

CONTACT

Manweb's monthly newspaper for staff and their families.

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

Vol. 43 No. 9

September 1990

New warehouse should meet Manweb's future needs

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

by Graeme Cooper

MANWEB'S new Queensferry warehouse is now open and in action! The company's 58 shops and electricity network are supplied from Queensferry, and the new warehouse is aimed at enhancing our service to customers.

The multi-million pound building features 80 thousand square feet of storage area, almost doubling the depot's undercover storage capacity

for domestic appliances to 6,000 pallets.

As well as appliance storage, Depot Manager Bob Wright has had requests to

house all manner of goods in the new warehouse.

He said: "We're already storing stationery, furniture and additional metering

equipment in the new building, though I must point out that as a Corporate Service we do make a charge!"

Staff levels in the new

warehouse are unchanged from the old store. However, the upgraded office accommodation has allowed Bob to house all the administration for both the appliance and network services store in the same building, making for easier management.

With covered loading bays and gravity-fed racking which automatically brings goods down ready for loading, the development aims to be "state of the art" in storage and handling.

The building work at Queensferry has given the opportunity to enhance security, with a new fence erected round the site and extra security cameras.

The development also includes landscaping and additional parking space for 150 vehicles.

Manweb's Managing Director Richard Gales said: "The new Queensferry Warehouse is an exciting expansion of our goods handling capacity and should meet our needs well into the future."

Pictured at the handing over ceremony are (l-r) Queensferry Depot Manager Bob Wright, David Elderton, Director of builders - Faircloughs, Manweb Managing Director Richard Gales and Architectural and Building Manager, Ben Foster.



The heat is on...

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First class

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Fishy hobby

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Thrills and spills

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Flower power

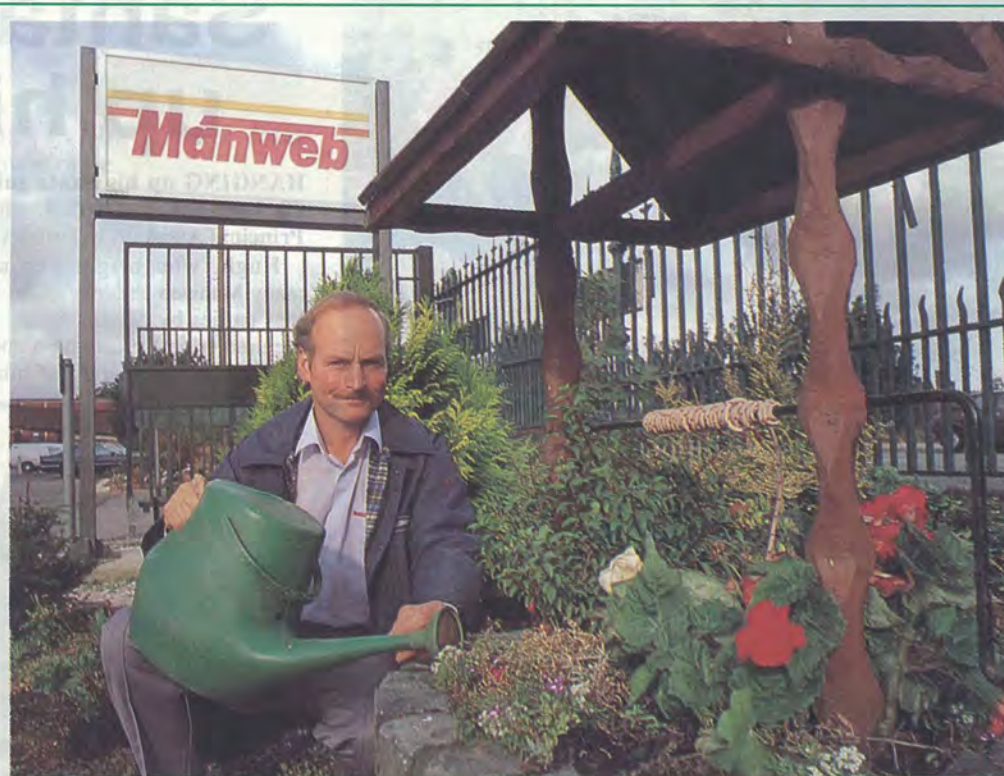
GREEN-fingered Meter Operative Charlie McGuinness has brightened up Manweb's Liverpool District Office with a few of his own "electric" bulbs!

Charlie, who often arrives at 6.45 am to keep his blooms in trim says that he was increasingly depressed by the somewhat dour appearance of the Lister Drive office.

"The building is an old power station, and looks the part! The trouble is that it's a listed building, so you can't paint it or really do much with it!" he says.

"There were weeds 4ft high around the flagpole so I asked our District Manager Gerry Haughan if I could put a few of my own plants in."

The District Manager gave Charlie's plan his blessing, and helped out with cash for a few shrubs.



That was four and a half years ago and since then the flower bed round the flagpole has grown to include beds and tubs all around the District Office.

Members of staff have

donated plants from their own gardens and the office even boasts a wishing well!

But the greening of Lister Drive hasn't been without difficulties - a rockery had to be dismantled when cables for a new

Picture by Adrian Chesworth

Manweb sign had to be laid.

Fortunately Charlie has now put in a new rockery and shrubs, so both the Manweb sign and Charlie's garden are keeping Lister Drive a brighter place.

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Changing faces

Dee Valley retirements

STAFF at Dee Valley District have said goodbye and good luck to four colleagues who took early retirement on August 31.

Raymond Parry, 61, was a Meter Reader/Collector based at Rhostyllen, and had clocked up 16 years' service. Also from the Meter Reading Department, Leslie Broadbent, 63, had worked in the ESI for 39 years. During that time he progressed to Foreman, a position he held for 13 years.

Mrs. Mary Jones, 55, was a full-time sales assistant at Wrexham Shop, where she had worked since 1983. She joined Manweb in 1971 as a part-time sales assistant in Johnstown shop.

Dennis Harry Williams, 62, a Meter Reader/Collector at New Crane Street Depot, had completed 21 years' service.



Temporary move for Dave

DAVE Barratt from Mid Mersey Customer Accounts has taken over from Andy Iddison in Business Intelligence at Head Office. But the move is only temporary while Andy helps run the Share Information line in London.

Principal Assistant Dave is finding his new temporary post different to working in Customer Accounts.

"In the Districts you're dealing with customers all the time - often over 1,000 phone calls per day. Here it's more geared

towards the business behind it all," says Dave, who is married and lives in Warrington.

Meanwhile Andy isn't feeling too homesick and has sent his Business Intelligence colleagues a postcard saying he's enjoying his stint on the information line.

Andy is pictured (right) handing over the "tools of the trade" to Dave.

End of an era

SAYING farewell to Manweb after 28 years is Olive Hall, Private Secretary to Director, Network Services, Denis Farquhar.

Olive (60) lives in Wallasey and joined Manweb in 1962 from ICI, working at the old Love Lane Head Office. She was Secretary to the Planning Construction and Technical Engineers, before coming to Chester with the reorganisation in 1969.



Olive has worked for three Chief Engineers, Mr Frank Brown, Mr Jim Fisher and most recently Denis Farquhar.

She said: "I've enjoyed working for Manweb immensely and made many friends whom I'll miss."



Distinguished career comes to a close

FINANCIAL Manager Bob Evans has retired after a distinguished 32 years with Manweb. A member of the Association of Certified Accountants, Bob (60) joined Manweb in 1958 after working for a Liverpool Accountancy firm and national service.

He initially held a wide range of audit duties and also covered taxation and accountancy work.

Bob was appointed in charge of Chester Nominal Ledger Section in 1960, and from 1963-65 was seconded to the Ghana Government as Accountancy Training Officer for their Electricity Division in the capital, Accra.

Returning to Manweb Bob worked in

Rhostyllen and Liverpool before joining Internal Audit at Head Office.

Since then he has held a number of senior managerial posts within the Finance Department, and in Mid-Cheshire and North Wirral, including Assistant Chief Accountant (Revenue) and Financial Manager, Audit and Accountancy.

Most recently Bob has had particular

responsibility for helping the privatisation process.

Bob is an old boy of Oldershaw Grammar School, Wallasey and still lives in the town with wife Molly. The couple have three sons.

He is a keen Everton supporter and also a firm follower and member of Lancashire Cricket Club.

Bob's many friends and colleagues

bought him retirement gifts including a camera, painting materials and binoculars for his trips to Old Trafford!

Bob's cricketing interests extend to Manweb, where he is Chairman of Selectors for the Managers XI!

He is pictured (centre right) being congratulated on his retirement by Finance Director, John Roberts while colleagues look on.

Joan plans a super holiday

ENGINEERING Clerical Supervisor Joan Allen has retired from North Wirral District after 20 years with Manweb.

Joan (61) joined Manweb as a temporary clerk at North Wirral in 1970, rising to become clerical supervisor responsible for a staff of 11.

She is married to Bill Allen, Principal Assistant, General Services at Lister Drive, and the couple, who live in Thingwall on the Wirral, have two daughters.

Joan's interests include walking, camping and travel. She and Bill are starting Joan's retirement with a tour of Spain and Portugal.

Colleagues bought her retirement gifts including garden furniture, a cut glass vase and champagne. She is pictured being wished a happy retirement by Supplies Manager John Barker and other friends at North Wirral.



Santa hangs up his suit

HANGING up his Santa suit is Head Office's very own Father Christmas Hugh Hughes, who has retired from his 'other' job as Principal Assistant in District Liaison, Power Marketing Division.

Hugh, who brightened up many Manweb children's Christmas parties by playing Santa, is pictured (right) receiving a specially-drawn caricature of him-

self from Alan Bower, Cost Accounting Manager, Income.

Runcorn-born and bred still living there, father-of-two Hugh, 64, who also has five grandchildren, joined the electricity supply industry in 1948 as a clerk at Eversley, having previously worked for the Manchester Ship Canal company.

Hugh, whose wife Lillian also worked at Eversley, in the Costing and Salaries Department, transferred to Head Office in 1965 and he became Principal Assistant in 1972.

In his spare time Hugh, who served in the Royal Navy during World War II, is a keen sportsman, playing tennis, cricket and football. He also enjoys gardening and ballroom dancing, and is currently Chairman of the Groveville dance club in Runcorn.

Hugh was presented with various gifts, including a Vax cleaner and gardening equipment, by his colleagues, and Lillian received a bouquet.

Olive's interests include music - she plays the clarinet, trombone and piano - and geology. Her other plans for retirement include taking up painting, studying French and learning to swim, which she confesses she has yet to do!

Among her many retirement gifts were a gold bracelet, cultured pearl necklace and gold earrings and necklace. Olive also received a set of china, gift and record vouchers and an ornamental photograph frame.

Olive (centre) is pictured

being wished farewell by fellow secretaries (L-R), Margaret Silitoe, Val Aston, Margaret Reed, Margaret Woollam, Jean Houston, Val Hughes, Sue McDonald, Eve Pugh, Maureen Griffiths and Angela Linton.

Staff 'helpline' is set up

A SPECIAL telephone 'hot-line' for staff has been set up by Manweb as part of a major communications campaign in the run-up to flotation.

The employee Helpline, based at Head Office, is being manned by Administrative Services Manager Tom Hamilton, Personnel Policy Adviser Don Roxburgh, and Principal Assistant, Personnel Policy, Gill Farren.

Several lines have been made available on Head Office internal extension 4545 for staff who wish to ask questions about the forthcoming flotation. In addition, there is an external telephone number 0244 382326, which can also be used and which has an answerphone facility so that messages can be left outside office hours.

Tom Hamilton said: "We are here to help, so if you have any queries about the share offers, however simple they may appear, don't hesitate to contact the Helpline. Under the Financial Services Act we are not allowed to give financial advice. We are here to give factual information about the offers so that staff can make informed decisions on the options open to them."

The Helpline staff are only authorised to deal with questions from employees, and former employees with queries about the Pensioner offer should telephone the Share Information Office on 0272

272272. This facility is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Tom went on to say: "Flotation is expected to be in late November and anyone who expects to be away from home at that time should telephone the Helpline as special arrangements can be made."

Employee guides to the share offers are due to be posted out to all members of staff on October 15, or earlier if possible.

"It is vital that your personal details on our records are accurate to ensure you receive information about the share offers and an application form.



Manning the Employee Helpline (l-r) Gill Farren, Tom Hamilton and Don Roxburgh.

If you have not already done so please return the form which was recently sent to you for checking," said Don Roxburgh.

Special Roadshow presentations at Head Office and Districts will also get underway on October 15, highlighting the main points of the share offers and providing question and answer sessions. Every mem-

ber of staff will receive an invitation and details of which Roadshow to attend.

Staff who are in the current savings scheme with the National and Provincial Building Society will be contacted shortly regarding the arrangements for withdrawing their savings in time for the share offers.

Manweb sponsors concert series

MANWEB plc has announced sponsorship for the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra in the Manweb Tour '90.

The tour got underway on September 23 and will continue through October, with concerts in five towns - Newtown, Aberystwyth, Llandudno, Bangor and Mold. Manweb has arranged free tickets for local charities, and special discounts are also on offer, details of which are contained in leaflets available from Manweb shops in the areas where the concerts are being held. The first 25 customers to take these leaflets to the respective theatre box offices will receive two top price tickets for the price of one.

The Manweb Tour '90 continues the company's support for the arts in the region, following the highly successful sponsorship of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Summer Proms Season in June and July.

The programme is as follows:

Theatr Hafren, Newtown, Sunday September 23 at 7.45pm: Strauss Don Juan; Mozart Horn Concerto No 4 in E flat (K495); Elgar Introduction and Allegro; Beethoven, Symphony No 7. Great Hall, University College, Aberystwyth, Thursday October 25 at 8pm, and Pritchard Jones Hall, University College, Bangor, Saturday October 27 at 8pm: Ravel Mother Goose Suite; Ravel Piano Concerto in G; Tchaikovsky Symphony No 4.

Arcadia Theatre, Llandudno, Friday October 26 at 8pm, and Theatr Clwyd, Mold, Sunday October 28 at 8pm: Wagner Tannhauser Overture; Sibelius Violin Concerto; Tchaikovsky Symphony No 6 (Pathétique).

The concerts will be broadcast on BBC Radio Wales and BBC Radio Three later this year.



Series presenter Elin Rhys is pictured on location outside Manweb's Blaenau Ffestiniog shop.

Star roll for shop staff

THE cameras rolled in Blaenau Ffestiniog when the town's Manweb shop was chosen as a location for a new S4C Welsh language programme.

'Now You're Talking' is a series aimed at absolute beginners, and concentrates on real people filmed in real life situations.

"They wanted to show how you'd get on as a Welsh Speaker in a Manweb shop," said Shop Manager Mrs Lol Williams, who took part in the programme. "They filmed me asking a customer his address and filling in a form with him. As well as speaking they showed the form completed in Welsh."

Gwenda Griffith of series producers Fflic Media said: "Without the support of companies such as Manweb we would be struggling to create the authenticity which is vital to the success of the series. Language is a living commodity and does not exist in a vacuum."

Now You're Talking starts its run on Wednesday October 3 at 9.25 pm on S4C and will be repeated Sunday lunchtimes. Series presenter Elin Rhys is pictured on location outside Manweb's Blaenau Ffestiniog shop.

Depots get the green light

TWO more Manweb depots have "gone green" after receiving their first consignments of unleaded petrol from Shell.

Llangefni Depot on Anglesey was the company's fourth location to switch to lead-free fuel and following hard on its heels was Northwich Depot.

Manweb is forging ahead with a programme to convert all its petrol vehicles which are suitable.

The change-over at Northwich completes the lead-free pro-



gramme in Mid Cheshire District. The Depot's 1,500 gallon tank supplies 21 petrol cars and commercial vehicles, while a further 19 use diesel fuel.

At Llangefni, a 1,000 gallon tank supplies 16 petrol cars and commercial vehicles based on the island, and a further 21 run on

diesel. Manweb has a total fleet of more than 1,600 vehicles - around 950 petrol and the rest diesel - and the conversion programme is now more than half way to completion. In addition, all new petrol vehicles bought by the company run on unleaded fuel.

Mid Cheshire Mains Manager Paul Wilkinson was the first customer at Northwich Depot's "green" pump and is pictured (centre) filling up with lead-free petrol, helped by District Transport Supervisor Brian Johnson (right) and Shell Territory Manager Robert Sleemen.

Redundant refrigerators made 'ozone friendly'



HALTON'S Mayor, Councillor William Flynn, handed over the first batch of redundant refrigerators collected by the Borough Council to Manweb Service Engineer George Roberts, as part of a "green deal".

Old fridges from Council dumps will be disposed of safely by Manweb, and the company will extract and reclaim the ozone unfriendly 'cfc' gases at Queensferry Depot.

George said: "This is the first deal with an English Council whereby we take away these old models and render them safe. Until a new ozone friendly gas is found, it seems sensible to reclaim the chlorofluorocarbon gases and return them to the manufacturer for recycling."

Recovery

The Manweb 'cfc' recovery unit opened in August 1979. The company takes away old refrigerators free of charge for customers buying new ones from our shops.

Other local authorities to enter into similar deals to dispose of their redundant refrigerators are Rhuddlan, Wrexham Maelor, Aberconwy, Glynwyr and Colwyn Councils in Wales.

George Roberts is pictured (left) taking delivery of Halton's first batch of old fridges from the Mayor, Councillor William Flynn (centre), and Arthur Cole, Chairman of the Council's Health Committee.

Diary dates

NORTH Mersey District's annual LJCC Open Meeting will be held on Friday, October 26, at Everton Football Club, with entertainer Eddie Collington as the guest speaker.

Any retired members wishing to attend should contact the General Services Section on 051 530 1149, ext 2212.

Everton Football Club is also the venue for Liverpool District's LJCC Open Meeting on Thursday, November 15.

Retired staff should telephone General Services on 051 220 2545 for tickets.

Long service

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

40 years: Liverpool - Ted Kelly, Energy Marketing Assistant; Mid-Mersey - Margaret Ward, Administrative Assistant, Customer Accounts; Oswestry - Eric Barrow, Engineering Foreman.

30 years: Head Office - Jim Wilcock, Welfare Services Manager; John Bridge, Shift Leader, Computer Operations; North Mersey - Jimmy Bingham, Craftsman Electrician, Inspection; John Shevill, Sales Representative; North Wirral - Norman Bird, Craftsman Joiner.

20 years: Head Office - Susan Jones, Administrative Assistant; Neil Dunn, 3rd Engineer; Terry Brookshaw, Head of Power Procurement and Trading; John Edwards, 1st Engineer; Percy Hulmston, Storekeeper, Queensferry.

That will do nicely!

CONGRATULATIONS to Peter Nowlan, Manweb's Management Accountant, who has passed his final exams for the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants. Peter, who works in Corporate Finance, came from American Express to set up and run our budgeting systems and to keep an eye on what we spend during the year.



Golden years

CELEBRATING a golden occasion . . . Jim and Kathleen Foster are pictured drinking a toast on their 50th wedding anniversary.

The couple, who have two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandson, celebrated their special day with a family party.

Jim, 74, who was Mains Foreman at Northwich until

retiring 10 years ago, and Kathleen had a wartime wedding at Bewdley, Worcestershire, where he was stationed with the Royal Corps of Signal.

The couple first met at a dinner dance in Manchester and now live in Knutsford.

Jim, who several years ago was awarded a British Empire Medal for his service to the industry, started his career with the Mid Cheshire Power Company. On retirement he had clocked up 46 years' service.

First class



FEELING first class... that's Head Office 2nd Engineer Audie Murphy, who has proved himself to be an A-student!

Audie (pictured), who works in System Operation, Network Services, has gained a 1st class honours degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering following a four year part-time course at Liverpool Polytechnic.

He also won the Institution of Electrical Engineers' £50 prize for achieving the highest marks on the course.



"I can hardly believe I got a 1st class degree," said Audie. "It's been a lot of hard work and I've had a great deal of support from my colleagues at Manweb. It was all made possible by them."

Audie, 29, who joined Manweb straight from school 13 years ago, was encouraged to try for higher qualifications by Director, Network Services, Denis Farquhar, who was, at that time, Audie's manager in Technical Engineering.

The bright spark went from strength to strength, first gaining an OND then HND in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, before enrolling to take an Honours Degree.

But there was a catch. Audie was working with a team on an important engineering project and it was a proviso that the job wouldn't suffer while he was away on day release.

He said: "It became a joint effort for the Department, as my colleagues agreed to cover for me while I was at college one day a week. I'm really grateful for their support."

Progress

Mr Farquhar said: "There are no barriers to people making progress within the Manweb organisation. It's a super achievement for a part-time student.

"When Audie first came to work for me, I felt he was capable of gaining higher qualifications and becoming a member of the IEE. I allowed him part-time day release provided he did night study too and his colleagues agreed the project they were working on wouldn't suffer."

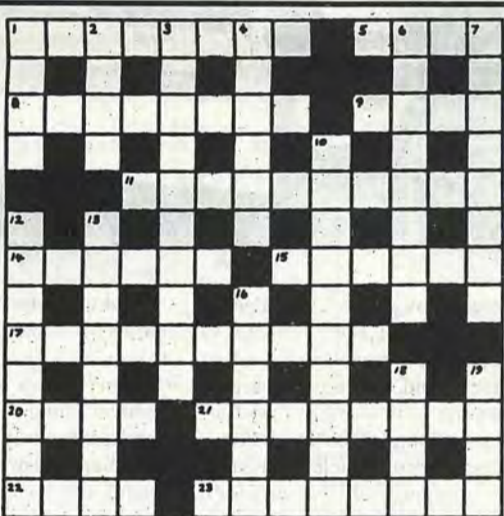
Crossword No. 25

ACROSS

1. Last you'll hear of that bird (4-4), 5. Some of them may be able to identify a girl (4), 8. The case of the strike-breaking poet (8), 9. Head off churchman in a short time (4), 11. Means to display top talent (10), 14. Turn dirt up and find it rotten (6), 15. Diarist finding heartless lady in the flat (6), 17. Worn-out story-line - bring on the nude! (10), 20. Good contrast (4), 21. You can't enjoy it with other people (8), 22. Isn't moved, one hears, at Charon's crossing (4), 23. Give up bean-bashing before the opening (8).

DOWN

1. Symbol of rank displayed in the window (4), 2. First man to appear in a crazy get-up (4), 3. It's a b— cabal organised to keep you off work for a spell! (10), 4. Land right inside - absolutely not! (6), 6. Spanish woman's cover till a man comes round (8), 7. Girl uttering vulgar cries causing offence (8), 10. Second award to team showing beef (10), 12. Don't see so much that's really clean (8), 13. Tiny tree trim-



ming that goes on for ever (8), 16. Take in from Jack's sphere (6), 18. Air of a girl who's lost her head (4), 19. Give up when sounding like a very good player (4).

Solution on page 12

Health bus is just the ticket!

KEEPING in peak condition was no problem for staff at North Mersey when South Sefton Health Authority's Bus paid them a visit.

The bus stayed at the Bridle Road District Office for four days, during which time nearly half the district's staff took the opportunity to have, among other things, their blood pressure checked and stamina assessed.

Office Manager Len Cornah came up with the idea, but handed the project over to Engineering Clerical Administrative Assistant Hilda Crompton when he broke his arm in a riding accident (see story page 6).

Hilda said: "We had a fantastic response from everyone and it was great to see the linesmen taking the time to come back to the office for their health checks."

As well as fitness tests the bus also features a computerised lifestyle survey, which covers stress, alcohol, smoking and a range of other topics. Counselling is given on test results.

Health Bus Supervisor/Driver Dave Tasker said: "We check everyone's blood pressure before we let them take the tests. If it's raised, or there are any other problems we can just put them through the totally confidential computer survey. If the results of either show problems we recommend they see their GP."

North Mersey are also arranging for a mobile cervical smear test service to visit the District Office later in the year.

As well as health screening programmes, the canteen in Bridle Road has recently gone health conscious with a host of wholesome foods, including "home-made" soups, wholemeal bread and a salad bar!

More information on the Health Bus and other health screening services is available from: Health Screening Services, Fazackerley Hospital, Longmoor Lane, Liverpool, L9 7AL. Tel: 051 529 3951.



Healthcare Trainee Phil Hyde checks Engineering Clerical Assistant Linda Wright's pulse.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE SENSATION

COMPREHENSIVE INTERMEDIATE SERVICE FOR YOUR CAR - PLUS

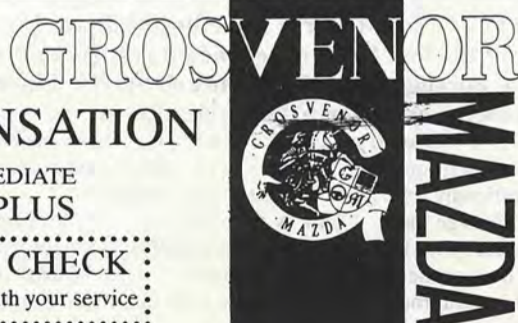
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Computer users get a mainframe booster

MANWEB has recently finalised a deal that has resulted in the upgrading of mainframe computing power to satisfy the company's projected requirements.

Following lengthy negotiations between Manweb and two computer mainframe suppliers; the decision was taken to buy an AMDAHL 5990-1400 to replace the existing IBM 3090-400S.

The installation of the AMDAHL took seven days to complete, with, in the final stages, all sub-systems having to be transferred from the IBM on a Saturday and Sunday.

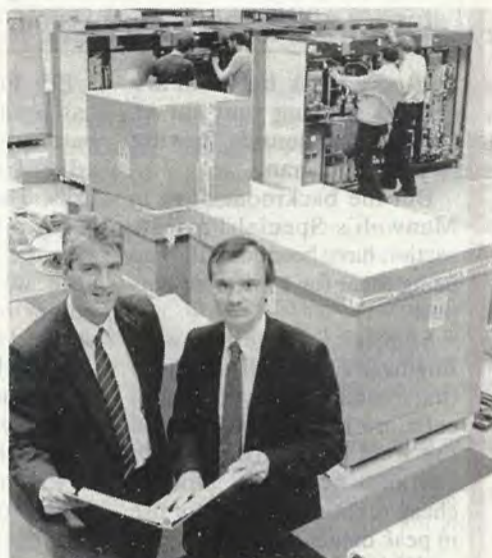
Manweb's Computer Operations Manager Mike Gibbs said: "The transfer of the sub-systems was a major exercise, which involved complex planning and a great deal of physical effort man-handling all the necessary cables, and resulted in the close down of

computer systems during the weekend.

"The installation was completed to schedule on the Sunday and following comprehensive operational tests all computer systems were brought on-line in readiness for normal business."

Following the installation, extensive trials have taken place to establish the extra power obtained from the AMDAHL machine.

The Data Centre is very satisfied with the new equipment. Mike Gibbs said: "The acquisition of the AMDAHL has resulted in both a substantial increase in mainframe computing power and much reduced



Work begins on installing the new equipment, much of which is still packed in boxes. Computer Operations Manager Mike Gibbs (left) and AMDAHL Field Manager Mike Baker consult the installation plan.



Installed and up-and-running . . . Shift Leader John Bridge tests the new computer mainframe.



Computer Operations Manager Mike Gibbs lends a hand during the installation of the AMDAHL.

Your life is at stake

'A TEENAGE workman had a lucky escape when he plunged 130ft from the Severn Bridge and lived. But one of his colleagues was killed and another is missing after a fall from a maintenance cradle where they were carrying out painting work'.

This was the introduction to an article in a local daily paper on September 5, 1990, and highlights the tragedies that can occur when working at heights from access platforms.

It is a timely reminder to all staff in Manweb who use access platforms, tower wagons, scaffolds and the like of the need to have a safe system of work.

There are a number of basic rules which must be observed when working on any such platform.

If the platform is power operated, such as a tower wagon used for street lighting purposes or an access platform such as the one used at Head Office for inspecting the building and cleaning the windows, the person operating it must be trained and have a certificate to prove this.

Each time the platform is used, a visual inspection must be made and any instructions issued by the Company or by the manufacturer must be strictly adhered to. Safety harnesses must also be worn.

When working on a scaffold, this equipment must have been built and inspected by an authorised and competent person, and constructed to comply with current legislation. Again, a visual check should be made by the people working on the scaffold every time it is used.

Finally, it is also important to use appropriate personal protective equipment, such as helmets and gloves.

Observing these simple rules may prevent a similar tragedy to the one on the Severn Bridge.



Oswestry District Manager Lyn Price (right) receives the Safety Shield from Head of Human Resources David Vernon-Smith (left), watched by Derek Jackson, 1st Engineer, Safety.

Oswestry plays it safe!

OSWESTRY District was the winner of the 1989/90 Inter-District Safety Competition, with Gwynedd as runner-up. A shield was presented to District Manager Lyn Price by Head of Human Resources David Vernon-Smith at a meeting of the Oswestry Safety Committee.

The competition was judged on five elements:

- * Lost time reportable accident rate for industrial staff (accidents per 100 employees, involving absence from work for more than three days).

- * The number of site and depot inspections per safety representative and also the number of original safety initiatives introduced during the year.

- * The communication of safety information to the District staff by means of local health and safety circulars and local information on the publication 'Safety Review'.

- * The quality of depot and site housekeeping found during safety audits.

- * The issue, wearing and condition of personal protective equipment (helmets, goggles,

gloves etc) observed during safety audits.

Each element was awarded up to a maximum 20 points and Oswestry won with a score of 74. Gwynedd District was a close second with 69 points.

The competition was judged by the Corporate Safety Section and will be repeated this current financial year.

Corporate Health and Safety Manager Colin Herbert said: "The elements of the competition will be changed slightly and we hope to have an external judge to help us in our deliberations.

"One element where all Districts will be able to improve on their score is on the communication of safety and promotion of safety initiatives, an area in which they have had relatively poor results.

"Local Health and Safety Committees can play a vital role in this very important area. So, come on HESACs - see what you can do!"

A focal point for important issues

FOLLOWING a recommendation by the Committee for Safety Initiatives, safety notice boards (known as Safety Stations) have now been manufactured and distributed to all Districts and Head Office.

They were manufactured by the Display Section at Office and Bill Swann, Display Supervisor, suggested the title used on the boards, "Concerning Safety".

The Safety Initiatives Committee feels the new boards will be an important focal point for health and safety information and will help

increase the safety awareness of staff.

Corporate Health and Safety Manager Colin Herbert said: "It is hoped that safety representatives will take responsibility for servicing the boards and the quality of the final product will be judged as part of this year's Inter-District Safety Competition."

GATWICK TRAVELLERS

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

Navy lark

IT was a single girl's dream come true. . . Two hundred officers and crew of HMS Broadsword on an official visit to Chester and looking for unattached young ladies to accompany them to a dance, being held in their honour, at the Town Hall!

That old saying "all the nice girls love a sailor" is obviously true, if the response to the 'call up' for the dance is anything to go by. The Mayor's Secretary, who wrote to local businesses seeking volunteers, found it plain sailing to recruit the required number of females.

In fact, she had so many replies that only a handful of Manweb lasses were able to attend. The rest missed the boat...

Good news

GOOD news travels fast and if a letter recently received at Head Office is anything to go by it also travels far.

Interest in Manweb's CFC recovery equipment came from a company in Brunei in South East Asia!

It may be a little too far to bring refrigerators all the way to Queensferry, but Appliance Servicing are passing on details!

On the wire



Back in the saddle!

A BROKEN arm didn't stop North Mersey Office Manager Len Cornah taking part in the health screening sessions he organised recently at his District Office.

Pictured here on an exercise bike, the last time Len was in the saddle was on a horse which unfortunately led to a serious broken arm.

"Apparently the horse decided to go under a low branch and I broke two bones in my arm!" he said.

After a spell of sick leave, Len is now back at work and his arm is on the mend.



ABERYSTWYTH Energy Sales Assistant Tomos Davies obviously took his boss at his word when he was told to improve the quality of his sales leads. "This isn't quite what I had in mind", said Energy Sales Manager Allen Carr, who sent us the above photograph of Tomos (right) apparently in pursuit of a princely order!

He'll be over the moon

ANY plans for newly-appointed Under-Secretary for Energy Colin Moynihan to visit the regional electricity companies have not yet been revealed.

However, the former Sports Minister, who considered an identity card system for football grounds, may be impressed with a similar entry system operating at

Manweb's Head Office "turnstile"!

He shouldn't have any problem finding Manweb... straight on past the old Chester F.C. ground, Col!

Backroom boy new

IN the first of a series of articles focusing on Network Services' Special Projects section Graeme Cooper looks at developments in energy storage and signal transmission.

You may think batteries are just for starting your car or keeping the sounds flowing in your walkman.

But the backroom boys in Manweb's Special Projects section have been looking into using them for a different purpose.

Special Developments Engineer Eric Fisher explains that rechargeable electrical cells are being used to level the load on Manweb's low voltage network, storing cheap night-rate power for use in peak demand periods.

"We're trying out the batteries in the Box Lane Substation in Wrexham," says Eric. "The batteries we're using are lead-acid - the type usually used for powering electric vehicles. These were the only ones robust enough to stand the heavy charge-discharge cycle."

Using rechargeable batteries for network supply is not a new idea.

Systems are already in existence in the USA and West Germany, but these are all large installations.

However, Manweb's use of the cells - as peak-time "slaves" to the main LV network is relatively unexplored territory, and has attracted interest from various sectors of industry.

Special Developments has been working with Chloride Silent Power - of which Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston is a director - on installing more efficient new generation sodium sulphur batteries in substations.

It is hoped that the new generation cells can be used in the Box Lane pilot installation as soon as they become available.

Eric Fisher explains: "There has been a major advance in battery technology with the advent of sodium sulphur cells. These batteries are now being manufactured and will soon be commercially available with three times the power output for the same physical size as lead acid."

Using battery load levelling units causes no local pollution and they are silent in operation, enabling them to be sited in urban areas, or in customers' own premises.

Large numbers of units could be sited in suitable low voltage substations or purpose-built installations. Their size and location can easily be varied to meet load requirements.

The Box Lane site has been up and running since mid June, ironing out teething problems in preparation for load levelling operations over the winter months. The findings are to be presented at an international conference next year.

As a spin-off to the battery energy storage scheme Development Engineer David Russell has been looking into other energy storage systems.

Pump water storage is a well established technology with Gridco's major pumped storage plant at Dinorwig.

However, the high energy levels needed to make this method worthwhile may be too great for Manweb to utilise it. Compressed air stored in underground cavities offers an alternative method of storing off peak power on a smaller scale.

Looking further into the future, superconducting magnets offer great potential for storing electrical energy.



Eric Fisher is pictured

But, says David, "I would appear on the surface to be something of a pipe dream! Before any practical systems are in operation so formidable technical and economic obstacles need overcoming!"

One Special Development scheme which is very certainly not a pipe dream is use of mains cables to transmit information.

In Britain electricity transmitted through the system at 50 hertz. But same lines can be used to other signals at higher frequencies, which do not disturb the 50 hertz signal.

Manweb has used

Manweb wins special award

MANWEB'S sponsorship of Premier Theatre Company's 'Deadly Games' safety play has won an award in a Government scheme to encourage businesses to support the arts.

The production - aimed at children - toured schools in Merseyside and North Wales and delivered the serious message that fooling with electricity can kill.

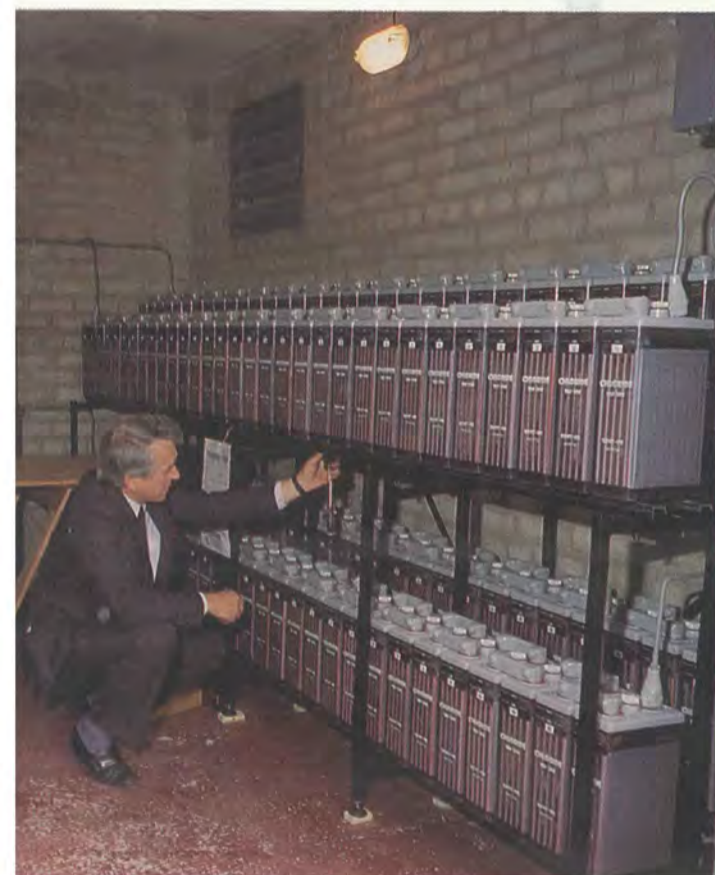
The sponsorship was organised by Manweb's Public Relations Department, and Corporate Health and Safety Manager Colin Herbert worked with Liverpool-based Premier on producing a detailed teacher's pack to accompany the production.

Manweb's award was made under the Government Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme which is administered by the independent Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts.

Public Relations Officer Gaynor Kenyon is pictured receiving the award certificate from the then Minister for the Arts Richard Luce at a ceremony in London.



's explore territory...



Working the batteries in Box Lane Substation.

"cyclo control" method successfully to provide remote switching for heating flats. This helped local councils on Merseyside ensure their tower blocks were kept adequately heated.

Development Engineer David Russell says that Manweb are looking at more sophisticated methods of transmitting information using the 11kV cable network. Working in collaboration with manufacturers Manweb is developing a method of allowing a pair of its Microprocessor Protection Relays to communicate with each other without using British Telecom leased lines as a data link.

Using special electronic devices called modems, signals are put onto an 11kV cable, sent up to 5km along the cable and then received by another modem. The connection to the cable is achieved using novel capacitive and inductive coupling techniques still under development. Early testing has shown promise with work now progressing to improve the coupling and optimise the signalling electronics.

With further refinements the signaling system could be used to control any electrical equipment, and could even be used for remote metering reading through the low voltage network.

Success on a plate

IT was success on a plate when Manweb's Director, Network Services, Denis Farquhar organised two charity barbecues at his Frodsham home.

Held on successive weekends, the barbecues raised £1,600 for St John's Hospice, Clatterbridge, and £1,300 for the Institution of Electrical Engineers Benevolent Fund.

It is the third year running that Mr Farquhar and his wife Anne, a former voluntary nurse at St John's Hospice, have 'cooked up' fund-raising events for both charities, and the fourth time they have held a barbecue in aid of the IEE.

Delighted

As on previous occasions Mr Farquhar enlisted the support of friends and colleagues from Manweb to run the bar, grill the steaks and generally help out.

Mr Farquhar said: "Both barbecues went extremely well and we were delighted with the amounts raised at each."

On both occasions guests were entertained by a local jazz band, and draws were held for prizes donated by Manweb customers and suppliers. In addition, a microwave oven was auctioned off at the first barbecue, with the proceeds being split between the two charities.



Above: A trio of chefs help prepare a feast of baked beans and sausages. Pictured cooking up a treat are left to right Sandra Park, Sandra Abel and husband Geoff, North Wirral District Manager.

Below: Chris Lloyd and Alison Caulfield earn their "crust" on bread and butter duty.



Cheers! Mid Mersey Mains Manager Barry Judd (left) and Head of Customer Marketing Bob Hodson man the bar.



Holiday bonus is in store for lucky Islwyn

TREGARTH man Islwyn Jones returned from a holiday in Africa to find he'd won another holiday in a Manweb competition!

The prize - £1,500 worth of travel with AT Mays - went to Islwyn's business, Dob Electrical of Valwyn, Tregarth, in a Manweb TradePartners draw.

To join the Trade Partners scheme, electrical companies must conform with stringent professional standards. They then benefit from a range of Manweb services.

Receiving his prize with wife Valerie at the Stables Hotel and Restaurant in Llanwnda, near Caernarfon, Islwyn said: "We're delighted to have won such a marvellous prize. We'll probably take a relaxing holiday later in the year."

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George Masters
George Masters Sales Manager

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mazda
Building Excitement

Man boys explore new territory...



Eric Fisher is pictured checking the batteries in Box Lane Substation.

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Build

Picture power



Eastern promise

AH so! Manweb's Malcolm Whalley samples a taste of Oriental hospitality during a ceremony to mark the start of construction work for the new Toyota engine manufacturing plant on Deeside Industrial Park.

VIPs from Japan included Mr Tatsuro Toyoda, Executive Vice President of the Toyota Motor Corporation.

Malcolm, Supply Manager in Tariffs and Customer Contracts, is pictured receiving a celebratory cup of sake from Mr A. Fujiwara, of Toyota Motor Company, Derby.



STAFF from Mid Mersey District manned the Manweb caravan at the recent St. Helens Show. Energy Sales Manager Bill Hatton is pictured with two young visitors to the Manweb display, sisters Diane and Susan Appleton from Rainhill, who entered the Economy 7 Great Balloon Race.

Prizes galore

THERE were prizes galore when Manweb's Birkenhead shop held a fund-raising extravaganza in aid of the recent ITV Telethon '90.

Shop Manager Mark Astbury is pictured presenting a Vax cleaner, tumble drier, washing machine and fridge-freezer respectively to (left to right) customers Angela Smith, of Briardale Road, Birkenhead, Sue McDonald, of Saxon Way, Blacon, Chester, Norma Jones, of Bassenthwaite Avenue, Birkenhead, and Susan Blythe, of Parkhill Road, Prenton.



Energy Efficiency is rewarded

CIVIC Shield awards were presented by Gwynedd District to Ynys Mon Council for energy efficiency at several of their housing sites. The sites, comprising a total 71 properties, are at Tyddyn Mostyn; Menai Bridge; New Street, Beaumaris; Tan-yr-Efail, Holyhead; Maes Gwenfor, Rhydywyn; Maes Maethlu, Llanfaethlu, and Maes Cynfor, Cemaes Bay.

Manweb Senior Marketing Representative J. Howard Hughes (left), Gwynedd Energy Sales Manager Doug Barnes (3rd from the left) and District Manager Dick Owen (far right) are pictured presenting the awards to Hefin Roberts and Vince Kitching, of the Council's Housing and Property Department, and Clerk of Works Allen Roberts.

Serving up a surprise

BBC radio presenter Norman Thomas 'cooked up' a surprise for Manweb customers when he visited Warrington shop.

Norman was promoting his cook book "One Man and His Pan", sponsored by Manweb. He toured several of our shops to autograph copies of the book, which sells at £4.95.

Pictured at the book-signing ceremony at Warrington shop are (left to right) Assistant Manageress (temporary) Dawn Goulden, Manageress (temporary) Dorothy Litherland, Norman Thomas, and customers Jenny and Olive Andrews.



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What's new?

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.	

Hooked on a fishy hobby!

FOR John Bailey a goldfish in a bowl on the sideboard just isn't good enough. The Hoylake Senior Electrical Instructor has an 18 x 8 ft pond full of nearly 30 Japanese Koi carp in the garden of his Neston home.

A self-confessed Koi nut, John became hooked on Koi about 12 months ago.

"You suddenly see this brightly coloured fish and that's it!" says John. "I joined the Wirral section of the National Koi Carp Society, and we have regular meetings and trips to see fish."

Jewels

In spite of the popularity of Koi in Britain, many of the fish are still imported from Japan, where the breeding of Koi, or "living jewels" as enthusiasts sometimes refer to them, was refined to an art.

Israel is developing as a breeder of Koi, but for John's money Japan still has the edge.

For shows and judging 13 groupings of Koi have been established, identified by their different colourings

"Probably the most popular variety is the Kohaku, which has red and white 'rising sun' markings, and is known as the 'fish of Japan'," says John. "There's a saying that keeping Koi, people start out with Kohaku and end with Kohaku."

As well as the 'fish of Japan', John has other varieties such as Goshiki and Taisho Sanke in his collection.

The secret of successful Koi keeping according to John is making sure the water is correct. His own pond holds 3,600 gallons of water, all of which passes through a filtration system every three hours.

"The other thing is temperature," he says. "In winter I actually use Economy 7 at night to keep the temperature constant at about 50°F!"

"The fish can cope with cold weather, but don't like drawn-out European winters; in Japan it gets extremely cold, but for shorter spells.

Although it is possible to breed Koi in heated ponds, John prefers to buy in his fish from specialist dealers who import from Japan.

It can be an expensive hobby, with individual fish costing hundreds, sometimes thousands of pounds.

But even with such an expensive investment in his garden, John says that keeping the fish safe from predators isn't too great a problem.

"There's a net above which keeps the herons off, and a couple of crows which nest in nearby trees give excellent air cover - they chase everything away!" says John.

Cats show interest, but have not tried to take fish - possibly intimidated by the size of John's Koi, which grow to two and a half feet, and can live for 50 years.

Scared

Only in severe weather are other animals a problem. John recalls a friend being scared out of his wits late one night by a huge white barn owl rising screeching from the pond.

"The owl had obviously gone for the fish and hit the protective netting," says John. "Still, my pal didn't half shift!"

Thankfully such incidents are rare, and little disrupts the tranquility of the pond, set in what could almost be a Japanese temple garden, with its pagodas and bonsai trees.

"After getting interested in the Koi, I decided to complete the job, and took up bonsai trees," says John.

His collection includes an impressive Kyohine dwarf maple, bought by John with his Manweb award when he recently celebrated 40 years in the electricity supply industry.

Despite his interest in bonsai, John's first love is his fish, and he joined fellow enthusiasts for the 20th anniversary of the British Koi Carp Society at Billing Aquadrome near Northampton in August.



John and finny friend.

Report: Graeme Cooper

Photos: Adrian Chesworth



The pond is set in an ornamental Japanese-style garden.

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Manweb

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has been failure to give the customer quality and satisfaction and that you have tried constructively to take action without success, why not let me know. Together we might try with more success.

Dennis Fricker,
Quality Manager,
Network Services,
Room 3E1,
Head Office (int. ext. 2244).



Top chefs turn on the heat

THE heat is on in the search for the 1991 Welsh Chef of the Year.

A top prize of £1,000 is at stake in the prestigious culinary contest, which is sponsored by Manweb plc and South Wales Electricity plc in conjunction with Taste of Wales Ltd and the Cookery and Food Association.

Hotels and restaurants throughout Wales are being invited to enter their top chefs, and heats will be held in North, Mid and South Wales during November, with the grand final during the Welsh Trade Catering Exhibition at the Aberconwy Centre, Llandudno, in early February.

In addition a Young Welsh Chef of the Year stands to win a first prize of £250.

Organiser Judith McIntyre, Manweb Commercial Sales Development Engineer, said: "Chefs in

Wales once again have the chance to display their culinary skills and personal expertise. There is plenty of talent throughout Wales and, in view of the growth in tourism, they have the opportunity to show their individuality and promote the excellence of Welsh cuisine."

Contenders will be challenged to produce a mouth-watering three course meal for four at a cost of no more than £30.

Manweb's Head of Energy Marketing Bryan Ogden is pictured at prestigious Bodysgallen Hall Hotel, Llandudno, during the launch of the competition, sampling dishes cooked up by 1990 Young Welsh Chef David Thompson (centre) and 1988 Welsh Chef of the Year Stuart Langfield.

CHOOSE chicken and you can't go wrong! It's a favourite with just about everyone, reasonably priced, available everywhere and sold in any cut you fancy. Fresh chicken has more flavour and texture than a frozen one, and you should also thaw frozen chicken thoroughly before cooking. Slow thawing in the fridge is the best way. Use uncooked poultry within two days of buying, and keep refrigerated.

CHICKEN VEGETABLE PIE (serves 4)

Chicken pieces smothered in a quick and easy

sauce, with a vegetable topping like a pie crust.

3 tbsp oil; 4 chicken pieces, skinned; 1 small aubergine, sliced; 1 clove garlic, crushed; 8oz (225g) cream cheese; 1/2 pint (150ml) milk; salt and pepper; 4oz (100g) courgettes, sliced; 1 red pepper, sliced into rings and seeded; 1 yellow pepper, sliced into rings and seeded; 1oz (25g) mozzarella cheese.

Pre-heat the oven to 180C, 350F, mark 4. Heat one tablespoon of oil in a frying pan, add the chicken and fry for eight minutes on each side. Remove from the pan and arrange in a shallow baking dish. Add the remaining oil and fry the aubergine slices until golden. Drain well.

Place the garlic, cream cheese and milk in a pan and heat until smooth. Season with salt and pepper and pour over chicken.

Arrange rows of aubergine, courgette and pepper slices on top of chicken. Sprinkle with grated mozzarella and bake for 45 minutes. Serve with creamed potatoes.

CHEESE AND CRUMB TOPPED CHICKEN (serves 2)

A supper dish just made for two. If there's four - simply double up the quantity.

2 chicken pieces, skinned; 2 black peppercorns; 1 bay leaf; 1 small onion, peeled and quartered; thinly pared rind of half a lemon; 8oz (225g) broccoli, trimmed into small pieces; 1oz (25g) butter; 1oz (25g) plain flour; 2oz (50g) Cheddar cheese, grated; salt and pepper; pinch of grated nutmeg; 1oz (25g) white breadcrumbs.

Put the chicken pieces in a pan with the peppercorns, bay leaf, onion and lemon rind. Barely cover with cold water, bring to the boil and simmer for 40 minutes until tender. Remove chicken and

keep warm. Boil the stock until reduced to 1/2 pint (300ml), strain and bring back to the boil. Add the broccoli and cook for four to five minutes until tender. Drain and reserve stock.

Melt the butter, stir in the flour and cook for one minute, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat and gradually stir in half the cheese and season with salt, pepper and nutmeg. Arrange the chicken and broccoli in a shallow oven-proof serving dish, pour the sauce over. Mix together the remaining cheese and breadcrumbs and sprinkle over. Cook under pre-heated grill until golden-brown and bubbling.

PLUM-GLAZED STUFFED CHICKEN (serves 4)

If you don't have time to remove the bone from the chicken legs, serve the stuffing alongside the chicken.

1oz (25g) butter; 1 clove garlic, crushed; 1 small onion, finely chopped; 2 rashers streaky bacon, de-rinded; 1/2in (12mm) piece of fresh ginger, peeled and grated; 1oz (25g) chopped mixed nuts; 2 tbsp chopped parsley; 14oz can (400g) plum halves, drained with juice reserved; salt and pepper; 4 chicken legs; 1 tsp clear honey; 1 tsp corn flour; 1 tsp malt vinegar; 2 tbsp oil.

To make the stuffing, melt the butter in a saucepan, add the garlic, onion and bacon and fry for five minutes or until onion is soft. Add the ginger and cook for a further minute. Remove from the heat and stir in the nuts, parsley and one chopped plum half. Season.

Make a small cut in the thigh end of each chicken leg and gradually scrape the flesh down the bone. Take out the thigh bone and spoon a little stuffing into each cavity. Carefully fold over to enclose stuffing and sew up

neatly with thick cotton thread.

Pre-heat oven to 200C, 400F, mark 6. Puree the remaining plums with 1/4 pint (150ml) plum juice, honey, corn flour and vinegar in a blender or food processor. Heat the oil in a 2 pint (1.2 litre) flameproof casserole and fry the chicken for eight minutes on each side. Drain off excess fat then pour the plum sauce over the chicken. Cover and bake for 30-35 minutes or until tender. Remove the thread and serve with noodles and green beans.

GOLDEN CHICKEN AND RICE (serves 4)

1oz (25g) butter; 2 tbsp oil; 4 chicken pieces; 1 clove garlic, crushed; 1 bunch spring onions, trimmed and sliced; 4oz (100g) button mushrooms; 1/2 tsp ground cumin; 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon; 8oz (225g) long grain rice; 1 pint (600ml) chicken stock; 1oz (25g) sultanas; salt and pepper; 1oz (25g) toasted nibbed or chopped almonds; 1 tbsp chopped coriander or parsley; lemon wedges, fresh coriander or parsley to garnish.

Heat the butter and oil in a large frying pan and brown the chicken pieces for eight minutes on each side. Remove from the pan and keep on one side. Add the garlic, spring onions, mushrooms and spices to the pan and cook gently for about two minutes.

Return the chicken to the pan with the rice, stock, sultanas, salt and pepper. Bring to the boil, stir and cover. Reduce the heat and simmer for 25 to 30 minutes until the chicken is cooked right through and the rice is tender.

Stir in the almonds and chopped coriander or parsley. Serve garnished with lemon wedges and a little coriander or parsley.



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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 entertainments, 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.

FOR SALE

Camera - Fujica STX-1, 35mm SLR, manual, TTL metering, inc. case, £60 ono. Contact S. Davieson 0270 583983.

Guitar - Hofner Senator Acoustic, £50. Sanyo Speakers, 30 wpc, £25, Acoustic Research Speakers, 60 wpc, £65. Telephone 051-653 3416.

Ridge Tent - Sleeps five. Extended flysheet with pvc windows to give dining area. As new, £65. Contact John Yale at Crewe Garage, int. ext. 2239, or 0270 841839.

Racing Yacht - 14ft "Mirror Marauder". Proctor mast and spars, flying trapeze and harness. Spinaker, main jib and Genoa sails. New mast up cover, launching and trolley trailer. Immaculate, £595 ono. Telephone Southport (0704) 213489.

Difficulty Walking? - Lark three-wheel battery car. Two speeds and reverse, gadgets in front for opening doors. Instructions and charger, £450 ono. Room wanted. Contact R. Gwynant Jones on 0766 830 621.

Sideboard - melamine with two small drawers, 2 sliding cupboards and writing drop-downs. Also tiled top coffee table. All in good condition. Only £45 the lot. Contact Mrs. M. James on 051-647 4821.

Pram - Silver Cross with accessories £40, carrycot and stand £20, high chair (converts to swing) £10, wooden playpen with floor and mat £20, Cindico Dovedown buggy and cover £40. Lots of other bits and pieces available at very reasonable prices. No reasonable offer refused for listed items. Contact Chris Tigwell on int. ext. 720 2173 or 051-430 9947 after 5 p.m.

CARS FOR SALE

Astra SRI - 24,000 miles, F-reg. Glacier white, superb condition. Lease car forces sale. £6,250. Contact L. Purcell on Dee Valley int. ext. 2253.

Vauxhall Nova - 1.0, all white with white trims, A-reg, May '84. Tax and MOT until August '91. Very nippy, £2,800. Lady owner. Contact Jane Bowers on Liverpool int. ext. 2240 (051-254 1320) or 0744 816149 after 5 p.m.

DRIVING TUITION

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Escort - 11.3GL, 1984. 61,000 miles, Ocean Blue. XR3i steering wheel and alloys. Taxed, tested. Quad digital stereo and graphic equaliser, 2 alarms, spots. Excellent condition throughout. £2,000 ono. Phone Leah at Garston Shop, ext 2385, or Peter on 051-489 7672 after 6 p.m.

WANTED

A nice, kind, generous person who has (or has access to) BSB to record vintage Dr. Who each week for somebody too young to remember it first time around! Generous recording fee to be negotiated. Telephone Dave on Head Office int. ext. 3504.

PERSONAL

The Blakeys - rock band available for gigs. Discount for staff. Cassette out now, £3.50 - buy it! Contact W. Williams on 051-653 8644.

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



Kick-off for soccer sponsorship



MANWEB plc has been named as the sole sponsor for the Football Association of Wales' new Cymru Alliance League.

The Manweb Cymru Alliance sponsorship agreement is initially for 1990/91, and an option on the next two seasons makes the package potentially worth £25,000.

In the swing

DISTRICT Transport Supervisor Dennis Vaughan proved he was really in the swing of things when he took first place in Gwynedd District Golf Club's annual contest for the Cefni Shield.

The competition was held at Baron Hill, Beaumaris, on July 28, and 22 players from Pwllheli, Llangeifni and Caernarfon took part.

Dennis won the Shield and 1st Engineer Dave Jones, of Network Services (Supplies), took second place. Third was Len Roberts, 1st Engineer Network Services (Mains, Anglesey Section), and in fourth place was Dave Williams, Craft Attendant Network Services (Mains, Caernarfon Section).

The next event is the Trydan Cup, due to be held during September, and another good turnout is expected.

Bridge contest

NUCLEAR Electric is to host the 15th annual ESI Bridge Tournament at its Barnwood headquarters on Saturday, October 6.

Details of the programme are still being finalised, but more than 200 people are expected to play 48 hands each throughout the afternoon and evening for the first prize - the traditional ESI Bridge Rosebowl.

Crossword solution

Across: 1 Swan-song, 5 Emma, 8 Scabbard, 9 Anon, 11 Capability, 14 Putrid, 15 Evelyn, 17 Threadbare, 20 Evil, 21 Solitude, 22 Styx, 23 Abnegate.

Down: 1 Sash, 2 Adam, 3 Sabbatical, 4 Norway, 6 Mantiila, 7 Annoying, 10 Silverside, 12 Spotless, 13 Eternity, 16 Absorb, 18 Aura, 19 Cede.

The sponsorship marks a major increase in Manweb's involvement with Association Football in Wales. For the last three seasons, the company has been allied with the Central Wales League.

The Manweb Cymru Alliance has equal status to the Abacus League, which covers South Wales, and should help end the isolation of smaller leagues in the north.

The FA's eventual objective is to have a new all Welsh league fed by the Manweb and Abacus Leagues in operation by 1992.

Delighted

Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston said: "As a company whose business it is to serve the region in which it is based, Manweb has a vested interest in putting something back into the community.

"Football is a popular pursuit for many of our customers in North and Mid Wales and it is they who will benefit from our support of

by
Sam Doughty

the new league. We are delighted to be able to help the Football Association of Wales create a higher standard of competition for some of the top clubs in the northern half of Wales."

The 14 clubs involved in the league are Caersws, Carno, Connah's Quay Nomads, Conwy United, Flint Town United, Gresford Athletic, Holywell Town, Lex XI, Llanidloes Town, Mold Alexandra, Mostyn, Penrhynoch, Porthmadog and Welshpool.

Pictured below signing the sponsorship deal at Wrexham Football Club are (l-r) Football Association of Wales President Tommy R. Force, Elfed Ellis, Chairman of the new League and Vice President of the Football Association of Wales, Manweb's Dee Valley District Manager Dr Jim McLennan and Gwynedd District Manager Dick Owen.



LIFE in the fast lane holds no fears for Manweb Junior Admin Trainee Tracy Murray. Tracy, who works in the Personnel Section of Human Resources, at Head Office, spends much of her spare time behind the wheel of her car competing in grass track and banger racing. This is her story...

Thrills and spills

THE thrills and spills of autograss racing is a sporting pastime that has become a major attraction on the North Wales coast, writes Tracy Murray.

Rhuddlan Autograss Club holds fortnightly meetings of grass track and banger racing at their new venue, Pydew Farm, Meliden, near Prestatyn.

Grass track racing is predominantly a non-contact sport involving specially built vehicles designed to each driver's personal requirements within the racing class specifications.

My car is an Escort 1300 Sports, with full RAC rally-approved roll cage. The windows and interior are pulled out, leaving just the driver's seat and dash panel, and a metal grill on the window. The doors are welded up and far removed to the back to allow better circulation of air. The petrol tank has been taken out and a small motorbike tank fixed into the boot.

Chunky

The car is fitted with chunky tyres for better grip, and I wear full harness, helmet and overalls when racing.

Grass track racing at each event is complemented with banger racing, a totally separate sporting thrill where spills and contact are the norm, producing hair-raising encounters between



Approaching the chequered flag. Tracy is pictured tearing towards the finish line in her super-car, sporting Manweb logos. (Photo by Gareth Owen, Wayleaves).

drivers attempting to push and shove each other out of the way and edge through to the chequered flag. It is very exciting for spectators.

Banger racing is very much the fun end of the sport, but still produces very stiff competition. The cost of preparing a car is very low - you need to find an MOT failure, strip it and fit a roll cage. Only the driver's compartment may be strengthened and no armour is allowed.

I race in a ladies class, and there are five other lady drivers. At each event I have four races throughout the day of five laps each, and trophies and points are awarded in each race for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. These points also count towards a league and end of year trophy.

This is my second season and it is proving very successful. I am currently in second place in the league, with a shelf full of trophies.

I get very nervous before the first race of the day. The adrenalin pumps through my veins and my heart pounds when

I am on the starting grid.

The weather affects the condition of the track. If dry, it is very dusty and difficult for the drivers to see ahead. Dust is created by the speeding cars, so the track has to be wetted by a water bowser. This can make the track slippery and muddy and the car is difficult to handle. The track is carefully laid out in an oval shape with a small chicane, and there is maximum viewing for spectators. Safety factors are rigidly adhered to with marshalling arrangements kept to high standards. St John Ambulance is on voluntary duty.

Feast

Rhuddlan Autograss Club had an Annual Charity Fun Day on August 26, and provided a real feast of racing, both serious and with a touch of humour. There were musical cars, a three-legged race (three cars tied together and racing around) and tug of war car teams.

Other racing tracks in the area are on Anglesey, at Llay, near Wrexham, and at Crewe.

Adrenalin pumps through my veins and my heart pounds



Tracy Murray with some of the trophies she has collected in just two seasons