

CONTACT

Manweb's monthly newspaper for staff and their families.

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

Vol. 43 No. 10

October 1990

Energy efficiency earns companies cash awards

FIRMS PEP UP THEIR IDEAS



FOUR companies received cash awards from Manweb plc for putting energy saving ideas into practice. At a ceremony in Chester Manweb Managing Director Richard Gales presented energy efficiency awards of £1,000 to each of the four winners, together with trophies.

TV's William Woollard compered the event in which Sous Chef Ltd of Deeside, Crosfield Chemicals of Warrington, Thomas Elliott and Peskett, a doctor's surgery in Denbigh, and The Hynd Group's St Martin Nursing Home, Liverpool, all won first prizes and a place in the national final.

Sous Chef won their PEP Award (Power for Efficiency and Productivity in industry for small companies) for a new

electric food process. They produce prepared food which is bagged for the catering industry. The food requires neither cans

nor refrigeration for up to two years' shelf life.

The ohmic heating system used by Sous Chef was developed at the Electricity Research and Development Centre at Capenhurst and the company is the first in the world to use it.

Crosfields' new hi-tech energy recycling system won the PEP Award for large industrialists. Since 1984 the company has used methane gas to generate electricity. The new system makes use of the spent steam from generation by using a compressor to raise the temperature and heat the boiler, saving on gas and water consumption.

Winners of the Beta Award for energy efficiency in larger buildings, The Hynd Group, house over 40 residents in their newly built St. Martin's Nursing Home in Liverpool. Heat recovery ventilation units in windows provide fresh air and maintain a 21°C temperature in bedrooms.

Pictured above: TV's William Woollard (centre left) and Manweb Managing Director Richard Gales (centre right) with PEP and Beta winners (l-r) Robin Hale, of Sous Chef Ltd, Roy Graham, of Crosfields, Dr Gwyn Thomas, of Thomas, Elliott and Peskett, and Thomas Byrne, of Hynd Construction.



Ski champs

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Proms night hits a high note

IT was an evening with plenty of pomp and circumstance when the Chester Symphony Orchestra played a fund-raising concert at Manweb's Head Office ballroom.

The concert, sponsored by Manweb, was in aid of the National Children's Home Chester Family Centre Appeal and more than 400 promoters gathered to raise the roof for the Last Night of the Proms programme.

Pictured at the keys of the piano, before local pianist Stephen Reynolds resumed his rightful place, is the Deputy Mayor of Chester, Councillor Susan Proctor, with Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston (left) and NCH local Committee Chairman Paul Beresford Adams, surrounded by children from the audience and members of TS Deva Chester Sea Cadets (Picture by Mike Hall).



Story continued on page 3

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CONGRATULATIONS

News in brief . . .

JOINTER Charlie Hambley has retired from Liverpool District after clocking up 32 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

After wartime service with the Navy in the Pacific, Charlie started out as a Labourer at Pumpfields in 1946, becoming a Jointer in 1953. Two years later he emigrated to Australia, but couldn't settle and returned to Manweb in 1959 as a Jointer at Marsh Lane.

After another spell at Pumpfields, he finally moved to Lister Drive when the Central and South Districts were combined.

Charlie intends to spend his retirement fishing, travelling, walking and enjoying various other social activities.

* * *

STAFF at Oswestry District threw a party for their colleague Keith Tomlinson when he took early retirement through ill health.

Keith, affectionately known to all as "Tommy", had worked for Manweb for 16 years, initially as an Electrician but more recently as part of the Commercial Clerical Unit involved with appliance repairs.

A keen golfer, "Tommy", who also enjoys fishing in his spare time, was presented with an inscribed tankard on behalf of his many friends by Installation Manager Phil Jones. A bouquet was also presented to Mrs Tomlinson.

* *

LIVERPOOL Fitter Dave Harvey has taken early retirement due to ill health, after completing 29 years' service with Manweb. Dave, who was recently featured in Contact, is awaiting a heart transplant operation.



No complaints after 41 years!

CUSTOMER Complaints Manager Ivan Maddocks has retired from Head Office after 41 years with Manweb. Ivan joined the company as an Apprentice Electrician in his native Whitchurch in 1949, rising to become the town's Shop Manager.

In 1970 he was promoted to District Sales Supervisor for Oswestry and in 1976 moved to Head Office as Kitchen Installations Manager.

During his time at Head Office he was also acting Regional Shops Manager for the Dee Val-

ley and North Wirral districts, helping to implement Shop Operations' new structure. Ivan became Customer Complaints Manager in 1989.

Colleagues presented him with a cash retirement gift, which he plans to spend on his main

hobby, caravanning and the outdoors. Ivan's other interests include gardening and DIY.

But Ivan won't be severing his links with Manweb, as daughter Jill Hindmarch works in the Computer Centre at Head Office!

Ivan is pictured (centre left) with colleagues including retired Shop Operations Manager Bill Wakelin receiving a special souvenir cartoon portrait from Shop Operations Manager Paul Sharkey.

Ivan is pictured (centre left) with colleagues including retired Shop Operations Manager Bill Wakelin receiving a special souvenir cartoon portrait from Shop Operations Manager Paul Sharkey.

An early finish for Ted

TAKING early retirement after completing 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry is Liverpool District Senior Sales Rep Ted Kelly.

Ted, who was presented with a camera and electric screwdriver by District Manager Gerry Haughan on behalf of colleagues at Lister Drive, started work at Manweb in 1950 as a Meter Reader and later became a Collector. While in this job he took the EDA Salesmanship Course and started his

sales career working three days in Kirkby and two days in Bootle.

After spells at Maghull and Walton Vale shops, he moved to Formby as Manager, and later became a Sales Rep at Hatton Garden until reorganisation in 1971, when he moved to Lister Drive as Senior Sales Rep in Energy Marketing.

Ted has been involved with



Nalgo for many years, attending his first committee meeting in 1966. He has served on various committees ever since.

A keen Liverpool supporter, he also enjoys gardening, swimming and do-it-yourself in his spare time.

Ted and his wife Doreen (centre) are pictured with District Manager Gerry Haughan and colleagues.

Call us

WHAT'S new in your district or department? Have you an idea for a story or photograph? Then why not let Contact know?

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

North Mersey: Edna Courtney, ext 2167; **Liverpool:** Teresa Kelly, ext 2117; **Mid Mersey:** Ena Harding, ext 2231; **Dee Valley:** Kath Sadowski, ext 2183; **North Wirral:** Mike Townson, ext 2202; **Mid Cheshire:** Pat O'Neill, ext 2111; **Clwyd:** Rod Taylor, ext 2118; **Gwynedd:** Malcolm Donaldson, ext 2250; **Oswestry:** Ian Moulton, ext 2230; **Aberystwyth:** Keith Jones, ext 2202; **Hoylake Training Centre:** Pauline Lewis, ext 251.

Meter man Ken clocks off



FAMILY, friends and colleagues of North Wirral Meter Operative Ken Winter gathered at Prenton Way to wish him all the best for his retirement.

Ken, who has been with Manweb for 32 years, began his service as a Jointer's Mate in Wallasey and in 1971 joined the Meter Reading Department as a reader.

His hobbies include Country and Western music and dancing, and golf. Ken is an active member of Manweb's North Wirral Golfing Society and is also an ardent supporter of Everton Football Club.

He is pictured with his mother Edith and friend Joann Finn as Customer Accounts Manager Edna Holroyd presents him with a cash retirement gift collected by colleagues. Ken also received tickets for a concert by Country and Western star Charlie Pride.

Warm welcome for apprentices

MID Mersey District Manager Des Lock and his team welcomed six new recruits to Manweb during a recent Apprentice Evening.

The newcomers, who brought their parents along to the District Office in Warrington, were also joined by three apprentices from last year's intake who have now completed the initial part of their training at Manweb's Training Centre in Hoylake and Birkenhead Technical College.

Mr Lock gave the apprentices a talk on Mid Mersey District, its structure, the company as a

whole and the opportunities available within Manweb.

Alex Smitton, Hoylake Training Centre Manager, then filled them in on the details and programme of their next three years' as apprentices.

Afterwards, Mr Lock presented Electrician Andrew Corless with his NVQ certificate to mark the completion of his apprenticeship.

This was followed by a buffet



when parents and apprentices were able to discuss informally with the section managers their prospects and opportunities within Manweb.

The new apprentices, who in their first year will spend eight weeks working at the District,

12 weeks at Hoylake Training Centre, and a further 12 weeks at college, are Christopher Blakemore, from Widnes (Electrician), Mark Evans, from St Helens (Electrician), Peter Jones, of Warrington (Electrician), David Leigh, from War-

ington (Electrical Fitter, Engineering), Jason Sleight, of St Helens (Electrician), and Lewis Tickle, of Widnes (Electrician).

Mr Lock is pictured welcoming Lewis Tickle and the other apprentices to Manweb, watched by their parents.

AIR FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE

SPECIAL PRICES FOR EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES

A selection of our cheap return fares; other low-cost, one-way and European prices on request. Prices from

Paris	£66	Atlanta	£297
Nice	£129	Dallas	£297
Alicante	£138	Houston	£297
Frankfurt	£87	Los Angeles	£352
Sydney	£753	New York	£198
Hong Kong	£550	San Diego	£352
Auckland	£863	Johannesburg	£512
Nairobi	£457	Bangkok	£313

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Firms pep up their ideas

(Continued from page 1)

The low energy package includes a high level of building insulation double glazing, off-peak electric storage and direct panel leading, overall temperature and ventilation control, low energy lighting and a mixture of energy efficient water heating systems.

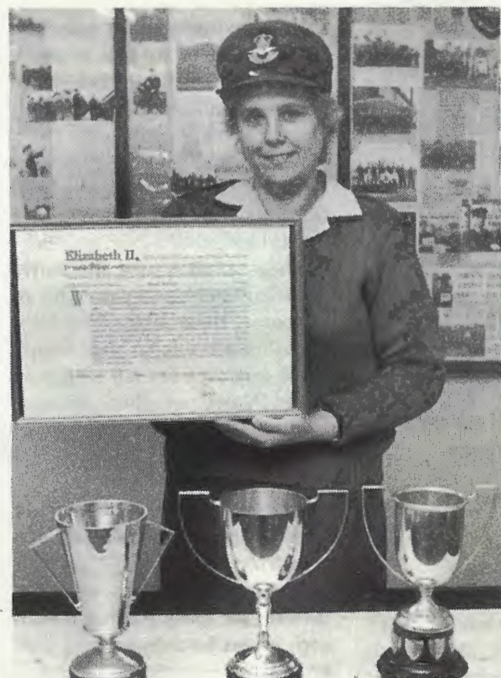
Curing the cold and dank problems of a 200 year-old doctor's surgery in Denbigh won Thomas Elliot and Prescott the Beta Award for small buildings. Electric heat-pump, air conditioning units, dehumidifiers and improved lighting all added to the better environment, gave the doctors more useable space and cut the demand for home visits from patients who are now happy to wait in the warmer surroundings.

Highly Commended PEP awards went to J. K. Smit of Colwyn Bay for a new nickel plating process. Commanded in the same category was Buckley Foundry for the installation of a top-hat electric oven which improved product quality, speeded production and reduced labour costs.

Specially Commended was ICI Seeds of Chester for the installation of a new artificial lighting system which has accelerated nature in its Plant Breeding Station.

Dennis Ruabon of Ruabon, Wrexham commended in the smaller firms category of PEP, for the introduction of an electric dehumidifying chamber, which has provided a technically superior and more cost effective means of drying decorative glazed tiles.

In the Beta Awards there was one commendation for Elmhurst Nursing Home in Whitchurch, which has a complete all-electric package of heating, lighting and ventilation, providing ideal conditions for staff and residents.



Sue Brereton with her framed commission paper, signed by the Queen, and her squadron's impressive selection of trophies, including the Efficiency Cup for taking top place in the Staffordshire Wing of the ATC.



Syndicate will provide credit facility

MANWEB plc has finalised an agreement with a syndicate of 10 banks led by Barclays Bank PLC to arrange a £175,000,000 Five-Year Revolving Credit Facility.

This will ensure the company has adequate finance for revenue and capital expenditure over the next five years.

The syndicate of banks comprises Barclays Bank PLC, The Mitsubishi Bank Ltd., The Sumitomo Bank Ltd., The Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd., Midland Bank plc, Bayerische Landes-

bank Girozentrale, Cho Hung Bank, Den Danske Bank, Hessische Landesbank-Girozentrale and The Nikko Bank (UK) plc.

Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston is pictured (centre) signing the agreement at the London headquarters of Barclays Bank, watched by Manweb's Finance Director John Roberts (left) and Neil Harland, Head of Barclays Syndications.

Bumper turn-out

AN enormous crowd of staff, both past and present, attended the recent Dee Valley Open Meeting of Employees. About 300 people risked the vagaries of the weather to enjoy an excellent meal in the big top marquee at Rossett Hall Hotel.

District Manager Dr Jim McLennan welcomed everyone and commented on the large turn-out which was very pleasing. He outlined the considerable changes that had happened during the last year including the development work at Rhostyllen and New Crane Street. The half million pounds investment was a considerable commitment to keep the district going and there was lots of work for the staff to do as the order books were full.

He said everything was on stream for the privatisation, roadshows for staff would be happening soon. He felt himself that changes were exciting and there was an air of confidence in the company and nothing to fear for the future.

On one cautionary note, he did appeal to the staff to improve their record on accidents which was not very good.

The guest speaker for the evening was Peter Wheeler, who kept the crowd well entertained with his amusing anecdotes.

Prompt action praised

QUICK-thinking by Oswestry Meter Operative Owen Jones led to the discovery of two pairs of sealing pliers which could have been used to steal electricity.

Owen, who recently became Mayor of Oswestry for the second time, was shopping in the town when a Manweb colleague, Linesman Tony Parsons told him he had seen tools which looked like the security pliers used to seal meters on sale in a second hand shop.

Owen investigated and found they were, indeed, security pliers, though not belonging to Manweb. It turned out the shop owner had obtained them innocently in a Post Office sale of

lost property.

The pliers were passed to Revenue Protection Manager Les Appleton, who traced them to Midlands Electricity.

"They had been part of a consignment returned to Midlands Electricity after repair by Mann Industries. The package was damaged in the post and arrived minus the two pairs of pliers," said Les.

Following the loss, Mann Industries complained to the Royal Mail, who apologised but

by Graeme Cooper

were unable to find any trace of the missing pliers. They later found their way into one of the Post Office's regular sales of unclaimed property where the second-hand shop owner had bought them.

Detectives from Oswestry CID investigated the matter but found nothing sinister.

However, there have been less innocent incidents. Two years ago in Liverpool, pliers stolen from Midlands Electricity were used to reseal Man-

web's meters in 38 premises, and 21 people were brought to court in connection with the thefts.

Les said: "If the wrong person had spotted the pliers in Oswestry it could have meant Manweb losing thousands of pounds. Mr Jones should be congratulated for his initiative.

"I'd like to remind all our meter operatives that sealing pliers are valuable tools, and losing them is a disciplinary offence."

High flier

by Jackie Unsworth

A REAL high flier...that's Manweb Clerical Supervisor Sue Brereton who spends her spare time helping youngsters get off the ground in their chosen career.

Sue, 47, who works in the Customer Accounts Department at Mid-Cheshire District office, is a part-time flying officer in the Air Training Corps and, as such, trains boys and girls from the age of 13 who are considering entering the RAF.

A commissioned officer with 95 Crewe Squadron, affiliated to RAF Stafford, Sue has been involved with the ATC since 1983, when she joined as a civilian instructor.

Her commission as a pilot officer followed in 1986 and two years later she was promoted to flying officer.

Spending most weekends and many evenings with the ATC, involved in various cadet activities such as flying, gliding, shooting and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Sue's hard work is really paying off and last year her squadron was judged best in the country, winning the Sir Alan Lee's Trophy.

This year the squadron was again nominated for the trophy and was pipped at the post by Matlock. But Sue's youngsters hope to recapture the prize next year, and have again been nominated.

"It's quite an achievement to be nomi-



Sue (3rd left) with officers and cadets from 95 Crewe Squadron during their recent trip to RAF Laarbruch in Germany.

nated for this award three years running," said Sue, who has worked for Manweb for 15 years and is a staff committee member and a staff representative on the LJCC.

"It is based on all aspects of the training programme, from how we train the cadets and their achievements. Winning last year was particularly good because the we were celebrating our 50th anniversary."

The squadron's prize was a trip to RAF Laarbruch in Germany, where, coincidentally, Sue's son Philip is based as a Weapons Technician.

Personal recognition came at the end of July when Sue was chosen to represent her squadron at an overseas ATC camp. Along with other officers from all over the country, Sue accompanied 120 air cadets on the week-long visit to RAF Gibraltar.

She said: "Places for overseas camps are

very hard to get and I was very proud to be nominated for one of the officer places. The camp is intended to give the cadets some insight into how an RAF station operates."

Sue, who was 95 Crewe Squadron's first commissioned woman officer, paid tribute to her husband Bill for his support and encouragement.

"Being involved with the ATC takes up a lot of my spare time, but Bill supports me and takes an active role himself, as Chairman of the Parents' Fund Raising Committee."

Bill, a Senior Train Running Controller with British Rail, carried out his National Service in the RAF, and with son Philip following in his dad's footsteps and daughter Wendy a former cadet, it was a case of "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" for Sue.

First for district

A JOINTING team from Mid-Mersey recently worked through the night to carry out a "first" for the district.

The men, Foreman Jointer Walter Boughey, Jointer Frank Dennison and Jointer's Mates Derek Jones and Derek Evans, successfully completed a 33,000 volt Breech Joint at Burtonhead 33kV substation, St Helens.

Walter said: "Work of this type is normally carried out by contractors, as it is usually too big and complex for us to undertake. But following a recent course at Hoylake Training Centre, we were for the first time able to tackle the job."

"This was a prototype for us and we are pleased we now have the expertise to carry out other such work in the future."

Jointer's Mates Derek Jones (left) and Derek Evans are pictured during the final stages of the Burtonhead job.



Roadshow gets underway

MANWEB'S employee share information roadshow is now in full swing, and many staff will already have seen one of the presentations which are part of a major staff communications campaign.

Although the Financial Services Act prevents investment advice being given, Head Office Administrative Services Manager Tom Hamilton and his team are giving as much information as possible about the staff offers and other aspects of the flotation including the new Sharesave Scheme.

The roadshow presentations are each being given by a senior member of the district's management team supported by a Head Office Manager, with a similar arrangement for the Head Office presentations.

Tom Hamilton said: "The roadshows are proving to be a great success, with the video and slide support helping to get the points across."

"We've been able to deal with queries during the question and answer sessions, and of course, if anyone has a point which wasn't answered in the presentations they can contact the Employee



Helpline."

Clwyd District's presentations were given by Regional Contracting Manager Roy Haley and recently retired Head Office Financial Manager Bob Evans.

Roy (seated right) and Bob are pictured speaking to staff at the roadshow at Kimmel Manor Hotel,

Abergele.

*The Employee Helpline number is Head Office ext 4545. An out-of-hours answering machine is available on 0244 382326. Manweb pensioners should address all queries to the Share Information Office on 0272 272272.

Just the ticket!

Diary date

CALLING all retired Oswestry staff... A meeting is to be held in the canteen at Oswestry District Office, Maesbury Road, on Thursday, November 15 at 3pm to form a Retired Staff Association. All retired staff from the District are urged to attend. Light refreshments will be served from 2.45pm.

TWO local charities were treated to tickets for the sold-out BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra concert in Newtown, courtesy of Manweb.

Newtown Police Sergeant John Roderick received the free tickets from Manweb's Oswestry District Manager Lyn Price before donating them to Montgomeryshire Multiple Sclerosis Society and Newtown Day Centre.

The concert was the first of five Welsh venues being played by the orchestra as part of the Manweb Tour 90 programme.

All the Manweb-sponsored concerts will be broadcast on BBC Radio Wales or BBC Radio Three later this year, including works by Mozart, Strauss, Wagner and Beethoven.

IT is with sadness that Contact reports the tragic sudden death of North Mersey General Duties Assistant Michael Thomas.

Michael, who joined Manweb in 1965, died on October 5 aged 27. He worked in the Mains Department at Bridle Road, where his father Wyn is a 2nd Engineer.

We are also sad to report the deaths of the following retired employees:

WILLIAM EMLYN BRINLEY ROBERTS, 66, died on June 30. He was a Chargehand Fitter at Clwyd before retiring in 1972.

Obituary

PETER SHAPCOTT MEADOWS was an Administrative Assistant at Head Office until his retirement in 1983. He died on July 27 aged 68.

STANLEY ROBERT BROTHURSTON, who died on August 10 aged 65, retired at North Mersey, where he was a Jointer's Mate, in 1972.

FREDERICK WALTER BIGNALL, 63, died on August 14. He was a Craftsman Electrician, Inspection, at Mid-Mersey

before retiring in 1983.

DENNIS ELLAMS, 74, was an Administrative Assistant at Head Office until retiring in 1978. He died on August 26.

PETER HEALEY, a Labourer in Area 1 until retirement in 1968, died on August 28 aged 86.

NORMAN STUBBS, 66, who died on September 1, was a Craftsman, Jointing, at Mid-Mersey before retiring in 1988.

DAVID VAUGHAN EDWARDS died on September 4 aged 59. He was an Electrician at Clwyd until retirement in 1975.

SIDNEY ALFRED COX, 84, who died on September 8, was a Senior Assistant Engineer in Chester before retiring in 1971.

WILFRED ISAAC ASBRIDGE, 80, who was an Electrician at Liverpool South District until retiring in 1967, died on September 9.

FREDERICK CHARLES SPRATT, who died on September 11 aged 61, was a Driver at Dee Valley until retiring in April this year.

ALBERT EDWARD GRIFFITHS, 87, who retired in 1968 from Area 4, where he was a Wayleave Officer, died on

September 18.

JOHN LEE RATHBONE, 72, a Shift Substation Attendant at Mid-Mersey until retiring in 1982, died on September 24.

ALBERT THOMAS STUBBS, who died on September 25 aged 74, was a Clerical Assistant at Mid-Cheshire before retirement in 1961.

MARY JONES, 55, a Salesperson at Dee Valley until retiring in August this year, died on October 3.

ALICE ENA EAST, who died on October 4 aged 65, retired in 1984 at Dee Valley, where she was a Clerical Assistant.

SAFETY SCENE

Grim reminder when working from heights

ON Saturday, September 15, 1990, a linesman from one of the other regional electricity companies received serious injuries when trimming trees from a mobile hydraulic platform adjacent to an 11kV overhead line.

The linesman was working alongside a 'live' span for reasons not yet established.

He came into contact with the line and received serious burns to his hands. One hand had to be amputated and the other is badly injured. The electricity company involved has initiated a Panel of Inquiry into the accident.

Dangers

This incident is once again a grim reminder of another of the dangers present when working from heights. In last month's Contact, we reported on an accident involving two workmen who fell from a platform on the Severn Bridge.

Both accidents illustrate the need to take great care when working at heights and the need to be aware of all the hazards of the job being undertaken.

Self-study plugs a gap

THE training of safety representatives in the Electricity Supply Industry is somewhat unique, writes Corporate Health and Safety Manager Colin Herbert.

Normally, in other industries, this sort of training is the responsibility of the Trades Unions. In the ESI, recognising the joint commitment of staff and management to health and safety matters, training has long been carried out under arrangements jointly approved by management and the unions.

Traditionally in Manweb and the ESI, the main source of safety representative training has been provided through residential courses. Now, however, because of the relatively few new safety representatives appointed each year, these people often have to



wait a considerable time before a place is available on one of the courses.

To overcome this problem, a new safety representatives' self study pack has been produced which has been approved by National HESAC and the Electricity Training Association.

With the aid of a mentor - who should be someone experienced in health and safety matters - the new representative is encouraged to

study at his or her own pace such questions as:

- * What is my role?
- * What are my rights?
- * Should I be a safety expert?
- * Where can I get information?

In addition to this, in Manweb we are holding a one-day introductory course for new representatives. The course will be run by the Corporate Safety Section with some input from the Trades Unions.

Hidden hazard

IN this environmentally conscious age it is nice to see that so many aerosol manufacturers have changed from using CFC propellants to ozone friendly ones.

Virtually all aerosols now used in Manweb are ozone friendly. However, there is a hidden hazard in this change.

The most often used alternative propellant is butane gas. This is, of course, flammable. When we are using aerosols we must always make sure they are not used near naked flames and other sources of ignition.

Vital

This is vital if we are using hand cleaners, air fresheners and deodorizers, for example, particularly when the job we are doing involves the use of sources of heat, such as gas torches, welding gear or matches.

In all cases, read the information on the canister and act accordingly. That way you will avoid what could be a nasty accident.

On the Wire



New line in sales patter . . .

A TRIP to buy a TV from Chester shop took on a glasnost flavour for Drawing Office 2nd Engineer Ted Mulroy.

When he arrived Sales Assistant Laura Holmes was having trouble communicating with a customer. The only word of English he seemed able to say was 'system'.

Speaking a few words of French, German and Greek from School days, Ted offered his help.

"None of them did the trick," said Ted. "But eventually we found out that the customer was Aleksander Klepikov, a Russian who was director of one of the groups performing at the International Eisteddfod. He wanted to know whether a TV bought in this country was compatible with the broadcast system in Moscow. I said that if he could wait I'd phone Head Office to see."

A call to Technical Services Manager Brian Nield didn't shed

any light, but Brian rang some personal contacts at the BBC. They revealed that Britain, like most of Europe, operates a phased alternate line system. Russia however uses the incompatible French CECAM system, so a British TV would be of no use in Moscow.

Far from being disappointed Mr Klepikov was delighted with the efforts Manweb had made to help him, and gave Ted a fistful of leaflets on his group and its Eisteddfod appearance.

"Unfortunately they disappeared within minutes of him handing them over," said Ted. "I don't think there were any MI5 people in the shop, but there was an odd phone call from someone complaining about not having a plug on her gas cooker!"

Police file still 'live'

THIEVES in Liverpool obviously confused substations with service stations when they chose a Manweb installation as a hideout for a stolen car!

Support Functions Engineer Ron Burgess was fairly surprised when the police called him to report a vehicle found at Page Moss Avenue Substation in Huyton.

"Page is one of the large old Liverpool Corporation substations, and I went along expecting to find a car in the compound," said Ron. "When I arrived I couldn't see anything, but the officer attending told me it was actually inside the substation building!"

"We went in and sure enough there was the car sitting next to the live equipment, which was extremely dangerous. It wasn't more

than 12 months old but had been stripped of everything but the engine.

"You hear about cars being stolen to order for spares and the police were certain that's what had happened with this one!"

Moving the vehicle proved something of a problem, as to get it into the substation the thieves had cut through steel railings and then re-welded them to cover their tracks.

There was nothing for it but to burn through the bars again to get the car out!

The police file on the incident is still 'live'!

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY PENSION SCHEME

Notice of Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that the Eighth Annual General Meeting of the members of the scheme will be held at the Conference Suite, Millbank Tower, 21/24 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD on Wednesday, 12 December, 1990 at 2.30 pm to confirm or receive the following:

1. Minutes of the seventh annual general meeting held on 13 December, 1989.
2. Matters arising out of the minutes.
3. Statement by the Chairman on the report by the Trustee of the Scheme for the year ended 31 March, 1990.
4. Statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March, 1990, and the auditors' report thereon.
5. To receive any other competent business.

* * *

Copies of the minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Pension Scheme are now available on request from the Pensions Section at Head Office.

Getting the best out of the network

CHECKING a system's performance and planning for future demand are vital for an efficient, cost effective power network. Special Developments' new Geographic Facilities Information System (GFIS) is helping Manweb engineers get the best out of the network and plan for future load economically.

Manweb's network has thousands of transformers and pieces of switchgear and over 40,000 kilometres of lines and cables, providing the 'highway' down which electricity flows to the customer.

One of the benefits of GFIS is that it accesses current Manweb data files held on the mainframe, reading them into the GFIS environment. Therefore data on transformer capacity, maximum demands, plant data and information on substations does not need to be recreated.

It obviously made sense to assimilate all this information into one system, a 'corporate engineering database'. But the development of GFIS presented opportunities to create more than a computerised record storage or network design system.

GFIS Project Leader was Eddie Cottle from Special Development Manager Vaughan Roberts' section.

Eddie explained: "GFIS is much more than a computer aided design system. It is an analysis and information tool which lets us call up our network on screen, check its performance and see how changes may affect it."

To demonstrate Eddie conjured up on his GFIS computer screen a

plan of the North Mersey HV network showing circuit lengths, connectivity and resistance for each length of line and piece of equipment. He explained that the system is not actually linked to the network, so his GFIS demonstration didn't black out Bootle!

However, the GFIS model exactly emulates the real network, and provides analyses of how each cable, transformer and piece of switchgear are performing.

An instant analysis is produced, showing how the system - re-configured by Eddie to be minus one substation - is performing. Loads are shown, and potential trouble spots, where overloading could occur, can be identified.

This kind of analysis is, of course, always carried out before outages to ensure the system is operating efficiently. But instead of wading through sheets of plans and then resorting to a calculator and pencil, engineers using GFIS are provided with accurate on screen plans and hard copy analysis in seconds.

PART two of Graeme Cooper's series focusing on the work of Network Services' Special Developments Section.

And when it comes to extending the network GFIS is equally invaluable, allowing a number of loading variations to be tried before the most efficient is put into effect.

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HEAD Office Architecture and Building Section has recently completed supervising the construction of the new warehouse at Manweb's Central Depot at Queensferry. Architectural and Building Manager Ben Foster looks at the site's history.



Bird's eye view of the new Queensferry Warehouse.

Build future

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The warehouse provides a large storage area with covered dock levellers and facilities that will take the Company's business into the future.

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If any staff or retired employees have historical information about the depot, perhaps they could write to the Editor of Contact.

Post Bag



Frankly speaking ... it's monstrous!

Dear Editor,
Please find enclosed two cartoons from the papers and also three cartoons sent to me at home.



"He says he's come to read the meter"

Sunday Mirror

After such a short period of advertising privatisation, does it not beg the question that a very large faux pas has been made by the advertising firm, and whoever decided to use a reconstituted dead body to advertise what we all hope will be a huge success probably works for the gas board!

P. F. Fletcher
O/H Instructor
Hoylake Training Centre

Editor's note: A number of people have asked why a monster was chosen as the 'star' of the centrally produced television commercials.

Thanks for all your kindness

Dear Editor,

I would like to use your letters column as a vehicle to express my sincere thanks to Sister Irene Jones and Mr. Jim Wilcox, of the Welfare Section, and North Wirral District Manager Geoff Abel for the assistance, advice and help they were able to offer me during the closing weeks leading up to the sad loss of my wife Jean.

One realises, of course, the existence of such a department as Welfare without

knowing their value fully.

However, they do a very good job and I am now fully appreciative of their work. I can only advise people in a similar position to contact them.

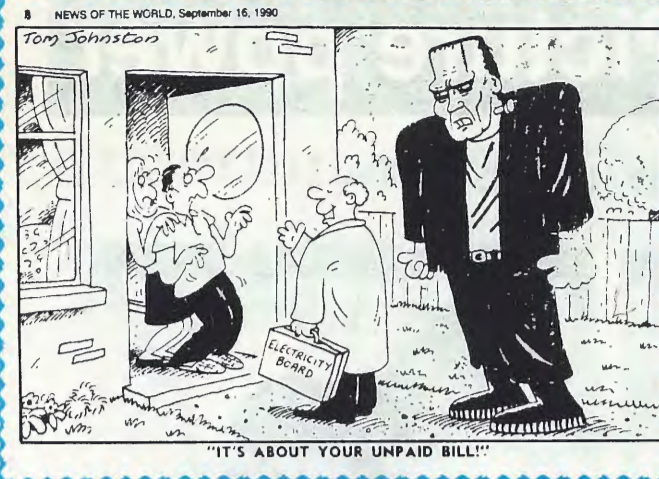
May I take the further opportunity of thanking my colleagues at North Wirral for their messages of sympathy at this sad time. Your kindness will always be remembered.

Nick Evans
Stores
North Wirral

Points of view

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, and make 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.



This is the advertising agency's rationale for using the character Frank N. Stein.

● A character was required that was relevant. Frank is deemed to be the first user of electricity and the "spark of life" emphasises the importance of the energy source.

● In order to make use of the above, it was necessary for Frank to stem from the original character but he required developing into a modern, friendly version which the public could identify with.

● Far from being a monster he has become an attractive personality, intelligent, sharp and witty and also a big user of electricity. He is also an investor.

● The campaign itself is undeniably impactful, distinctive and memorable.

● The commercials are short and varied, each containing a separate "nugget" of information. Costs have been kept to a minimum by using one set for filming all the commercials and the number of characters is small.

The one that got away . . .

Dear Editor,

I regret to have to report that Manweb (Chester) Deep Sea Fishing Group's trip proposed for October 26 1990 has been cancelled due to lack of support. This is the second trip in succession to be cancelled for this reason and I do not propose to arrange any more trips until I have some indication from the "members" as to where this group is going, if anywhere.

I have booked the Dee Room, Conference Centre, Head Office, for 1 pm on Monday November 12 for a crisis meeting. I hope for a reasonable attendance and some FIRM commitments from you.

If the attendance is poor, then the group folds — it's as simple as that. It's crunch time folks, and entirely up to you.

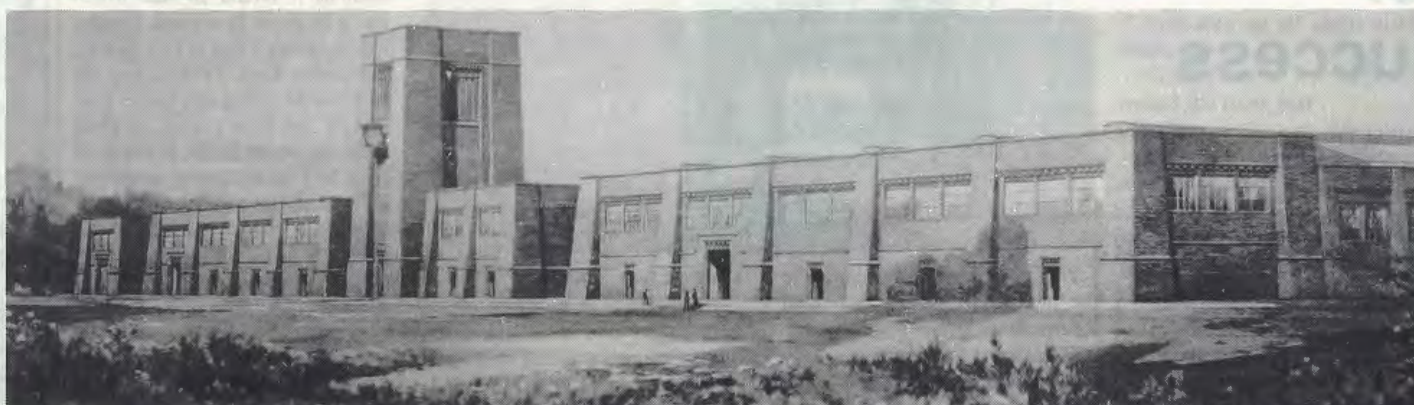
Rob Hallows
Room 5SD1
Head Office
(ext. 2951)

24-hour cover

Dear Editor,

With a choice of electricity suppliers to fit your pocket and many houses now on the market, would it now be a good time for us to offer house owners our "24 hour residence tradesman cover"? With our many ways of payment, our tradesmen could do on the premises repairs in electricity, cookers, plugs and other jobs.

A. Whittingham,
Meter Reader, Area 2.



H. B. Cresswell's Queensferry Factory. The building, minus tower, is still used by Manweb.

Getting the best out of the network

performance and planning for an efficient, cost effective Developments' new Geographic Information System (GFIS) is helping Manweb out of the network and plan for

thousands of transformers and pieces of 40 kilometres of lines and cables, producing electricity flows to the customer.

is plan of the North Mersey HV network showing circuit lengths, connectivity and resistance for each length of line and piece of equipment. He explained that the system is not actually linked to the network, so his GFIS demonstration didn't black out Bootle!

However, the GFIS model exactly emulates the real network, and provides analyses of how each cable, transformer and piece of switchgear are performing.

An instant analysis is produced, showing how the system - re-configured by Eddie to be minus one substation - is performing. Loads are shown, and potential trouble spots, where overloading could occur, can be identified.

This kind of analysis is, of course, always carried out before outages to ensure the system is operating efficiently. But instead of wading through sheets of plans and then resorting to a calculator and pencil, engineers using GFIS are provided with accurate on screen plans and hard copy analysis in seconds.

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Queensferry Warehouse.

Building for the future

Special report by Ben Foster

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The warehouse provides some 80,000 square feet of additional high bay storage area with covered loading and unloading areas equipped with modern dock levellers and container rolling systems. This provides modern facilities that will take the Company into the next century.

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H. B. Cresswell's Queensferry Fa

Picture power



Top of the form!

A STUDENT from Manweb's area came first in the 11-13 group of the national Understanding Electricity picture competition. Thirteen-year-old Colin Stuhlfelder, a pupil at Sir Hugh Owen School, Caernarfon, won with a picture on the topic of electricity, power tools and machines.

He is pictured with children's television personality Floella Benjamin, who presented him with a certificate and cheque for £100 at a London reception. Colin's school also received £400 worth of electrical equipment from Manweb.

Knowledge

Two other teenagers from the Manweb area also won awards. Philip Jones, 13, also of Sir Hugh Owen (Lower) School, Caernarfon, and 18-year-old Robin Jones of Ysgol Arfon Wyn Ab Eurig, Pwllheli, each received £20 Highly Commended awards.

Organised by the Electricity Association's Understanding Electricity Education Service and supported by the major electricity suppliers of the UK and Republic of Ireland, the competition aims to improve the knowledge of young people about basic electric principles and their practical applications.

College cooks up a recipe for success

A HEALTH-conscious chicken dish won Crewe and Alsager College a prize in a Manweb recipe competition.

At the Heartbeat promotional evening in Crewe's Meredith Centre, Manweb's Mid-Cheshire Energy Sales Manager Keith Nord presented a Kenwood Chef food processor to College Catering Bursars Mike Merrill and Martyn Bentley.



for the best recipe submitted to the health-promoting Heartbeat Recipe Booklet.

The booklet, published by Heartbeat organiser Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council, is part of the national Heartbeat Award scheme for health-con-

All-electric approach

CLWYD District has made Civic Shield Awards to Clwyd Alyn Housing Association for developments in Holywell, Ffynnongrouw, Trefnant and Abergele.

The Association is one of the biggest housing organisations in North Wales, and after consultation with Manweb has adopted an all-electric energy saving approach for all its developments.

Clwyd Energy Marketing 2nd Engineer David Hayes is pictured (second from left) presenting a Civic Shield Award to Clwyd Alyn's Chief Executive Peter Davies, with Development Director Loudon Bingham (left) and Director of Housing Clifton Robinson.



Help for old folk

MANWEB has thrown a lifeline to senior citizens in Liverpool by giving 100 smoke alarms to Age Concern.

The alarms were donated after Manweb Advertising and Promotions Manager Bill Gaywood saw an appeal on the BBC's North West Tonight programme.

Mrs June Roberts, Chief Executive of Age Concern, Liverpool, said: "We were delighted to receive the smoke



alarms from Manweb. We were inundated with requests and the alarms have now gone to those

who needed them most."

Bill Gaywood is pictured (second from left) presenting the

alarms to June Roberts and volunteers Marjorie Allen (left), Ivy Mosses and Bob Jones.

Trio win awards

THREE Gwynedd builders have won prestigious Medallion energy efficiency awards from Manweb.

Alan Littler of Mynytho received his award for 12 Swedish all-timber bungalows at the Braieh Development, Mynytho. Elderly people's flats in Llys Madryn, Caernarfon Road, Pwllheli, won the Medallion for Porthmadog builder Peter Rickard, and Brian Leavett, of Trend Shape Ltd, Menai Bridge, picked up an award for a terraced housing development at Salem Court in Fountain Street, Bangor.

Medallion awards are made for all-electric private sector housing which meets Manweb's high standards of insulation and energy efficiency.

Pictured at the presentation at "The Stables" restaurant, Llanwnda, are (left to right) Peter Rickard, Alan Littler, Manweb's Gwynedd Energy Sales Manager Doug Barnes, Brian Leavett and Gwynedd District Manager Dick Owen.



Congratulations

Long service

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

40 years: Head Office - Les Appleton, Revenue Protection Manager; Liverpool - Geoff Pittman, 2nd Engineer, Energy Marketing; Mid Mersey - Vincent Flanagan, 2nd Engineer, Mains; Geoff Lamb, 1st Engineer, Mains; Clwyd - Brian Griffiths, 1st Engineer, Network Services; Gwynedd - Dick Owen, District Manager; Hugh Roberts, Electrician; Glanfor Williams, 2nd Engineer; Oswestry - Bryan Pryce, Mains Manager.

30 years: Head Office - David Jones, Wayleaves Officer; James Baldwin, Craftsman, Metering; Colin Arnold, 1st Engineer, Contracting; Larry Pritchard, Administrative Assistant, Management Services; Brian Acton 3rd Engineer; Albert Acton, Clerical Assistant; Billie Pritchard, 2nd Engineer; Carol Sankey, Administrative Assistant; North Mersey - Keith Fitton, Foreman, Engineering; Adrian Pharoah, 2nd Engineer; Brian Smith, Craftsman Electrician; Liverpool - Peter Shuttleworth, Electrician, Appliance Delivery; Ken Rigby, 2nd Engineer, Network Services; Mid Mersey - Roy Bennett, Meter Reader; Lewis Carter, 1st Engineer, Installation; Dee Valley - Ronald James, Electrician; David Condliffe, 2nd Engineer, Supplies; North Wirral - Dave Blackburn, Joints; Mid-Cheshire - John Harrison, Craftsman Electrician, Shift; Tony Williams, Craftsman, Installation Inspection; Malcolm Latham, Mains Foreman, Northwich; Clwyd - Brian Thomas, Foreman, Contracting, Llandudno; Rod Taylor, 2nd Engineer, Network Services; Richard Jones, Meter Operative; Gwynedd - Delwyn Hughes, Electrician; Gwyneth Roberts, Administrative Assistant, Consumer Accounts; Aberystwyth - Harold Jones, Craftsman, Overhead Lines.

20 years: Head Office - Alan Smith, Clerical Assistant; Patricia Parker, Clerical Assistant; Philip Lee, Mechanical Fitter; David Kenyon, Communications Network Foreman; Noel Youds, Craft Training Instructor; Elizabeth Boswell, Clerical Assistant; Central Field Unit - Ramon Arribaja, Enhanced Craftsman; North Mersey - Margaret Trish, Clerk, Consumer Accounts; Kevin Murrow, Craftsman Electrician; Margaret Jones, Clerk, Engineering Clerical; Mid Mersey - Leslie Whitfield, Enhanced Craftsman, Inspection; Jean Peel, Shop Assistant, St Helens; Dee Valley - Ivor Jones, 2nd Engineer, Mains, New Crane Street; Stephen Jones, Electrician, Legacy; Alan Prince, Electrician, New Crane Street; Leo Purcell, 1st Engineer, Energy Marketing; North Wirral - Alf Davies, Foreman, Supplies; Paul Thelwell, Contracting Electrician; Edna Holroyd, Customer Accounts Manager; Mid Cheshire - Malcolm Bebbington, Energy Marketing Assistant; Clwyd - John Coddington, Craftsman Electrician; Dennis Jones, Shop Manager, Rhyl; Gwynedd - Stephen Hayward, 3rd Engineer; Oswestry - Harry Higgins, Craftsman Electrician.

Lucky prize draw winners

THE lucky number 2004 earned retired Manweb employee E. Johnson the top prize of £300 in the EEIBA's June draw. The other winners were as follows:

£200 - F.J. Brown, retired (155); £150 - D.R. Swinnerton, GEC (753); £100 - B.W. Alcock, retired (1700); £75 - E. James, retired (1427) and G.J. Maguire, retired (1945); £50 - J.W. Blain, retired (1901) and G. Butter, retired (2733); £25 - A.J. Dowd, Gwynedd (616), R.P. Thompson, Head Office (1077), F.C. Evans, retired (1744), H.J. Parker, Head Office (629), A.L. Littlemore, retired (2368), S.D. Swindells, Oswestry (658), N. Walsh, retired (207), D.M. Martlew, retired (1999), J.A. Williams, retired (1869), J.F. Rees, Clwyd (1409), L. Summerskill, retired (2145) and W. Mongey, retired (1607).

In the July draw, retired employee H. Kelly scooped the £300 first prize with the lucky number 1971. The other winners were as follows:

£200 - T.M.W. Williams, Gwynedd (2587); £150 - D. Morris, retired (973); £100 - G. Eccles, retired (2144); £75 - G. Bowers, retired (106) and D.W. Roxburgh, Head Office (371); £50 - R.S. Holland, retired (2040) and D. Elbourne, retired (1669); £25 - S. Roberts, Mid Cheshire (1245), M. Williams, retired

(1487), J.M. Glover, retired (1770), P. Davies, Dee Valley (2619), M.J. Reed, Head Office (2533), B. Cox, retired (1858), S. Laird, Oswestry (2694), J. Walker, Head Office (2432), K. Griffiths, retired (1559), K.S. Jordan, GEC (754), N. Downey, Head Office (958), F. Williams, retired (1337).

And in the August draw, another retired employee picked up the top prize of £300 with the winning number 1565.

The other winners are: £200 - B. McCormack, retired (2664), £150 - J.R. Beach, retired (1871); £100 - A.R. Shaw, retired (2101); £75 - M. Woollam, Head Office (402) and J.S. Buck, Committee (22); £50 - J.N. Magill, Head Office (969); £30 - C. Parry, Gwynedd (2540), J. Hough, retired (2141), F. Hazelhurst, retired (1797) and A.M. Maguire, retired (684); £25 - G.W. Burgess, North Wirral (2691), G.P. Woolley, Oswestry (1062), J.D. Hardie, Head Office (107), J. Gibson, retired (1816), M.W. Jones, retired (2069), R.J. Isherwood, Oswestry (668), R. Youds, Head Office (2480), A. Manley, retired (1654) and B.B. Dunn, Clwyd (1339).

Couple celebrate their special day

AUGUST 1 was a special day for retired Manweb Engineer Harry Thompson and his wife Phoebe (Pictured right). On that day the couple celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

It was back in 1925 when the couple, who live in Llay, said "I do" at St Michael's Church, Abergele. Harry, 89, was then an electrical engineer working for a contractor, and Phoebe, 84, was in service at Pentre Mawr Hall.

The pair met when Harry was lodging with Phoebe's aunt in Abergele. Love blossomed and they spent their year's engagement saving hard to set up home. With times hard and cash difficult to come by, Harry admits to being tempted by the chance of overtime on the Sunday following their Saturday wedding!

With the nationalisation of the electricity supply industry in 1948, Harry joined Manweb, working throughout the area on rural electrification until his retirement in 1966.

The couple have four sons, Thomas, Harry, Stan and Ken. Keeping up the Manweb connection, Thomas, now retired, worked as an Electrician at Crane Street and his wife Mona was a secretary. Their daughter Ann also works for Manweb as an Accounts Clerk in Quarterly Income!

Since retiring Harry has been



far from idle and has served as a Town, Borough and County Councillor. He has been a governor of several local schools, including Yale, and was also with Bangor University.

According to Harry the recipe for a long successful marriage includes a fair slice of good fortune and keeping healthy. In 39 years of work he reckons he lost just two weeks through illness!



A degree of success for Howard

NORTH Mersey Commercial Sales Representative Howard Keating has gained an Honours Degree in Business Studies and a Diploma in Higher Education.

His success comes at the end of a three year part-time course at Liverpool Polytechnic, which he attended on a day release and evening study basis.

Pictured during the degree awards ceremony at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, Howard had previously gained an HNC with distinction in Business Studies at Liverpool Polytechnic, and before that, studying at

Southport Technical College under the Education Incentive Scheme, was awarded a B.Tech National Certificate in the same subject, also with distinction.

Howard, who has worked for Manweb for six years, said: "It was quite hard work, but being able to go to college on day release was a great help. I'm really pleased to have done so well."

Bard of Bootle

MANWEB has its very own bard in the shape of Bootle shop Sales Assistant Joan Kielty.

Joan has had poems published in the Liverpool Echo (under her pen name of Joni King), the Hillsborough "Interlink" newsletter and read live by Russell Grant on Breakfast Television. Radio Merseyside's Debi Jones regularly broadcasts Joan's poems and Joan herself gave a reading at Liverpool's Neptune Theatre.

But surprisingly, in view of her success, Joan (who as she says in one of her poems is "nearly 50") has only been writing poetry seriously for the last year and a half.

"I was always dabbling about with what I'd call silly verses, but 18 months ago joined a creative writing class at Liverpool Central Library. From that we formed a writers' workshop which meets every Wednesday in the Library's Roscoe Room."

Joan doesn't have any real literary heroes, and writes from her own experiences. There's the front line 'A Day in the Life of a (Manweb Bootle) Cashier' as well as more poignant personal verse on her son, who sadly died aged 23 shortly after Joan joined Manweb four-and-a-half years ago. Joan now lives in Bootle with her husband John and 22-year-old daughter Collette.

"The things I write are the things I like to read," she said. "For me the buzz is getting pub-

lished. I know that Breakfast TV received about 9,800 poems, and my poem 'I'm Nearly 50' - was one of only about 100 which were actually read out over the months."

The secret of Joan's success is in writing about what she knows and her pithy observations have met with approval from friends and colleagues.

"The poem about my diet - or lack of it! - has probably been circulated over half of Liverpool by now and I still weigh far too much!" she joked.

Other poems have been published by the "Scotty Press", based in Joan's native Scotland Road area of Liverpool.

Justly pleased with her success, Joan has no plans to take up the pen full time. "I really enjoy working in Bootle shop, and of course the staff and Manager, Peter Jones are wonderful!" she said.

However, Joan would like to try her hand at writing a few articles or stories. "The poems come quite readily, but I haven't got anywhere with stories yet," she said, adding that she's on the lookout for a good typewriter!

In the meantime Joan would be delighted if anyone wanted to publish a complete book of her poems.

"If you want any personal appearances booked please get in



Joan shares her poetry with Assistant Manager John Pritchard (left) and Manager Peter Jones (right).

touch with my agent, Gerald De Vere at Bootle Shop!" she joked. (Gerald also has a "day job" as part-time Shop Manager at Bootle!).

Extracts from two of Joan's poems are reproduced below.

"A Day in the life of a (Manweb Bootle) Cashier"

When the queue is ten feet long

I wish someone would say
"Have your money ready,
In your hand, for you to pay."

But no, they never do that
They join the queue and gab,
And when I shout out "next please,"

The bill's still in their bag.
"I'm Nearly Fifty"

I used to do bopping and jiving and jig,

And stay up all night until three,

Now after I've waltzed round the floor just one time,

I'm shattered and feel ninety-three.

GATWICK TRAVELLERS

WOODS HILL Country Guest House Newdigate	B & B Transport 12 mins Airport
	0306 77437



An affordable treat all year round

AVOCADOS were once a luxury, but these days they are an affordable treat to enjoy all year round. The avocado, or butter pear as it used to be called, is one of the most nourishing fruits around. High in protein, it has about 25 per cent oil content and is cholesterol free. It is rich in vitamins and minerals and is easily digested, and half an avocado contains about 200 calories.

Test for ripeness by pressing the avocado very gently. If it yields to the pressure, it is ready for eating. Ripe fruit will keep for about a week in the salad compartment of the fridge.

For those who like it hot:

A QUICK AND EASY STARTER

Mix 3oz (75g) garlic or herb-flavoured cream cheese and 2oz (50g) chopped peanuts and a sprinkle of paprika. Spoon into two ripe avocado halves and bake at 200C 400F mark 6 for about 15 minutes.

A MEAL IN ONE

Mix together 3oz (75g) peeled prawns, 2oz (50g) grated cheese, four tablespoons of thick mayonnaise and one egg yolk. Whisk the white until stiff and fold in. Spoon into six avocado halves and bake at 200C 400F mark 6 for 15 minutes.

QUICK SUPPERTIME SNACK

Peel and slice one large ripe avocado in a buttered ovenproof dish. Season and scatter over 1oz (25g) Cheddar cheese mixed with one tablespoon of grated parmesan cheese and a few flaked almonds. Grill until brown on top.

For those who like it cold:

Remove the stone and fill each avocado half with any of the following:

3oz (75g) flaked canned tuna mixed with two tablespoons of mayonnaise, two teaspoons of grated lemon rind, one chopped spring onion and seasoning.

3oz (75g) peeled prawns, half a small chopped red pepper, two to three tablespoons of yoghurt and a little crushed garlic.

2oz (50g) grated Stilton cheese mixed with two tablespoons of soured cream and one drained chopped canned pear.

Mix 3oz (75g) chopped cooked chicken with three tablespoons of mayonnaise, three halved and seeded green grapes and one ring of

drained canned pineapple. Sprinkle with a few toasted almonds.

Mix 3oz (75g) chopped salami with a few black olives, cooked green beans and half a chopped hard-boiled egg. Spoon over a little vinaigrette and top with strips of anchovy.

To halve an avocado, use a sharp knife and slice around the fruit lengthways, cutting up to the stone. Gently twist the two halves in opposite directions and separate them. Stab the stone with the knife and lift to remove.

MEXICAN BAKED AVOCADO (serves four)

1/2 small onion finely chopped; 1 tbsp oil; 2oz (50g) chopped mushrooms; pinch chilli powder; 1/4 tsp ground cumin; 8oz (227g) can tomatoes; 1oz (25g) Cheddar cheese, grated.

Cook the onion in the oil until tender, add the mushrooms and pepper, seasoning, cumin and tomatoes. Cook rapidly until thick. Spoon into the avocado halves and sprinkle over the cheese. Bake at 200C 400F mark 6 for 15 minutes.

AVOCADOS INDIENNE (serves six)

3 tbsp mayonnaise; 1 tsp mild curry paste; 2 tsp apricot jam, sieved; salt and pepper; 3 avocados; 8oz (227g) tin pineapple in natural juice, well drained; 1 red apple; 1 tbsp shredded coconut, toasted.

Mix the mayonnaise, curry paste, apricot jam and seasoning to a smooth sauce. Scoop out avocado flesh and dice with pineapple and apple. Mix into the sauce. Spoon back into the shells and garnish with toasted coconut.

TROPICAL AVOCADO (serves two)

1 large ripe avocado; 1 small ripe pawpaw; juice of 1 orange; 1 tsp lemon juice; 8oz (225g) thick yoghurt; 1 tsp honey; mint to garnish.

Scoop out the flesh of both the avocado and pawpaw. Divide between two tall glasses and pour over the fruit juices. Mix the honey and yoghurt together and spoon over the top. Garnish with mint.



Disabled drive is in top gear

A FUND-raising drive by Liverpool Sports Club for the Disabled has moved up a gear thanks to Manweb plc.

The Club desperately needs a new vehicle to transport its 50 members to local, regional and national sports events, and asked if Manweb could help.

Manweb donated a portable television, which will be raffled at the Club's fund-raising Christmas Dance on December 13.

Club Secretary Mrs Judy Henshaw said: "We cater for the whole spectrum of physical disabilities and our members travel nationwide to compete in a wide variety of sports, ranging from indoor to field/track and swimming events."

Problem

"Unfortunately our present bus is too small, does not have a lift, and doesn't accommodate wheelchairs. Due to this problem we cannot take full squads, which can be very disappointing to those who have trained hard, and so we are desperately trying to raise money to purchase a new vehicle.

"This generous gift of a television from Manweb will be used as a prize in our raffle to help boost the fund."

Manweb's Liverpool District Manager Gerry Haughan is pictured (left) presenting the television to Club Chairman Albert Henshaw and Secretary Judy Henshaw.

Boost for charity

MANWEB donated a colour portable television set to the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Dorothy Gavin's Charity Ball draw. The raffle took place during the ball at Liverpool's Moat House Hotel, with proceeds going to several causes, including the Lord Mayor's Christmas Toy Appeal.



FRED'S PUZZLE CORNER

One into another

IN the list below one word, with its letters in correct order, has been slotted into another. The words are not necessarily of equal length. What are the pairs of words?

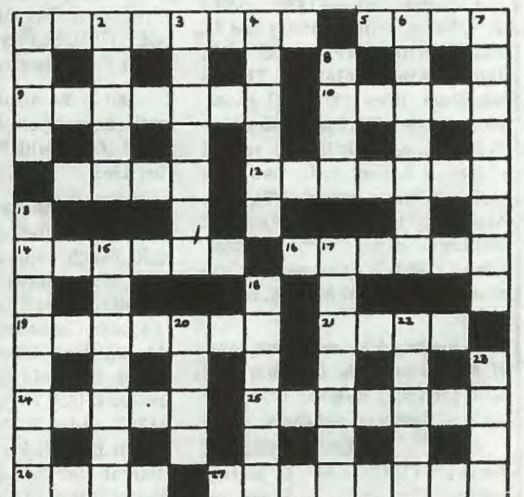
- LEEAIVEGHT
- SRKAIDION
- TEJEEACCTH
- MAPOROLOON
- VERSISSEEL
- INCONMCEH
- EEXCEELL
- SOWAATHHN

Send your answers to BOTH puzzles to: Fred's Puzzle Corner, Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb plc, Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LR. The sender of the first correct entry drawn will receive a £5 prize.

Crossword No. 26

ACROSS 1. The problem of pain (8), 5. Smart greeting among hundreds (4), 9. Expert on a shrinking violet's all-round condition (7), 10. Capital fellow of the upright type (5), 11. Went around to see a little fellow (4), 12. It's finish the alcohol or nothing so let's have a sherry (7), 14. Giving myself new gear isn't enough (6), 16. Works back with knowledge of what's said (6), 19. Anticipating a quick move forward with new fuel (7), 21. Standing in line (4), 24. He shall not be moved (5), 25. Wild yell about Communist making a comeback in old age (7), 26. Going gliding without cousins causes difficulty (4), 27. One laughs a lot in them as one makes repairs (8).

DOWN 1. Leaps in the drink maybe (4), 2. Make amends when it's lunchtime possibly (5), 3. A classical way to gain height as a flier (7), 4. Covering circles could bring bad luck (6), 6. One might give the lie to a swinger (7), 7. Curse when the trick is discovered (8), 8. The few responsible for the riot getting out of hand (4), 13. Same ship broken up by stress (8), 15. Have a jar during the current dance (7), 17. Fairy at some point getting pretty stoned



(7), 18. Man on watch (6), 20. Features of some boldness (4), 22. One way to get out of London or the home counties (5), 23. They have it agreed (4).

Solution on page 12

In a daze?

This old conundrum is sure to leave you in a daze. See if you can solve it.

"When tomorrow is yesterday, today will be as near to Sunday as today was when yesterday was tomorrow. What day is it?"

Free Ads

HOLIDAYS

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

Caravan - Towyn, Near Rhyl, Six-berth, two bedrooms, shower, fridge, fully fitted. From £75 per week. Tel: 0978 362615/352653.

Costa Del Sol - Benalmadena studio apartment, suitable for two or three people. Excellent pool and facilities. Shops and bars with entertainment nearby. 10 minutes walk to beach. As advertised in Global and Sol holiday brochures. Telephone Joe Flanagan, H.O. int. ext. 2957 or 0244 41097 evenings.

Criccieth - North Wales House overlooking village green, Sleeps six. CTV. Beach and shops two mins. Tel: 0766 522 614 (Ann Tudor).

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

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

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

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

Algarve - Privately-owned villa set in large gardens in the Monchique Hills. Split level/dining room, good kitchen facilities, utility room, two-good sized bedrooms, terraces with garden furniture. Panoramic views of the West Coast, 24 kms away, Swimming pool. Maid service. Food hamper provided. Flights arranged. Tel: 0352 55090 or 074570 474.

Anglesey - Self catering and coarse fishing holidays. Two lakes on 15-acre site overlooking Snowdonia. Touring caravans and tents welcome. Brochure available. Tel: 0248 713410.

Weston-sup'r-Mare - Static caravan on farm. Six berth, sep. dbl. bedroom, shower, toilet, TV, etc. All season price £70 per week. Tel: 0934 750 292.

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

Spain - Luxury villa, three dbl bedrooms and two two bathrooms. Private swimming pool. Quiet area "Calpe" Costa Blanca. Walled gdns, terraces ect. Five minutes from uncrowded beaches. Available from £150 per week. Telephone 0736 664177.

Dolgellau - Traditional farmhouse cottage set in a seven-acre smallholding in Snowdonia National Park. Sleeps seven plus cot. Tastefully modernised. Fully-fitted kitchen, inc dishwasher and microwave. Storage heaters and large inglenook fireplace. Ample parking and grounds. Kennel for pet by arrangmt. Easy access to mountains and sea Beautiful scenery and lovely walks. Prices from £100 to £220 per week. Tel: 0341 423912.

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

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

Anglesey - Tal-y-Bont Cottages, Dwyran. Luxury cottages set in a 17-acre smallholding, 11/2 miles from shingle beach of Menai Straits and four miles from sandy beaches of Llanddwyn. Nature

reserve, bird sanctuary, sea zoo, shops and restaurant nearby. Weekly prices - July/August £220, September 1 to 15 £180, September 16 to 30 £160, October £130. Telephone Deeside 819768.

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

Anglesey - Bed and Breakfast/self catering summer let. Secluded farmhouse with panoramic views of the Snowdonia range. Within 10 minutes of the main town Llangefni and sandy beaches. Idyllic for bird watchers, Tel: Bodorgan (0407) 840038.

Presthaven Sands - North Wales. Caravan to let. Colour TV. Shower. Fully fitted. Good site facilities. Tel: 061 366 8789.

City of Chester - Self catering flat. Centrally heated. TV, fridge, linen provided. Parking, all inclusive. Tel: 0244 42538.

Luxury Caravans - Eight berth. Llanrhystyd, West Wales (on the Cardigan coastline). Pleasant site (no club) nine miles from Aberystwyth and 11 miles from Newquay. Near to beach with beautiful scenic views. Families only. Sorry, no pets. Contact K. A. Cull on 0939 33005.

Near Snowdon - Quiet valley. Modern flat, all facilities. Sleeps four. Beautiful views, free fishing. Contact Mrs A Bohannon, 0286 85537.

South of France - Six-berth caravan to let on site with all amenities. Easy reach of Monaco, Monte Carlo, St Tropez etc. Some dates July and August. Telephone 0544 267579 after 6pm. ESI staff only.

Snowdonia National Park - Comfortable modern flat, all facilities. Sleeps 4. Beautiful quiet valley, 6 miles from Caernarfon. Close to shop and pub. Free fishing. Tel 0286 85537.

Caravan - New 31', 6.7 berth. All maons services. Gas, electricity and colour TV included. Sited on Haven's Ty Mawr Holiday Park near Abergele (Dragon Award). Free enter-

tainments, heated indoor swimming pool, family club, disco, children's Tiger Club etc. Near all major resorts. Telephone Chester 372860 for details. Families only (sorry, no pets). Discount for Manweb employees and families.

Toomargoed, Rhyl - Take that break you've been promising yourself. Relax in a family hotel and enjoy good home cooking and fully licensed bar. Weekly rates for B & B and evening meal from £50, weekend or mid-week breaks from £30 per person. Ring Len or Sandy on 0745 334103 or 678 3003.

Sailing Holidays - Artemis. Comet's 850 (28ft) Bareboat Charter. Moody 37, Bareboat or skippered charter. Corfu based. Tuition available. Full inventory. Contact H. J. Hargrove on 0270 67556.

Florida - Luxury apartment one mile from Disney World, 15 miles Orlando Airport. Available due to cancellation two weeks 1-9-90 to 15.9.90. £500 for two weeks. Sleeps six. Complex consists 14 tennis courts, four swimming pools, fitness centre, etc. Contact Carole Davies at Aberystwyth shop, tel: 0970 615061.

North Wales - Six berth caravan to let, £8 per day. Fully equipped, in peaceful countryside. Contact Mrs. Evans on 049084 208.

Malta - Halland Hotel, St. Andrew's Bay. One bedroom apartment, to accommodate four people, for sale last week January, first week February. Lease 22 years. Price £4,000 or £200 rent for 1991. Contact Mrs. Mildred Morris on Chester 371830.

Galloway - Farm house. Dinner, bed and breakfast, now until April 1991. Any four nights, £36 per person. Contact Mrs. E. Wilson on 064 47274.

FOR SALE

Records - 78's from the 1940s period. Variety of popular artists and orchestras. Interested? Contact Mr. F. J. Carney on 051- 427 6247.

Satellite Dish - and receiver voucher (compatible with Astra system). £50 plus cost of installation. Contact J. A. Jones, Legacy Garage, Tel. int. ext. 515 or home, Wrexham 840776.

CARS

Fiat - Uno 45, 1988 E-reg, 32,000 miles. Blue, excellent condition, stereo, radio/cas-

sette. £3,000 ono. Contact Kevin McGinley, Mid-Cheshire int. ext. 2248 or 0270 258118 after 6 pm.

Toyota - Corolla, C-reg, 12 months' MOT, service record, 39,000 miles. Must be seen, Excellent condition. Company car forces sale. £3,200 ono. Part exchange considered, Contact D. Vaughan, Gwynedd ext. 2273.

PERSONAL

Wedding Photography - capture the informal pictures of bride, groom, guests etc. that the official photographer misses. Let me be your "back up" photographer on the special day. 80 7.5" x 5" photos chosen from 100, £70. Contact Ken Smyth on HO int. ext 3207 for details.

PROPERTY

Halkyn - Detached stone cottage with outbuildings. Partly modernised. Three bedrooms, double garage, workshop. Quiet rural setting but within easy reach of A55 Expressway. £90,000 ono. Telephone: 0352 781362.

LEISURE

Fishing Trips - and pleasure cruises aboard the DTI vessel 'Cerismar', out of Beaumaris, Anglesey. Wreck, reef and general fishing. Pleasure cruises to Puffin Island. Competitive prices from £35. Full-time skipper/owner Dave

Jones, 2nd Coxswain Beaumaris Lifeboat and member of the National Federation of Charter Skippers. Contact D. A. Jones on 0248 810746.

Sea Fishing - On board Miranda out of Holyhead, Anglesey. Deep sea, reef or wreck fishing. Trips arranged for 4 to 12 hours, licensed and insured for parties of 12. Boat hire from £50. Rods, tackle and bait available. Contact Kevin Wright, Miranda Sea Angling, Mon Elian, Moelfre, Anglesey, Gwynedd, Tel 0248 88459.

Tennis - Liverpool Electric Supply Tennis Club welcomes new members, established or beginners. club sessions Sunday am/pm and Wednesday evenings. League matches played mid week evenings. Contact Ken Rigby at Lister Drive, int. ext. 2170 or 051 254 1900.

Fly Fishery - Gweryd Lodge. Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Mold. Superb fly fishing on a great 12-acre lake. Boats for hire. Contact John Stowell on 08243 230.

TUITION

Driving Lessons - Arnold Hughes, D.O.T. A.D.I., School of Motoring. Expert Tuition. Door to Door service. Refresher and motorway lessons if requested. Discount for Manweb employees. Telephone Warrington 50178 or 39421.

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Contact Sport



On the crest of a wave!

by
Graeme Cooper

NORTH Wirral's raft racers were splicing the mainbrace after coming first in Merseyside Fire Brigade's annual charity raft race at Liverpool's Albert Dock.

About 14 rafts took part in the contest, and the crowds who flocked to watch were ready to lend more than vocal support.

"We had flour bombs, eggs and vegetables thrown at us!" said North Wirral DRC Attendant, Steve Morgan. "The Fire Brigade actually boarded one of the other rafts, but everyone entered into the right spirit!"

North Wirral bravely fended off attempts to ram them, and romped home to victory after rival vessels became wedged under a bridge.

The Left Hook Boxing Club's raft, which had been in the lead, fell apart in mid stream, depositing its team in the dock.

But North Wirral's crew didn't avoid a ducking. "We ended up getting absolutely saturated, but it was a good fun



day!" said Steve Morgan.

The winners' trophy was presented to North Wirral by former Bread actress Gilly Coman, and all money raised by the teams will go to the Firemen's Benevolent Fund and the Kids in Need and Distress charity.

North Wirral will be defending the winners' shield in next

year's race.

Pictured with the trophy are (1 to r) crew members Myles Mercer (Compressor Operator), Steve Morgan (DRC Attendant), Dave Doughty (Joiners Mate), Paul Tolcher (Joiner), Damian Carew (Joiner), and Ken Johnson (Contracting Electrician).



Head over eels...

A TEN hour fishing trip landed a catch of conger eels for Head Office sports and Social Club's Sea Angling Section. The fishing party set sail from Holyhead on the fishing boat Miranda, skippered by Kevin Wright and his father Ken (Manweb Drawing Office, retired).

Prize for "the one that got away" went to Public Relations Officer Sam Doughty, whose catch of a pollock was reeled in with a large bite taken out of it.

"It looked like a passing shark had taken a piece out of Sam's fish while it was on the hook," said 1st Engineer, Technical Power Systems, Dave Ferguson. "If it had bitten three inches higher Sam

could have landed the big one!"

Pictured with their catches are (1 to r) Trainee Accountant Gary Jaros, Associate Member Steve Lee, Clerical Assistant Matthew Harman and Principal Assistant Richard Bromley, both Power Marketing, Dave Ferguson, Chris Simm of Power Marketing Accounts and family member Sid Bromley. (Photograph by Sam Doughty)



Motley Crew bowls 'em over

THE Head Office Sports and Social Club eight-a-side cricket tournament was won this year by the Motley Cricket Crew (MCC).

Held over three stages, the contest featured two leagues, A and B, each of five teams. The winners and runners-up of league A then played runners-up and winners from league B in the semi finals, which brought convincing wins for MCC and the Con Men.

The final between these two teams was a one-sided fight, with MCC collecting the shield and the glory for the third year running.

Man of the match was MCC's

Acting Captain Shane Yates from Final Accounts, who made a solid 23 runs and returned bowling figures of three wickets for eight runs off four overs.

The final scores were MCC 86 for 6 wickets off 16 overs and the Con Men 32 all out off 11.5 overs.

Semi-finalists were:

1st Semi-final - winners A: Sponty' Combustibles - Capt Ian Wainwright (Computers) v runners-up B: The Con Men - Capt Amlyn Ab Iorwerth (Tariffs and Customer Contracts).

2nd Semi-finals - winners B: MCC Capt Richard Bromley (Final Accounts) v runners-up A: No Square Legs - Capt Andy Iddison (Business Intelligence) Acting Capt Shane Yates.

Best individual performances of the tournament were:

Batting - Matthew Harman (Debt Recovery) 59 not out, Fulchester Select v Bostockshire, and Rob Meakin (User Beer Hunters v Gareth's Woggle).

Bowling - Shane Yates 4 overs 0 maidens 8 runs 3 wickets, MCC v The con Men, and Alan Bower Liason and Development) 4 overs 0 maidens 12 runs 3 wickets, No Square Legs v MCC.

MCC's Shane Yates is pictured (centre right) receiving the Winners' shield from Sports and Social Club Chairman Eifion Jenkins. On the back row with their individual winners and runners-up trophies are (1-r) Calum Kennedy (MCC), Bob Sheedy (Con Men), John Neal (Con Men), Brian Carman (MCC), David Dreyfus (MCC), Damian Hyland (MCC) and Pat Byrne (MCC).

Contact photo contest

CAMERAS at the ready! Entries are now invited for Contact's annual photographic competition.

Super cash prizes are waiting to be won by snap-happy Manweb staff, retired employees and their families. The awards are as follows:

BEST PICTURE

from the whole entry £30

COLOUR PRINTS

Scenes only

Best picture £25

Runner-up £15

Any other subject

Best picture £25

Runner-up £15

TRANSPARENCIES

Any subject

Best picture £25

Runner-up £15

BLACK AND WHITE

Best picture £15

RULES

1. Entry is free, but is restricted to Manweb staff, retired employees and their immediate families.

2. List your entries with titles and classes, together with your full name and home or office address, on a piece of paper. Also attach a piece of paper containing your name, home or office address, title and class of entry to each photograph or slide. Failure to do this could mean disqualification. Do not write on the back of photographs.

3. Up to five entries per person in any one class will be allowed.

4. Each entry must be the original work and copyright property of the person submitting it.

5. All entries must have been photographed since April 1989.

6. The Editor reserves the right to reproduce any prize-winning pictures without a fee being paid.

7. The competition will be judged by an independent panel.

8. All entries must be received by Monday, December 3, 1990.

9. Entries should be sent to: The Editor, Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR. Please mark your envelope or package "Photographic Competition in the top left-hand corner.

10. The winners will be announced in our Christmas edition.

Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1 Headache, 5 Chic, 9 Proviso, 10 Roman, 11 Newt, 12 Oloroso, 14 Meagre, 16 Spoken, 19 Hopeful, 21 Rank, 24 Stoic, 25 Elderly, 26 Snag, 27 Stitches.

DOWN: 1 Hops, 2 Atone, 3 Aviator, 4 Hoodoo, 6 Hammock, 7 Confound, 8 Trio, 13 Emphasis, 15 Amphora, 17 Peridot, 18 Albert, 20 Face, 22 North, 23 Ayes.