

MAKING DREAMS

By Jackie Unsworth

COME TRUE

Award scheme set up to help the children of employees

MANWEB is helping the children or dependents of employees to turn their dreams into reality with the launch of a major award scheme.

The one-off annual award has been set up to assist young people who show exceptional promise, for example academically or in a particular sport.

The first recipient is to be champion ice skater Steven Cousins, the 19-year-old son of Contracting Manager Dave Cousins.

With Manweb's backing, Steven, the British number one, can continue to have the best possible training with the ultimate goal of competing in international competitions, including the Olympics.

Announcing the scheme, Manweb chairman Bryan Weston said: "We are delighted to make this first award to Steven, who has shown such exceptional talent."

Merits

"With our help, we hope to see him go on to become European, World and Olympic champion in the next few years."

One award will be available each year... and only if there is a suitable candidate.

There will be no set amount - each application will be judged on its merits and awards made at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

"It should be stressed that what we are looking for are extraordinary circumstances," said Mr Weston.

Applications will be invited from employees whose

children/dependents either:

- Have the opportunity to represent their country in senior international competition.
- Have won the opportunity to participate in or study on a course/project against overwhelming odds.

They will be eligible for this Award only once.

Steven is currently training

in the United States, and at the end of September took 7th place in the Skate America competition.

His father, Dave Cousins, said: "Steven has been training in Sun Valley, Idaho, since June and already it's starting to pay off."

"He is really pleased with his achievements in Skate America, as the other com-

petitors had all previously been ranked above him in the World.

"He was particularly delighted to finish ahead of the Canadian who was 7th in last year's World Championships, and the bronze medalist in the European Championships was just one place in front of him."

"The award from Manweb will enable Steven to continue skating at this high level, and go from strength to strength."

Steven, from Connah's Quay, has also just received some good news from the Welsh Sports Council, in the form of a substantial grant to help him achieve his Olympic ambition.

Talented

By coincidence, Steven's very first major award, the Mollie Phillips Bowl, was presented by Bryan Weston back in 1986, when the talented teenager was just 14-years-old. Steven had won the main competition at the Welsh Ice Skating Open.

He later went on to become the British Junior Men's Ice Skating Champion in 1987/88 and 89/90, took first place in the Junior International in Poland in 1989, and won the British Senior Men's Championships in 1989/90 and the following year. He also became the Welsh Senior Men's Champion in 1990/91.

Currently ranked eighth in Europe and 16th in the World, Steven's immediate goals are to win the British Championships again in November, achieve a top six place in the European Championships in January 1992, and come within the top 12 in both the Olympics (February 1992) and World Championships (March 1992).



Ice Skater Steven Cousins... the first recipient of the Manweb award.



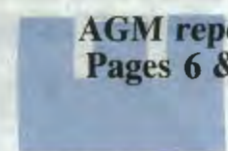
Win a compact disc
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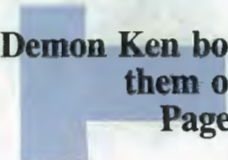
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AGM report
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Demon Ken bowls them over
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Energy savers scoop prizes



JOHN Banham, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, presents PEP and Beta trophies to the four main winners in this year's Manweb Business Energy Efficiency Awards.

Pictured (l-r) are PEP winners Alan Amis of the Wrexham-based Kellogg Company of Great Britain,

and Paul Bird of Tilcon Ltd, Abergele, Manweb Managing Director John Roberts, John Banham, and Beta winners Nigel Dennis of Anglesey Sea and Surf Centre, Holyhead, and Bill Heslop of The Everglades Park Hotel, Widnes.

Full story - Page 3.

CHANGING FACES



Bob's new post

It's the end of an era for long-serving Sam

HEAD Office Public Relations Officer Sam Doughty has retired after 36 years with Manweb.

Sam (55) is originally from Liverpool, and joined Manweb in 1956 after National Service with the RAF in Hong Kong. He worked in the now departed Marsh Lane Liverpool Office, before working in shops in the old North and Southport districts.

In 1961 he moved to the Love Lane Liverpool Head Office, working in Advertising and Sales Promotion, before joining Manweb's Press and Information Office in 1968, in time for the Head Office move to Chester a year later.

Sam's duties included a stint as Editor and Chief Photographer on Contact. He also fostered an excellent working relationship with the local media. This was developed further when Press and Information became a full Public Relations Department, with Sam gaining media

coverage for a wide range of Manweb events and initiatives, including the Manweb British Artificial Ski Slope Championships and the Manweb Cymru Alliance football league.

His final project was Paul McCartney's Liverpool Oratorio, for which he stayed on beyond his official departure date!

After the hectic months before and after privatisation Sam, who is married with a daughter and lives in Chester, plans to start his retirement by taking things easy.

He is pictured (third from right) with friends and colleagues who wished him well for the future and presented him with gifts including an executive travel bag, a brief case and crystal glasses.

Also shown (far right) is Public Relations Clerical Assistant Mark Dale, who has recently left PR to study for a law degree at Staffordshire Polytechnic. (Photograph by Mike Hall)



Norman clocks up 48 years

MID-Mersey Installation Inspector Norman Gabbott clocked up an impressive 48 years' service before retiring on VSS.

Norman, who lives in St Helens, is pictured (left) with his long service award.

Early closing

SALESPERSON Winifred Ann Maddocks has taken early retirement due to ill health after completing 20 years' service in the electricity supply industry. Ann, 48, who left on August 31, was based at Wrexham Shop.

Sally joins team

A NEW face for a new job in the Public Relations Department. Sally Lingard (pictured right) joined Manweb at the beginning of September as Public Relations Manager.

With a background as a financial journalist, government information and PR consultant, Sally was previously a director of a public relations consultancy in Bristol.

She has been through an extensive induction period since joining Manweb.

"From a small business with

BOB Sheedy has been appointed Manager of the recently-formed Contracts and Supplies section of the Tariffs and Customer Contracts Department at Head Office.

Bob (pictured above) qualified as an electrical engineer at Newcastle Polytechnic and joined Northern Electric (NEEB) in 1973 on the commercial side in domestic, commercial and industrial supply posts.

As Industrial Sales Engineer, he completed an MSc degree in Advanced Experimental Physics.

He spent his last three years at NEEB headquarters in the Tariffs and Forecasting section.

Reorganised

Bob joined Manweb in 1989 as Customer Contracts Manager, working alongside Pricing Manager Pat McLafferty and Supplies Manager Bill Tubey.

When Bill Tubey was appointed Liverpool District's Network Services Manager in May 1991, the Tariffs and Customer Contracts Department was reorganised into two new sections.

Pat McLafferty continued as Pricing Manager and Bob took over as Contracts and Supplies Manager.

Bob's section is responsible for distribution commercial issues, together with use of system pricing, connection charges, agreements covering use of system, connection and supply, which take particular account of both engineering and regulatory issues.

Correct

In addition, the section is responsible for the correct implementation of policies covering distribution and supply business commercial issues.

Further responsibilities include completion of agreements and communications links with Manweb staff and OFFER.

Bob said: "I will endeavour to visit all the District in the near future, not only to meet as many people as possible but also to ensure an input from the Districts to the policies for both businesses."



a staff of fifteen, to a company the size of Manweb is a bit of a shock to the system! I tend to remember faces but names are still escaping me - so I hope everyone will make allowances," she said.

POST BAG

Drop us a line

DO you have a view you'd like to share or an opinion you'd like to air? Then why not drop us a line?

Write to: The Editor, Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb plc, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR, making sure you include your name and address or work location. All letters are dealt with in strict confidence and your name can, upon request, be withheld.

Where there's a will there's

a way...

Dear Editor

Making a will is one of the most important things an individual can do to protect his or her family. But currently one in three adults in Britain has a will, which could mean unnecessary financial hardship for many families. This autumn, The Law Society is launching a campaign to try to rectify the situation.

"Make a Will Week", which will run from October 28 to November 3, aims to encourage the 69 per cent of the adult population who do not have a will to do something about it.

Many people wonder why they need a will. They think they aren't rich enough to worry about one, or that everything will go to their loved ones anyway. Well it may, but it may not.

Here are a few examples of what could happen if a person doesn't make a will:

● If a person is married with children and what they leave (their 'estate') is worth more than £75,000, their husband or wife would inherit the first £75,000 and the excess would be shared between the spouse and their children.

● If they are married without children, the husband or wife would be entitled to the first £125,000 but would share any-

thing over that with the deceased's parents or brothers and sisters or their children.

● If a person doesn't make a will, their family may pay more inheritance tax than is necessary.

We want to take the morbidity and apathy out of will-making and we certainly don't intend to frighten people. To lighten the campaign's messages, we have produced a range of colourful and easy-to-read literature. A series of fact sheets aimed at different types of people are available free to Manweb employees.

The titles include: 'Will Making for Married Couples', 'Will Making for Unmarried Couples', 'Will Making for Homeowners', 'Will Making for Grandparents', 'Will Making for Single People', 'Will Making for Divorced and Separated People', and 'Will Making and Getting Married'.

Employees can send for these fact sheets individually by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Law Society, 50 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1SX.

Tony Girling
Campaign Chairman

Thanks for your help

Dear Editor

Many thanks to all the staff at Clwyd District Office contributing to the British Bone Marrow Donor Appeal by supporting Western Region's Contracting Manager Roy Haley, who agreed to shave off his beard, which he had worn for seven years, in order to raise money for this appeal. A total of £180 was raised by this sponsorship.

I am now organising a sponsored slim for Contracting Electrician Nigel Lawrence, who aims to lose three-and-a-half stone by the end of November. He has already commenced his diet and has lost a stone to date.

Anyone wishing to support Nigel's efforts to lose weight and/or make a contribution to the above appeal, please contact me on 770 2155 or 0745 350486.

Many thanks for your support.

Sandy Roberts
Clwyd District Office Contracting

Electrical safety at home - it's a serious matter

Dear Editor

With regards to last month's article on safety of electrical appliances in the home, this is a serious problem. The cartoon from the Weekly News proves this point. Well done.

A Whittingham
Meter Reader
Area 2



"I just plugged it in to see if you'd fixed it!"

CONTACT

The newspaper for staff and retired employees of Manweb plc, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR, telephone 0244 377111.

If you've an idea for a story or photograph, write, phone or come and talk to Editor Jackie Unsworth in Public Relations, Room 5E1, Head Office, ext. 2090, or Graeme Cooper on ext. 2099.

At the following locations you can talk directly to one of Contact's District correspondents:

- North Mersey: ext. 2167
- Liverpool: Margaret Walsh, ext. 4141
- Mid-Mersey: Mike Townson, ext. 2231
- Dee Valley: Kath Sadowski, ext. 2193
- North Wirral: Mike Townson, ext. 2202
- Mid-Cheshire: Diana Wood, ext. 2117
- Clwyd: Rod Taylor, ext. 2118
- Gwynedd: Hefyn Thomas, ext. 2250
- Oswestry: Ian Moul, ext. 2230
- Aberystwyth: Keith Jones, ext. 2202
- Hoylake Training Centre: ext. 251



Boost for businesses

CONTINUING Manweb's support for the local enterprise agency network, North Mersey District Manager David Price is pictured (left) presenting a £500 sponsorship cheque to David Ramsbottom, Director of South Sefton Enterprise Agency. David Price recently took on the Chairmanship of SSEA, which provides advice and assistance to budding businesses.

All our yesterdays

LOOKING back at what Contact was reporting 35, 25 and 10 years ago.

October 1956
Heavy and continuous rainfall, gales and thunderstorms caused widespread interruptions to supply. Sub areas Three (Chester, Wallasey and Birkenhead) and Four (Crewe, Wrexham, Oswestry and Rhuddlan) badly affected. Landslide in Nant Ffrancon Pass almost demolished structure carrying 33kV overhead circuit between Capel Curig and Bangor.

The UK Central Electricity Authority and Electricite de France studied recommendation for establishment of Cross-Channel direct current single cable link capable of transmitting between 120,000 and 150,000 kilowatts at 200,000 volts. If no difficulties were encountered the connection would be operational by 1960.

October 1966

Radio controlled jet plane crashed into 5kVA pole transformer near Blaenau Ffestiniog. Ten customers off supply. The pilotless aircraft was of a type used for target practice, and had been launched from the Air Ministry's Llanbedr establishment before developing a fault in the control mechanism. Before crashing, the plane's wing tip struck a car carrying four passengers, who fortunately escaped uninjured.

October 1981

Winsford was first Manweb service centre to be given new image becoming a modern shop rather than an old style centre. The new design featured open plan and a fascia sporting the Manweb logo on a 'lozenge shaped' panel. The shop also moved to premises in Queen's Parade - part of Winsford's new shopping precinct - to take advantage of trading in the rapidly expanding town.

Electricity Council Chairman Sir Francis Tombs resigned after the Government decided not to restructure the electricity industry in England and Wales. He had accepted the post on the understanding that restructuring would take place following the report of a committee of enquiry in 1976. However, the Conservative Government elected in 1979 felt that legislative change was unnecessary.

A good friend but a deadly foe

FOLLOWING September's article on the carrying of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in Manweb vehicles, Corporate Health and Safety Manager Colin Herbert this month look at some of the dos and don'ts of storing and using the gas.

LPG is used widely throughout Manweb, usually in the form of Propane. Cylinders are carried on many Manweb vehicles, sometimes for use in connection with work activities such as cable jointing and other times for welfare reasons - brewing up tea or coffee!

Many members of staff and retired employees also use LPG at home in the form of Propane or Butane, for example in connection with caravanning activities.

Although classed as a highly flammable and hazardous substance, it can be used safely both at work and at home with care and common sense.

Most of the LPG used at work is for supplying portable apparatus, although there are some fixed installations, such as the one at the jointer training school at Hoylake.

The correct storage of LPG is most important, whether it be in the depot or in a vehicle. In depots it must be stored in a

designated area under lock and key with appropriate notices around the area.

In vehicles it must be stored in a custom built enclosure which has ventilation. This is to allow any gas which has escaped due to leakage to vent to the atmosphere.

The cylinders should always be stored in an upright position. Also, when cylinders are transported, their valves should be securely closed. The cylinders should be transported with their valves uppermost and the appliance disconnected from the cylinder.

When using portable gas equipment, both the appliance and the cylinder should be

Win a compact disc

EMI has released the audio recording of the world premiere performance of Paul McCartney's 'Liverpool Oratorio'.

Performed by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and sponsored by Manweb, the Oratorio, which is available on compact disc, record and cassette, received its world premiere performances at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral on June 28 and 29 and in London at the Royal Festival Hall on July 7, 1991.

The work was conducted by Carl Davis and performed by the combined forces of the RLPO and choir, the chorists of Liverpool Cathedral, and internationally renowned soloists Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Sally Burgess, Jerry Hadley and Willard White.

The video recording of the spectacular concert is also due for release by EMI during November.

Composed by McCartney and Carl Davies, the Oratorio was commissioned by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society to celebrate its 150th birthday.

Here's your chance to win one of two complimentary copies of the compact disc, which was launched on October 7. All you have to do is answer the following questions, write your answers on a postcard and send it to: Liverpool Oratorio Competition, Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb plc, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR. Don't forget to include your name, work location and/or home address.

The competition is open to Manweb employees, their immediate families and retired staff, and all entries must be received by Friday, November 1, 1991. The senders of the first two correct entries drawn from the postbag after that date will each receive a compact disc. The Editor's decision is final.

1. In which Liverpool Club did the Beatles first make their name?
2. Carl Davis composed the music for which well-known film starring Meryl Streep?
3. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society commissioned the 'Liverpool Oratorio' to celebrate which anniversary?
4. Which famous Liverpool school did Paul McCartney attend as a 12-year-old?

Hat-trick of wins for Wales

ENERGY savers from North Wales have scooped most of the top honours in Manweb's 1991 Business Energy Efficiency Awards, claiming three of the top four awards in the annual competition.

CBI Director General, John Banham, made the PEP and Beta awards at a special ceremony at Chester's International Hotel.

Abergele-based Tilcon Ltd., which produces road surface coatings, and cereal manufacturer, Kellogg Co. of Wrexham, collected PEP awards for their contribution in the industrial sector. Beta awards, recognising the efforts of designers and operators of commercial and public buildings, went to The Anglesey Sea and Surf Centre at Holyhead and the Everglades Park Hotel, Widnes.

Announcing the winners, Mr. John Roberts, Manweb Managing Director, praised the efforts of all those involved in the continuing campaign to use energy more efficiently. "These awards recognise the remarkable efforts now being made in the field of energy efficiency and illustrate the wide range of potential benefits available to electricity consumers, large and small," he said.

Tilcon impressed judges by almost halving the cost of

drying bulk materials which go into the manufacture of road surface coatings such as hot rolled asphalt and Bitmac. An electric flow boiler, which paid for itself within seven months, is at the heart of the company's new drying system, and has allowed output to be boosted by up to 30 per cent. Tilcon won the PEP award in the category open to companies with up to 100 employees.

At the Kellogg Company's Wrexham plant, which produces All-Bran, Bran Flakes and Special K, electrically-powered aerators were introduced as part of a programme to make the firm's handling of waste by-products more efficient and environmentally acceptable. Water usage and effluent volume have been cut by 50 per cent, odour problems resolved, and the system will accommodate further expansion. Kellogg won its PEP award in the section for entrants with over 100 employees.

Anglesey's purpose-built Sea and Surf Centre at Holyhead may be larger than its previous 70-year-old premises,

but the heating bills are smaller. The UK-designed, Swedish-built centre features wall, roof and underfloor insulation, triple-glazed inert gas-filled windows and an all-electric heating system. The result is a warm reception for visitors, lower heating costs and now a prestigious Beta award from Manweb. The Centre won the section covering buildings up to 1,000 square metres.

Even before its latest Beta award, the Everglades Park Hotel, Widnes, was proving a winner with guests. The highly-insulated hotel features a state-of-the-art electric heating system, operated centrally from the reception desk or independently from each room, and an effective air conditioning system. A dehumidifier in the swimming pool also eliminated problems of high humidity and dripping windows.

The result has been an increase in trade, summer and winter, and better working conditions for staff. The Hotel was presented with the 1991 Beta award for buildings over 1,000 square metres.

All four Manweb winners, who received a trophy and a cheque for £1,000, will now go forward to the national finals which are being staged in Birmingham in December.

Points make prizes

ARE you missing out? The Ambassador Club offers Manweb staff not only the opportunity to earn points - which can be turned into prizes - but the chance to become a winner with its monthly incentives.

To date, winning Ambassador Club members have visited Alton Towers, tried their hand at clay target shooting, flown to Scotland for a cast at fly fishing and dined in style at a luxury hotel. Why not enter a lead and join the 'winning set'?

Winners in the August Ambassador Club 'fly fishing in Scotland' incentive were B. Dixon, of Aberystwyth, and R. Parker from Head Office. On September 20 they flew from Manchester to Edinburgh for what proved to be a memorable and interesting day.

Expert tuition and equipment was provided and a ghillie instructed them in the finer arts of fly fishing.

The October incentive is now up and running, and there are 11 chances to win a weekend trip to Boulogne. All valid leads will enter the draw, so the more leads you input, the more opportunities you will have to board a luxury coach on November 14 and set off for the French coast.

If you are unsure of your local contact, call Mary Goldson on Head Office Ext. 2885 for details of events.

Obituary

IT is with sadness that Contact reports the deaths of the following retired Manweb employees:

Frederick Sinclair Hodgkinson, 60, a Security Guard at Head Office until his retirement in February this year, died on September 12.

Joseph Molyneux Glover, 72, who died on September 12, was a Storekeeper at Mid Mersey until his retirement in 1980.

Eric Woollam, who retired in 1983 at Clwyd, where he worked as a Craft Attendant, died on September 13, aged 72.

William Hugh Thomas, 64, died on September 17. He was a Labourer at Gwynedd until retirement in 1975.



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TUESDAY	11.00 - 12.00am 8.00 - 9.00pm	Over 40s Keep Fit Intermediate Aerobics	(1) (4)
WEDNESDAY	10.30 - 11.30am 6.30 - 7.30pm	Beginners Aerobics Circuit Training	(1) (2-5) NEW
THURSDAY	7.00 - 8.00pm 8.00 - 9.00pm	Falburner Aerobics Tone and Stretch	(3) (2)
FRIDAY	10.30 - 11.30am	Group Fitness Class	(3) Phone to Book

CLASSES OPEN TO NON MEMBERS - Members £1 - Non-Members £2

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MON - FRI
10.00 - 9.00 pm
SAT - SUN
10.00 - 2.00 pm

WHERE TO FIND US

CONGRATULATIONS



Bubbly celebration for happy couple

STAFF at New Crane Street are pictured drinking a toast to Contracting Foreman Geoff Jones and Clerical Supervisor Karen Jarvis, as they prepared to 'tie the knot'. The couple, who recently married at Llangollen, re-

ceived Marks and Spencer gift vouchers and many more personal presents from their colleagues.

Chester and Ellesmere Port Section Engineer Mike Jones is pictured presenting gifts to the happy couple.

Awards for long serving staff

DEE Valley staff are pictured receiving their long service awards from District Manager Jim McLennan. L-r are: David Birchall, Mechanical Fitter (20 years); George Brown, Overhead Linesman (30 years); David Condliffe, 2nd Engineer (30 years); Michael Williams, Chargehand Linesman (30 years); Winston Woodall, Electrician (35 years); Jim McLennan; David Wyn Jones, Supervisor, Contracting Work Control (20 years); Tim King, Electrician (20 years); Rob Mackenzie, Chargehand Mechanic, Legacy (20 years).



Teamwork is the key

By Graeme Cooper

TEAMWORK was the key to success when Eastern Regional Contracting carried out electrical installation work at BA Alloys' Latchford Locks site in Warrington.

Working in conjunction with Mid Mersey's Network Services engineers, the unit carried out over £¼ million worth of industrial contracting on the new factory site over an 18 month period, completing the work on schedule and to the total satisfaction of British Alcan's main contractor, American company Fluor Daniel.

BA Alloys - part of the British Alcan company - were redeveloping the site to recycle aluminium drinks cans. It is the first operation of its kind in Europe, with a capacity of 50 thousand tons, or around two-and-a-half billion used cans.

The redevelopment involved the demolition of an older building, and the existing electricity supply needed reinforcing to meet the demands of the new factory which was to be built.

This meant identifying, diverting and in some cases replacing high voltage cables. Manweb subcontracted Rhyll firm Gallaghers to carry out various civil engineering work related to the site clearance, including cable trenching and filling.

Two electricity substations were built for the new factory, extending the existing high voltage system which served the old factory.

But the job was not without complications, as Manweb Eastern Regional Contracting Engineer Colin Arnold explained: "While most of the site's power supply had to be increased from 6.2 thousand volts to 11 thousand, part of the site had to be kept at the lower voltage to accommodate existing machinery Alcan will continue to use at Latchford Locks. What we actually did was install a new 33 thousand



Contracting 1st Engineer Colin Arnold (left) and Network Services 2nd Engineer Tony Hassall (both based at Mid-Mersey) checking equipment in the BA Alloys substation.

volt transformer to meet this need."

Manweb called on in-house expertise from Network Services to install the transformer. Overall the Latchford Locks project included work at 11 thousand, 6.2 thousand, 33 thousand and 415 volts.

Smooth talker scoops a top honour



CENTRAL Purchasing Buyer Andrea Woollatt is making a name for herself in the world of purchasing after scooping the winner's trophy in an Institute of Purchasing and Supply presentation competition.

Andrea (pictured right), who is studying at Wirral's Carlett Park College for a diploma in Purchasing and Supply, was voted top by a panel which included Purchasing and Supply Management magazine editor, Sam Tulip. The then-Chairman of the Institute's Merseyside branch Bob Atherton presented her with her trophy.

Andrea is no stranger to speaking in public, and has taken part in several contests, including the ESI competitions.

"I suppose I was 'volunteered' to start with, but now I quite enjoy it, and it has boosted my confidence," said Andrea.

Her winning speech dealt with Supplier Quality Assurance - a topic close to Andrea's heart, and an area she is working to develop in Manweb.

"Not everyone understands the importance of buying, or the broader issues relating to it," Andrea said. "Our objective is to have the minimum of stock while at the same time providing the maximum service. It's a constant battle, but the message is getting across and the savings this can achieve are significant."

A special occasion

CONGRATULATIONS to the following staff who have clocked up 20, 30 or 40 years' long service during September.

40

YEARS

Head Office - Pat Quinn, Regional Appliance Service Manager, Chester and North Wales (based Queensferry); Dee Valley - Noel Walley, Clerk (New Crane Street); Mid-Cheshire - Rolla Ankers, DRC Attendant; Mike Griffiths, Foreman, Distribution; Ted Naughton, Contracting Electrician; Clwyd - Colin Edwards, 2nd Engineer, Energy Marketing; Gwynedd - Fred Keen, Foreman, Engineering; Aberystwyth - John Richards, Mains Foreman.

30

YEARS

Head Office - Graham Thomas, Regional Appliance Service Field Service Foreman, Chester and North Wales (Queensferry); Dennis Hughes, Treasury Manager; David Tinsley, Marketing Development Manager; Phil Hughes, 1st Engineer, Safety; Dave Wood, 2nd Engineer, SCADA; Authur Potts, Delivery Driver (Queensferry); North Mersey - Ray Rogers, Foreman, Network Services; Charlie Warbis, Network Services Engineer; Liverpool - John McEvoy, Craftsman Electrician; Colin Oldfield, 2nd Engineer, Network Services; Reg Owens, Craftsman Electrician, Shift; Mid-Mersey - Peter Tharme, 2nd Engineer; Dee Valley - Robert McCluskey, Chargehand Electrician, Contracting; North Wirral - John Barker, Network Manager; Alan Jones, 1st Engineer, Network Services; Mid-Cheshire - Ken Brasington, DRC Attendant; Clwyd - David Davies, Craftsman Electrician; Gwynedd - Gareth Owen, 2nd Engineer, Network Services; Oswestry - John Williams, Mains Manager; Rod Revill, Craftsman Electrical Inspection; Gareth Joseph, Contracting Foreman; Aberystwyth - Allen Carr, Energy Sales Manager.

20

YEARS

Head Office - Dougy Cook, Communications Technician; Brian Middleton, Head of Operation Training, Hoylake; Dave Baxandall, Contracts and Supplies Administrative Assistant; Geoff Wood, 1st Engineer, HV/LV Plant; Neville Hukin, Purchasing Systems Manager; Central Field Unit - Phil Currie, Resources Manager; Des Lloyd, Telecoms Fitter; North Mersey - Ray Palin, Electrical Fitter; Peter McKenzie, Northern Regional Contracting Foreman; Keith Murray, Northern Regional Contracting Engineer; Liverpool - David Brady, Chargehand Craftsman Electrician; Bob Connor, 2nd Engineer, Network Services; Steve Hennessey, Enhanced Craftsman, Electrical Inspection; Mid-Mersey - Bill Peet, 1st Engineer, Network Services; David Donaldson, Electrician; Dee Valley - Phil Jeffs, Acting Foreman/Electrical Fitter; Stephen Jones, Contracting Electrician; Alan Peters, Electrician/Acting Foreman; North Wirral - David Watkins, Clerical Assistant, Customer Accounts; Nick Gill, 2nd Engineer, Network Services; Mid-Cheshire - Dave Barratt, Customer Accounts Manager; Clwyd - Derek Roberts, Energy Sales Manager; Geraint Parry, Appliance Servicing Electrician; Oswestry - Chris Jones, 2nd Engineer, Mains; Den Morgan, Craft Attendant, Electrical Fitting; Clive Vaughan, Administrative Assistant; John Griffiths, Craftsman, Overhead Lines; Aberystwyth - Gordon Pugh, Service Electrician.



Lara Madigan (Wales 'A' team)



Dave Berry (Wales 'A')



Lesley Beck (Scotland 'A')



Mike Wroe (Wales 'A')

Welsh hopes are scotched

MIKE Wroe of North Wales and Scotland's Lesley Beck of Dumbarton, stormed to victory in the 1991 Manweb British Artificial Ski Slope Championships, held at Ski Llandudno on September 14 and 15.

Wroe and Beck came out on top after two days of fierce competition, which saw 187 of Britain's best skiers fighting to try and keep in touch with the pair.

Between them they managed to scoop top places in both slalom and giant slalom events, ensuring overall victory and stamping their dominance on the weekend's racing.

But the best was yet to come in the form of the head-to-head dual slalom. A cliffhanger of a climax saw Scotland A narrowly beating Wales A to clinch the international trophy.

Nearly every member of the British Alpine Ski Team took part in the 1991 Artificial Ski Slope event, sponsored for the second year running by Manweb, each competing for the coveted overall title.

Local skiers are pipped at the post in 1991 Manweb championships

Last year's winner of the men's title, Crawford Carrick-Anderson from Edinburgh, having just returned following an injury sustained last winter, pushed hard to retain his title and finished second overall.

First

Racing and skiing for the first time on artificial ski slopes were top British technical skiers Bill Gaylord and Claire De Pourtalles.

Both skiers seemed to have great fun at this event, with Claire showing terrific form finishing second in both giant slalom and slalom to Lesley.

The pair are likely to be seen at future events, hoping to add some artificial slope trophies to their collections.

Champion skiers Lesley Beck and Mike Wroe with their trophies.



Manweb's Dee Valley District Manager Jim McLennan presents the Combined Under 13s Winners Trophy to Ross Green of Aberdeen Ski Club.



Manweb Managing Director John Roberts congratulates the Wales 'A' Captain Roger Hughes and team members.

SOS call to staff

MERSEY Kidney Research has sent out an SOS to Manweb staff. The Liverpool-based charity is desperately in need of volunteers to help organise and administrate fund-raising events in the Mersey Region.

In addition to staging flag days, draws and raffles, the charity raises much of its cash from individual 'fun' events. Volunteers have recently organised such events as a ladies fashion evening, ten pin bowling, kart racing, a Chinese banquet, pub quizzes, a concert and sponsored walks, runs, swims, slims and parachute jumps.

Anyone interested in helping the charity should contact either Administrative Officer Mrs Valerie Strauss or Honorary Secretary Mr R J Ellison on 051 734 5795.



Right: Manweb's Managing Director John Roberts receives glassware for the Boardroom in recognition of the Company's support for the Artificial Ski Slope Championships. The 'thank you' gift was presented by Pam Howe, President of the Ski Council of Wales (right), and the Council's Chairman Andrea Howard-Jones.

Below: Downhill racers. Skiers speed towards the finishing line.





Manweb's Board of Directors at the AGM.

AGM went without a hitch thanks to the support of staff

MANWEB's directors played the starring role in the company's first AGM, and handled 90 minutes under the spotlights like seasoned professionals.

But the AGM's success depended on far more people than just the directors. Company Secretary Nick Williams was in charge of a team of around 100 Manweb personnel who took care of everything from questions and answers to ticketing.

Supported by staff from the Commercial Presentations organisation, Nick and his team ensured everyone was in the right place at the right time and that Manweb's first AGM went without a hitch.

He said: "As a new plc this was obviously the first time we'd had to organise an event like this and the planning alone took many months."

"Its success was always going to be down to the people involved, and I'd like to thank all the

Manweb staff for their enthusiastic help in making the whole event run so well and so smoothly."

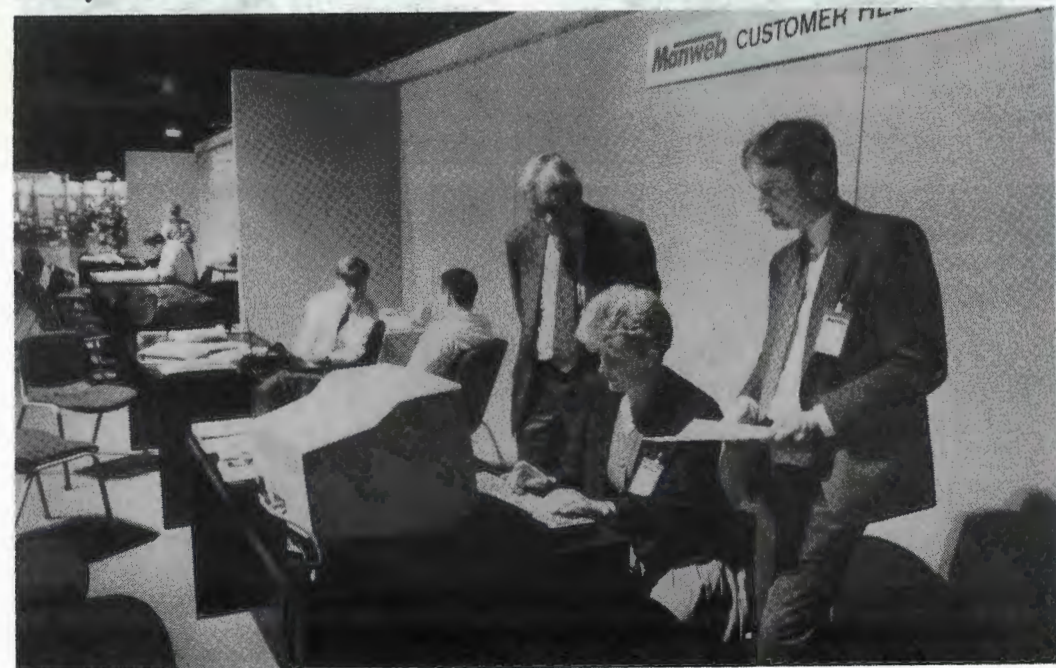
Nearly 100 Manweb people (too numerous to mention) were on site for the AGM, supported by staff from Barclay's Registrars, Commercial Presentations and several other contractors, supplying sound and light systems and the countless back-up services any major event needs.

The general opinion from staff was that things had gone smoothly. To quote one member of the AGM team: "You could say we were well pleased - we managed to avoid any major gaffes. If they ask us to do it again next year we'll know we got it right!"



Above: Rehearsing for the question-and-answer session are (l-r) Dee Valley District Manager's Secretary Rosie Richards, Jane Meyers and Susan Williams, both Clerks/Word Processor Operators at Rhostyllen.

Below: Welfare Services Manager Jim Wilcock (left), North Wirral Customer Accounts Manager Edna Holroyd and Executive Officer, Billing, Gary Williams check out the Help Desk systems.



No question a

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Special report
by
Graeme Cooper

MORE than 500 Manweb shareholders packed a specially erected marquee on Chester Racecourse for Manweb's first Annual General Meeting. As a plc Manweb is legally required to hold an annual meeting for shareholders. It is a chance for them to put questions to the company directors face to face and to vote on company matters.

The formal business of the meeting consisted of seven resolutions, and after each, shareholders' questions were answered by Chairman Bryan Weston and other directors.

Resolutions to receive and adopt the report and accounts and to pay a dividend were the first items of ordinary business. Both were passed with large majorities.

The first question was from a Welsh shareholder, who made an impassioned plea for the undergrounding of high voltage tower lines in Snowdonia.

The Chairman and Director, Network Services Denis Farquhar responded, explaining that the high voltage lines in question were owned by the

National Grid Company, so not within Manweb's control.

Mr Farquhar explained the high costs of putting lines underground, especially with an extensive power network which had been developed since the 1920s.

Trident

However, he pointed out that Manweb had developed a more environmentally acceptable wooden pole alternative to steel towers, the Trident line. This,



he said, was used successfully at many locations.

The Chairman recognised



Principal Assistant Jane Sheppard from Head Office Transport poses a shareholder question during rehearsals.



Sign language was available throughout the proceedings for deaf visitors. An indu marquee to assist wearers of hearing aids.

about it – Manweb ts shareholders' te of confidence



in concern about power lines, but he said he could offer no comfort with regard to National Grid Company lines.

The level of Manweb's standing charge was dealt with by Director, Power Marketing Colin Leonard. This, he said was being kept as low as possible.

Charge

Manweb did not have a closed mind on the subject, and alternatives such as a higher charge for the first units used had been looked at.

However, the company had to ensure it did not give preferential rates to some customers at the expense of the rest.

Other issues raised included the issuing of electricity incentive vouchers to shareholders, staffing levels, sponsorship policy, charitable donations, and retained profit levels.

Manweb's Articles of Association require a proportion of the directors to retire at each AGM. They can then stand for re-election by the shareholders.

Retire

Any director appointed by the Board must also retire at the Annual General Meeting following his appointment.

Peter Hopkins and Eryl Morris



Above: Behind the scenes, Manweb's experts work on answers to shareholders' questions.

Above left: The AGM's youngest visitor, 13-week-old James Shuttleworth, from Chester, with mum, Linda.

ris retired and were re-elected, along with Finance Director John Astall, who was appointed to the Board in June.

A resolution was passed for Manweb's auditors, Touche Ross & Co to be retained until the next AGM, and the final resolution passed dealt with the allotting of equity securities.

Discount

Manweb's directors, together with Company Secretary Nick Williams were on stage for the entire hour and a half meeting.

Manweb's special shareholder discount offer came under scrutiny with a questioner keen to know whether the appliances selected were poor sellers, and were there any plans to repeat or extend the offer to smaller items, of the sort pensioners might buy?

Director, Trading, Peter Hopkins reassured the questioner that the discount was not designed to move slow-selling products. He explained that the items had been selected to provide something for all the family.

He said the results of the offer would need to be gathered in and analysed to see if it should be repeated, and if so, which appliances should be offered.

Parallel

Inevitably, the question of directors' pay was raised, though it seemed to be of greater interest to the press following the meeting than it was to Manweb's shareholders.

Remuneration Committee Chairman Eryl Morris gave a detailed response on the need to pay market-related salaries, drawing a parallel between Manweb and a successful football team, both having to pay high wages to attract and keep their top people.

**Pictures by
Mike Hall**



The marquee that housed the AGM on Chester Racecourse.



Buyer Tony Gaynor, from Head Office Purchasing, on the Customer Help Desk.



Gwynedd District Manager Dick Owen (in front of camera) takes care of the Welsh language angle of the AGM. As well as dealing with the press he led a team of Welsh speakers who were on duty throughout the meeting.

Star-studded spectacular

WHAT do you do with a huge marquee after you've held your AGM inside it? Answer, hold a spectacular star concert!

That was what Manweb helped do when it gave the Chester in Concert organisation the use of its marquee for the Saturday following the AGM.

Singing star Peter Skellern headlined the show, sharing the bill with internationally acclaimed Elgar cellist Steven Isserlis. As well as donating the marquee Manweb met the costs of bringing the two big names to Chester.

Both artists were backed by the Cheshire County Youth Orchestra, and around 2,000 music lovers packed the marquee to vote the evening a resounding success.

Campaign

Funds raised from the event will go to Chester in Concert's campaign to establish a permanent new arts centre for Cheshire and Clwyd.

The following day the structure was in use again, once more courtesy of Manweb. Chester City Council used it to host part of its entry in a North West Sports Extravaganza, organised by Sport Aid to get as many people as possible participating in a sporting activity at the same time.

Chester came top, having more people than any other area taking part in some form of sport.

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No question about it — gets shareho vote of confi

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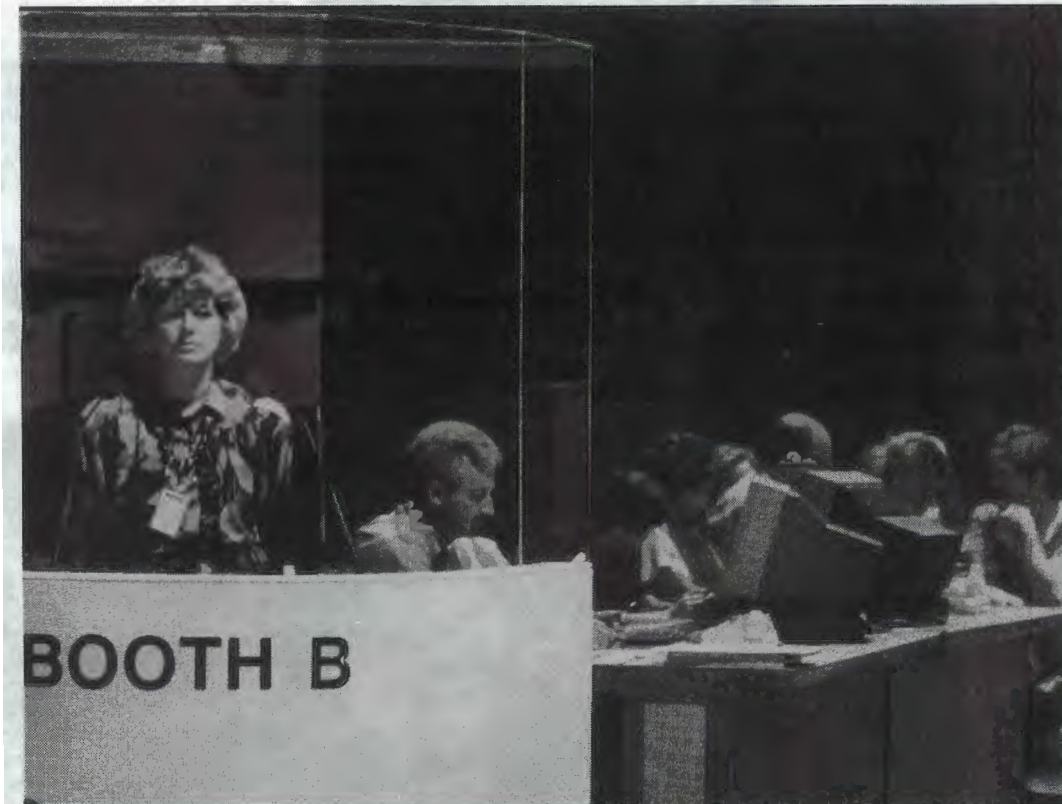
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Pictures by
Mike Hall

Fun in store at Manweb



Above: Fancy dress fund-raisers at Llandudno Shop (l-r) Queen of Hearts Margaret Lancaster, March Hare Steve Monks (Manager) and White Rabbit Janet Boyton. Below: Jean Morris of the Crewe and District Mastectomy Support Group receives a cheque on behalf of Leighton Hospital from Crewe Shop Manager Andy Austin.

THERE were treats in store for customers when staff at several Manweb shops staged a series of fun days.

Prizes galore were at stake in a variety of competitions, ranging from fancy dress contests to raffles.

Local charities and organisations, including Dr Barnardos, the Birkenhead Saturday Handcapped Club and two hospitals, also benefitted when they received the proceeds of several fund-raising events.

Staff at Llandudno shop dressed as characters from Alice in Wonderland for their fun day, inviting local children to also don fancy dress.

During a Mad Hatter's tea party, customers tucked in to jam tarts, orange juice or wine, and by the end of the day the grand total of £300 had been raised for Dr Barnardos.

Customers at Crewe shop toasted their good luck with champagne when they scooped several super prizes in a series of competitions.

Paul Reed, of Shavington, won the first prize of a Philips dishwasher in a sales contest, with the second prize, a Toshiba satellite system, going to Eric Hulme, of Crewe.

Mrs Janet Bell, of Crewe, won an Akura midi system, the top prize in a charity raffle, while second-placed Mrs Pamela Manning, of Crewe, swept up a Vaxette cleaner.

In addition, Crewe shop managed to boost Leighton Hospital's Scanner Appeal to the tune of more than £800. Children's TV presenter Ross King drew the crowds when he entertained young visitors to the recently refurbished shop,



Fun Day competition winners celebrate their success with a glass of bubbly, courtesy of Crewe Shop Manager Andy Austin.

and raised money by selling his autograph.

The Body Scanner Appeal has been going since October 1988 and to date has raised £300,000 of its £800,000 target.

Halton Hospital's League of Friends received a cheque for almost £600 thanks to staff and customers at Runcorn shop.

Radio Halton's roadshow joined in the fun day fund-raising festivities, and as a special thank you, Manweb donated a Sharp CD player to the hospital radio station.

Teenager Simon Lloyd, from Oxtan, was in for a surprise when he called in at Birkenhead shop, winning the star prize of a Zanussi washing machine in one of the store's fun day competitions.

Shop Manager Peter Jones presented the overwhelmed 16-year-old with his prize and congratulated runner-up Mrs Linda Henry, of Woodchurch, who won a Philips Whirlpool freezer.

Champagne

Mrs Elaine Randles, also from Oxtan, won a Bendix tumble dryer and celebrated her win with champagne served up by Sales Assistant Melanie Collins.

The fun day was organised in aid of the Birkenhead Saturday Handcapped Club, run for the benefit of disabled children, and the £700 raised has been placed in a high interest account to earn even more money!

Seventeen Manweb shops have been selected by the Regional Shops Managers to take part in this year's Fun Day Calendar, due to finish in the New Year.

When all the events have been held, the shops will be judged on their efforts and staff from the winning store, plus their partners, will be treated to a slap-up meal.



Above: Llandudno Shop Manager Steve Monks presents a cheque to Dr Barnardo's North Wales Co-ordinator Gwynedd Lewis.

Below: Birkenhead Sales Assistant Melanie Collins celebrates with winning customer Elaine Randles.

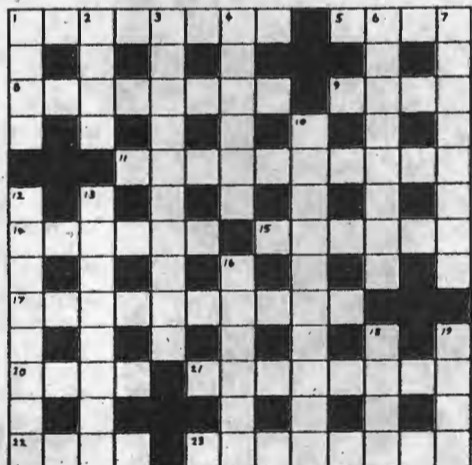


Graham Sweeney (left) of Halton Hospital League of Friends receives a cheque from Runcorn Shop Manager Brendan O'Meara (right), who also presented a Sharp CD Player to Radio Halton's Derek Owens.

Crossword no. 37

Across: 1. Possibly bored after a fight for furniture (8), 5. There's much that you need when you're in it (4), 8. Swindle associated with a search for victory (8), 9. Stern look when a card goes missing (4), 11. Call her gen unreliable if you want a fight (10), 14. On both sides of the Tiber disorder in Rome causes shock (6), 15. Former cavalry officer in the band (6), 17. Forge links that could make one a traditional entertainer (4-6), 20. Take part in a seaside concert party - never again! (4), 21. Save diet arrangements that can have a calming effect (8), 22. Repeat the performance and you're dead! (4), 23. He had a topping job (8).

Down: 1. Scottish community in a Twickenham encounter (4), 2. Always leave the clergyman to provide tears (4), 3. Unfair on MPs when there's a fight (5-5), 4. Activity requiring transport to be let out (6), 6. Pompous and blatant about having to move up (8), 7. Rising so far to include the virtue of boldness (8), 10. Her foe is destroyed when the troop comes around ahead of time (10), 12. Waller is held up before crossing the town (8), 13. Measure in turning up investigators made very clear (8), 16. Extra accommodation for a (4).



Solution on page 12

lady to put up former spouse (6), 18. Not giving way in company (4), 19. Chapter-head

Faulty transformer is replaced in a flash. . .

Eight day wonder!

LIVERPOOL scored another goal when a faulty transformer weighing 37 tons was changed and on load within just eight days. The Lister Drive team managed to complete a job which would usually take about a month at best under normal conditions.

The story began at about 3pm one Thursday afternoon when reports were received at the District Office of a severe voltage dip which had affected a large part of Liverpool city centre.

Operational Engineer Ted Bostock was dispatched with others to the scene and quickly established that the cause of the problem was the failure of a 33,000 volt transformer at

Cable Street substation in the heart of the city centre.

Due to the inherent stability of the distribution system, no customers actually lost supply, but in order to maintain the

integrity of supplies to the city centre, it was essential that the transformer should be repaired or replaced.

The following day the transformer was examined to find the extent of the damage within. Samples of oil were sent to the Electricity Research and Development Centre laboratories at Capenhurst for analysis.

Tests revealed that the damage was extensive and that it would be impossible to carry out repairs on site.

Crane

The decision was taken to remove the faulty transformer and replace it with a similar one which had recently been disconnected and was available at Lavrock Bank Substation in Toxteth.

Next day (Saturday) was spent organising transport and a crane to pick up the replacement, deliver it to Cable Street, and recover the faulty unit.

Whilst that was being arranged, the cables were disconnected from the two transformers and they were made ready for transportation.

Sunday morning was bright and sunny when a massive 125 ton capacity crane arrived at Lavrock Bank. Although the transformer weighed 37 tons, the crane, one of the largest of its type in the UK, was necessary in order to lift the load.

Convoy

After carefully placing the transformer on a low loader the convoy of crane, lorry and vans set off along the Dock Road, escorted by no less than seven Police motor cyclists.

All went well until they reached James Street in the city centre where a pedestrian footbridge spans the road.

Knowing the load was almost as high as the underside of the bridge and that the bridge was protected by auto-

matic alarms which are supposed to activate when approached by a vehicle too high to pass beneath it, the convoy approached cautiously.

The alarm didn't sound, so the convoy edged forward. But it soon became apparent that the transformer would not fit underneath!

Some manoeuvring by the lorry to take advantage of the camber of the road improved the situation slightly, but it was still no go.

Cables

The only solution was to reduce the height of the load by three inches in order to pass under the bridge. This was achieved by removing two lifting lugs from the top of the transformer and the lorry started to inch forward again.

But there was a further problem to overcome. The steepness of the hill under the bridge prevented the lorry with its heavy load getting started on its journey again.



Above: The convoy weaves its way through Liverpool city centre, led by a Police motorcyclist. Below: The 'new' transformer is guided into position at aptly-named Cable Street.



THE team takes a well-earned coffee break. They include Fitter Bob Walker (far left), Fitter's Mate Kevin Andrews (3rd from left) and Ted Bostock, 2nd Engineer, Operations (right). Also pictured are Ferranti and Dixon Crane Hire staff.

Help was at hand, however, and the driver was able to chain the crane to the front of the lorry, and this extra boost was enough to get the entourage to the top of the hill and past the famous Queen Victoria monument. She would no doubt have been amused!

The rest of the operation went without a hitch and the replacement transformer was positioned in Cable Street while the faulty one was lifted onto the lorry and secured.

After a quick trip to McDonalds for lunch, the convoy of transformer, crane and assorted vans set off for Lister Drive - even going through red lights (under police supervision)!

Monday morning saw Cable Street buzzing with activity, with the arrival of staff to install new cables to connect up the transformer

Oops! The two lifting lugs have to be removed from the top of the transformer to solve the tricky problem of passing under the footbridge.

Jointing of the new cables occupied the next three days, followed by a high voltage test and the necessary commissioning.

By Friday morning - the eighth day of the operation - the final tests had been successfully completed and the new transformer was on load at 12 noon and became part of the city centre network.

Cast

The cast in order of appearance was: Ted Bostock, 2nd Engineer (Operations), Chris Tigwell, 2nd Engineer (Operations), Fitter Bob Walker, Fitter's Mate Kevin Andrews, Ernie Fountain, Arnold Worthington and Bill Smethurst, of Ferranti International, crane, lorry and drivers provided by Dixon Crane Hire, and a supporting cast from Merseyside Police.



Benchmark of success

HOW good are we at doing our job and how do we compare with similar organisations?

This was the question Manweb's Management Services Department asked itself recently. The problem is, how do you make comparisons and with whom?

The decision was taken not to look at the other RECs' Management Service units.

This was for two reasons: firstly, the fear by both parties that in the new, privatised environment, commercially sensitive information could be gleaned in the process, and secondly, the electricity supply industry has developed along common lines for a number of years and it would be more productive to look outside the ESI for new ideas.

Consequently it was decided to use a benchmarking technique which sets out to compare the processes and structure of other forward-thinking organisations - not necessarily those operating in the same environment.

To this end Manweb entered into a series of exercises with three quite different organisations, Yorkshire Water, Cheshire County Council and Girobank.

Innovative

"Each has a Management Services facility which has demonstrated innovative approaches in a number of key areas and, like Manweb's Management Services, each is keen to improve its operation through a series of comparative assessments," said Head of Management Services Philip Walker.

The first stage of these assessments was completed recently when representatives from Yorkshire Water crossed the Pennines to see what life was like over here.

Questions asked covered a range of topics such as organisational structure, the type of work undertaken, the mix of staff skills and expertise, relationship with our clients and a host of other related subjects.

Their visit also included a trip to North Wirral District Office to talk to two of Management Services' most recent clients, District Manager Geoff Abel and Central Field Unit Manager Brian Mather.

"This allowed the Yorkshire Water team the opportunity to

obtain a more unbiased view of our operation and performance," said Philip Walker.

"The next stage, which will be undertaken shortly, will involve a reciprocal visit to Yorkshire Water to find out how they operate and we will be asking the questions!"

On a fact-finding mission. Pictured (front row l-r) are Andrew Welch, Stuart Gilmore and David Limbert, from Yorkshire Water, and (back row l-r) their hosts from Management Services, Bill Matthews, Philip Walker and Steve Chantler.



CONTINUING his series of articles, Manweb's Accounting Manager Graham Morris looks at more aspects of stocks and shares. This month he starts with a look at how the share prices have moved since flotation.

Share Prices

All the Regional Electricity Companies (RECs) in England and Wales, unlike the Scottish companies which were sold-off later, have shown significant increases in prices after flotation.

Three of the RECs - Manweb, Norweb and South Wales - have increased in price by more than 50 per cent from the opening share price on the first day's trading and even the lowest price share - Eastern - has increased by over a quarter in value.

The highest priced share is

currently South Wales, and at 279p part-paid it is the highest price any share has reached. The lowest price since flotation was hit by Seeboard on January 16 when the shares were 134p. Since then they have risen by over 60 per cent.

The Scottish companies have not shown the same increases, reaching a high of 124½p for Hydro-Electric and 119½p for Scottish Power, both subsequently falling back around 10-11p to their present prices.

Package	end of August			mid September			
	Share Price (p)	Price/Earnings Ratio	Gross Yield %	Share Price (p)	Increase %	Price/Earnings Ratio	Gross Yield %
Package	2,030.0	9.9	5.9	2,152.5	6.0%	10.3	5.7

	end of August			mid September			
	Share Price (p)	Price/Earnings Ratio	Gross Yield %	Share Price (p)	Inc/dec %	Price/Earnings Ratio	Gross Yield %
Nat. Power	156.5	9.8	4.8	156.5	0.0%	9.8	4.8
Powergen	170.5	9.7	4.5	171.0	0.3%	9.8	4.5
Hydro-Elec	111.5	13.4	4.8	113.5	1.8%	13.5	4.8
Scot. Power	105.5	13.0	5.0	109.0	3.3%	13.2	4.9
FT All Sh	1,265.3		5.0	1,257.0	-0.7%		5.0

Beeb plays Santa

CHRISTMAS came early for staff at Manweb's Holyhead shop when the BBC decided to play Santa during August.

Disappointed that he'd missed out on the festive spirit last December due to an untimely bout of 'flu, local man Geoff Adams wrote to 'Jim'll Fix It'.

The TV programme really warmed to the idea and fixed up a repeat run of Christmas.

Manweb Sales assistant Michelle Tennet said: "The BBC rolled up with Christmas decorations and asked all the shopkeepers in the town centre to fix up their windows."

"They provided a Christmas tree, organised a procession and threw a party."

"It was very confusing for the children and the holidaymakers wondered what on earth was going on!"

Taking stock

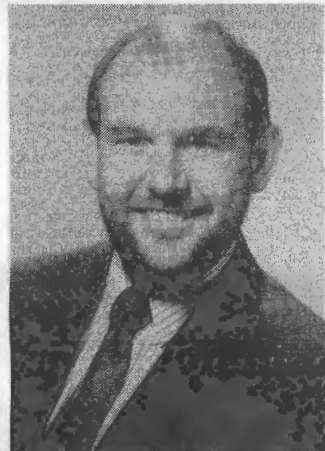
The Distribution Companies

Shares of the RECs rose by 6 per cent over the period, with South Wales, Manweb and Yorkshire still the three highest priced. South Wales showed the highest rise over the period (up to 25p) with Manweb second (up 17½p). Seeboard and South Western showed the smallest increase (up 6p).

The Generating and Scottish Companies

Prices for National Power and PowerGen have hardly moved this month, with PowerGen going up by ½p.

The Scottish companies gained in price with Scottish Power up 3½p and Hydro-Electric up 2p. PowerGen's yield at the end of the month has re-



By Graham Morris

mained at 4.5 per cent, slightly lower than the others.

Gross Yields

Dividend yields have fallen slightly on the rising prices, with a spread of 5.4 per cent (Yorkshire) up to 6.1 per cent (Northern) compared with a spread of 5.5 per cent up to 6.3 per cent at the end of August.

The yield on the package of all RECs' shares has fallen to around 5.7 per cent. Manweb

remains one of the lower yields at 5.4 per cent, along with Yorkshire. This compares with an FT All Share index that remained at around 5.0 per cent.

If you have any further queries on these matters you should take independent advice. Your solicitor, professional advisor, bank or building society will probably be best placed to help you.

French flavour COOKING

by Marj Scregg

TRY a glorious French-style roast. A cheaper alternative joint is shoulder of lamb which, although fattier, has a delicious flavour.

Canned flageolet beans will save you time. You'll need two 14oz (397g) cans, and the beans should be drained and rinsed, then stirred into the tomato mixture. Use water or more wine instead of the bean cooking liquid.

Succulent roast leg of lamb is good and garlicky, served with a tasty tomato and bean sauce.

French-Style Roast (serves 4-6)

8 oz (225g) flageolet beans, soaked overnight in cold water; 2½-3lb (1.2-1.4kg) leg of lamb; 3 cloves garlic; rosemary sprigs; 1 tbsp oil; ½ oz (15g) butter; 1 onion, finely chopped; 4 tomatoes, chopped; ¼ pint (150ml) dry white wine; salt and pepper; 1 tbsp fresh chopped parsley.

Preheat oven to 375F/190C mark 5. Drain the soaked beans and place in a pan. Cover with water and simmer for 1½ hours or until tender but not soft. Check the beans as they cook and add more water if they look as if they are getting too dry.

Meanwhile, using a sharp knife, make slits all over the lamb. Peel the garlic and cut each clove into two or three slivers. Insert the garlic and small sprigs of rosemary into the lamb.

Place the joint in a roasting tin and cook for 1¼ to 1¾ hours, depending on your taste.

Heat the oil and butter in a large frying pan and fry the onions until slightly softened. Add the tomatoes and cook for 10 minutes over a low heat. Drain the beans, reserving the cooking liquid.

Stir 3oz (75ml) of the bean liquid into the onions and tomatoes. Add the wine, beans and seasoning and simmer gently until the meat is ready. When the meat is cooked, transfer to a large serving plate and keep it warm.

Spoon off excess fat from the roasting pan and pour the bean

mixture into the juices. Stir well, taste and adjust seasoning. Stir in the parsley and spoon sauce around the lamb.

Sirloin Steaks with Lemon and Green Peppercorns (serves 4)

4 sirloin steaks; 2 tbsp (2x15ml) green peppercorns, crushed; 2oz (50g) butter; 1 lemon, rind and juice reserved; 1 tbsp (15ml) fresh chives, chopped; 2 tbsp (2x15ml) double cream.

Press the crushed peppercorns into both sides of the steaks. Melt the butter and fry the steaks for 2½ minutes each side (rare), 4 minutes (medium) or 7 minutes each side (well done).

Remove the steaks, add lemon rind and 1 tablespoon (15ml) of lemon juice and chopped chives to the pan. Cook until reduced slightly. Remove from the heat and stir in the cream. Pour over the steaks and serve immediately.

Fillet or rump steak can be used as an alternative to sirloin.

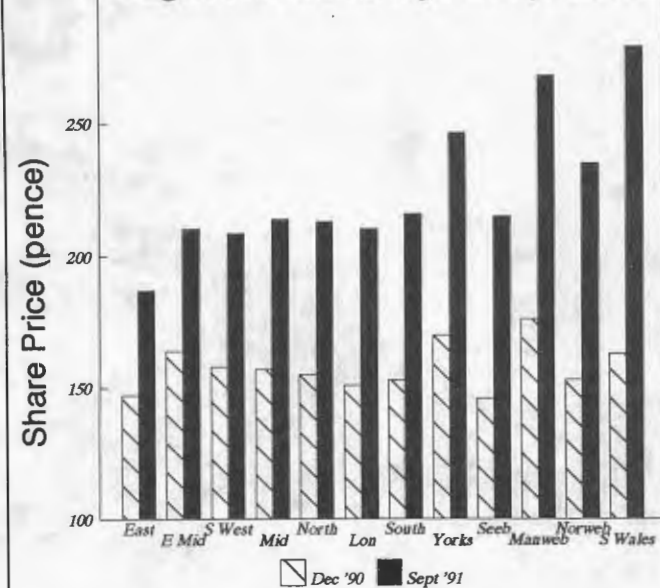
Roast Pork with Orange and Herb Stuffing (serves 4-6)

2lb (990g) boneless pork loin joint; 1 onion, finely chopped; 1 medium orange, grated rind and juice; 3oz (75g) fresh breadcrumbs; 1 tbsp (15ml) fresh sage, chopped; 1 tbsp (15ml) fresh parsley, chopped; salt and black pepper; oil and salt for crackling.

Mix together the onion, orange rind, breadcrumbs, herbs and seasoning. Add sufficient orange juice to bind. Pack the stuffing into the cavity left by the bone and secure with string.

Brush the scored rind with a little oil and rub in salt. Place the joint on a rack and cook in a pre-heated oven for 1 hour 30 minutes. Do not baste during cooking and drain away excess fat after roasting.

Regional Electricity Companies



Student of distinction

CONGRATULATIONS to Head Office Communications Network Liaison Officer David Kenyon, who has achieved distinctions in all his Electrical Engineering BTEC Higher National Certificate subjects throughout both years of the course. David, who studied at West Cheshire College in Chester, has now been nominated for the prestigious BTEC Medal.

Court Tutor Peter Hobson said: "I am not aware that such an outstanding result has ever been achieved before in this course which has been operating for over ten years. The BTEC moderator has confirmed the results and has agreed with the HNC team that David be nominated for the BTEC medal."

SPORT

Disabled athletes get a boost from Manweb

SPORT for disabled people was given a boost by Manweb when Central Region Contracting sponsored an international event.

The 3rd International Invitation Club Championships for the Disabled were held in Wrexham during August Bank Holiday Weekend. The event included table tennis, bowls and athletics, attracting

around 200 competitors from Wales, England, Leichenstein, Bulgaria, Iceland, Norway and Germany.

The Manweb Victor and Victress Ludorum prizes were

won by 100m world record holder Hawkur Gunnarsson of Iceland and wheelchair racer Evy Gunderson of Norway.

Dawn Jackson, Chairman of the Wrexham Sports Club for the Disabled, which hosted the event, thanked Manweb's Central Region Contracting Manager Arwel Lloyd for sponsoring the games.



Above: Evy Gunderson and Hawkur Gunnarsson with their Manweb trophies. Left: Rachel Roberts, a member of the Wrexham Club, competes in the Shot contest.

Depths of despair

MANWEB's angling team is fishing for new members after sinking to bottom place in the recent ESI National Course Angling Competition.

Held on the River Trent at Nottingham on September 11, the contest, in its 16th year, saw Manweb plunge to 14th out of 14 teams competing.

The event was won by East Midlands with the North Eastern team in second place.

There was, however, some consolation when Manweb's John Tyreman hooked 10th place in the individual competition.

Manweb's failure was partly due to the inability to field a full team of 15 anglers, and new members are urgently needed for next year's event, which again is likely to be in September on the River Trent.

Anyone in the following categories is eligible to compete:

- All current Manweb staff
- Retired Manweb employees
- Children (aged under 18) of employees
- Husbands or wives of Manweb employees

If you are interested in taking part, for further details contact John Tyreman on Head Office ext. 3244 or Dave Garratt on Head Office ext 3246



ELEVEN handicap George Burgess, a Bricklayer from North Wirral District, holed in one at the par 3 12th hole when competing in Wallasey Golf Club's Autumn Meeting.

It was his second hole-in-one in his golfing career, and after buying the traditional drinks all round for a packed club house, George said he was considering taking out insurance cover to offset a future recurrence!

Demon Ken bowls them over

THINGWALL Road Sports Ground was the venue when Liverpool District's cricketing office staff clashed with industrial staff in a challenge match. The office staff - nicknamed the Gentlemen as they usually wear suits - suffered a considerable loss of weight to their side when Bob Connor had to cry off due to a previous injury. Sportingly, the industrial side - the Players - offered their 12th man Derek Walkup to play for the rival team.



The Gentlemen's bowling demon Ken Rigby with the trophy taking pride of place on his desk.

The Gentlemen batted first and were soon in trouble, mainly due to the bowling of Franky Taylor. Players' Captain Andy Skarratts kept up the pace, and when he had Bob McMahon caught for 3, the Gentlemen were 18 for 5.

A spirited fight back by Paul Fitzgerald and Captain Mal Cooper followed. The scoreboard was ticking along nicely when Mal cut a ball through the slips only to be brilliantly caught by Franky Taylor showing his England class again.

The Gentlemen finally made 90 for 9 off 21 overs (89 after a recount) with Paul Fitz top scoring with 23 and Jim Henderson finishing with a merry little knock of 16 not out.

Tricked

As Derek Walkup hadn't had a bat, he opened the bowling for the Gentlemen. He seemed to have perfected the wide delivery but tricked Franky Taylor by bowling one on the wicket and bowling him for one.

The score was progressing rapidly with Kevin Andrews and Andy Scarratts at the wicket. Kevin later hit the shot of the match, a six to mid wicket. A couple of balls later he tried to repeat the shot only to drive the ball straight into the safe hands of Bob McMahon.

The Players had progressed to 52 for 4 when Garry Wilson hit a ball from Mal Cooper to deep square leg for a safe 2. Bill Tubey stuck out a foot and neatly flicked the ball to hanc into the wicketkeeper Ron Burgess, who threw down the stumps at a speed which belied the years. Garry was run out by yards.

With Mal Cooper and Ken Rigby introduced into the attack, scoring slowed down and with two overs to go the Players needed 13 runs to win. Ken Rigby's last over was a remarkable one, two off the first ball, then disaster struck

for the Players. Andy hit the ball up into the gloom, straight to Bob McMahon. Andy was out for top score of 21.

Next ball bowled Mark Pearson and a hat-trick ball bowled Paul Leary. The last man came in to face Demon Ken and narrowly missed being caught at the wicket. There was one over left with 11 runs needed. Could the boss be trusted to bowl the last over? Well, he was the only one left and it was very dark!!

A four! How did Mark Brookman see that? Two wides and two byes left three required off the last ball. Bob McMahon bowled, Mark swung, no contact, the batsman ran, but where was the ball? Wickey stopped it, in to the stumps and the Gentlemen had won by one run.

With the match over, both teams retired to the bar for "a bevvy and butties", which rounded off a very enjoyable sporting evening. Everyone resolved to repeat the event next year, even if the trophy has to be renamed the "Ken Rigby Perpetual Trophy".



Kitted out courtesy of Clwyd

PICTURED receiving their Clwyd Energy Marketing-sponsored football kit are Mynydd Isa youth football team.

The team play in the Clwyd Junior League for under four-teens, though at the moment the players are all aged 12.

Manager John Kennedy said: "The strip seemed the best way we could help, and I'm sure that with Manweb behind them Mynydd Isa will be on winning form!"

Shown (l-r standing) are: David Lemon, David Walsh, Derek Roberts, Mark Long-

staff, Manweb Settlements Manager Neil Magill (who manages the team, as well as having son, Ian in the squad!), Chris Rowe, Matthew Edwards, John Kennedy. L-r kneeling are: Jamie Higgins, Andrew Pilling, Ian Magill, Neil O'Hare, Gareth Williams and Simon Reynolds.

The Teams

Gentlemen	Players
Harry Robertson, 2nd Eng. Construction	Jim Webb, Fitter
Bill Tubey, Network Manager	Frank Taylor, Jinter
Ken Rigby, 2nd Eng. Planning	Kevin Andrews, S/s Insp.
Bob McMahon, District Manager	Andy Skarratts, Jinter
Paul Fitzgerald, Ind. Sales Rep.	Martin Watt, Electrician
Ken Grapham, 2nd Eng. Energy Sales	Garry Wilson, Inst. Insp.
Mal Cooper, Energy Sales Manager	Peter Burke, Inst. Insp.
Ron Burgess, 1st Eng. Planning	Mark Brookman, Fitter
Jim Henderson, 1st Eng. Operations	Mark Pearson, Jinter
Neil Whammond, Admin. Asst. Customer Records	Paul Leary, Jinter
Bob Connor, 2nd End. Construction	Dave Swift, Fitter
	Derek Walkup, Jinter

Crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Wardrobe, 5 Want, 8 Conquest, 9 Grim, 11 Challenger, 14 Tremor, 15 Cornet, 17 Folk-singer, 20 Once, 21 Sedative, 22 Dodo, 23 Headman. DOWN: 1 Wick, 2 Rend, 3 Rough-house, 4 Bustle, 6 Arrogant, 7 Temerity, 10 Beforehand, 12 Stafford, 13 Pellucid, 16 Annexe, 18 Firm, 19 Dean.