Slimming Man of the Year he decided he wanted to give something back to others who needed to lose weight.

"I wanted to show people that they can be normal if they are overweight," said Kevin. "They can go out and get it sorted - they don't have to live in a shell."

His original impulse to slim came when he was asked by his niece to walk her down the aisle at her wedding. "Everyone at the wedding was amazed," he said. "They couldn't believe it was me."

"The bridegroom's father told me he was expecting a much bigger bloke. It was a nice feeling."

Anyone wishing to join the Slimming World programme at Denbigh can contact Sheila on 01745-334216.

Anita's mystical seventh heaven

IT'S no wonder Anita Hamilton called her restaurant Seven's. The number has had an almost mystical significance in her life so far.

She was at Manweb SEVEN years in Network Services and then on the computer system help desk before leaving to set up with partner Steve Richardson.

The postal address of the ultra-modern eatery, which offers European and modern British food, is SEVEN Station Approach, Meols, Wirral.

There are SEVEN shops in the row, SEVEN windows across the front of the restaurant, SEVEN optics in the bar (she asked the builder for eight,) her partner's first name is SEVEN plus a T... and so it goes on.

"The coincidences are remarkable," said 28-year-old Anita. "We're just waiting for the next one to happen." But the popularity of Seven's is not a matter of chance.

Steve, aged 32, is a highly experienced chef and once worked under famed maestro Raymond Blanc in his first restaurant in Oxford.

Anita's parents were in the pub and restaurant



Anita Hamilton and her partner Steve Richardson outside their new Seven's restaurant.

trade, but she has a flair of her own - entering the Meols venue is said to be like "walking into the Mediterranean."

Manweb staff on their way home from Prenton or the Hoylake training centre are among the customers regularly making a beeline to sample

starters like smoked salmon prawn tian with scotch pancakes served with chive and lemon butter sauce, and main courses such as roast pheasant with caramelised shallots, bacon lardons, mushrooms and roasted garlic cloves in red wine sauce.

New RPU appointments

FOLLOWING a review of the policies and organisation of the Revenue Protection Unit in Manweb, Jim McCurdie, Operations Manager, will take over full operational control of the unit currently based at Bromborough.

As part of the Metering Business' policy of developing staff, Jim Briggs has been offered the position of RPU Manager on a three-month secondment from February 1.

During the same period Tony Stott is being seconded to Metering Business Co-Ordinator for Chester and Prenton Depots, with Projects Assistant Richard Buckley being seconded into the Co-Ordinator's role for Aberystwyth, Wrexham and Oswestry.

Following Julie Conder's secondment for six months as RPU Manager, Julie will return to her post as RPU Administrative Manager.



Rob Merrick (right) receives his certificate from the Alderman of the Cappers, Pinners, Wire-drawers and Linendrapers Guild, watched by MCS Director Allan Littler (left).

Engineering accolades

AMANWEB engineer has earned two top accolades in the annual Freeman and Guilds of the City of Chester Awards.

At a ceremony held in Chester's Guildhall, Robert Merrick, a High Voltage Engineer with Manweb Contracting Services, received a prize for exemplary results at HNC level in Electrical Engineering. It was awarded by the Cappers, Pinners, Wire-drawers and Linendrapers Company.

The prizes, instituted for West Cheshire College in 1968, maintain a historic bond between the guilds and education.

At the ceremony, Rob also received the Charles Wilbraham Award for Outstanding Achievement in Electrical Engineering.

In his response Rob, who started out as a Manweb apprentice electrician nine years ago, said: "I would really like to take this opportunity to thank MCS for giving me their support over the past three years."

Radio ham's hi-tech feat

THE image of the radio ham has changed a lot since comedian Tony Hancock amused the nation with his banter in the famous TV episode on the subject.

No-one has done more to bring the hobby into the age of high-tech than Brian Davies, Manweb project engineer at Caernarfon.

Acclaimed for his work with repeaters, which extend the range of VHF, he has perfected a technique of connecting computers world-wide by the use of radio - a sort of "hams' Internet."

He explained: "Nick Smye, of ScottishTelecom, Warrington, arranged for our group to establish radio equipment on their site at a substation just outside Caernarfon. It's given us a connection, via computers, to a world-wide communication system."

Brian, founder member and chairman of the Arfon Repeater Group, has been involved in amateur radio for 30 years and spends a great deal of time building equipment in his "shack" next to his home in Bethel. "My main enjoyment is being able to communicate world-wide on equipment I've built myself," he said.



Brian Davies with his radio equipment.



George Currie with his autobiography typescript and old pictures.

Reflecting on a lifetime

AT the age of 87 a former Manweb employee is preparing to celebrate the publication of his sparky autobiography.

George Currie, a Commercial Supply Engineer at Crewe until he retired in 1976, began recording his life and times after receiving a personal computer for his 80th birthday.

His book - still to be given a title - is shortly to be privately published and will be launched at a special family get-together to celebrate his and his wife Ella's 62nd wedding anniversary in May.

The volume, which looks back over a

lifetime in the electrical industry, contains interesting sections on domestic installation experiences in Liverpool in the 1930s, and features numerous photographs, some more than 100 years old.

There are many references to Manweb as well as pre-Manweb days, and also a section on the Manweb Mid-Cheshire Retired Employees Association of which George was Chairman for 14 years. He joined Manweb in Warrington in 1953 and now lives in Northwich.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the book can do so from George's son, Malcolm Currie, telephone 0121-523 6682.