

Merseyside and
North Wales
Electricity Board
staff newspaper

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CONTACT

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YTS STUDENTS SUCCESS

WINNER
TAKES
ALL

CAERNARFON born Fred Owen, a principal assistant in the Legal section at Head Office, recently appeared as a contestant in ITV's general knowledge quiz "Winner Takes All".

In the first part of the programme, hosted by international comedy star, Jimmy Tarbuck, Fred defeated his opponent Bill Woolley, a car salesman from Sheffield. To beat a car



Quiz-man Fred Owen with Jimmy Tarbuck.
(Picture—Yorkshire TV)

salesman should have been enough but, unfortunately, the winner of the next round collected more points than Fred and so went on to compete for the cash prize.

"I had a great time," Fred told us. "Paid-for travel up to Yorkshire TV studios in Leeds and top-class hospitality. An overnight stay in a hotel and a party after the game. I'd go again if they ask me!"

WITH twenty eager young men recently reporting to the Board's Hoyle Centre to begin their working lives on the Youth Training Scheme, Alex Smitton (Head of Training) told us — "The programmes for these youngsters, organised by MANWEB and many major industrial firms, are first-class. Unfortunately however, some employers tend to exploit the young people who enrol on the YTS and these few give the Scheme bad publicity".

He went on to say that small companies, unable to train first-year apprentices, could benefit by taking on YTS recruits after their initial training. "With this work experience behind them, they are highly suitable for further employment."

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CAERNARFON WINNERS

WHEN our re-designed shop opened in Caernarfon's Pool Street precinct recently, four first-day customers making purchases drew lucky number receipts.

Our picture, above, shows District sales supervisor Keith Leonard with their four lucky

ladies on their return to the shop to be presented with their prizes. They are, from left to right: Ann Bohana (Electrolux vacuum cleaner), Ann Jones, and daughter Sarah, (Kenwood deep fat fryer), Mair Barnfield (Kenwood deep fat fryer) and Sandra Jones (Phillips audio unit).

Faulty goods

THE LAW should be changed so as to make manufacturers as well as retailers liable for the quality of goods sold, and people who receive goods as gifts should have the same legal rights as the purchaser, says the National Consumer Council.

These changes are now called for in a Report by the Council entitled "Buying Problems: Consumers, Unsatisfactory Goods, and the Law." At present only the buyer has any rights under the Sale of Goods Act, and these lie exclusively against the retailer.

The Report says a national survey revealed "Appalling" hostility, indifference, rudeness and ignorance by traders

to whom people complained about faulty goods. Almost 90% of those questioned were dissatisfied with the way in which their complaints had been dealt with.

Personal items such as shoes and clothing accounted for one third of the complaints, and household goods for a quarter. In particular furniture was a source of problems. Among the electrical goods fridges, fridge/freezers and washing machines were the items most often mentioned, while cars were also an important source of dissatisfaction.

Commenting on the electricity industry's point of view our Marketing Services Officer Keith Sowden said that in general the public received a much higher level of service and satisfaction from the Electricity Boards than from most retailing outlets.

"As far as High Street electrical retailers are concerned we can hold our heads high" he added. "Our general level of integrity and responsibility is excellent, and repeated surveys have shown a very high

level of customer satisfaction with our retailing and repair activities".

Keith added that he agreed with the principle that manufacturers should share legal liability with retailers, but pointed out that the manufacturers of goods sold in Electricity Board shops were usually very responsible to the heavy pressure which the industry could apply to them if necessary.

Electricity survey

NALGO plans to give more than £7,000 for a national survey of public attitudes towards possible privatisation of the electricity supply industry, along with the four other unions concerned. The survey will cover such areas as service, pricing and consumer views.

Research will also be carried out into what happens in other countries where the industry is in private hands but with an overall regulatory body. The Government is considering such a system in Britain.

"Public Service" — August 1984

ANOTHER 1000th AWARD

A FEW weeks separated the presentation ceremonies for our Board's 1000th "Civic Shield" and the 1000th "Medallion Award" certificates — both in the Dee Valley District.

First came the "Civic" ceremony held in Wrexham in July — and reported in last

month's 'CONTACT'. Then, in August in Chester, was the "Medallion" presentation.

This was held at the McCarthy and Stone development at the Homedee House in Garden Lane, the recently-opened 61-apartment complex of homes for the retired.

The "Medallion Award" certificate was presented to Trevor Foan, Sales Director for the developers by Peter Hopkins (Chief Commercial Officer).

Our 1000th customer to take over a "Medallion Award" home was Rosa Stephenson who hails from Byfleet in Surrey. She was presented with a personal teasmade and the Board also donated a large coffee percolator for use by all residents in their lounge area.

Trevor Foan left, holds the 'Medallion Award' certificate as Peter Hopkins, right, presents Rosa Stephenson with a teasmade.





Hoylake teach-in

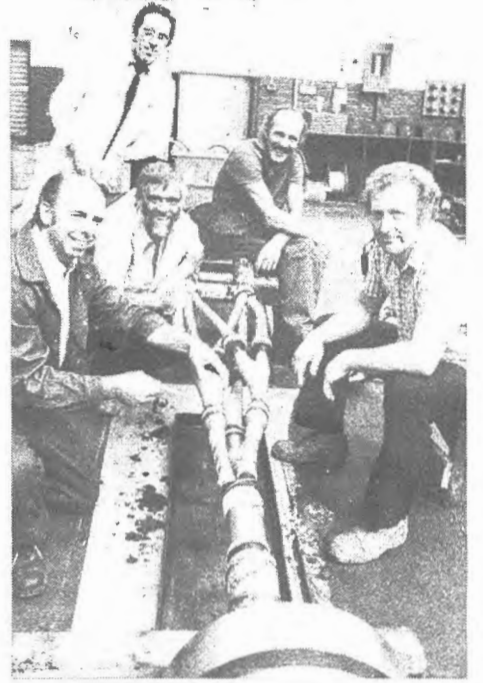
JOINTING teams from the Merseyside and Mid-Mersey Districts were at Hoylake recently to receive instruction on the development of 33-kV breech-jointing procedures. Previously, this type of operation has been carried out by contractors.

Staff on the course were, Tommy Dent and William Jones (*North Mersey*), George Deakin and Edward Burnett (*Liverpool*), Dave Fitch and Billy Houghton (*North Wirral*), Wally Boughey and Derek Jones (*Mid-Mersey*).

Roy Holden (*3rd engineer*), in white coat, seen here with, from left to right, Wally Boughey, Billy Houghton, Derek Jones and Dave Fitch.

Craft attendants course

A happy group pictured at Hoylake. From left to right, front row: Graeme Lane (*Dee Valley*), Colin Armstrong and Andy James (*Aberystwyth*). Back row: Geoff Bamber (*Clwyd*), Dave Robinson (*North Wirral*), Paul Siddle (*Clwyd*), Carl Murray (*Liverpool*), Stephen Bosworth, Peter Dwyer and Robert Squirrel (*North Mersey*).



VISIT TO RHEIDOL

WHEN Rheidol power station was undergoing a major overhaul recently a party of our Aberystwyth District colleagues took the rare opportunity to visit the station and see the work being carried out.

Andy Stubbs (*2nd engineer*) used the tunnel telephone to check that all is well on the MANWEB network



The shaft intake and the tunnels carrying the water which drives the turbines to generate the electric power were in the process of being cleaned to remove chemical deposits

These have the effect of reducing the flow of water resulting in the loss of units generated and these must be replaced in the network by more expensive units from coal or oil-fired stations.

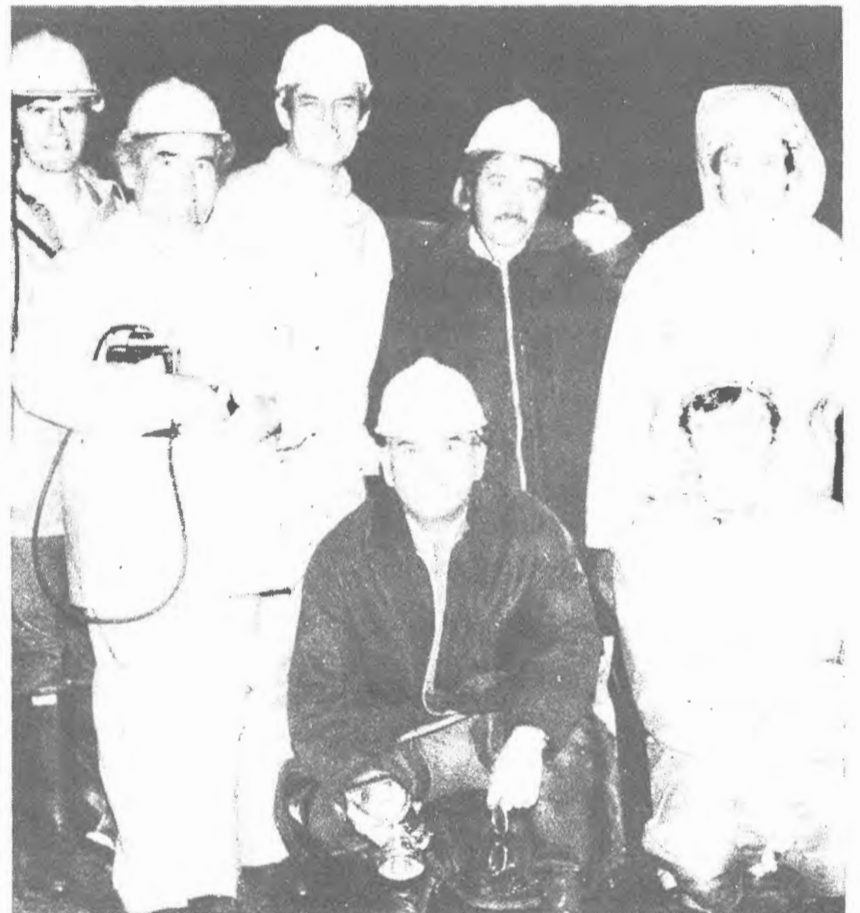
The deposits left by the water when the generators are not working contain traces of cadmium, copper, iron, lead, manganese and zinc, combining to form a highly toxic waste.

Hoses, carrying water under pressure, are used to clean the

walls and the slurry is washed down to the Rheidol station where it is stored in settling tanks for safe disposal later. If this waste was allowed to run directly into the river Rheidol in its concentrated form, its toxicity would have a harmful effect on the fish and other river life.

The shafts run from Nant-y-Moch to Dinas Dam and from Dinas down to Rheidol. In the past they have been cleaned by effecting entry from both ends of the tunnel. Now, to make the job a lot easier, a lift has been installed to replace the ladder in the surge shaft at Llywernog.

Permission for the Aberystwyth party to visit the station during the cleaning operations was kindly given by Allen Askam, the Station Manager. Accompanying the party on their tour was the station's Catchment Engineer, Marcus Evans who is in charge of the operations being carried out by contractors.



On tour, underground we see, from left to right, front row: Tom Jones (*Production Engineer*) and Hywel Evans (*2nd engineer*). Back row: Arwel Humphreys (*2nd engineer*), John Phillips (*District records draught man*), Maldwyn Evans (*System Engineer*), Emrys Hughes (*2nd engineer*) and Geoff Walker (*draughtsman*)

The small tractors used by the contractors inside the tunnel.



Journalists get Jenny's message

"ELECTRICITY is energy efficient." This was the message given by Jenny Webb, Home Economist of The Electricity Council to a group of national and provincial journalists at Nottingham recently.

Jenny began her presentation by giving a taste of cost-effective cooking, producing a meal while her audience watched. The new generation of electric cookers she used for the demonstration included the world's first halogen ceramic hob which cooks by means of light. The energy-saving qualities of fan ovens and double-circuit grills was also stressed.

She went on to demonstrate and talk about microwave ovens and other table-top cooking appliances which can offer cost-

saving efficiency, especially when cooking meals and snacks.

Cooking four lamb chops on the contact grill costs about one penny. A deep fat-fryer saves energy with its careful temperature control so no heat is wasted — and it is safer in use than a deep fat pan on a separate heat source.

Jenny also used two typical automatic machines to show how, with their range of wash programmes and the latest low-temperature detergents, they are capable of cutting costs while — at the same time — giving

perfect results with the home laundry.

Anna Thomson, Domestic Markets Officer of The Electricity Council, explained how to cut the cost of home heating and water heating. She stated that over a million homes in England and Wales are now using the Economy 7 tariff.

She explained that the new heaters now on the market are totally different from models of the early years. As different as the first motor car to the modern Metro. "The new Economy 7 hot water cylinders are capable of cutting a household hot water bill by half — and often water heating is the biggest charge on the electricity bill," she stated.



Fred Brown



John Shallcross

Long Service

WE offer our congratulations to the following members of staff who have completed, during the month of August, 40, 30, 20, years service in the electricity supply industry.

40 YEARS—Head Office: **Frederick Brown** (senior executive officer — Revenue) and **John Shallcross** (2nd engineer — Technical Drawing Office).

30 YEARS—North Mersey District: **Roy W. Harley** (craftsman electrician), **Ian D. Ledson** (foreman — Contracting), **Thomas Owens** (substation attendant) and **Clifford Weaver** (foreman — Stores). Liverpool District: **Robert A. Aindow** (craftsman electrical inspection) **Edward Johnson** (craftsman electrician) and **Brian R. Ogden** (District Commercial Manager). Mid-Mersey District: **Raymond Burgoyne** (craft attendant), **Brian Fitton** (2nd engineer — Systems), and **John Lee** (Production Engineer). Dee Valley District: **Colin Bowyer** (craftsman electrical inspection) and **John R. Evans** (craftsman electrician). North Wirral District: **Beryl Meachin** (clerical assistant — Transmission). Mid-Cheshire District: **Brian H. Taylor** (chargehand meter operative) and **J. Anthony Yarker** (2nd engineer — Systems). Clwyd District: **A. Winston Hughes** (principal assistant — General Administration), **W. Glyn Hughes** (1st engineer — Production) and **H. Malcolm Kearsley** (craftsman — electrician). Gwynedd District: **Thomas M. Wheldon-Williams** (1st engineer — Systems), and **William H. Williams** (craftsman electrician). Head Office: **Cyril Chapman** (3rd engineer — Technical Drawing Office), **Michael H. Mole** (principal assistant — Financial Accounts), **Kenneth Strefford** (1st engineer — Management Services) and **Kenneth F. Wright** (executive officer — Drawing Office).

20 YEARS — North Mersey District: **Ronald G. Balfour** and **Anthony Smith** (meter attendants). Dee Valley District: **Noel Griffiths** (storekeeper). Clwyd District: **Michael J. Davies** (public lighting attendant).

WITH THANKS

Helpful

From a Congelton (Cheshire) lady, to Mid-Cheshire District:—

"Two of your engineers recently installed an Economy 7 water heating system for me please pass on my thanks for a very competent quick and clean job. They were very polite and extremely helpful.

"It certainly makes a change to receive good competent service, something we have not always received from other organisations in the past."

The competent, polite, helpful pair in question were installation inspector Ron Gartside and contracting electrician Graham Dunn.

Shop staff

An appreciative Liverpool pensioner wrote to Lister Drive to

"thank you for letting us pay weekly for our electric." She also said of our St John's shop staff — "your staff in the Market in Liverpool have been very kind and sociable too — and I mean every one of them!"

Lopping

To Clwyd District also, from a Ruthin doctor, came a note of thanks for the "thrilling new vista" resulting from tree-logging work and the re-positioning of overhead lines.

Shower

Finally, an Oswestry gent wrote to express appreciation of a first class job "with the minimum of inconvenience and mess" carried out by colleague Keith Tomlinson when he installed a shower unit in his home.

FROM PAGE ONE

YTS SUCCESS — new intake at Hoylake

"This year", he went on, "our biggest problem was in recruiting. In some Districts, the youngsters were very slow to come forward, possibly because of adverse publicity given to the Scheme. Those who did make the effort could not have been more enthusiastic. One recruit was interviewed on a Wednesday and reported to Hoylake on the following Monday!"

The twenty trainees now at Hoylake will spend seven weeks in getting to know the structure of the electricity supply industry and will receive instruction on basic electrical safety, wiring, jointing and overhead line techniques.

For the remainder of their twelve months with the Board, they will go for further education courses — some on block release, others on day release — to study for a City and Guilds Certificate.

Theoretical studies at the technical colleges will be supplemented by practical work in their 'home' Districts. The tuition will help them gain experience in all the manual aspects of engineering and commercial department work.

Just twelve months ago, the Board took on the first group under the Government-sponsored Youth Training Scheme. From a total of 29 young people, male and female, 17 went for clerical and sales training and 12 took on a craft course.

Two of the twelve are now fully-employed by the Board and will be returning to Hoylake with this year's intake of craft apprentices. Two more resigned before the course was completed and four have got jobs with private firms.

Of the 17 clerical/sales trainees, ten have gained posts with the Board, one is leaving the area and four have found work with other businesses.

Our first batch of craft trainees spent six months at Hoylake and six months in the Districts. All twelve were recruited from the three Merseyside Districts. This year, the net has been spread wider to include Mid-Mersey, Dee Valley and Clwyd districts.

As the new recruits on the YTS leave Hoylake, a new craft apprentice course will move in. Forty young men — double last year's intake — will be instructed in the craft trades as electricians, fitters, jointers and overhead linesman.

But that is another story!



Above: In the domestic appliance workshop instructor Maurice Grisenthwaite is seen with, from left to right Edmund Barton Capenhurst, Barry Edwards (Dee Valley), Colin Edwards (Clwyd), Stephen Bebbington (Liverpool) and Keith Humphreys (Dee Valley). Top right: Instructor Roy Holden shows the cable display to, from left to right: Stephen Thompson (North Mersey), Ian Carter (Liverpool), Neil Powell (North Wirral) and Barry Daulby (North Mersey). Centre right: Head of Training Alex Smitton chats with, from left to right: Bindy Singh (Mid-Mersey), Gary Hughes (Clwyd), John Simons (Mid-Mersey), Nigel Williams (Dee Valley) and Graham Brown (Capenhurst). Bottom right: Receiving instruction from Bill Jones on overhead-line working are, from left to right: Ian Hardie and Stephen Byrne (North Wirral), Paul Stevenson and Robert Farrer (Liverpool). Below: Wiring plugs we see, Nigel Jones, (Clwyd), left, and Timothy Broad (North Wirral).



Caernarfon shop goes Bigger and better

THE opening of MANWEB'S "new" shop in Pool Street, Caernarfon, will offer to the Board's customers in Caernarfon and district a bigger and better choice than has ever been available before — backed up by first class service and advice from a well-trained and experienced staff.



The new fascia in the Pool Street precinct.

The shop, of course, is not really "new" at all. Rather it is a new shop risen from the old one on the same site, which has been extensively re-developed over the past twelve months.

MANWEB has had a shop in Pool Street ever since the electricity industry was nationalised soon after the war, offering an invaluable service to the local people especially during the years when electricity was being taken for the first time to hundreds of people throughout rural North Wales.

The relatively small size of the old shop, however, meant the display of electrical appliances on view was limited by considerations of space. The new shop, which extends much further back from the frontage, will provide much more wall space and a total floor area of 1,150 square feet — more than double that which was previously available.

Since July of last year, when MANWEB moved out of Pool Street to allow for the re-development programme to be carried out, the Board's business has been carried on from a temporary shop in Bridge Street.

Despite this arrangement, the Caernarfon shop was trading very successfully over the year. 1983/84 was a very successful year for MANWEB shops as a whole, with an increase of around 15% in the value of domestic appliances sold, but Caernarfon, working from their temporary home, managed to exceed even this excellent result with an increase in sales of 20%.

The larger range of home appliances on show in future will include all the latest built-in ovens by Creda, Belling and Tricity (including the built-in Belling microwave oven), plus the most up-to-date range of slimline storage heaters by Creda, Unidare and Dimplex. Also featured will be the revolutionary new 'Haloheat' hob from Tricity — which cooks by the energy of light — together with a new range of shower units and other water heating accessories.

In charge at the shop will be supervisor Linda Hughes, helped by Jill Pritchard and Menna Owen. All are Welsh-speaking, and fully experienced in giving the kind of expert advice on all electrical matters which sets MANWEB shop service apart from its High Street competitors.



Pictured on 'opening day' we see, from left to right: Lynda Hughes (supervisor), Gill Pritchard (Part-time sale assistant), Iola Woonacott (cleaner), Andrew Austin (sales assistant), Dylan Parry (now supervisor at Llanrwst shop, but returned to Caernarfon to help out for the day) and Menna Owen (part-time sales assistant). Below: A view of the spacious and well-laid-out interior.



Handy hints

INSULATE YOUR HOME

WITH the beautiful summer we have been enjoying, it is difficult to think ahead to the cold days of winter. They will come, and now is the time to prepare.

The largest part of your fuel bill goes on heating your home. But much of the heat you put into your home escapes through cracks and gaps between doors, floors and windows. These gaps also let in the cold draughts. For the cheapest and best way to cut heating bills — and for more comfort — fill or block the gaps. Some of these measures are quite low-cost and easy to do. However, be careful not to shut off all ventilation if you use coal, gas, oil or paraffin heaters which will need an air supply from the room to burn steadily.

Install plastic foam or metal draught excluder strips around external doors and windows. Use rubber or brush door seals where necessary. Some letter boxes are very draughty, so cover the letter box with a flap or brush-type seal as well.

There may be gaps in the floorboards which can be filled with — for example — newspapers, papier mache, beading or plastic wood.

Close the curtains at dusk and ensure that they are above or behind the radiators. Thick lined curtains help even more to stop

heat being lost through windows. Wall-to-wall carpets can often help keep warmth in.

Block off unused chimneys and install air grilles to keep them free from condensation.

You can prevent heat loss through the roof by loft insulation and your local council might give you a grant towards the cost of this. You should contact them before you start. Up to one-fifth of your total energy bill could be saved by installing loft insulation if you have none there at all. Insulate roof spaces by lining your loft with at least 100mm of mineral fibre mat, or loose-fill material (to the minimum depth recommended for each material). Do not insulate underneath cold water tanks and, for safety's sake, be careful not to conceal ceiling joists. Leave a ventilation gap at the eaves. Ensure you insulate the loft door and all around it with a draught seal, also block up all holes and gaps leading up from the house to the loft. Lag the hot and cold water pipes in the loft.

Cheap temporary double glazing can be put up by taping sheets of clear polythene across the window frames.

Make the most of the warmth of the sun. If one or two rooms get the sun, open the internal doors (but not the windows) and let the warm air travel through your home.

Gwynedd boom

THERE were big improvements in storage heater sales and the construction of all-electric homes in the Gwynedd District during 1983/84 as home owners realised that the balance of home heating costs was swinging rapidly in favour of electricity, a fact recently confirmed by the independent figures from the Government's Energy Efficient Office.

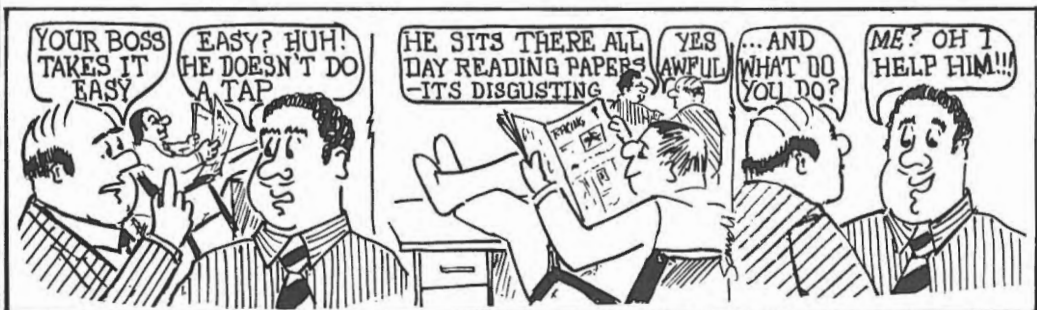
Sales of storage radiators during the year totalled 1,560 — an increase of 37% on the previous year's figure, while the concept of the well insulated, all-electric energy-efficient home continued to grow in popularity.

The electricity industry operates two new recognition schemes for such home — known as 'Medallion Homes' in the private sector, and as 'Civic Shield' homes in local authority housing.

Fifty new 'Medallion Homes' were built in Gwynedd during the year, compared with 24 in the previous year, while 53 'Civic Shield' homes were completed, compared with a nil figure during 1982/83.

Electric heat pumps are now playing an increasingly important role in saving energy in larger commercial and industrial undertakings, and are particularly advantageous when used as part of heat recovery systems in swimming pools. Such a system has been installed in the Bangor pool by the Arfon Borough Council, while the Anglesey Borough Council has decided on a similar course of action at Llangefni.

Electrical catering equipment — especially the indispensable microwave oven — is playing an even-greater role in the holiday trade, and sales of catering equipment were up by 13% in Gwynedd during the year.



MANWEB NOTE BOOK

A WORLD OF HARMONY

Emyr James man of music

THE very first choir to be formed composed entirely of MANWEB staff came together in 1955 under the baton and guidance of Emyr James, a Dee Valley District draughtsman, and was known as "MANWEB Area 4 Glee Club".

All 32 members worked at, or from the former Area 4 Office at Rhostyllen, our present Dee Valley District Office. They began as part of a Manweb Revue but soon became established in their own right.

The "Glee Club" became a charitable institution giving concerts galore at village halls, hospitals and also at Board functions around the area.

They departed from the acknowledged Welsh choir image with a repertoire which included folk songs, spirituals and popular tunes from well-known musicals. Further variation came from the five solo singers, Ena Hughes, Heather Pearson, David Evans, Hubert Evans and Keith Roberts and a close harmony team of David, Hubert, Keith and Wyn Edwards went under the appropriate name of "The Four Amps".

With the re-organisation of the Board in 1960, many members of the Glee Club left Rhostyllen to take up other jobs. Emyr was forced by these circumstances to go outside the Board for singers and the group's name was changed to "The Hylites".

They soon became known further afield and gave concerts in the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and in London. At that time, there was still a good representation of MANWEB staff among the singers.

In 1976, Emyr teamed up with a well-known musician, Don Lambert to provide a new sound which soon became distinctive of the renamed "James Lambert Singers" — taking the surname of the two originators. The 26 vocalists are accompanied by piano, bass guitar and drums as they sing 'middle of the road' music. At that time, the last remaining 'singer' link with MANWEB was Raymond Williams, a storekeeper with Dee Valley District.

Shortly after their formation, engagements poured in with the "Singers" in great demand to appear in cabaret, at clubs and theatres supporting top-name stars like Ken Dodd, Frankie Vaughan, Tom O'Connor, Miss World and, on a couple of occasions, they shared the stage with famous brass bands, Fodens and

Wingates. The choral group had two very successful concert tours in Germany and have recently completed another great season with an appearance on the BBC Wales Roadshow from Mold.

During nearly 30 years of his connection with successive singing groups — from the "MANWEB Glee Club" to the present "James-Lambert Singers" — our Emyr has arranged hundreds of musical presentations. "I hate to think of how many crotchets in that lot!", he commented.

Though the "James-Lambert Singers" demand much of his free time away from work, Emyr still finds that little extra to fulfill his role as deputy conductor of the Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir. He has recently returned from an enjoyable Canadian tour with the choir with standing ovations at the Toronto Festival.



Above: Today's line-up of the "James-Lambert Singers" with Emyr seated fifth from left. Below: Some of the original members of the "Area 4 Glee Club", from left to right, standing: Glyn Jones (Oswestry District), Len Phillips, Hubert Evans and Keith Roberts (Head Office), Jackie Guest, Heather Pearson, Raymond Jones (Head Office), Megan Parry, Glenys Steadman, Gwyn Hefin Roberts, David Evans (Dee Valley District), Gerald Rogers and Gerald Sproston. Seated: Betty Jones, Gaynor Williams, Sheila Wright, Anne Jones, Liz Rowlands, Jill Wright, Myra Pritchard and Pat Jefferson. Kneeling in front is conductor and arranger, Emyr James.



Meet our Waterloo shop staff

From left to right: Sue Wilson (supervisor), Eileen Tulloch, Pat Gleaves and Mark Marshall.



The redesigned frontage of our shop in South road.



THANKS!

When lightning struck, cutting off the supply to Penmaenmawr Quarry, the response of our Clwyd District colleagues moved the Technical Services Director of the quarry owners (Kingston Minerals, of Bath) to write as follows:—

"I am writing on behalf of all concerned with the installation of the new plant at Penmaenmawr to express our appreciation of your efforts in bringing the new 11,000-volt ring main into action following the lightning damage to the existing switch-gear."

Those involved were — Peter Oram (2nd engineer), Barry Dibden and Bryn Jones (craftsmen, jointers), Bill Brown, Andy Easton and Arnis Pritchard (craftsmen, overhead lines), Trevor Garner (craft attendant) and Brian James (general duties assistant).



Alan and Janice

Wedding

OUR congratulations go to Alan Jones from the clerical section of the Engineering department in Clwyd District, on his marriage, a short time ago, to Janice Stead who works for Boots store.

The ceremony took place in the Baptist Church in Rhyl after which the happy couple honeymooned in the Cotswolds.

Alan has been on the Board's staff since 1973 and has worked in a variety of sections. He has also produced and starred in a 'Pop Festival' held at the District's Sports and Social Club.

We join with friends of Alan and Janice in wishing them both good health and happiness in their years together.

Who's your friend?

Shop sales staff at Birkenhead gave former supervisor Julian Jenkins a surprise party to celebrate his new appointment. He will be taking over from Arthur Evans as District sales Supervisor. At the party, a man in a white suit poured champagne (*pity Julian doesn't drink much!*) and a bubbling beauty planted a kiss-or-two.



The poor pay more — report

A REPORT on household expenditure on fuels, which has been commissioned by the Electricity Consumers' Council and the National Gas Consumers' Council, stresses the importance of fuel costs in the Budgets of poorer families. The Report — produced by the social Policy Research Unit at York University — concludes that in 1982, when the study was carried out, low-income households spent over twice as much of their overall budgets on fuel than better-off families.

Average weekly expenditure on fuel was £8.35p, but households with incomes below £68 a week spent over 11 per cent of their budget on fuel, compared with 5.5 per cent for those with incomes over £186 a week.

Pensioners and single-parent families in particular spent higher proportions of their incomes on fuel.

The Councils believe that these results reinforce the need for the vigorous promotion of easy payment schemes, especially among low income groups.

BROOKS LAUGH LINES



"But most people grow roses in their garden when they retire!"



"Son, 21 is a bit too soon to apply for retirement!"

Commercial commentary

Speaker from Millbank

DURING August there were four 'DEN 3' meetings for MANWEB Commercial staff, Steve Griffin tells us. What is 'DEN 3' you might ask? The initials stand for Domestic Energy Notes 3, which is Commercial shorthand for the development of electric heating and the promotion of energy efficiency in existing public sector housing — a sort of 'Civic Shield' for older council property. The main speaker at the meetings at Clwyd, North Wirral, Mid-Mersey and Oswestry District Offices, was Doug Ackery from the Energy Marketing Section of the Electricity Council.

Plugging Economy 7

Load development engineers have been talking 'wet' — now no funny remarks that they always do! In fact they were talking to very good effect, led by Malcolm Cooper, to plumbers and the associated trades who instal 'wet' central heating systems. The men from MANWEB think they have convinced their audiences to try selling electric boiler and radiator systems based on the Economy 7 tariff. Also suitable for the tariff and a good sales proposition for the plumbers are water heating tanks which are factory insulated. The two meetings were held at Chester and Abergele in collaboration with Heatek, the plumbing and heating supplies wholesalers.

Heating presentation

After what some might consider too long an absence, Dimplex are returning to the sales floor in MANWEB shops. In order to ensure sales staff are fully aware of the

selling points of these quality heating products, the Company have arranged five sales presentations which are about to take place throughout the area as we go to press.

Refresher

A chance for the recently appointed load development staff to 'gen' themselves up on space and water heating will be on a course later this month — the 19th and 20th September.

Visiting Head Office

There will be two V.I.P. visitors to Head Office on the fifth. Robin Gardner, Energy Efficiency Officer for the Department of Trade and Industry, and John Lawrence of J.E.L. Ltd., who is an Energy Marketing Advisor to the Department of Energy. They will be shown the MANWEB Chester building and its pioneering heat retention and energy efficiency properties, constructed fifteen years ago. The visit is being co-ordinated by John Walker as one of his final functions before the end of his secondment to Sealand Road. He returns to North Mersey, where he is Load Development Engineer, on 10th September.

Light work

Looking over Gerry Worthington's shoulder it is plain to see he has a big job on. He is planning security lighting for the R.O.F. factory at Alsager. The lighting has to illuminate over two miles of fencing and 30-kw of lighting load will be added. He has high hopes the contract for installation will go to Mid-Cheshire District.

Liverpool Festival visit

SHORTLY after the International Garden Festival opened in Liverpool, our Merseyside Districts hosted a party of local builders on a visit to the site.

Now it is the turn for other Districts. On the 20th of this month they will take a party of builders from their areas to see the Barratt and Wimpey 'Medallion Homes' built in Liverpool's greatest ever showground.

Recently, two top executives from Barratt (Northern) called in at Head Office to meet our Chairman and pick-up their 'Medallion Home' award for their Festival site Bungalow.



MANWEB Chairman, Ben Hastings, centre left, presents a 'Medallion Award' certificate to Terry Van Ree, Chairman of Barratt (Northern). Pictured on the left is Peter Hopkins (chief Commercial Officer) and, on the right, Alan Gladwin, Deputy Chairman, Barratt (Northern).

Joan the Jinx!

ON her free afternoon from an electricity industry Summer School, held at Bangor University in July, MANWEB Head Office typist Joan Catherwood decided that a trip to Red Wharf Bay would be a good idea.

Accompanied by an unsuspecting Norweb colleague in the person of Jean Martin, accident-prone Joan decided to vault a low wall on her way down to the beach.

An overhead line pole stay wire looked like a handy athlete's aid, but as Joan grabbed it the pole rocked, the lines clashed with much crackling and banging — and the lights in the neighbourhood went out!

Shortly quite a crowd had gathered to watch the "firework display", which went on for quite some time. Gwynedd District staff were more than a match for the occasion, however. The cavalry came to the rescue and supplies were quickly restored (although there might have been some caustic references to 'idiots from Head Office' on the way back to depot).

Later that night, when fifty-

North Wirral Retired Group Meetings

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at District Office, Prenton Way, Birkenhead, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

At the September meeting, on the 5th, there will be a demonstration of wine making for amateurs. Free samples (*hic!*), will be on offer (*hic!*).

odd staff attending the school were sinking their pints in an Anglesey pub there was a loud bang (*cause unknown*), which put the lights out and, worse still, the pumps out of commission.

Once more the lads from Gwynedd District came to the rescue, proving to the 'students' just what an efficient industry they work for!

Diary dates. . . .

STAFF ANNUAL CONFERENCES

NORTH MERSEY DISTRICT	Thursday, 25th October, 1984
LIVERPOOL DISTRICT	The Mons Hotel, Bootle
MID-MERSEY DISTRICT	Friday, 26th October, 1984
DEE VALLEY DISTRICT	Dovedale Towers, Liverpool
NORTH WIRRAL DISTRICT	During October
MID-CHESHIRE DISTRICT	Daytime group meetings—
CLWYD DISTRICT	STAFF ONLY
GWYNEDD DISTRICT	Friday, 12th October, 1984
OSWESTRY DISTRICT	Head Office Restaurant
ABERYSTWYTH DISTRICT	Date not arranged yet
HEAD OFFICE	Probably early next year
	During October
	At Crewe and Weaverham
	Date not arranged yet
	Probably early next year
	Friday, 2nd November, 1984
	Plas Menai, Caernarfon
	Friday, 5th October, 1984
	The Pedigree Hotel, Oswestry
	Friday, 22nd February, 1985
	Venue not yet decided
	Date not yet arranged

Retired members of staff are welcome at all Conferences (except Mid-Mersey which is for staff only). Apply for tickets to the Administration section in the respective District as soon as possible

CHESTER RETIRED ASSOCIATION OUTINGS

MEMBERS of the Chester and Head Office Retired Staff Association have enjoyed some very interesting coach outings in recent weeks.

They spent a very happy day on a visit to Bulmers Cider works in Herefordshire where they tasted a variety of brews.

Last month, a party coached to Bridgnorth where they took a trip on a steam train run by the Severn Valley Railway Company. This was a nostalgic trip to a bygone age of the train for many of the members.

This month, a trip to Leicester is scheduled, where a conducted tour of the cathedral is laid on.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we record the sudden tragic death of Mr. Dennis Hodgetts (aged 64) who recently retired from his post as Mid-Mersey District Administration Manager.

We offer our sincere condolences to his widow, Barbara,

RETIREMENTS

Farewells to friends and colleagues

W. E. BOYLIN

AFTER 34 years' service in the electricity supply industry William E. Boylin has retired early due to ill-health. He was an administrative assistant in the Revenue section at Head Office.

He came to MANWEB in 1953 after joining the industry with Norweb, three years earlier. He was an assistant in the Accounts Department of the former Area 2 at Eversley. He joined the Head Office staff in 1971 with the Board re-organisation.

Bill is interested in photography, but is even better at painting pictures with words, for he is a talented poet. He is well known on the pubs and clubs circuit where he reads his work.

Swimming is one of his great loves, and he is an excellent swimming coach, not only teaching people to swim, but also improving their style and their ability for competitive swimming.

Bill joins his wife Barbara in retirement, she left Mid-Mersey District last year, and we hope they will both have a long and happy retirement to enjoy the company of their grandchildren of whom they are so fond.

MR E. BUSH

RECENTLY retired after 30 years' service is Eric Bush, formerly a driver but in more recent years a meter fixer at Liverpool District.

Eric is a keen photographer — a hobby which will be put to good use in his retirement. He received gifts from colleagues, together with a 'Beautiful Britain' book from the LJCC.

Mr. L. F. JAMESON

AFTER 47 years' service in the electricity supply industry Lawrence Jameson has retired from the Head Office Debt Recovery section, where he was a principal assistant for legal action.

Larry started work as a junior clerk with the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Supply Department in 1937. He spent over six years in the Army during World War II, seeing action in North Africa and Italy. He was wounded in the battle for Casino where many allied forces lost their lives.

He was a clerical assistant in Liverpool until 1971 when he joined the Head Office staff as an administrative assistant. He became a principal assistant six years later.

Away from the office he enjoys regular visits to Anfield where he is an ardent Liverpool supporter. Larry also likes the countryside and bird watching — the feathered variety.

Mr. F. H. JONES

RETIRING early due to ill health after 42 years' service in the electricity supply industry is Frank Jones, a Head Office Estates and Wayleave Officer who has been based at Oswestry.

Frank joined the Oswestry Corporation Electricity Department as a clerk in 1942. A year later he was in the RAF, where he became a navigator in bombers and transport aircraft, returning to civilian life and the electricity industry in 1947.

The nationalisation of the industry saw Frank join MANWEB in 1948. Since 1950 he has been involved in the Wayleave section of the district or Head Office.

Frank is interested in astronomy, and retirement will give him more time to gaze at the heavens, although he and his wife Betty have a smallholding to run, and visits from their grandchildren to look forward to.

MRS R MUIR

AFTER 14 years' service with the Board, Rita Muir, a clerk in the Commercial department at Liverpool District, has retired.

Although she worked for us in a number of clerical capacities, Rita was originally a confectioner by trade and delighted many colleagues by using her skill to decorate 'special occasion' cakes.

Her talents were put to good effect for her own retirement buffet, enjoyed by most of the staff at Lister Drive, when she received many farewell gifts.

Mr. D. A. OSBORNE

AFTER 32 years with MANWEB Dennis Arthur Osborne, a chargehand mechanical fitter at Mid-Mersey District garage, has retired.

Dennis began his working life in his father's business before joining us at St. Helens garage — but that was a short stay lasting only two weeks, before he moved to Warrington. During the war he was a tank driver with the 8th Army, serving in Egypt, North Africa, Crete and Greece, and earning several "Mentions" in despatches.

He enjoys D.I.Y. work and gardening (but not car maintenance!). On behalf of his many friends he was presented with a carriage clock, with flowers for his wife Annie.

Mr. D. ROBERTS

THE locker room at Clwyd District Office was filled with colleagues who gathered to say their farewells to David Roberts

when he recently retired from his job as chargehand linesman on ill-health grounds.

In acknowledging David's service to MANWEB, David Needham (Production Engineer) informed the group that linesman David had started his working life as a trainee baker. This was followed by a period with the LMS Railway Company prior to his call-up into the RAF when he served as an air-crew wireless operator and later, a ground control operator in Malaya. He returned to work on the railways to "get on the right lines" to join MANWEB in 1952 as a mate. Later he became a linesman and, in 1968, a chargehand.

Other colleagues paid tribute to David's loyalty and friendship and as a stalwart at the depot, "Through storms and snows, David was always there," said one.

Retirement gifts of an electric saw for David and a bouquet of flowers for his wife Eileen were then presented.

In retirement he continues 'do-it-yourself' activities and spend more time listening to good music. He and Eileen have brought up three sons and three daughters and they are expecting their eleventh grandchild in October.

Mr. C. L. SIEBERT

ALTHOUGH a comparative 'new boy' with MANWEB, having joined us only in 1973, Charlie Siebert has become one of the best known people at North Mersey, working as general factotum in the District office.

Everyone turned out to wish Charlie and his wife Dot a happy retirement, and to see them presented with numerous gifts.

Their son, Norman, works at Lister Drive in the Drawing Office, and they also have two grandchildren.

Mr. L. WALTMAIER

FRIENDS and colleagues gathered at Macon Way to say farewell to chargehand installation and service electrician, Les Waltmaier, who retires after 45 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

He joined the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Supply Department at Pumpfields in 1939. During the Second World War, he served with the Royal Navy on destroyers for three years, seeing the world and some action.



Larry Jameson, left, says his farewell to John Roberts (Assistant Chief Accountant, Revenue).



Frank Jones, left, and his wife Betty, receive parting gifts from Ken Sinclair (executive officer, Wayleaves)



Friends gather round at the farewell ceremony for David Roberts, centre left, and his wife Eileen, as David Needham wished them a happy retirement.



Les Waltmaier, left, receives a parting handshake from Jim Bird (Installation Engineer).



Graham Zeiher, left, and his wife Jean, seen here with Gerry Haughan (Deputy Chief Engineer).

Back on 'Civvy Street' he became an electrician in Liverpool, transferring to Nantwich in 1953, becoming a chargehand in 1970. His wife Beatrice was from Nantwich and was the reason for his move from Liverpool.

In tandem with his job for MANWEB he and Beatrice ran a pub for a few years. In retirement he will be trying his skill at 'do-it-yourself' and spending much more time in his caravan on a site in Llanberis.

Mr. G. ZEIHNER

The Mid-Cheshire Engineering Manager, Graham Zeiher, has retired from the Board after 35

years in the electricity industry.

Educated in Sheffield he did several jobs before joining the RAF in 1942 for wartime service as a radar/wireless mechanic, working in the code and cypher section.

After demobilisation in 1946 he intended to go to Edinburgh University to train to be a vet. However, when an opportunity to join an electrical engineering course presented itself he took it. He became a graduate trainee with the British Electricity Authority and worked for two private companies before joining the Yorkshire Board in 1951 as an assistant planning engineer.

He spent three years with each

of the Southern and South Eastern Electricity Boards before joining MANWEB in 1959 as a 2nd engineer on the 33-kV construction and maintenance. He was appointed senior engineer for protection, meters and telecommunications in the former Area 4 in 1963. Seven years later he moved to Mid-Cheshire as District Engineer. The job remaining the same but the title changed to Engineering Manager in 1983.

In retirement, Graham and his wife, Jean, are moving South. They have bought a new home in Brixham, where he will enjoy a little sailing, photography and constructing a Morgan sports car from a kit.

Life begins at . . .

by MITCH



CONTACT FREE ADS

BRASS BAND CONCERT

The ROYAL DOULTON BAND will play at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 26th September, in the Head Office restaurant. Tickets (£1) from Gren Roberts, Head Office welfare section.

HOLIDAYS

ABERYSTWYTH: SIX-BERTH Caravans — fully equipped with mains electricity and toilets. Close to beach and town. Club house, pool, shop, restaurant, sauna, children's recreation areas. From £35 per week, plus 10% discount for ESI staff and families. Tel: 0970 3596. (Tomos Davies).

BERROW, BURNHAM ON SEA — A new holiday annexe for four people in Berrow, a village situated on the Somerset coast within easy reach of Weston-Super-Mare, Cheddar Gorge and the beautiful Quantock countryside. Idea for family holiday. Tel: 0278-786899 (Alan Fear, SWEB staff).

CAERNARFON — B & B. Lounge. TV. Tel: Caernarfon 3055. (Mrs. Vaughan Jones).

COSTA-DEL-SOL — Fuengirola/Marbella. To let — studio apartment. Sleeps three. Magnificent views. Shared pool. Near beach. Also available, two-bedroom apartment. Flights arranged. Tel: Runcorn 76294. (Tom Johnson).

LANZAROTE — Puerto del Carmen. Large, two-bedroom bungalow near sandy beach. Private terrace, heated swimming pool, barbecue, tennis. Near bars and restaurant. Management services. Tel: 034 17497 (W. Moss).

TALYSARN — Gwynedd. House, sleeps six. Bathroom, TV. Car space. Ideal for Snowdonia and coast. Tel: 0286 880876.

TENERIFE — Playa de las Americas. Luxury apartment to let. Superb location. 2 beds, terrace, pool. Tel: Chester 674871 or Head Office 2386 (Mrs. Littler).

WESTON-SUPER-MARE — Large self-contained flat with private garden overlooking the sea. Two bedrooms, separate kitchen, dining area and lounge, bathroom. Sleeps up to six people. Tel: (0934) 412397 (Mr. T. L. Pettitt).

FOR SALE

CARAVAN — 'Tudor Cobra', 28-feet, eight berth (two bunk beds), wardrobes, dressing room (end bedroom). As new, used a few times only. £2,900 o.n.o. Tel: 051 228 4393. (Mrs. E. Cook).

DANCE BAND LIBRARY — For small orchestra. Approximately 100 standards. Tel: Deganwy 81091. (George Perkins).

FAIRHOLME CYGNET — 1980 luxury caravan, complete with awning and groundsheet. Full double glazing, fire, fridge, cooker, water heater, TV, toilet. Many other extras. Immaculate. £2,550 for quick sale. Tel: 051 339 9298.

STEREO CABINET — solid Mahogany. Two months old, as new. Cost £100. £50 o.n.o. Tel: 051 526 5249

WEDDING DRESS AND VEIL — Pronuptia "Emmie" 1984 range. Size 12 £60. Tel: Head Office, Internal 2652 (M. Swire).

YAMAHA ELECTONE ORGAN Model A55, several voices, 12 rhythms and ABC wasy chord play. excellent condition, £400 o.n.o. Tel: 0606 552198. (Mrs Senior).

CARS FOR SALE

CITROEN — G. S. Club. T reg. Low mileage, immaculate condition. MOT to May 1985. £850. Tel: 051 928 1251 or, North Mersey District 254 (Shelley).

RENAULT TL 'M' Reg, MOT Jan '85. New Clutch, excellent runner, used daily, £250. Tel: 051 638 8979.

FLAT FOR SALE

OXTON — Birkenhead (King's Court) — Purpose-built first floor flat. Hall, lounge, two bedrooms, kitchen/diner, combined bathroom. With storage heaters throughout (daytime boost). With parking space. Garage may be rented. £15,950 o.n.o. Tel: Ruthin 5258 or 051 652 8648.

HOUSES FOR SALE

SAUGHALL — Detached 3 bedroomed house. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, porch/play room, 3 double bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c., gas central heating, integral garage, garden to all sides and overlooking Green Belt to rear. Price £39,750. Tel: Saughall 880555. (S. J. Reynard).

WREXHAM — Modernised three-bedroom terraced. Large kitchen. Garage. £17,500. Tel: Wrexham 261445. (E. W. Evans).

WANTED

NOVEL — "The Third Miss Wenderby" by Mable Barnes Grundy. Tel: Prestatyn 89810. (C. H. Twine).

PIGEONS — Black Fantail hen, pair of Tumblers or Tipplers, any fancy pigeon considered. Chester 372788 (M. Mager).

TOW-BAR — for Talbot Avenger Estate. Tel. Internal, North Mersey District 92 179 or 180 (Brian Kaye).

£150 for BDA

WHEN Dave Furber, a general duties assistant at Oswestry District, completed the London Marathon in May, he had earned £646 in sponsorship money to boost the funds of the British Diabetic Association.

Oswestry colleague Roger Restieaux asks us to thank MANWEB colleagues who contributed £150 towards this total, following his appeal in the May number of 'CONTACT'. This included £50 from a Liverpool pensioner.

Dave's 12-year-old daughter Dawn is a diabetic, and his wife Susan is the treasurer of the Oswestry branch of the B. D. A. They will be proud of his efforts — and grateful for the generosity of his supporters.

DEE VALLEY PRO-AM

ONCE again perfect weather graced the Dee Valley Golf Society's "Pro-Am" tournament at Wrexham Golf Club.

Last year's winning amateur, Ken Edwards, (2nd engineer) found himself elevated to the status of "professional" this year. With his playing partner, Brian Doyle, (System Engineer) he came in with 44 points to lead the competition, and in the final four-ball of the evening Bob Norfolk (mains, Legacy) and Dennis Jones (Material Control) took second place with 43 points.

Bob and Dennis secured four points on the final par-4 hole to edge out Allan Evans (2nd engineer, Load Development) and John Connors (guest) into third place with 42.

This year's prizes, of cut glass, were presented by Don Hinsley (Load Development Engineer).



Jim, Janet and Joanne Wilcock on their bicycle built for three.

Picture — Mark Hibben, 'Evening Leader'

Cycleway Fun

ON YOUR bike and enjoy the countryside was the message from Cheshire County Council with the opening of a new Cycleway. Present at the opening of the 155-mile route, on a bicycle built for three, was MANWEB Welfare Officer Jim Wilcock, his wife Janet and, in the side-car, their one-year-old daughter Joanne.

He told us, "The route is signposted with blue and white signs, and follows the quieter country lanes around the county. It winds its way through Delamere Forest, to Nantwich and Congleton, on the edge of the Peak District, back through to Chester. There are pubs, cafes and accommodation en-route. It is a great way to see the Cheshire countryside."

cycle club members for several years, and were determined to carry on riding when Joanne arrived just over 12 months ago. Jim bought a near-antique side-car, renovated it to take Joanne's kiddy seat and fitted it to his tandem.

For further information on the Cheshire Cycleway contact the Information Office for Cheshire County Council.

Jim and Janet have been keen

Chester Chess Champs, left to right, Frank Reynolds, Steve Holmes and John Gorman



Chess Champions

THREE members of the Head Office staff, John Gorman (Financial), Steve Holmes (Drawing Office) and Frank Reynolds (Audit) recently received awards as joint winners of this year's Nalco Correspondence Chess Competition.

A total of 45 teams from Nalco branches in England, Wales and Scotland, entered for the competition which was played over

a series of individual matches throughout the year.

The first time our team took part was in 1982 when they finished in fifth place. Last year they came third.

If you are interested in playing chess and maybe improving your game, get in touch with Mike Hughes, senior engineer, Plant & Construction. Internal telephone. 2481.

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

(BLOCK CAPS PLEASE)

Name:

Work place (or retired)

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

THE SPORTING CHANCES

by Mitch

