

Merseyside and
North Wales
Electricity Board
staff newspaper

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Members of the Board examine 'black boxes' and other meter fiddling devices. From left to right: John Hooson, Shiela Garston, Richard Gales (Deputy Chairman), Dr. Robert Cummings and presenter Terry Keenan.

Beating the meter cheaters

BATTLES BEING WON BY BOARD STAFF

MANWEB'S moves to combat the criminals who use diverse methods to steal electricity by interfering with the regular running of meters were the subject of a special presentation arranged for Board Members when they visited our Liverpool District Offices at Lister Drive recently.

They were welcomed by District Manager Gerry Haughan who introduced the team responsible for dealing with the problem. He spoke of the day-to-day traumas faced by the District staff stating that vandalism and theft were most prominent. "Some of the things you see today might well surprise you," he told his guests.

Alan Wadcock, Assistant Chief Accountant and former Administration Manager for Liverpool District, informed the Board Members that some years ago, meter security teams were established and trained to help uncover the many sophisticated forms of meter fiddling. "Today, all members of the staff who have occasion to enter customer's premises look for the tell-tale signs on the meter casing and cable connections."

He said that in the past twelve months, some 70,000 premises had been visited by our security staff. Of these, access had been gained on 45,000 occasions. He added that 1,000 cases had reached the prosecution stage.

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Commercial records smashed!

- The 1,000th public sector Civic Shield home.
- A resurgence in storage heater sales from 6,300 in 1979/80 to more than 14,000 in 1984/85.
- 33,000 Economy 7 customers, and a total of 75,000 on all off-peak tariffs.
- Profits in appliance sales (£1 million) and contracting (£250,000) comparable with those achieved by private business.
- Anticipated appliance sales totalling £18 million (up 11%) putting MANWEB in second place in the industry's growth table.
- A break-even position (for the first time) in appliance servicing work.
- The best overall results for any Area Board in the "PEP Awards".

THE close of what is described as a "Record-Smashing Year" has been marked with a detailed message in the form of a four-page leaflet addressed by our Commercial Department's top management personalities to all staff involved in marketing and commercial work.

Chief Commercial Officer Peter Hopkins refers to "Tremendous success achieved during 1984/85", and thanks everyone involved for their part in it.

He lists the following achievements during the year:—

- The 2,000th private sector Medallion Home.

These successes, writes the CCO "are examples of what can be achieved in spite of the very substantial economic problems in our region," adding that the year was one of the best in our Commercial history.

The leaflet includes supporting messages from Deputy CCO **Derek Holman** and Assistant CCOs **Warwick Saunders** (Appliance Marketing), **Bob Jowett** (Load Development) and **Don Higgs** (Installation and Service).

There are references to the "outstanding success" of the "Buy Now, Pay September" TV campaign; the refurbishment of several shops; successes in the installation of showers, intruder alarms, and re-wires; increased efficiency in appliance servicing; and the splendid supportive role of our central stores at Queensferry.

MEDALLION MEN ...

North Wirral electricians working on the wiring installation of 64 "Medallion" flats at Greasby. Giving the "thumbs-up" sign are, from left to right: Tommy Hill, Roger Chrisop, Kevin Smith, Gary Edwards and Alan Stark (site foreman)

▲ Continued on page 5





Pictured at the recent meeting for Clwyd District staff. From left to right: Pru Buckley, Denis Atkinson (Joint Secretary JCC), Beryl and Gordon Chapman and Bob Hodson (District Manager).

CLWYD DISTRICT STAFF CONFERENCE

Accent on safety

AMID sustained applause and echoing cheers Pru Buckley, as Chairman of the Clwyd District Joint Co-ordinating Council, took charge of the male-dominated Annual Meeting held recently at a Rhyl venue.

It was unfortunate that the meeting clashed with a special party which attracted many of the ladies from the District.

However, over 100 members of the staff sat down to enjoy an excellent meal. They were joined by a handful of retired colleagues, most prominent among these being two former members of the District JCC, Glyn Dodd (ex Group Manager) and Les Griffiths (ex Engineering Manager). It was

apparent that both were enjoying their retirement.

Mrs. Buckley welcomed everyone to the meeting then went on to summarise some of the on-going items to be discussed by members of the JCC during the coming year. She referred to the "Safetywise '85" campaign commenting that it was most appropriate that this

year's choice of guest speaker for the Annual Meeting was Gordon Chapman, Director of the Occupational Safety Division of the RoSPA.

Encouraging the mood of the audience, Mr. Chapman gave a humorous but at the same time, very informative talk on safety aspects. His remarks held everyone's interest.

He said that an accident was an unplanned event and went on, with visual aids, to show a four-step cause and effect series of situations involving a one-ton weight.

First it fell into an empty space (no reaction or retributions). Then it fell on to some

GO THROUGH BANK — COLLECT £100

"AROUND a quarter of the Board's industrial staff are still receiving their pay in cash each week," we were told by Assistant Chief Accountant Peter Falcon.

He restated that it was in everyone's interest, particularly from the safety and security point of view, that all members

of our industrial staff should convert to cashless pay through a bank.

"In some of the Board's depots, all industrial staff are now being paid by monthly bank transfer," he continued. "Each employee making the decision has received a £100 incentive payment. I hope that many more members of the staff based at the various depots, will pick up this cash offer as they unanimously agree to accept this easy and convenient system of pay by bank transfer."

Mr. Falcon went on to say that District management would be running a campaign to encourage the remaining few hundred members of staff to join their colleagues already in the scheme.

Helpful information regarding the opening of bank accounts and money management is available, confidentially, from members of the Personnel and General Services sections.

Industrial staff in the various depots who are still receiving weekly pay are asked to remember the generous interest-free loans which are available when they decide to transfer to monthly pay.

"This is a good move all round," concluded Mr. Falcon. "Please think about it!"

machinery (cause for concern). It then just missed Old Harry the handyman engaged on cleaning the area (slight amusement). Finally the weight had a direct hit on Old Harry. This of course then made it a reportable accident involving masses of paperwork!).

The speaker then went on to state that 90 per cent of all accidents happening to people at work came under just seven different causation groups.

Taking just one of these groups he said that the mis-use of damaged and faulty hand tools caused some 50,000 injuries every year. "Some of these accidents resulted in blindness, turning skilled workers on to the job market, unable to carry on as tradesmen," he commented.

At one stage Mr Chapman developed some audience participation, mainly with the help of chargehand storekeeper Ted Mitchell. As the speaker posed questions on safety procedures, Ted was quick to reply with the correct answers, sometimes with

a little embroidery! For a time, this proved to be a great double act.

Mrs. Buckley held the meeting together during an aggressive question time. She handled the situation with charm, strength and tact. It was made apparent that many of the points raised at the Meeting could have, and should have been settled on a depot basis through the foreman or higher authority.

In closing the meeting, Pru said that she was concerned over the Clwyd District accident record. "These figures really do disturb me," she said. "I appeal to all members of staff to be aware and to do something to help reduce the number of accidents to yourselves and to colleagues." It was pointed out that safety at work is the responsibility of the employer and of the employee.

The meeting finished on a cheerful note with many members asking about Old Harry's health!

● From page one

Meter cheater beaters

"About 20,000 visits had uncovered evidence of interference with the Board's supply," he continued. "Now, Liverpool District has adopted a policy of sending such customers a letter stating our suspicions and that, if further evidence came to light, we would ask for a security deposit."

Then followed a 15-minute video film produced by, and featuring Terry Keenan (Senior Engineer, Revenue Protection). This illustrated many of the ingenious methods adopted by meter fiddlers in their unending quest to steal from the Board. The film went on to show some of

the preventative measures taken by the Board.

On display for inspection by Board Members was a table full of 'black boxes' and other meter fiddling devices. Among this collection was a grey cylindrical object.

During a Royal visit to Liverpool some time ago, police saw this mysterious package lying on the rear seat of a car. They suspected a bomb and, when the driver returned he was arrested. He quickly explained that it was not a bomb but simply a device for fixing a meter to obtain free electricity. Afraid of the bomb charge, he went on to 'cough' about more illegal connections he

had made to the MANWEB network.

Among the display of deterrents was the Capenhurst Cover - a casing of toughened glass which completely covers the electricity meter. The latest modification extends to the meter connection. Mr. Keenan went on to say that in an area with a high incidence of meter interference, we would be installing these covers in an endeavour to reduce losses.

"Illegal abstraction through electricity meters does not stand still," he concluded. "It evolves all the time. As soon as we discover a new dodge, we bring out a preventative measure. The thieves then take up the challenge and search for new ways to steal."

The Board's Security Adviser Bill Lumsden spoke of the police attitude to theft through electricity meters and how different forces and different areas have different priorities. "In districts suffering from high crime rates, meter fiddling comes low down on their list," he said. "Often young officers are assigned to electricity theft cases in order to gain experience."

He urged that all Board staff should pass on information quickly to enhance detection and subsequent prosecution. "We should all regard the theft of electricity through meter fiddling as a very serious matter," he continued. "We lose millions of pounds of revenue to these thieves every year".

In bringing his remarks to a close, Mr.

Left: Bob Isherwood, Centre, demonstrate the computer control system to, from left to right: Duncan McAuslan (Member), Richard Gales (Deputy Chairman), Shiela Garston (Member) and Ben Hastings (Chairman).

Right: Deep in discussion are, from left to right: Bill Lumsden, Duncan McAuslan and David Boulton (Board Members), Alan Wadcock and Terry Keenan.





Accompanied by David Ferguson, left, and Gordon Hood, right, are the four young ladies from Queens School, Chester at the start of their visit to MANWEB. They are, left to right, Jill Irving, Rachel Pennington, Kim Edwards and Mandy Pidler.

STUDENT VISITORS

FOUR students from Chester's all-girls Queen's School visited the Board to find out at first hand what is involved in working as an engineer in the electricity supply industry.

The visit arranged as part of the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers programme to develop an awareness of electrical engineering in schools, was organised by Education and Training's Oscar Lloyd.

Principal Engineer Gordon Hood and 1st engineer David Ferguson from Chester explained the engineers' varied functions and demonstrated equipment used by them. The girls spent the day at Head Office and at the Birkenhead supergrid substation, plus the 33-kV and 11-kV substations.

The schools liaison service was established by the IEE in 1976 and has involved a nationwide network of engineers in promoting the electrical engineering profession, with mutual benefit to the engineering profession and the pupils.

Oswestry District Manager, Ron Williams, left, congratulates Arthur Boyling who is based at Whitchurch depot, on his half-century of service in our industry.



Long Service

We offer our congratulations to the following members of the Board's staff who, during the month of April, have completed 50, 40, 30 and 20 years in the electricity supply industry.

50 YEARS—Oswestry District: **R. Arthur Boyling** (craftsman electrician).

40 YEARS—Liverpool District: **Geoff Butter** (craftsman metering), Dee Valley District: **John Ashbrook** (foreman, Commercial) and **Ivor A. John** (craftsman, electrical inspection). Mid-Cheshire District: **Roy Maddock** (craftsman electrician) and **Lol Stenton** (foreman, Engineering).

30 YEARS—North Mersey District: **Ronald Reeves** (meter operative), **Harold Sandys** (craft operative) and **Francis Sheehan** (craftsman electrician). Liverpool District: **Ronald Holland** (administrative assistant). Mid-Mersey District: **Terry Almond** (driver). Clwyd District: **Ivor J. Nethercroft** (foreman, Commercial). Transmission: **Ron Delve** (cable warden). Head Office: **E. Anne Ardern** (audio shorthand typist).

20 YEARS—Liverpool District: **Martin Birchall** (meter attendant) and **Kay M. Fullerton** (saleswoman, St Johns). Mid-Mersey District: **Bert Martlew** and **George McCarthy** (substation attendants). Dee Valley District: **Reg Potts** (administrative assistant) and **Fred A. Rose** (painter). Gwynedd District: **Gordon E. Barlow** (storekeeper). Oswestry District: **Terry B. Edge** (chargehand craftsman overhead lines).



SAFETY SCENE

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

A TRAINEE whose eye was badly damaged in a workshop accident lost his claim for damages because he had only himself to blame for the injury.

The accident happened to a South Wales steelworker when a fragment from a tool he was using shattered his spectacles, causing a splinter to penetrate his eye.

A London High Court judge dismissed the trainee's claim because he was not wearing goggles, even though he knew the importance of wearing them. "The accident was a result of his own stubbornness, when he knew the risk he was taking," said the judge.

This story emphasises the need to wear protective clothing and equipment when required. Failure to do so can not only result in serious injury, but can leave you without a case for compensation in the event of an accident.

Let us look at some of the protective clothing provided by the Board—

HEARING PROTECTION



Excessive noise can permanently damage hearing. When ear muffs or ear plugs are pro-

vided for specific jobs it is imperative that they should be used and also fitted correctly.

EYE PROTECTION



Box goggles are provided for use in situations where the major hazards to the eyes are flying particles, chemicals, dust and molten metals.

Remember also that it is mandatory to have eye protection in certain situations — e.g., when using grindstones.

HAND PROTECTION



Apart from serious injuries such as broken bones, the hands are susceptible to less serious ailments, such as abrasions, lacerations, burns from hot substances, electrical burns and shock, from which gloves can offer protection. Gloves are

made in a variety of materials, according to the use to which they will be put. It is important, therefore, to find out which type of hand protection is appropriate to your job, and to wear it for specified conditions.

LUNG PROTECTION



Some jobs we do call for respiratory protective equipment to be used. Two examples of this are working with man-made mineral fibre and when spray-painting. It is important to ensure that the approved face mask is used, and also that it is fitted correctly.

HEAD PROTECTION



Objects falling from a height present a major hazard. Safety helmets are provided, and should be used in situations requiring them, for example on building sites or for overhead line work. They also offer protection where there are projections, or low headroom.

IN CONCLUSION

To sum up, if the job requires the use of protective clothing or equipment — use it! Use the correct type, and make sure it is fitted properly. A great many people suffer from injuries received when they could not be bothered with the protective clothing made available for their safety. You only need to refrain from using it once, and the consequences could be with you for life!

STONEWORK CORROSION PROBE

THE CEBG and the Cathedrals Advisory Commission have agreed to collaborate on an investigation into the nature and causes of corrosion of the stonework of ancient buildings through atmospheric pollution.

The decision follows a meeting between staff of the CEBG Technology Planning and Research Division, and the Commission headed by the Duke of Grafton, at the Central Electricity Research Laboratories in Leatherhead, Surrey. Representatives of the Warren Spring Laboratory and the Building Research Establishment were also present.

The House of Commons Select Committee on the Environment recently drew public attention to the national problem of the corrosion of the stonework of our cathedrals. The CEBG believes that power stations are not a major contributor to the corrosion of stonework in cities. Insofar as this is caused by atmospheric pollution, the evidence indicates that this is produced in the main by local sources. However, the CEBG has, in the course of its own research into atmospheric pollution, developed a range of resources which can be used to investigate some of the problems of stonework corrosion. In the wider public interest, therefore, the Board has thought it right to respond to the Select Committee's concern by taking this initiative with Church authorities.

A joint working party will now develop a research programme.



Above, left to right, are 40-year men Ivor John, Geoff Butter, and John Ashbrook. Below from Northwich depot are 40-year men Roy Maddock, left and Lol Stenton.



RUABON BY-PASS OK

SCHMES to divert MANWEB overhead lines up to 132-kV to allow construction of the planned Ruabon by-pass to go ahead were approved by the Board at their April meeting.

The work will involve repositioning two 132-kV towers, laying 150 metres of 33-kV cable, 1,800 metres of 11-kV cable, and 450 metres of low-voltage cable. It will also be necessary to erect 140 metres of 33-kV overhead line, 760 metres of 11-kV line, and 180 metres of

low-voltage line. Total cost of the work (which will be met by the Welsh Office) will be £265,000. Most of it will be completed this year and the remainder in 1986.

SALES HICCUP

A slight drop of 1.5% in sales of electricity to industry in February compared with the same month last year, was the result of a fall in demand from one major customer.

Over the 11-month period April to February the aggregate increase stood at 1.7%.

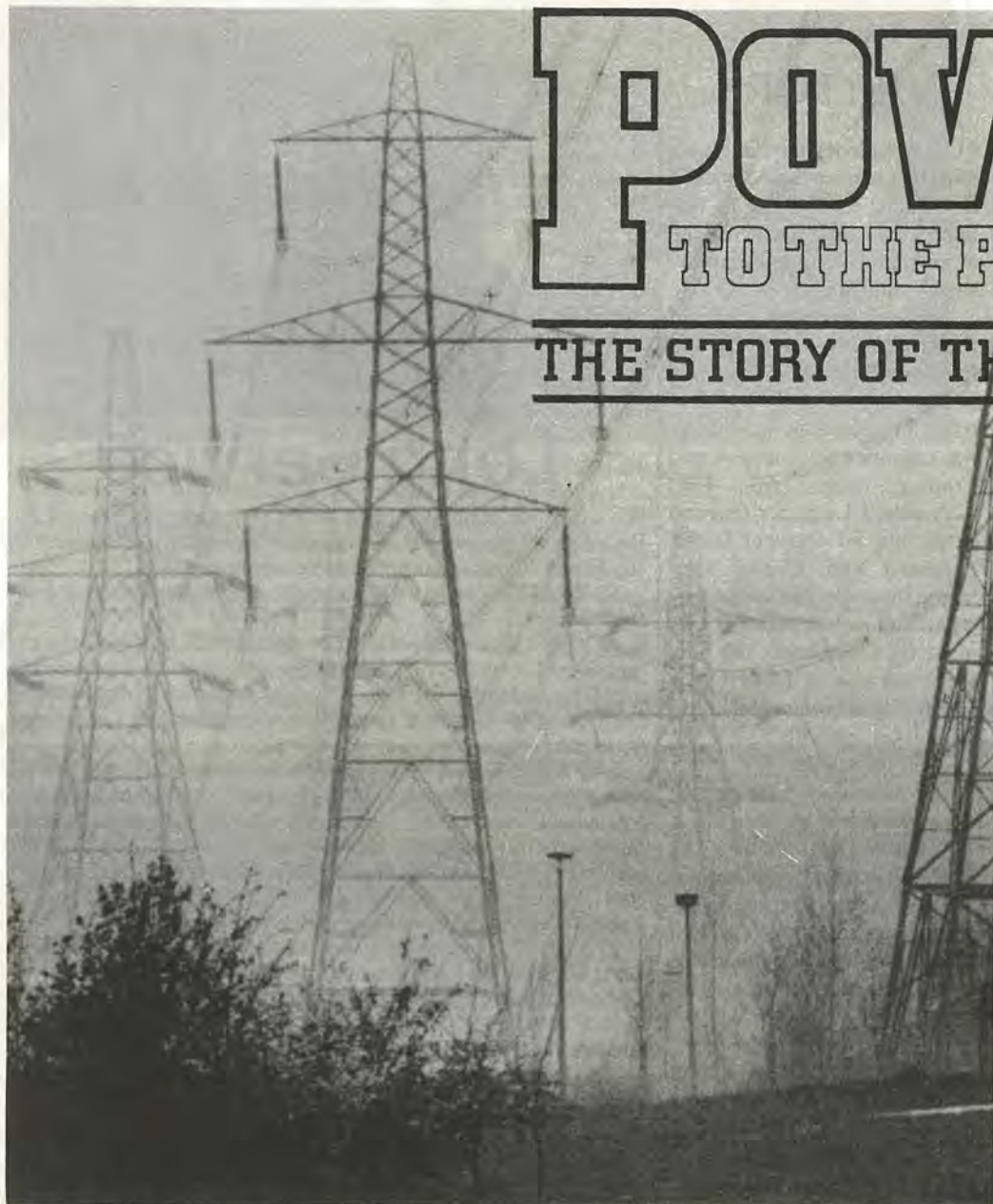
When you see these signs — take care!



POWER

TO THE PEOPLE

THE STORY OF THE NATIONAL GRID



The CEGB towers carrying the 400,000 volt electricity lines which bring 'power to the people'. These are part of the national grid network which celebrates its fiftieth year in 1985.

MANWEB JCC MEET

LAST month we reported on the speech by Electricity Council Chairman Philip Jones, principal speaker at the Third Annual Conference organised by the MANWEB Joint Co-ordinating Council, held at Head Office.

Four main topics, presented by members of the Board's staff filled most of the remaining Conference time.

From North Wirral District, George Leeming, (*meter operative*) and Des Lock (*District Manager*) described the problems created by illegal abstraction in the District, and the measures being taken to counter it.

Refurbishing the MANWEB overhead network was the theme of a talk by Clwyd

District second engineer Tony England, who outlined the effort involved and the likely benefits of a 20-year programme to replace ageing lines.

Howard Snape (*craftsman electrician*) of Mid-Cheshire District, discussed the need for improvements in the training of apprentices, while Tony Swift

(*2nd engineer*) from Mid-Mersey District led what proved to be a lively discussion on what he regarded as the ineffective way in which local JCCs were working.

At the start of the conference the 44 delegates were welcomed by the Board Chairman Ben Hastings, who singled out the theft of electricity as "*still our number one problem*," and there were reports on the year's work of the Council by joint secretaries Kevan Dufty and Keith Mann.

POLITICIAN Herbert Morrison described the national transmission grid as "*a network . . . with a sense of majesty.*"

That was 50 years ago — but the same could just as easily be said today, according to *Power to the People*, a book written by Rob Cochrane, which traces half a century of growth and development.

Cochrane is better equipped than most to take a complex subject and turn it into a good read. He has the experience of a lengthy successful CEGB career to draw on, coupled with writing skills good enough to script plays for the BBC.

Consequently, his book will attract readers from outside as well as inside the electricity supply industry. He traces the grid's early bumpy political and technical ride through to modern times using the neat device of interspersing cold facts with quotes from engineers.

The tale begins in 1926 when an urgent decision was needed about the way electricity was to develop because 30 years of piecemeal supply development had resulted in a mess. London, for example, had 50 different systems of electricity supply, with 24 different voltages and ten different frequencies!

Cochrane details the political furore before a seven-area grid was eventually agreed and built. It was in full operation in 1935 — 3,000 miles of 132kV transmission lines and another 1,000 miles at lower voltages, together with 237 substations.

Grid control men learned their skills by "*the seat of their pants*", finally being able to cope with demand surges caused by the likes of Gracie Fields singing, or Tommy Farr fighting, on the radio. There were snags, of course, including Black Sunday, when the supply to a quarter of the population was cut off after a series of knock-on trips in the South East.

But, overall, the grid proved its worth and eventually it moved from seven individual areas capable of helping each other out to a truly integrated system. That happened in the winter of 1938, when a shortfall of plant was predicted.

The grid's versatility helped Britain's war effort between 1939 and 1945, keeping industry going in one area while another was pounded by enemy bombs. The campaign cost the industry dear in the long run, because plant was taken to the limit and beyond and new plant was not available just as domestic and industrial demand was rising.

The inevitable happened — power cuts, culminating in 12-hour shutdowns in large areas during the Big Freeze of 1947. It was a cruel time.

Then, writes Cochrane, came nationalisation with the British Electricity Authority becoming the manufacturers and wholesalers of the industry and the Area Boards the retailers.

The change was timely — bigger, fewer power stations were becoming the order of the day and the grid was fast approaching the time when it would not be able to cope. In 1950 it was decided to build a 275kV supergrid.

The planning and wayleaves problems were great — but were overcome, allowing the grid, now under the CEGB, to move into the Sixties with confidence as electricity demand soared.

As power station output rose it was obvious the grid would need upgrading again in the Seventies — to 400kV. Once more the wayleaves officers faced protracted problems, winning over planning authorities.

The oil price leap which followed the Middle

East war of 1973 changed the face of economic operation, sending previously highly competitive oil-fired stations tumbling down the merit order.

And new nuclear stations several years later came on stream just as demand increase tailed off because of world recession. Ironically, this gave the grid the chance to show again its versatility by distributing the "new" power allowing the closure of older, less efficient stations.

The National Grid 50 this year

April 9th was quietly celebrated by our CEGB colleagues as the 50th birthday of the National Grid. The grid took it quietly, having to handle a demand of only 28,000 megawatts, compared with maximum daily demands of more than 45,000 in mid-January.

CEGB Chairman Sir Walter Marshall said the Grid had proved its value on many occasions, more recently during the miner's strike when its flexibility had enabled electricity supplies to be maintained nation-wide.

Today the grid includes 8,000 miles of high-voltage cable and lines, linking 84 power stations. Although the cost of fuel in 1985 is 55 times as much as it was 50 years ago, the average cost of electricity has increased only nine-fold.

The Grid control centre, at present located in London, moves to Wokingham in 1988, where new computers will bring greater precision to its operations.

The grid did not stand still, technically, despite the difficult economic times. New ideas came along, including an updated cross-Channel link with France. This should be operational this year and Cochrane gives some space to its ingenuity.

He also had a stab at the future, through the eyes of a planning engineer who says: "*Nowadays, we look at a whole range of possible economic developments — scenarios we call them — from a strong upturn in our national productivity to no growth at all — we even look at the effects of possible changes in the whole pattern of industry in this country as we've known it. And those scenarios show that our present 400kV grid — helped by some important technical advances — will go on providing the basic framework for the foreseeable future, without any need to superimpose a still higher voltage. But we are still going to need some new lines to meet load changes in some parts of the country, as well as to connect new power stations into the grid.*"

"*Power to the People*", published by Newnes in association with CEGB, is available to all present and retired staff of the electricity supply industry at £2, which includes post and packing. The retail price is £3.95. Copies can be obtained by sending a cheque or postal order made payable to the CEGB, to Publications Section, Dept. of Information and Public Affairs, CEGB, Sudbury House, 15 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AU.



District Manager Des Lock addresses conference from the lectern. Also pictured are, from the left, Bob Blackburn EPEA representative, Norman Barr, EEPTU and Trade Union side chairman, Board side chairman and Board Chairman, Ben Hastings, and joint secretaries, Kevan Dufty Board side, and Keith Mann Trade Union side, and the NALGO Representative.

North Wirral "Medallions"

are tops



A project supervisor, 27-year-old Julie Cookson, took over a Barratt Studio One Solo in New Brighton about a year ago. Heating is supplied through a 3.4 kilowatt slimline storage heater sited in the living/sleeping area. A downflow heater warms the well-equipped all-electric kitchen and an infra-red heater is installed in the dressing/shower room. An immersion heater is fitted in the lagged, 30-gallon combination cylinder. All electricity is supplied on the cheap-rate Economy 7 tariff.

"The running costs are most reasonable," Julie commented. "The apartment is compact, clean and very cosy and suits my needs admirably."

AT the end of March this year, through sustained efforts by the Commercial staff in our North Wirral District, they had signed up 414 homes to qualify for the "Medallion Award". This represented 21 per cent of the Board's total.

North Wirral's first "Medallion" was in April 1982 and covered 16 flats built by Mason Developments at The Dell in Rock Ferry.

During 1983/84, the District made a little more steady progress. Mason Developments, obviously impressed with the "Medallion" standard, signed for another 32 flats in the Rock Ferry area. Then along came Barratt Developments with 26 flats at New Brighton and Morton Spur. This completed the second year with 58 homes going "Medallion".

Last year, North Wirral really got into its stride. They galloped ahead with 146 dwellings for builders Todd and Benn at Wallasey and Heswall and 61 flats at Bidston Road, Birkenhead for McCarthy and Stone. Into the picture, once again, came Mason Developments with half-a-dozen flats at New Brighton.

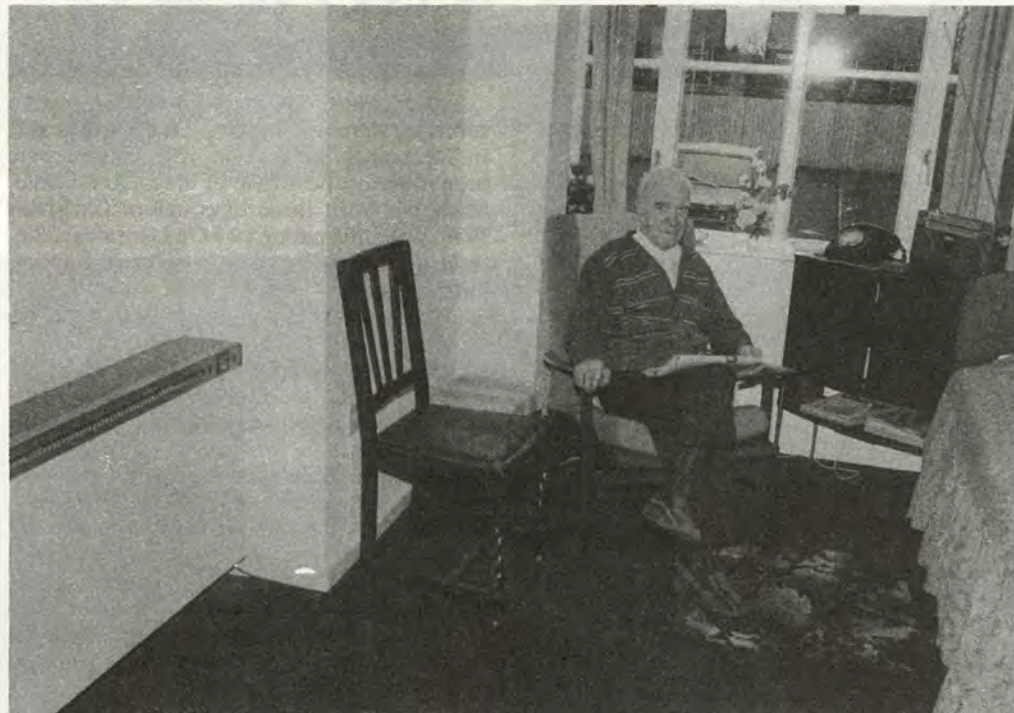
Builders Edward Ruscoe was persuaded to go "Medallion" with a neat development of 12 flats at Oxon. He was followed by Redrow Developments with their 64 flats at Greasby.

Most recent application was from Wain Retirement Homes for their 51 dwellings being built at Bromborough. This brought the District's third year total to 340 homes built to "Medallion" standard.

There is no doubt that every builder, large or small, who contemplates the construction of domestic dwellings in our North Wirral area will be taking a serious look at our "Medallion Award" scheme. They will appreciate that the "Medallion" on their signboard will impress potential buyers and help to sell their homes quickly.

Left: Receiving a "Medallion Award" certificate from Ron Jones (Load Development Engineer), right, are Irene and Edward Ruscoe watched by Walter Curle from builders' merchants, William Bernard.

Below: The completed block of twelve energy-saving flats at Oxon.



When his wife died a couple of years ago, 77-year-old Eric Bissell moved into a new "Medallion" flat at The Beeches in Rock Ferry. "It is very comfortable here. The electric central heating is ideal for keeping the temperature throughout the flat at a steady 70 degrees," he told us pointing to a thermometer on the wall. "Economy 7 is proving very economical too... very important to me, a pensioner."

Below: Working on the wiring installations for Redrow Development at Greasby we see, from left to right: Tommy Hill, Gary Edwards and Alan Slark (site foreman).



Left: happy in their work, two more contacting electrician, Kevin Smith, left, and Roger Chrisop.



"Medallion" liaison man, Graham Rixon, seen here on the virgin site at Pensby Road, Heswall where, in a short time, builders Todd and Benn from Bootle will be constructing 76 retirement apartments — all to "Medallion" standard.



OUR NORTH WIRRAL DISTRICT LOAD DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Ron Jones (Load Development Engineer), Billy Hatton (1st engineer) Alan Fox (2nd engineer) and, recently adding to their strength, Ian Cross and David Makin (2nd engineers).

Commercial assistants are Clive Garner, Helen Kennedy, Graham Rixon, Marjorie Scregg and Gordon Starkie. Completing the team is Norman Carew (tariff surveyor).



Medallion Homes

FOR SALE

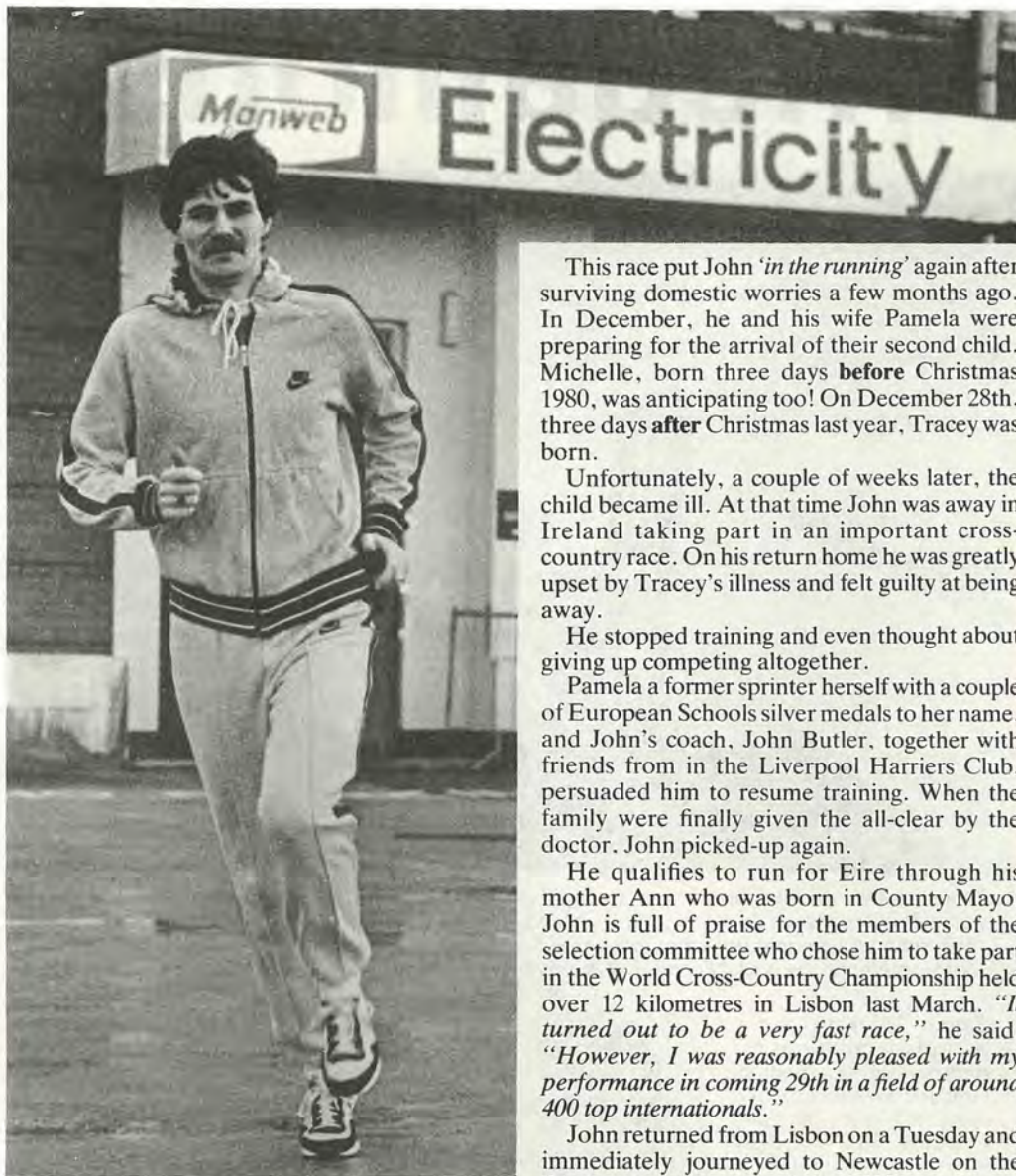
WAIN ASSISTED RETIREMENT APARTMENTS COMPLETE WITH LIFTS & RESIDENTS LOUNGE

TODD & BENN

150, 152 TELEGRAPH ROAD, HESWALL

051 942 6239 90 6344 5

SOLE AGENTS



John Woods leaves Lister Drive offices for a lunch-time training run.

This race put John 'in the running' again after surviving domestic worries a few months ago. In December, he and his wife Pamela were preparing for the arrival of their second child. Michelle, born three days before Christmas 1980, was anticipating too! On December 28th, three days after Christmas last year, Tracey was born.

Unfortunately, a couple of weeks later, the child became ill. At that time John was away in Ireland taking part in an important cross-country race. On his return home he was greatly upset by Tracey's illness and felt guilty at being away.

He stopped training and even thought about giving up competing altogether.

Pamela a former sprinter herself with a couple of European Schools silver medals to her name, and John's coach, John Butler, together with friends from in the Liverpool Harriers Club, persuaded him to resume training. When the family were finally given the all-clear by the doctor, John picked-up again.

He qualifies to run for Eire through his mother Ann who was born in County Mayo. John is full of praise for the members of the selection committee who chose him to take part in the World Cross-Country Championship held over 12 kilometres in Lisbon last March. "It turned out to be a very fast race," he said. "However, I was reasonably pleased with my performance in coming 29th in a field of around 400 top internationals."

John returned from Lisbon on a Tuesday and immediately journeyed to Newcastle on the Wednesday to run in their 5,000 metre road race. "I didn't do very well as I found the distance too short and the running too fast!" he commented.

Considering his devotion to training and his race programme we asked John if he ever thought of becoming a full-time competitor.

"I have a wife and family to take care of and a mortgage to pay," he replied. "I need an income from a regular job. I also enjoy my work as a draughtsman and often get the 'lift' I need from my colleagues at The Drive. To help boost my training schedule I am able to utilise flexitime."

"The sport can be very expensive", he continued. "But I have an understanding and supportive wife and, from time to time, I am helped by the Nike Company who provide my running gear."

John is now planning for a busy time during the coming months. He is already booked for a big track event in Cork on July 9th and hopes to take part in the 'AAA' Meeting four days later.

We wish him a season of success.

MAN ON THE RUN

INTERNATIONAL cross-country and road-runner John Woods, a draughtsman in our Liverpool District, took part in the recent Rank Xerox ten kilometre race in London. In a field of top-class runners from all over the world, John came in a creditable sixth place behind world champion and record-holding opposition.

Laugh with Mitch



"... but my wife will kill me if I get my new jersey dirty ..."



"Fred ... it's Monday morning ..."

SHOP STAFF MOVES

FOLLOWING the retirement of Dilys Jones, former supervisor at MANWEB's Pwllheli shop, after a working lifetime with the Board, new appointments have been made at the Board's shops at Pwllheli, Blaenau Ffestiniog, and Porthmadog.

Adrian Jones has moved from Blaenau Ffestiniog to take over as supervisor at Pwllheli, and has been succeeded by Lol Williams, who moves to Blaenau Ffestiniog from Porthmadog. New supervisor at Porthmadog is Dewi Griffiths, formerly assistant supervisor at Pwllheli.

Wirral winners

IN a first-aid competition held recently at Stockport, our team from North Wirral District took top prize. They beat teams from the police authority and from a Merseyside colliery — all having excellent reputations in competition work.

Our quartet from Prenton were presented with the winning trophy which they will hold for a year. They also received replicas which they keep for themselves.

The successful team began as a three-man - Brian Emberton (painter), Steve Holmes and Alan Cameron (electrical fitters) Novice team in this year's District First-Aid Competition.

Shortly afterwards, Norman Carew, (tariff surveyor) joined the team and they began entering for local competitions to gain more experience.

In the wake of their recent success they are now in strict training for their next big test.

'Obscenity of waste'

Dear Editor,

As a result of your recent report in 'CONTACT' regarding our "Sponsored Fast", we are pleased to convey our sincere gratitude to the anonymous donor who contributed a large sum of money to our appeal.

No-one can fail to be moved by the obscenity of waste of human life which is occurring in some Third World countries today.

Almost £200 has been raised by the appeal. This money has been distributed via Oxfam and Christian Aid to Ethiopia.

Fifty pence could mean life rather than death to a child in Ethiopia. For this reason if anybody wishes to help with a contribution, however small, we would be delighted to keep this Appeal open indefinitely.

Yours sincerely,
Tomos Davies
David Grady

(Aberystwyth District)



John Thornton

PRIZE STUDENT

IN his final year in the Department of Engineering at the North Cheshire College, John Paul Thornton, an electrical fitter with our Transmission section, was awarded the top prize as the best student of the year in craft trades.

John received a cash prize and a certificate which will join the handful of City and Guild Certificates gained during the past five years. In every examination he has been awarded credits and distinctions.

In his aim to become a qualified engineer, John is continuing his studies at the College to attain his HNC.

Starting his working life with the Board as an apprentice at Hoyle in 1978, John completed his training in the Mid-Mersey District. When he qualified as a tradesman in 1983, he transferred to work for the Transmission section.

He is engaged to Catherine who works for the Water Authority. They are planning their wedding, hopefully later this year. John is working hard in order to have his transport ready by then. He recently acquired a Nova kit-car and is, at the moment, in the process of refurbishing the interior and adding odd refinements here and there.

CAR AND HOLIDAY WINNERS

St Helens couple John and Lil Carr little thought when they bought a Berry Magicoal fire from our St. Helens shop that their purchase would net them a brand new car and two separate get-away-from-it-all holidays in the sun.

All buyers of Berry Magicoal appliances during a special display promotion last Autumn were invited to "spot the sun" in a seaside illustration. John and Lil hit the jackpot in the "Sunseeker" competition, and were presented with a new Fiesta 1100 Popular Plus and vouchers for £1,500 worth of holidays at a ceremony in Birmingham.

Now they plan two weeks in Tenerife later this year, followed by two weeks in Greece next Spring. Our picture shows John and Lil in a happy mood with our St. Helens shop supervisor Bill Royden (centre).



PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY COMPETITION

The MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club's Photographic Society have organised a 'Grand Photographic Competition'.

Entries are invited from all members of any of the MANWEB Sports and Social Clubs. Cash prizes are £10 for the best picture, with second and third prizes of £7 and £3 respectively. There will also be a £10 prize for the best picture in the competition by a Photographic Society member.

The contest is restricted to black and white or colour prints - no slides. Entry forms are available from Viv Pitcher, room 103, Old Building, Head Office, int. tel. 2318, or, Dave Oultram, Plant and Construction, 3W1, Head Office, int. tel. 2480.

NB—THIS IS NOT THE ANNUAL CONTACT COMPETITION WHICH WILL BE HELD LATER THIS YEAR



A toast to Harry Sharples, centre, from just a few of the friends and colleagues who dropped in to wish him well in retirement.

Mr. H. SHARPLES

JUST two months short of half a century in the electricity supply industry, 2nd engineer Harry Sharples from the Head Office Load Development section has retired.

It was in 1935 that he started as an apprentice with the Liverpool Corporation, at Pumpfields. He served in the RAF during the 2nd World War, and came back as an electrician to the Corporation, servicing appliances and later contracting work.

In 1955 he joined the MANWEB test house team, initially as an electrician, then as an installation inspector. He was made a general assistant engineer in 1959 and a fourth assistant (or 3rd engineer in present day parlance) in 1973, becoming a second engineer three years later. With the closure of the test laboratory in 1982 he joined the Load Development staff at Sealand Road.

Harry is married, and he and his wife have a daughter June. She is married and lives in Hong Kong with her husband and son. Harry and Doris have visited the colony on several occasions. He is a keen photographer and enjoys walking in the hills. He is a fair player at the snooker table.



Ted Charnock, holding his meter mechanism in a bottle, with friends and colleagues from North Wirral District.

Mr. E. CHARNOCK

NORTH Wirral craftsman electrician Ted Charnock, has now retired after 29 year's service.

He joined the Board at the former Seaview Road depot in Wallasey and soon gained the reputation among his colleagues as a bit of a 'workaholic'.

He transferred to shift working in 1964.

On behalf of friends in the District, Ken Mitchell (2nd engineer) presented Ted with some tools and a meter in a bottle with a stack of 50p coins!

There was also a bouquet of flowers for Ted's wife, Agnes.



Mr. J. ATKIN

CELEBRATING retirement after nearly half a century in the electricity supply industry Dee Valley 2nd engineer, Jimmy Atkin, hosted a party for over a hundred friends and colleagues at a Chester hotel.

Jimmy started as an apprentice with the Birkenhead Corporation Electricity Department in 1936. During the 2nd World War he served with the Royal Engineers, reaching the rank of sergeant. He saw action in North Africa, Italy and on through Europe.

Jimmy Atkins cuts his retirement cake, supported by District Engineering Manager John Parry, left, and fellow Dee Valley engineers.

He returned to 'Civvy Street' and his old job but moved to Chester in 1949 as an assistant section engineer. He became a section engineer the following year. When the former Chester and Wrexham Districts were amalgamated in 1970 he was appointed 2nd engineer in the new Dee Valley District.

A bachelor, Jimmy is involved in some charity work visiting hospitals. He also likes the countryside and enjoys walking in the Welsh hills.



TWO RETIRE FROM NORTH WIRRAL DISTRICT

Mr. C. L. CUSSONS

A MANWEB character, well-known on both sides of the River Mersey, C. L. 'Bill' Cussons recently retired from his post as an administrative assistant in the North Wirral District. He had completed 37 years' service in our industry.

Bill joined the Board at Wallasey shop in 1948. Later, he moved into District Office in the Work Control section.

His hobbies include amateur dramatics and golf.

Mr. C. TOLCHER

AFTER 21 years' service with the Board, Cyril Tolcher, a chargehand general duties assistant in our North Wirral District, has now retired.

Cyril spent 22 years as a regular soldier in airborne units prior to starting a second career with MANWEB.

He now lives in Llandudno.

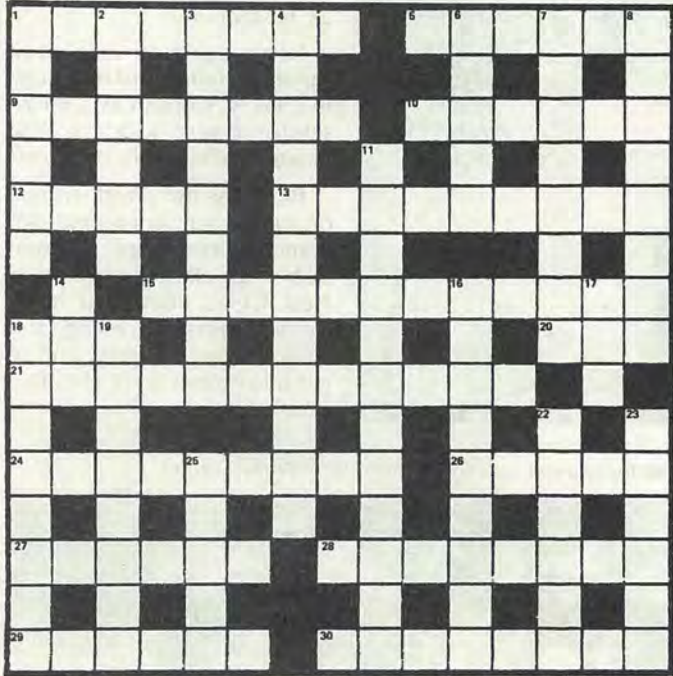
Life begins at . . .

by MITCH



PRIZE CROSSWORD

YOU have until the last day of May to complete and return the solution to our latest crossword. Again we are offering three prizes of £5.00 to each of the first three correct opened. Send your entries to:—
CONTACT CROSSWORD, MANWEB HEAD OFFICE, SEALAND ROAD, CHESTER.
Closing date for entries — 31st May 1985.



NAME

ADDRESS (Office, or home if pensioner)

.....

.....

CLUES

Across

- 1 Begin in Mr. Laurel's church, for example (8)
- 5 I am quiet before the end of those who take advantage (6)
- 9. A good (French) chair is broken up to make air-pipes (8)
- 10 He-cats could scorch with sarcasm (6)
- 12 Arrive at at an expanse of water (5)
- 13 Collector of ingle soot gives old words new meanings (9)
- 15 One public school place that is said to have contributed to the success of the battle of Waterloo (7, 5)
- 18 Interference when putting it in (3)
- 20 Herb of grace (3)
- 21 From where to see the palace gardens at Versailles? (6, 6)
- 24 Inexpensive shopping place in London? (9)
- 26 Meat-provider in Samson's riddle (5)
- 27 Like the snow where the page put his foot (6)
- 28 Oil-conveyer's reversed at the start of a religious festival in January (8)
- 29 Artful pickpocket (6)
- 30 Curtain material you could once rent (8)

Down

- 1 This type of greatness is not achieved (6)
- 2 Standard catch-phrase (6)
- 3 Learner left out of a cool chill shake-up needs a drink (9)



SNOOKER WINNERS

The top break in the Head Office snooker league was held by Alvin Rawlinson from the engineering team, he is seen receiving his award from Chief Engineer Jim Fisher a vice president of the club. The winning team calling themselves 'Five aways' are pictured with the awards. They are left to right, Pat Byrne, Gary Jaros, John Peel, Colin Roberts, Joe Flanagan and his son Mark.
The team also won the knockout tournament with only one change of player. Roger Hughes substituted for Pat Byrne, the Snooker club secretary, who organised the knockout and the league.

- 4 Water baby's previous occupation (7, 5)
- 6 This dot is top secret . . . (5)
- 7 . . . to an unauthorised person (8)
- 8 Leaves its mark halfway up the sea wall? (8)
- 11 Outcome of print unions not being on strike! (7, 5)
- 14 If sinister, it starts from the spectator's right (3)
- 16 In reverse order, return to partly present voracious wild animal with amusing type of TV men (9)
- 17 Light unit - for soap flakes? (3)
- 18 When not on, concluded to annoy (8)
- 19 Rationalised after being seen in road disturbance (8)
- 22 "Blind guides which . . . at a gnat and swallow a camel (St Matthew) (6)
- 23 Tartan-patterned town (6)
- 25 Island home of Zeus's Mother Ida (5)

(Dictionary: Chambers Twentieth Century)

CONTACT FREE ADS

We offer this space for you to use to buy, sell or exchange goods or services, publicise sports and social events or meetings. The offer is to ESI staff present or retired. The offer is subject to space being available and an advertisement is inserted at the editors discretion. The coupon below is there for your convenience, advertisements will be accepted on plain paper.

THIS SERVICE IS FREE.

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

(BLOCK CAPS PLEASE)

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Name:

Work place (or retired)

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

FOR SALE

BRIDESMAID DRESSES — Two in peach, sizes 14 and 16. Beautiful condition. £25 each ono. Tel. Warrington 37262 (R. Fairbrother).

CARAVAN — Eccles Topaz. Two berth and spare portalo. Battery lighting. Carpets. Tel. Gresford 4980. (Graham Peake).

GAS BOILER — Gloworm 45 - 60B. Free-standing. Three years old £100. Tel. Chester 372788 (M. V. F. Mager).

LENS — Pentax 40-80 mm zoom lens with macro facility. 'K' lens fitting. £60. Tel. Head Office 2764 (C. Cubbin).

PRAM — Silver Cross in brown. Complete with mattress, harness and shopping tray. £25 ono. Tel. Wrexham 843526

PUBLIC ADDRESS — Sound City 200 Plus. Valve amp. £185. 2 x 18 Bass Cab £105. 1 x 18 Bass Bin (reflex) £105. Or £340 the lot. Tel. North Mersey 208 (T. Brunt).

RACING CYCLE — For youth. 19½in. frame. Ten gears. Good condition. £40 ono. Tel. Mid-Cheshire District 124 (R. Cree).

TUMBLE DRYER — Creda. Good condition. £25. Tel. Chester 372788 (M. V. F. Mager).

CARS

VW DERBY — 'X' reg. 32,000 miles, immaculate condition. One owner. Tel. 051 722 2433 or Chester 677879 (A. P. Battisti).

HOUSES

CHESTER — Boughton, four bedroomed detached. Built by Whelmar Ltd., approximately two years ago. One and a half miles from Chester city centre and within walking distance of Sainsbury's Store. £47,950. Tel. Chester 313609 or Clwyd District 627. (Terry Dunne).

LIVERPOOL — Stonecroft. Modern three-bedroom extended semi. Garage, gardens, fitted kitchen with double-oven, hob unit. Fitted bedroom furniture. Numerous extras. Well maintained. £26,950 ono. Tel. 051 228 4566. (M. E. Ellison).

PETS

FREE — to a good home. A tabby cat and a golden Labrador puppy. Tel. Head office 2820 (Chris Coldray).

BERROW — On Somerset coast within easy reach of Weston-super-Mare, Cheddar and the beautiful Quantock countryside. New, ground-floor flat for four people. Particularly suitable for family holidays. Tel. 0278 786899 (Alan Fear).

CAERNARFON — Bed and breakfast. Tel. Caernarfon 3055 (T. Vaughan Jones).

CHWILOG — Pwllheli. Cosy and comfortable, stonebuilt, self-catering, modernised country house. All electric. Quiet and peaceful. Within easy reach of beaches and mountains. Every convenience. Sleeps up to six. Tel. 076688 588 (A. Roberts).

COSTA-DEL-SOL — Fuengirola/Marbella. Studio apartment, sleeps three. magnificent views. Shared pool. Near beach. Also available, two bedroom apartment. Flights arranged. Tel. Runcorn 76294 (Tom Johnson).

HOLIDAYS

CRICCIETH — Five-berth caravan on farm site. Mains supply. 'Fridge and TV. Tel. 0766 830271 (J. G. Thomas).

TENERIFE — Playa de las Americas. Luxury apartment, superb location. Two bedrooms, terrace, pool. Tel. Chester 674871 or Head Office 2388 (G. Littler).

WESTON-SUPER-MARE — Self-contained, sea-front, holiday apartments, some with balconies. Magnificent views of Weston Bay. Suitable for two to five people. For free brochure send sae to Mr. T. Pettitt, Garden Flat, 4 Claremont Crescent, Weston-super-Mare, or Tel. 0934 412397

WESTON-SUPER-MARE — Holiday flats, on level. Fully equipped. Close to beach, shops and parks. Sleeps two to six people. Tel. 0934 416678. (M. Lavin).



... stop press stop press . . .

TOP TALKERS TO COMPETE IN LONDON

Winners of the MANWEB heat of the Electricity Council Public Speaking Competition were Tomos Davies from Aberystwyth District and Carol Westly from Head Office. They both compete in the finals in London on May 23rd.

With classic Welsh oratory Tomos delivered his talk to a Rotary Club telling them of 'The view from his window — past, present and future'. Carol chose female school leavers to let them know 'Career opportunities in the ESI'. We wish them good luck in the final.