



# Contact

November 1978

Magnus in full flow!  
(see page 232)

# Captain's Day at Oswestry

On a glorious Autumn day, members of the MANWEB (*Head Office*) Golf Society gathered at the Oswestry Golf Club to compete in a nine-hole Greensome medal competition in the morning and for the Captain's Prize in the afternoon.

Brian Doyle (*Dee Valley*) and John Hammond (*Engineering*) ran out as winners in the first competition with runners-up Bill Swann (*Display*) and Keith Roberts (*Drawing Office*) close behind them.

After lunch, threesomes set off in the 18-hole medal competition for the Captain's Prize.

The eventual winner was Reg Bramhall (*Mid-Mersey*) 85.20.65, with Colin Pritchard (*Oswestry*) 92.24.68 in second place and Dennis Nicholls (*Mid-Cheshire*) 82.14.68 coming third.

Category winners were Sid Pugh (*Oswestry*) 76.7.69; Dennis Atkinson (*Clwyd*) 88.16.72 and Cliff Cave (*Drawing Office*) 90.21.69.

The prize for the best first nine holes went to Mike Potts (*Mid-Cheshire*) 45.12.33 and for

At the Clubhouse—Geoff Purslow, Eddie Edwards and Tony Murphy.



"They were in charge!" From left to right: Kevin Gee (*asst. secretary*), Frank Parkinson (*secretary*), Derek Jones (*captain*) and Harold Mayhew (*treasurer*).



On the green—Alyn ab Iorwerth, Gwyn Norbury and Malcolm Cooper.



Above: Winner Reg Bramhall, centre, with Hywel Jones, left and Keith Roberts.

Below: At the 18th—Tom Jones, Harry Parsons and Sid Pugh.

the inward half, Trevor Edwards (*Dee Valley*) 34.2.32.

Other prizes—at the other end of the table—went to Charlie Lathom (*Liverpool*), Geoffrey Barnes (*Chief Accountant*) and Malcolm Cooper (*Mid-Cheshire*).



Members of the Society expressed their sincere thanks to their captain Derek Jones (*senior engineer—Design*) for providing a most enjoyable day.

Checking the scorecards—Dennis Jones, John Hammond and Martin Lloyd.



# Contact

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NORTH WALES  
ELECTRICITY BOARD

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## NO OTHER ROAD

AS THE Governments of the world—particularly those of the developed countries—peer anxiously into the future, the question mark over energy supply and demand looms menacingly from the mists of uncertainty.

Estimates and guesstimates of reserves of fuel may vary, but there is absolute certainty that sooner or later the supplies of fossil fuels laid down so long ago beneath the surface of our planet will run out.

The industrialised nations already gobble up vast quantities of coal, oil and gas to sustain sophisticated societies and high standards of living. As the underdeveloped countries strive for industrialisation and modernisation the pressure will increase, leading inevitably to rising fuel prices and an intensified search for alternative energy sources.

The speech by Mr. Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy, at the recent annual conference of the District Joint Advisory Council (reported elsewhere in this number of *Contact*) showed a reassuring Governmental grasp of the situation. It showed too that the Government recognises that our industry's slogan '*The Future is Electric*' is not merely a catch-phrase, but a historical inevitability.

During recent years electricity has had its ups and downs as inflation and the soaring cost of power station fuel have been reflected in the price of electricity to the customer. In retrospect this will be seen as little more than a "hiccup" along the road.

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



Guest speaker Mr. Alex Eadie.

**E**LECTRICITY has a crucial contribution to make, both now and in the future, to the economic well-being of our country" declared Mr. Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy, guest speaker at the annual conference of No. 9 District Joint Advisory Council, held recently at Head Office. The conference was attended by staff representatives from MANWEB, the Electricity Council's Research Centre at Capenhurst, and the North Western Region of the CEGB.

Mr. Eadie said that the electricity industry was the biggest consumer of fossil fuels in the country, burning 69 million tons of coal last year.

"Looking ahead it is clear that the electricity industry will retain, and probably enhance, its central role" he said. "Power stations will be the main users of coal at least until the end of the century, and the vehicle for the development of nuclear power. Electricity is also the obvious way of harnessing renewable energy sources such as wave and tidal power if and when they become economic. As the availability of oil and natural gas declines, therefore, we are likely to look increasingly to electricity."

Mr. Eadie added that Britain was well-placed in the short-to-medium-term with our oil and gas reserves, but these would probably be running down towards the end of the century. Coal would still be available, however, when these sources had run out.

"At present the only assured energy sources in the longer term appear to be coal and nuclear power, with both used as means of generating electricity," he said.

"From a recent analysis of comparative costs both coal and nuclear stations appear justifiable investments and the Government sees the need to develop both options. We are also investigating the scope for alternative energy sources. In our power station programme we must take account of general energy

## DJAC CONFERENCE

# "Electricity's Crucial Contribution"

—Mr. Alex Eadie

considerations such as the availability of coal and uranium, the viabilities of the coal, nuclear and power plant industries, and the increasingly important social environmental and safety issues.

### Conservation

On the subject of energy conservation Mr. Eadie said that electricity had a dual role to play—first to save energy in our own industry by efficient management, and second to help our customers to do the same.

The Government was doing everything possible to encourage conservation, and as an example had provided legislative backing for grants towards the cost of insulating private homes.

### The Environment

"The Government is determined that all work on future energy sources should pay full attention to environmental considerations" declared Mr. Eadie. "Of particular importance for the future of electricity are the environmental issues associated with nuclear power.

"The public have a very natural concern for the potential hazards of a nuclear-based economy, and the adequacy of measures to deal with those hazards."

After referring to the questions of disposal of radioactive waste, and the Windscale inquiry, Mr. Eadie went on to say that any proposal to build a commercial scale demonstration fast reactor would be subject to a full public inquiry.

"By debating the issues in public I think we succeed in allaying some of the unjustified fears about the use of nuclear power, and make its further development much more acceptable than if decisions are taken behind closed doors. Public participation in this sort of decision-making is a vital part of any genuinely democratic society" he added.



Pictures on this page show two of the syndicates in session at this year's DJAC Conference.

On the re-organisation of the electricity industry Mr. Eadie said that the Government remained committed to re-organisation, and recognised the importance and urgency of taking action.

In closing he commented: "I firmly believe that every industry ultimately depends on the goodwill of those who work in it. In all my contacts with the electricity supply industry I have been impressed by the high morale of staff at all levels. I am sure that you will meet the challenges of the future with the same skill and determination you have met those of the past."

Progress reports on behalf of MANWEB, Capenhurst and the CEGB were presented respectively by our Chairman Ben Hastings, Dr. A. T. Churchman, Director of Capenhurst, and Mr. R. Houghton, the CEGB's Regional Director of Production.

Analysing MANWEB's results during 1977/78 Mr. Hastings said that our profit for the year went mainly to finance our capital programme, but part of it had been used to reduce our outstanding debt.

"We would hope this year to achieve more or less the same result, to make more or less the same profit, and to do more or less the same kind of thing with it" he forecast.

**"Efficiency is all-important. Any monopoly can show a profit simply by putting up prices. We have a very real duty to see to it that we are efficient, and everyone likes to work for an efficient and profitable enterprise."**

Summing up trends during the first half of the current year, the Chairman said there had been a further small increase in domestic demand, and it was hoped that the introduction of the Economy 7 tariffs would emphasise this trend. Demand by our "top twelve" industrial customers was still sluggish, but things looked brighter as far as the rest of the industrial scene was concerned—a very encouraging picture in relation to Merseyside's economy.

Referring to the theft of electricity, he said: "I pay tribute to the work of our inspection teams in the Liverpool area—they are a very effective force indeed."

After the Reports the delegates split up into discussion syndicates. A lively question-and-answer session followed Mr. Eadie's address, while the closing session for the MANWEB and Capenhurst delegates (under the guidance of Deputy Chairman Richard Gales) was also the occasion for a free and frank discussion on a broad range of topics of interest.





One of the panels facing questions from the staff. From left to right: Messrs. Jim Barraclough (Group Manager), Gordon Barlow (panel Chairman), Ernie Redman (Principal Engineer—Industrial) and Doug Willacy (District Commercial Engineer).

## Gwynedd District Conference



Left and below: District staff pose questions for a panel of management officers, Messrs. Stan Roberts (Assistant Chief Engineer), Geoff Abel (Corporate Development Officer), Russell Shaw (District Engineer) and panel Chairman Mr. Arthur Bunton.



**F**OLLOWING last year's highly successful meeting for employees in our Gwynedd District, the organising committee again decided on the same format of separating the delegates into discussion groups with teams of management officers to answer their questions.

In his capacity as Chairman of No. 8 Local Advisory Committee, Mr. Jim Barraclough (Group Manager) warmly welcomed everyone saying how encouraging it was to see so many people making the effort to come along. He was also pleased to see former colleagues now in the ranks of the retired, "keeping in touch."

He then introduced the guests from Head Office with Mr. Glyn Dodd—"who looks after our pay and superannuation"—getting the loudest cheers.

Mr. Barraclough said that the

This most happy panel answered staff questions relating to accounts and secretarial matters. They are, from left to right: Messrs. Glyn Dodd (Asst. Chief Accountant), John Jones (panel Chairman), Dennis Hughes (District Administrative Officer) and Cliff Shepherd (Senior Exec. Officer—Personnel).



group discussion system gave more people the opportunity to take part than in a more formal "question and answer" session. "This surely leads to a better understanding all round," he commented.

He stated that the Board's future looked brighter with the introduction of the new Economy 7 and Tariff 'E' giving us a much better opportunity to compete with other fuels.

"Selling electricity is not just a job for our energy sales staff who are, after all, few in number," he went on. "All our staff should be selling electricity but we have to convince ourselves first. He urged anyone in doubt to have a word with their colleagues in the Commercial department. Do not listen to hearsay," he said. "Get the facts straight!"

He spoke of the ways in which the Board was

tackling the problem of the theft of electricity which last year amounted to some £3 million. He said that specialised teams would soon be working in the Gwynedd District and appealed to all members of the staff to help them in uncovering the meter fiddlers.

In conclusion Mr. Barraclough said, "MANWEB is in a healthy state and we are tackling our problems with a determined effort and we shall succeed. We are taking a fresh look at ourselves—as our customers see us. Maybe in some respects we are not as good as we should be, but we can improve."

He thanked all members of the District staff for their loyal efforts at work and said he was pleased to see renewed Sports and Social Club activities in the District and encouraged further events.



Members from one of the discussion groups ready with their questions for the panel.

In jovial mood, Messrs. Brian Watkin-Jones, left and Arfon (Sam) Jones.



Enjoying some liquid refreshment after the meeting we see, from left to right: Messrs. Arwel Humphreys, Paul Bennett, Jim Evans, Jock Marshall and Jack Evans (retired).



# Deputy Chairman at

# Gwynedd District

Continuing his tour of the Board's Districts, Deputy Chairman Mr. Richard Gales recently met and talked with our Gwynedd District staff at Caernarfon and Llangefni.

*Left: Running alongside our Gwynedd District office site is the River Seiont, famous for its salmon and sea trout fishing.*

## Engineering

Caught in happy mood, we see, from left to right: Messrs. Russell Shaw (District Engineer), Richard Gales, Ariel Thomas (Production Engineer) and J. N. R. Phillips (System Engineer).



## Commercial

Getting to know more of Gwynedd District's supply situation, Mr. Gales listens to Messrs. Arthur Bunton (Anglesey) and Gwilym Pierce (Caernarfon), left, with Doug Willacey (District Commercial Engineer), right.



*Left: In the reception area at our Gwynedd District offices at St. Helens Road, Caernarfon, these friendly faces greeting our visitors belong to telephonists Gwenda Owen, left, and Jean Letman. Right: Mr. Gales chats with Mr. Gwylfa Parry, a meter reader working from Llangefni whose brother Bob works in the Stores at the same depot.*







## Administration

Left, Mr. Graham Davies, standing left, (material controller), with Messrs. Malcolm Donaldson (principle assistant—General Services), Richard Gales and Dennis Hughes (District Administrative Officer). In the foreground we see, from left to right: David Evans, Cath Jones and Ann Owen.

Below: Mr. Gales chats with Mr. Gwilym Morris (admin. asst.—Consumer Accounts) as Diane Hughes concentrates on the v.d.u. and Sheila Woods catches the eye of the camera.



Above: Mr. Gales meets another family duo working for the Board at Llangefni depot with Mr. Arthur Williams, centre, (jointer) and his son J. Leonard Williams (meter fixer).



Mr. Gales and Mr. Shaw, standing, left, dropped in on a District Engineering Budget Meeting and met, from left to right: Messrs. John Owen, Austin Jones, Dave Jones, Alun Rowlands, Bob Singfield, Ariel Thomas, Francis Jones, Dafydd Roberts, Tom Weldon-Williams, Gwylmor Jones, Peter Thomas, Fred Keen Jr., and Michael Jacks



# POWER OF THE FUTURE

## *Deputy Chairman spells it out*

**A**N urgent need to make decisions on our power plans for the future was made in an inspiring talk given by Mr. Richard Gales (*Deputy Chairman*) at this year's Oswestry District Employees' Conference held recently at the Pedigree hotel.

In speaking of the role of the future of electricity as an energy source he began by remembering the heady days of the 50's and MANWEB's great rural electrification programme. He then spoke of the growth of energy demand in the 60's being met with cheap oil and steady coal supplies with our industry finding it difficult to keep up with load growth.

"Then followed a sharp increase in the price of oil," he continued. "People realised that energy demand would soon outstrip supply and this led to the static 70's."

With the use of visual aids Mr. Gales painted a dramatic picture showing that if world energy demand continued at the present rate of four per-cent per annum then known oil resources would run out in 37 years, gas in 51 years and coal in 70 to 100 years.

He spoke of the fuel situation as a world problem and how we could come to a coal-based economy when oil and gas supplies ran out. He informed his listeners that as 50 per cent of the world coal reserves are in Siberia, if these were to be exploited for the benefit of Europe, then the massive transport

requirements would present further problems!

Mr. Gales stated that the only proven alternative fuel of the future was nuclear energy associated with the fast breeder reactor, which is 50 time more efficient than the present thermal reactor.

He went on to strengthen his statement by drawing on information supplied by the Energy Commission on the future of each fuel source.

It was revealed that Britain could be importing oil by 1995. "*We could of course keep our oil and stop exporting it,*" commented Mr. Gales. "*But, this would be unacceptable to our EEC neighbours and, in practice, would be unlikely to happen.*"

As far as North Sea gas is concerned, despite restricting the rate of depletion in order to extend its availability, it was forecast that in less than 20 years, supplies of this fuel source would start running out. "Helping out however would be SNG-synthetic natural gas—produced from coal," said our Deputy Chairman. "This would be a most expensive exercise possibly costing many thousand million pounds. Yet it is a prospect as synthetic natural gas could utilise the existing gas mains."

On the coal front, the NCB plan for increased capacity showed that by 1985 they should be producing 135 million tons a year and their long term strategic plan aimed for 170 million tons by the year 2000. As present CEBG requirements are about 70 million tons a year, the surplus coal supplies could be used for electricity generation when oil and gas run out.

"Coal will obviously play an important part in the energy scene in the years ahead," continued Mr. Gales.

### **Nuclear Power**

He then had a few words to say about our own nuclear power programme to meet the supply demand in the next quarter century. "Many factors may upset our predictions," he said, "nevertheless it is certain that there will be a shortage of fuel in the years to come.



**Captured by the camera at the Oswestry District Employees' Meeting we see, from left to right: Mr. Keith Griffiths (*prin. asst. Dee Valley*), Dr. Jim McLennan (*Personnel Manager*), Messrs. Geoff Barnes (*Chief Accountant*), Mike Beard (*prin. assist. Oswestry*), Sid Warburton (*admin. asst. Oswestry*) and Tegwyn Williams (*District Administrative Officer, Oswestry*).**

A creditable representation of the ladies working in our Oswestry District attended the annual conference and among those adding the right touch of feminine charm were, from left to right: Mina Rodgers, Joan Griffith, Elaine Feeney, Pat Mortimer, Gay Hill and Hazel Rogers.



"I believe that we must develop the fast breeder reactor," he commented. "The prototype commissioned in 1974 was at full power by 1977. It has proved to have a very docile nature and is very stable."

He explained that the proposed next stage in the programme was to build a commercial prototype.

"Decisions have to be made now," he urged, "so that it will be available when we need it whether it be in the year 2000, or earlier, or later. In my view, we must include the fast reactor in any planned programme."

Mr. Gales touched briefly on renewable sources of power supply which could play a significant part in the future. "Although these renewable sources are abundant," he said, "they are also costly and will take many more years to develop."

He then summarised the main contenders as . . .

**Solar energy**—which could prove very expensive especially in our country where we have a low level of solar energy.

**Geothermal energy** from rocks several miles down below the earth's crust. "With limited sources which could be better used to produce hot water rather than a source of power."

**Wind power**, which has the problems of suitable sites and of the large machines required. Mr. Gales exemplified a wind generator with a 150 feet wingspan producing a maximum of one megawatt of electricity. "It would take something like 4,000 large wind generators to produce power equal to the output of a modern power station—and there would be environmental problems too!"

**Tidal power**—very difficult to harness and the main site being considered in this country—the Severn Barrage (yet again) would only produce three per cent of our power needs.

**Wave energy** was considered by Mr. Gales to be the most promising of the prospective renewable energy sources. "However", he said, "vast amounts of costly raft equipment would be needed to produce a small amount of electricity."

He said that it was interesting that environmental-

ists who objected to nuclear power were faced with the alternative of no power at all in the future or having massive windmills all over the countryside or huge rafts around our coastline providing a limited amount of power.

In summing up Mr. Gales said. "*The only proven means of filling the energy gap, which would certainly come, is nuclear power. Our job in the industry is to explain to people at large what the alternatives are for the future.*"

"We also have to retain our existing load and develop it so that when oil and gas supplies start to run out we shall not have too rapid an increase in load growth. We must prepare for the future by starting now!"

Earlier in the evening, Mr. Norman Maden (*Group Manager*) had welcomed members of the Oswestry District staff to the conference. They were joined by a group of retired colleagues and guests from Head Office and Dee Valley District.

#### Jail for Thieves

Mr. Maden took the opportunity to voice his feelings about the thefts of electricity from Board meters. "*It should be treated like any other theft offence,*" he said. "*A maximum fine of £400 or, if previously convicted, a six month jail sentence.*"

He made the point that MANWEB were now making a determined effort to check the meter thieves with special teams formed to follow-up reported cases. He appealed to all members of the staff for their support in stamping down hard on the thieves.

"When you are paying the bill, you use electricity with care," he stated. "If you are stealing electricity you use it 'freely'!"

"Unless we find the thieves, we will continue losing money."

Mr. Maden then introduced Mr. Sid Warburton (*administrative assistant*) who as Secretary to the No. 9 Local Advisory Committee presented a comprehensive report on the items discussed during the year.



"No need for all those greens," Dr. Pyke tells Mrs. Carol Vallely, Cheshire County Council Home Economics Advisor, pictured here with MANWEB speakers, from left to right: Mr. Brian Ogden, Mrs. Joan Dittrich, Mr. Bob Jowett and Mr. Matt Cowan.

## Magnus Pyke Scoffs at Food Myths

THE GUEST speaker at a MANWEB sponsored conference for home economists was Dr. Magnus Pyke, O.B.E., who addressed the delegates on the subject of lovely nutritious food of the future.

The conference was organised by MANWEB catering development engineer, Mrs. Joan Dittrich, and set out to provide the teachers of domestic science and home economics with up-to-the minute information on appliances and trends in the electricity industry.

Mr. Matt Cowan, in his last engagement as MANWEB's Chief Commercial Officer, before moving to Capenhurst Electricity Council Research Centre as their Commercial Director, spoke to delegates on the 'Nuclear Connection'. He outlined the use of energy by man since the dawn of civilisation to the present day. He did a little crystal-balling about the projected demand for energy in the future.

Two Chester schoolteachers, left, and Maureen Edwards (demonstrator, Dee Valley) listen to Dr. Pyke.



The fossil fuels, coal gas and oil would not last for ever, and it was estimated that the latter two, gas and oil, would run out by the end of the century. If an energy gap was to be avoided plans had to be drawn up now. The only practical energy source was electricity. Between 1960 and 1970 electricity consumption in Britain doubled, and despite the present depression, electricity consumption was still increasing.

### COVER PICTURE

Dr. Magnus Pyke, famed for arm waving TV appearances, and his explicit scientific illustrations, is also a world wide authority on food technology. This amazingly fit septuagenarian was the guest speaker at the MANWEB Home Economists Conference.

*Chester Chronicle picture*

Various new methods were being tried to produce electricity. New, more efficient windmills, tidal power and solar energy are some of the means by which electricity could be generated but to date have not proved practical. By far the most promising is wave power, but the vast majority of electricity to meet the demand in the year 2000 will need to be produced by nuclear power. As it took ten years to build and plan a power station there was not a lot of time left.

Mr. Cowan advocated conserving some of the gas and oil so that there could be a gradual change over to electricity.

Mr. Brian Ogden, principal engineer, energy sales at Head Office, told his teaching audience of

the work that went on within the Board to maintain the service to its near 1½ million customers, a million of them domestic.

For the pupils of the audience of teachers, contemplating life without electricity was unthinkable, and they would become even more dependent on electrical power as they grew up, married and had families of their own. As Mr. Cowan had pointed out, within 20 years or so, electricity will have become the major energy source for domestic and industrial use.

Electricity plays such an important part in our lives today. It is with us right from the start of life with the electrically operated incubator. It provides light, warmth, cooking and power for domestic aids and appliances at the finger tip touch of a switch, 365 days a year and 24 hours a day. Supplies are maintained by engineers and craftsmen around the clock in all weather conditions.

The image created by the Electricity Board is coloured by a customer's dealings with the organisation, the size of a bill, how an appliance operates and their dealings with Board staff. One of the main points of contact with the customer was through the MANWEB shop. This was more than a retail outlet to buy appliances at competitive prices, it was a place where 75% of customers paid their accounts, obtained answers to queries on most aspects of electricity, received service for their appliances and expert advice.

The guest speaker was world renowned food scientist and T.V. personality Dr. Magnus Pyke. His unique brand of public speaking, using flamboyant gestures and a colourful turn of phrase kept his audience attentive and amused.

**He claimed there was no world wide food shortage, and there would not be any in the future. Science and production techniques meet the world demand for food and would continue to do so.**

In Britain, food production has doubled in the 20 years, and more food was produced on this island than in the whole of Canada. Canada was

**Our 'Girl from MANWEB,' Geraldine Leake, centre, (demonstrator, North Wirral) with a couple of the conference delegates.**



**Lesley Ratcliffe, centre, (demonstrator, North Mersey) chats with two of our guests.**

in fact one of the largest producers of wheat in the world, yet the climate of the country was not really suited to wheat production, and the season was too short, but science had developed a type of wheat which grew readily in Canada.

The same scientific development had been applied to meat production. Selective breeding had seen the development of huge seven-foot cattle, which meant masses of beef on the hoof.

The hen had been a jungle fowl in India, producing enough eggs to maintain the local jungle fowl colony. With the intervention of the scientist and production techniques, huge ranches with mega batteries of hens now produced millions of eggs.

Milk too was plentiful. Enough milk was produced to float a battleship—albeit a small battleship, it was still an awful lot of milk.

Dr. Pyke did not see much in the way of new varieties of food coming along as man was a conservative species. He saw some of the relatively newer food continuing to be eaten in growing quantities. Maize from America, the potato, which had Sir Walter Raleigh brought it back today it would not be allowed into the country as it would not meet the health regulations.

Soya beans were discovered in Cathay and taken to America as a cattle food. They need a temperate climate to grow, but again the scientist has produced a type of bean that grows well in tropical climates and is produced in large quantities in Sri Lanka. Now soya bean is spun into fibre and flavoured to taste like other foods such as meat.

Turning to the nutritious content of food the effervescent doctor said that a lot of nonsense was talked about the protein and vitamin content of certain foods. Anyone who was well fed gets enough of both. No need to insist on children eating greens.

*Lack of fibre in the diet was also blamed for many of the 'illnesses of civilisation', coronary disease, obesity, varicose veins and diabetes. Much capital was made by people, who ought to know better, of the fact that the native on his haunches in the upper reaches*

of the Zambesi never suffered from these problems. The major fact overlooked was that the same native, though his diet was very fibrous, ate a great deal less than the man in civilised parts of the world, and often went hungry. Eating less could solve many of these problems.

There had to be a compromise on the safety factor and there needed to be a cost benefit relationship in nutritional values in food. The value of what we ate had to be weighed against the possible dangers created by additives.

Animal fats and dairy produce were a contributory factor in heart disease and the pollution of the environment plus certain additions to foodstuffs may have something to do with cancer. Experiments with rats had shown that saccharine in huge doses split their bladders.

Dr. Pyke compared the consumption of food to the use of a car. The only safe way to make use of a car was to bury it in the garden. To take it out on the road there had to be a compromise between absolute safety and what was acceptable.

With food, drinking a saccharine drink may take nine seconds of your life, smoking a cigarette two days, and so on for most foods. Man had to accept a balance of toxic substances in his diet.

However, in general we were getting food fresher, safer and in more variety than ever before. Refrigerated trucks, home freezers and refrigerators all add to the security of safe and plentiful supplies of food for now and the future.



**Matt Cowan answers questions from one of the delegates to the conference.**

The final speaker to the delegates was Mr. Bob Jowett, Energy Sales Manager. He spoke briefly about the service MANWEB offered the teacher, with demonstrators and teaching aids.

The conference closed with an open forum, in which delegates were invited to ask questions of the speakers.

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Meeting the press, Dr. Pyke is seen here chatting to Peggy Woodcock, left (Women's Page Editor, Chester Chronicle) and busily taking notes, right, is Jenny Griffiths (Chief Reporter, Evening Leader).





# CLWYD LADIES SOCCER SUCCESS

To mark the start of a new soccer season the football crazy ladies of Clwyd District challenged their male colleagues to a match. However, not being able to muster a full squad they used their womanly guile to persuade some of the opposition to play their way.

System Engineer J. L. 'General Patton' Hughes refereed the game, which almost conformed to the rules of association football, with a certain amount of licence afforded the ladies, but handling—the ball that is—was severely penalised.

The game ended with a score-line of 10—3 in the ladies' favour. The teams slightly dampened on the outside retired to the Sports and Social Club where they became dampened on the inside.



*From the top . . . some of the competitors 'posing'; Ann Rowlands—not quite sure of the rules; nor was the referee judging by some of his decisions; Alan Jones breaks from a scrum!; Pauline Preece shapes up for a shot at goal and John Rees shows by how much she missed!*





Above and opposite, Staff at the North Mersey District annual conference give their full attention to the guest speaker.

## **NORTH MERSEY STAFF CONFERENCE**

# **SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES**

**T**HE Health and Safety at Work Act was only a few days old when Mr. E. G. Hooper, the Electricity Council's Chief Safety Officer, visited North Mersey District as guest speaker at the staff annual conference organised by No.1 Local Advisory Committee.

The Act, said Mr. Hooper, had created a new climate in the approach to health and safety. It

required employees—and everyone working in the electricity supply industry was an “employee”—to co-operate with employers on matters affecting health and safety.

“No longer is safety something for management alone” declared Mr. Hooper. “We must all accept

and shoulder our responsibilities for the health and safety of others. Under the Act everyone has duties—both workers and employers.”

Mr. Hooper emphasised that the Act also laid responsibilities for the safety of others on us all. “If you do things, or don't do things, which can lead to others being hurt then that is an offence under the Act” he added.

The conference, held at a Bootle hotel, was attended by



More concentration at the North Mersey District conference.



## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The provision and use of many items of special clothing and equipment for personal protection are, in some cases, a requirement of the laws of our land.

However, extra personal protection is often provided by Electricity Boards where, in the absence of a statutory duty, it is nevertheless considered necessary in the health, safety and welfare interest of the employees.

An example of such provision is the safety helmet for use on sites where there is a risk of objects falling from a height. Ear defenders are also provided where this form of protection

is considered appropriate in areas of harmful noise.

The Electricity Industry's Health and Safety Committee feel that employees should, in their own interests and in the interest of others, wear or use as appropriate, all items of personal protection when required. They should also ensure that any defects in such protection are reported as soon as possible.

So, always remember, if some aspect of your job requires you to use protective clothing and safety equipment then please use it, do not misuse it.





around 140 members of the District staff, and Mr. Hooper told them: "On average five of you will have an accident at work during the next 12 months which will result in you being off work for 15 days. Another 40 may sustain an injury which will require First Aid! We must have regard for all the little things. It's

the little things, building up, which produce most accidents."

He urged the newly appointed Safety Representatives to be "realists." The new Act would throw a considerable burden on the processes of co-ordination and communication.

Mr. Hooper's talk, which was preceded by an excellent meal,

was followed by a lively 'Open Forum' session, with discussions on protective clothing (especially safety footwear), the dangers of taking 'short cuts' in working procedures, pensions, the response of our off-peak customers to "Economy 7," and the provision of pre-payment meters to those who asked for them.

## Superannuation Schemes

The 29th Annual General Meeting of members of the Staff Scheme will be held at the Electricity Council offices on Thursday, 14th December 1978 at 2.30 p.m.

Copies of the Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting are now available on request.

It is expected that the Report and Accounts of both the Staff and the Industrial Staff Schemes will soon be available and displayed on notice boards. Individual copies will be sent to members on request to The Personnel Manager, MANWEB Head Office Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

## 1979 DIARY

A MANWEB pocket diary for 1979 has been produced and will be available to staff from early December on a "first come, first served" basis at the cost price of 30p each.

The diary, in a durable red plastic cover carrying the MANWEB 'logo' and the year stamped

in gold, is the 'Planner type' with each double page covering a month.

It also contains a section for addresses and telephone numbers, a main road map of Britain with mileage chart, metric conversion tables and a loose-leaf 'MANWEB' insert with office addresses and notes designed to help our commercial and industrial customers.

Arrangements for sale to District staff will be made by District Administrative Officers, while Head Office details will be announced later. To avoid anomalies the diaries will be sold to all staff on the same terms, until supplies are exhausted.

A comparable diary bought from a shop would be likely to cost more than twice as much.





Surrounded by friends at Clwyd District office, Mr. Jim Jones, centre right, receives a farewell handshake from Mr. Ken Appleton.

## RETIREMENTS

### Mr. J. C. JONES

A long-service man, this time from our Clwyd District now among the ranks of the retired is Mr. James C. Jones (3rd engineer, Commercial Supply). Friends and colleagues throughout the District subscribed to present him with parting gifts a of digital clock radio and a sheepskin rug. These were handed over on their behalf by Mr. Ken Appleton (District Commercial Engineer).

Jim started as an apprentice electrician with the Aberaeron Supply Company way back in 1933. During the six war years he served with the Royal Air Force.

On his return to the industry he became a sales representative with the South Wales Electricity Board before moving North to MANWEB in 1955 as an assistant consumers' engineer at Blaenau Ffestiniog.

On re-organisation within the Board in 1970, the former Clwyd and Conway Valley Districts were merged and Jim moved to Rhyl to take up an appointment in Commercial Supply.

In retirement he will be able to devote more time to his golf and to his social work. We now join with his many friends in wishing good health to continue with these pastimes.

### Mr. S. BENNETT

Staff at Lister Drive subscribed to present a mountain of gifts to Mr. Samuel Bennett on the occasion of his retirement from his job in our Liverpool District's pre-payment section.

Although he has only worked for the Board for the past seven years or so, Sam's helpfulness and pleasant personality have endeared him to many members of the staff in this time.

**CORRECTION.** In a previous issue of *Contact* the name of Mr. Robert RODGERS was incorrectly printed when reporting his retirement from our Mid-Mersey District after 49—and not 48—years' service. Sorry Mr. Rodgers.

In his youth, he was a well-known table tennis player playing in a couple of Liverpool leagues. Now, in retirement, Sam plans to move out to Conwy, North Wales, where he will be able to spend more of his time at his favourite sport—fishing.

We join with colleagues in wishing him good health and good fishing in retirement.

### Mrs. D. M. GOULDING

One of the Board's popular personalities based at our Northwich depot, Mrs. Dot Goulding, has now retired after almost 21 years' work as 'the cleaner who was a dab hand with the tea pot.'

Colleagues contributed to buy her a rose bowl and a bouquet of flowers, farewell gifts which were presented on their behalf by Mr. Mike Metcalfe (District Administrative Officer).

At another farewell party held at Acton Bridge many more friends went along to wish Dot a happy retirement visiting her grandchildren.

### Mr. F. BUSHNELL

Recently retired from his job in the Stores section at Aberystwyth, where he has been employed for the past 29 years, is Mr. Frederick Bushnell. Prior to his move to Stores, Fred spent 12 months with the mains team.

During the last war he was a gunner with the 12th Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery and saw service in North Africa, Italy, and Austria.

At a small informal ceremony to mark his retirement, Mr. John Hughes (General Services) presented Fred with a farewell gift from his friends and colleagues.

### Mr. J. ELLIS

A linesman's mate based at Legacy depot, Mr. Joseph Ellis, retired recently after nearly 30 years' service with the Board.

Before joining MANWEB Joe served during the war years with the Welsh Guards. In his first week in the Army he was bombed out of his barracks in

Mr. Joe Ellis, sixth from left, with some of his friends from Legacy depot having a farewell night-out.



London. After that, action overseas in Africa, Italy and Austria was somewhat quieter.

Now, in retirement, Joe will be devoting more time to work with his 40 racing pigeons and to studying the 'form' of race horses! Good luck Joe!!

#### Miss M. MORRIS

After 32 years of long and loyal service with the electricity supply industry—all this time spent in Oswestry where she was born—Miss May Morris has now retired from her job as shop supervisor.

Recalling her early days she said, "After the war everyone was looking for work and it was purely by chance that I went along for a job with the former Oswestry Borough Council. I started work there as a ledger clerk on electricity accounts."

Shortly after this, the industry was nationalised and MANWEB came into being. Then it was decided to open a shop in the town and this was when May began meeting the public. "I have really enjoyed coming into contact with so many different people", she commented.

The thousands of Board customers who have passed through our shop in Salop Road will, like our own staff, miss May very much.

To mark her retirement, the popular Miss Morris was presented with a cheque, the farewell gift from

her friends and colleagues, from the hands of Mr Richard Gales (*Deputy Chairman*) on the occasion of his visit to the District as guest speaker at their annual conference. He understood that she was going to use the money to buy an electrical appliance.

Mr. Gales on behalf of the Board, thanked May for her service to the industry and expressed a hope that she would be able to devote more of her time to her long list of hobbies and pastimes which included photography, travelling, arts and crafts work, collecting coins and dabbling in stocks and shares.

Then, Mr. Henry Blackwell (*Commercial foreman*) voiced a special tribute to May's service. We quote a verse or two. . .

*For filling up forms, there's no one to beat her,  
Hire purchase or cash, applications for meter,  
Prepayment or credit, and advice she gives free  
On Economy 7 and that new Tariff 'E'.*

*Occasionally the customer will complain and shout  
He'll rant and rave, 'till May irons him out,  
Because she's not one for messing around,  
As those awkward ones have very soon found.*

Wishes for good health and happiness in retirement from all MANWEB colleagues, and we are sure, all the customers go to May in her years of retirement.

A lifetime of service to the industry ended for Miss May Morris when, at the Oswestry District Employees' Annual Meeting, friends gathered round as Mr. Richard Gales (*Deputy Chairman*) presented her with their farewell gift.





**Champion Tony Griffiths.**



**Ladies champion Gill Ledward with Sports and Social Club Chairman, Harry Foreman.**

## CHESTER DARTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Chester Sports Club Darts Championship was held recently and Board newcomer Tony Griffiths, from the security section, swept aside all opposition to become the Champion of the gentlemen's contest. The winner of the ladies' competition was Gill Ledward, a clerk in the insurance section.

The team contest was won by five accounts staff calling themselves 'Featherlite' with a computer team called 'Dartagnan' the losing finalists.

There were 34 contestants in the men's competition and 12 in the ladies. The team tournament started out with 32 teams of five persons, at least one of whom had to be female. The hard working organisers were Hugh Farrow, Eifion Jenkins and Gren Roberts.

*Above, right: Team winners with their trophies, from left to right, Geoff Green, Nigel Crossley (captain), Georgina Hale, Mike Mole and Rob Jones.*

*Right: The losing finalists, from left to right, Joe Pugh, Mike Edwards, Dave Tomlinson, Viv Ellins and Liz Jones.*

