



Millennium ride raises thousands for charity. Full story on page 24.

NETWORK



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	The Living Values awards		Driving a great deal		A jointer's day		Southern staff go to the gala



David Socha, Editor

Hello and welcome from a new editor. Angela Thomson, who normally sits in this seat, is on maternity leave (mother and new son both well) so for the moment, I've taken up the challenge of editing your magazine.

As we mentioned last issue, we've been talking to staff all across Power Systems about how we could improve *Network*. That process is almost finished – look out for more info next time. I've already managed a few 'tweaks' to this issue on the strength of things you've told us. Rest assured they won't be the last. Oh, and if you have anything to say on the subject and we haven't talked to you already, please do get in touch.

In this magazine we report on the recent Living Values awards, held in Liverpool. The lengths Power Systems people will go to constantly amazes me and it's great to see some staff being rewarded through the Living Values scheme. This issue also looks at a fantastic new deal being offered by the Transport Business to all ScottishPower employees. Check out page 14 for details.

Finally, please remember if you have anything you think might be worth a slot in a future *Network*, please contact your local correspondent, or come to me direct. All our numbers are listed on this page.

Cheers!

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Cover: Glasgow's Neptune Water Tower – floodlighting supported by Power Systems (see page 3).

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GLASGOW'S SHINING LIGHT

GLASGOW'S Neptune Water Tower provided an amazing spectacle on the evening of 9 June, by shining light over the UK's City of Architecture and Design.

'The idea to fit the Cranhill Water Tower with floodlights came from the people of Glasgow,' says Tracey Chrystal, Community Relations Co-ordinator, who attended the official launch. 'Support for the project from organisations such as West of Scotland Water, Philip Lighting, Glasgow City Council Land Services, Greater Easterhouse Partnership, Glasgow 1999 and Power Systems helped to make their vision a reality.'

Clyde Region played an important part in the partnership by undertaking all the cabling and metering on a work-in-kind basis. 'Rather than simply handing over money, we wanted to help the community in a more constructive way,' says Tracey. 'As well as the Minor Connections Team, who worked on the job, our Regional Manager, Bill McClymont, also took time out of his own schedule to attend meetings and help drive the project forward.'

The Neptune Water Tower has been such a success that discussions are now underway to light up Glasgow's remaining water towers, continuing with the 'planets' theme. 'Obviously, this would involve a lot of time, effort and money,' says Tracey. 'But I feel that if the community partners can all pull together, eventually we can complete the galaxy!'

JOHN MENZIES

IT'S a busy time for Power Systems staff and there are many things happening.

For those of us who work at Cathcart, there will be all the necessary planning for our move to new premises at New Alderston House, Bellshill. While some staff will be inconvenienced by additional travel time, I believe we will all benefit from working together in this new business park environment.

A number of staff, from across the businesses, are currently working on the Business Review. They have been tasked with presenting me, and the executive team, with options for managing and operating Power Systems in the future to make it a better Business. They have been directed to review the main business processes and come forward with ideas to get a real focus on delivering high performance. I wish to give all staff an assurance that my intention is to strengthen the business to ensure overall success. I will initiate full communication on the outcome of the review when there is information available about the way we wish to move the Business forward.

I am delighted with the safety performance of the Business so far this year, particularly the accident-free month of June. We must never be complacent, however, and we must continue to focus on safety for both the public and our colleagues.

Work associated with the Price Review goes on and we are now in discussion with the Regulator about some of their proposals. These discussions are on track and we anticipate the final outcome will be known by the end of the year.



Power Points

Turning the tables for Network Management System



THE Network Management System was once described as ScottishPower's most 'at risk' Year 2000 compliance project. Thanks to a package of radical measures, all that has changed.

'There were insufficient project management skills, minor differences between the project team and supplier and serious technical difficulties,' says Barry Judd, who was appointed Year 2000 Project Sponsor at a meeting chaired by Robin MacLaren, then Chief Engineer, just before Christmas last year.

'There was a lot of work to be done. We managed to create a harmonious partnership with the contractor and we made the required project management skills available.'

The target: to commission on 3 May 1999, a date set almost 12 months previously.

All went well and until just a few days before, it appeared that commissioning would be fully successful. But at the eleventh hour, a major problem with third party propriety software was discovered.

Another crisis meeting. A minor revision to the scope. Bingo! On 26 May the new £2m investment was commissioned.

'Achieving delivery of this project meant much hard work by the project team,' says Barry Judd. 'The full co-operation of staff, suppliers and contractors has resulted in Manweb NMS being given a clean bill of health with regard to Year 2000 compliance.'

'This project was considered to be critical to the smooth rollover we are all working towards at the Millennium and I am delighted at the progress that has been made.'

Jim Parrish and Andrew Firth, Network Management Centre, Prenton recently took ownership of the compliant version of NMS from Barry Judd, Y2K Compliance Manager and Chris Dawkins of Syseca.



KEEP IT COMPLIANT

Keeping our systems Year 2000 ready is an essential priority. A huge amount of work has already gone into assessing and upgrading our business-critical systems to achieve Year 2000 compliance.

However, once a system achieves this status, the job doesn't stop there. An equal amount of effort is needed to maintain Y2K readiness.

It is vital to ensure that no-one inadvertently causes any system or component to become non-compliant through uncontrolled change. To do this, we need the active co-operation of all our colleagues.

This applies to all IS systems, from simple spreadsheets to large server applications such as TroubleCall. Hardware is also affected - including PCs, telecommunications equipment and network management tools such as ARGUS and NMS.

We need your help to ensure that changes to systems happen in a very controlled way. This control must include due consideration of any Year 2000 impact.

Work is well advanced in ensuring the Year 2000 Change Control Procedures are defined and implemented throughout our business. If you are thinking of change, whether it is a simple piece of new electronic test equipment, a new spreadsheet or a modification to a major business system, you need to let us know.

Please contact Year 2000 Programme Office on Hotline 805 2000.



Above: Cheshire's new Regional Manager, John Marsh (far right), got roped in at the Manweb/Action 2000 stand at the Business Connections Exhibition in Warrington. John assisted the Manweb team in making arrangements for customers to visit one of the seminars.



Right: Lesley Laird, Power Systems Y2K Communications Controller (right), meets the Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP, President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons (left) and Gwynneth Flower, Managing Director of Action 2000 (centre) at the launch of the Action 2000 Mentoring Scheme held at the House of Lords in April.

ScottishPower/Manweb are hosting a series of workshops as part of the scheme. These provide the opportunity for managers from different companies to share best practice and discuss their experiences in dealing with the wider business issues of the Millennium Bug.

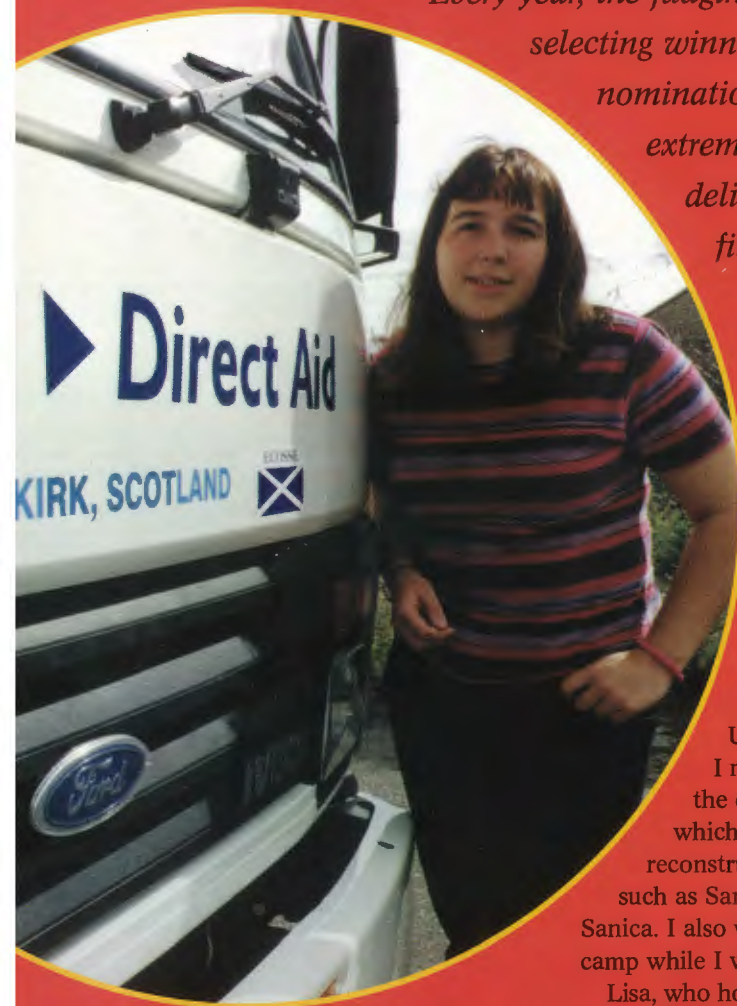
Power Systems has since hosted a seminar for Action 2000 at the Business Connections Exhibition at Warrington, where over 30 companies took part.

winning ways

Living Values AWARDS

Gerry Marsden, a Beatles tribute band and other top performers all turned out for this year's Living Values awards ceremony. The real stars on the evening of Friday 11 June, however, were the people on the platform receiving the awards.

Every year, the judging panel face the immensely difficult task of selecting winners from the dozens of Living Values awards nominations they receive. 1999 was no different, with many extremely worthy nominations. After much debate and deliberation, an outstanding collection of winners was finally declared...



LISA ANDERSON, PORTOBELLO

'I became involved with Edinburgh Direct Aid back in 1992, when it first started up,' says Lisa Anderson, Office Clerk, Revenue Protection Unit, Portobello. 'In May I made my third trip with the organisation to Bosnia, which involved village reconstruction work in places such as Sarajevo, Mostar, Kljuc and Sanica. I also visited a Kosovan refugee camp while I was there.'

Lisa, who holds an HGV licence, was responsible for driving one of the convoy's refuse collection vehicles out to Bosnia. 'We took a lot of medical supplies for hospitals with us, as well as general food and toiletries,' she says.

'Our job was not just to deliver supplies and help with refuse collection, but also to talk to the people out there to find out what their current problems were. It was distressing at times, but the people were very trusting and open. They wanted to tell you about their plight.'

One of the refuse collection vehicles driven out by Lisa's convoy was gifted to the village of Kljuc. 'As well as helping with sanitation and the environment, this will also provide employment,' says Lisa.

Edinburgh Direct Aid is a completely voluntary organisation, which attracts volunteers from all backgrounds. Throughout the year, Lisa is involved in various fund-raising projects and special events. She is already full of ideas for her next mission. 'Edinburgh Direct Aid is trying to pull together with other charities and local councils so that we can select an entire area in Kosovo and help redevelop it. This is something that I would like to help out with.'



SHEELAGH MURRAY, CATHCART

In the 21 years that she has worked for ScottishPower, Sheelagh Murray, Procurement Team Leader, has helped raise thousands of pounds for worthy causes. Organising the Three Peaks Challenge, however, proved to be her biggest venture yet.

'I've always been involved in various charity projects,' says Sheelagh. 'But last year, I decided that I wanted to do

something completely different.'

With the support of Doug Bridson, Procurement Director, Sheelagh challenged Power Systems staff to scale the highest peaks in Scotland, Wales and England against the clock. Four teams of five people, representing a variety of levels and grades of personnel across Power Systems Regions, were selected by Sheelagh and joined by four blind walkers from Disability Sport. As well as raising over £8000 for Disability Sport and Save the Children, all the participants deemed the event a huge success in terms of team-building and motivational value.

Not only did Sheelagh organise the logistics of the event – a huge exercise

in itself – she also acted as safety co-ordinator. 'This was a big responsibility,' she says. 'We were taking non-ScottishPower personnel up onto mountains – with the intention of climbing throughout the night - who were blind. There were a lot of safety implications that we had to be aware of.'

Although she could not make it to the awards ceremony, Sheelagh was 'overwhelmed, honoured and delighted' when she heard about her nomination. So what stopped her collecting her award in person? 'I was helping some children who were completing their Duke of Edinburgh gold award scheme on the same weekend,' she says.



ANGELA SNEDDON, CLYDE

supervising pack holidays, awarding first aid badges or helping with fund-raising.

'I like being able to see the children enjoying themselves, having fun and learning together,' says Angela. 'A lot of them are from single parent families and if I didn't volunteer then they might not get the opportunity to participate in some of the activities that we organise.'

'My award was a total surprise as

running the Brownies is something I have been doing for years – it's part of my life but I didn't think I was really doing anything that special.'

Despite the fact that her involvement with the Brownies takes up much of her spare time, Angela still volunteered and participated in a recent week-long initiative for adults with learning difficulties, organised by PowerLearning. She also won praise from her colleagues

for her continuing efforts to promote a positive safety culture in her role as a team member of ScottishPower's Safety & Environment Department.



GEORGE HEDLEY, SOUTHERN

It was fortunate for the motorist who was trapped in an overturned car at the side of the road that George was so alert on the morning in question.

'When I reached the vehicle it was at a 45° angle, the ignition was still running and the lights were on – despite the fact that it was daylight,' says George.

'At first I couldn't see anyone, but when I reached into the car to switch off the engine, I found a man trapped in the passenger footwell.'

Although the motorist was bleeding from a head wound, he had regained consciousness. After establishing that the man had no other serious injuries,

George managed to get him to sit up, while talking to him all the time. 'I then went and quickly moved my own van, which was parked near a tight bend, and managed to stop someone else in the next vehicle that came along.'

George stayed with the motorist until the emergency services arrived on the scene. 'I tried to keep the injured driver conscious until the ambulance appeared,' he says. 'I also phoned the local police station later on to see how he was doing.' Thanks to George 'living the values' the injured man promptly received medical treatment and was released from hospital later on that day.

'I was on my way to work when I spotted a light shining out from a ditch at the side of the road,' says George Hedley, Training Co-ordinator. 'I knew the route, and was aware that this was unusual, so I pulled over to investigate.'

NEIL CARRUTHERS, GORDON GILLAN AND STUART MCNISH, DUMFRIES

When Neil, Gordon and Stuart, Project Engineers, all received identical letters inviting them to the Living Values awards ceremony, they immediately surmised the reason for their nominations.

'We were travelling together to a training meeting last February, when we came across an accident involving a tractor and a lorry,' says Gordon. 'Although several vehicles had already stopped at the scene, no-one had gone to help the tractor driver who was still trapped in his cab.'

Without further ado, the intrepid trio

sprang into action. After helping the driver regain consciousness, they managed to make him comfortable and warm.

'I remained with the injured driver until the emergency services arrived and Neil and Stuart went out into the road and directed the traffic past the scene of the accident,' says Gordon.

'Although we did not receive any follow-up about his condition, we waited until we saw the paramedics walking him to the ambulance and are confident that he should have made a full recovery.'



MICK MCNULTY, PAUL CLARKE, MICK WILLIAMS AND PHIL WEARING, CHESHIRE

It was just another ordinary April afternoon when Phil Wearing, Team Leader, Faults Section, Prenton received an emergency call asking him to provide a supply of electricity to an old nursing home in Rockferry. The urgency of the request quickly became apparent: the nursing home was to be used as accommodation for Kosovan refugees.

Recognising the need for action, Phil sent out a request to staff for immediate

help with the job. Mick McNulty and Mick Williams, – both Jointers – and Paul Clarke, Craftsman/Jointer's Mate, responded to Phil's plea and the team was duly formed.

'The lads offered to do the work in their own time, on a purely voluntary basis,' says Phil. 'Thanks to their efforts, we managed to get the supply connected that night, despite the difficulties that go hand-in-hand with a disused building of that age!'



PAM CLARKE, MERSEYSIDE

When Pam Clarke, currently seconded as Team Leader, received a letter informing her about her Living Values Award one Saturday, she was at a loss to determine who might have nominated her. 'I was curious all weekend, but had to wait until Monday before I could start trying to investigate!' she says.

It transpired that Pam had received several nominations; some from the girls who she works alongside in the Finance Department at Lister Drive,

and others who she only sees occasionally. All were agreed, however, that she is a 'hardworking, considerate and friendly' person to work with.

Outside work, Pam's efforts are equally admirable. 'The girls knew that I help out an elderly neighbour on a regular basis,' she says. 'Over the winter months her health deteriorated, so I got in touch with Social Services to get her some additional support. I still pop in and see her and help her out with her meals and shopping.'

IAN DAVIES, MERSEYSIDE

Ian Davies, Maintenance Engineer, dealt with an extremely distressing situation very capably when he was first on the scene of a fatal accident involving a 15 year old boy.

'I was aware of a scuffle going on at the side of a bus, so I called the police in case the bus driver needed some help,' says Ian. 'The next thing I knew was that a youngster had been knocked down and run over by the bus.'

The police were already on the way, thanks to Ian's quick thinking – and he ensured that the other emergency services were quickly alerted. Until the paramedics arrived, Ian – who is a qualified first aider – attempted to revive the boy, although sadly his

efforts were in vain.

Despite displaying such bravery, Ian is still amazed at his award. 'When I first heard about the award it was a complete surprise – in fact, it's still a bit of a mystery to me,' he says.



Touring the Technical Section

Power Systems Technical Section has been a hive of activity over the past few months. The team has been extremely busy working on a whole host of exciting new projects and several of the initiatives are now ready to go live across Power Systems. Network decided to take a sneak preview and get a taste of what's in store...

PLANT INFORMATION (PI) SYSTEM

'Until now much of the data produced by our network control and operational metering systems was discarded, or not available to the people who might need it,' says Tom Cumming, Senior Project Engineer. 'Power Systems new Plant Information (PI) system seeks to resolve this problem by combining all of the data into one central database.'

'The PI package has the largest installed database on any plant information management system. It can store huge amounts of data and then use it to provide a fuller picture of our performance. One of the system's key benefits is its ability to produce high quality information on customer load patterns.'

GEOMAGNETIC STORMS

Forget the Millennium Bug – Grid System Operations are more concerned about geomagnetic storms in the year 2000.

'The 23rd recorded solar storm is set to take place next year,' says Tom Cumming. 'If preventive action is not taken, flares from the sun could disrupt power grids, telecommunications networks and radio transmissions. For this reason, we've been taking all possible measures to protect our power supply from the predicted radiation blasts. These will be fully outlined in a future *Network Extra*, so look out for your copy!'

SECONDARY AUTOMATION

'This project has evolved from Distribution Automation,' says Kenny Sludden, Senior Project Engineer. 'Our objective this time is to gain telecontrol – or automation – of the 11kV switches on the secondary network, ie outwith the primary substations.'

'As well as improving service reliability for customers, secondary automation will also reduce the pressure in the control room by automatically re-configuring the network to restore supplies.'

OVERHEAD CABLE CONSTRUCTION

During the storm review, it emerged that 90 per cent of the faults that ScottishPower engineers had to deal with were tree-related: large numbers of fallen trees had resulted in considerable damage, safety hazards and power supply cut-offs.

Rather than having to clear large areas of trees to avoid a repetition of this situation, the technical section looked to Swedish company, Ericsson Cables AB for a solution.

Ericsson's flexible distribution system is designed especially for overhead lines and houses three conductors within one fully insulated sheath.

'We can weave the line in between individual trees, or branches,' says Kenny Sludden. 'And the cabling is so strong, that even if the trees do fall on it, it simply catches them and keeps on working!'



WEATHER STATIONS

'Our ability to deal with extreme weather conditions is dependent on the quality of information we receive,' says John Gray, Project Engineer. 'For this reason, we have installed a system of 44 mini weather stations across the ScottishPower and Manweb Regions.'

'The weather stations allow our Control Engineers to monitor air temperature, wind speed and wind direction – information that helps them to spot the warning signs of a storm at an early stage. Local engineers can then be put on standby before any problems begin to escalate. By keeping one step ahead of the weather conditions, we can hopefully improve our service to customers by avoiding, or reducing downtime.'

COMPACT PRIMARY SUBSTATIONS

Previously changing an 11 kV switchboard was a protracted affair involving significant amounts of time and labour on site. This project is targeted at changing this practice for future replacement 11 kV primary substations. The switchgear will be factory assembled as a complete switchboard complete with ancillary equipment. A feature of this project is that it is the first substation to fully integrate protection and substation control functions in a single system, utilising a substation communications network in place of extensive panel wiring and multicore cabling. The complete equipment will then be located in a customised steel enclosure. It will be fully commissioned and tested in the factory right through to the Power System Management Centre (PSMC). The fully assembled and tested unit will be delivered direct to site and connected into the network. The typical installation time from delivery to site to fully in service will be two to three weeks.

The overall benefit to the company is savings in cost over conventional installations and more efficient use of company resources while minimising the risk to the distribution network during the changeover from the old to the new switchboard.

Extras alert!

The Technical Section is producing a series of *Network Extras*, explaining all of the above projects in more detail. Look out for these landing on a desk near you, or contact the technical section on 700 3653 for further information.



In the town where I was born . . .

MANWEB was a leading light at the Liverpool Architecture and Design Trust Awards, when Power Systems scooped the Best Lighting Scheme award for its redesign of the Mathew Street substation in Liverpool.

In acknowledgement of the city's most famous musicians – The Beatles – the new substation was lit up with a yellow submarine image. During the awards ceremony, a 400-strong audience was treated to video footage of the Mathew Street lighting, as well as coverage of Dewar Place in Edinburgh – ScottishPower's first showpiece lighting scheme.

Commenting on the winning entry, judges commended Manweb's innovative approach to the project and praised the new substation for its positive effect on the surrounding area and local economy.

STOP PRESS

Manweb's 'Cavern Quarter Substation' video on the transformation of Mathew Street Substation has won international honours for producers Charisma Vision. The video won a Certificate for Creative Excellence in recognition of outstanding audio-visual production at the United States International Film and Television Festival, which attracted entries from 33 countries.





The Duke of Westminster (centre) hears about the work of the birds of prey, which are being used to keep starlings under control (see Network Issue 14, Winter 1999). Also featured are Tom McNally, of Cheshire Falcons Ltd, and John Marsh (right), General Manager, Cheshire Region.

Birds of prey make Cheshire's stand the centre of attraction

MORE than 400 organisations, including 68 international exhibitors from 19 countries, took part recently in the ninth Annual Business Connections exposition at RAF Burtonwood, Warrington. The event, which was sponsored by BT, was formally opened by the Duke of Kent and was also visited by the Duke of Westminster.

At a reception at nearby Eaton Hall, Manweb announced they are to contribute £12,000 to BEEP – the

Barrowmore Employment and Environment Project, which provides work, a home and support to over 140 disabled people.

Under the scheme, waste wood from the charity's garden furniture manufacturing activities will be recycled to produce wood chips. These will be marketed as ground cover for use in a range of environments including golf courses, playgrounds, picnic areas and paths and tracks.

ISO14001 – the story continues

HOT on the heels of the three Manweb Regions' ISO14001 success, Clyde, Forth and Southern Regions have all been recommended for the ISO14001 certificate – pending several actions.

'Following a 10-day audit conducted by two EAQA auditors, the three Regions have all been informed that they should go forward for the award,' says Ray Wright, Environment and Control Engineer, Cheshire Region. 'The result still has to be endorsed by the independent auditors and we are hopeful that this will take place by the end of August.'

ISO14001 status is achieved and maintained by implementing environmental management systems and constantly reviewing, auditing and revising environmental policies and procedures.

Clyde region reinvests

'INVESTORS in People is not about gaining a badge,' says Kim Stevenson, Personnel Manager, Clyde Region. 'It is about recognising the ongoing commitment of our staff to continuous development and improvement.'

It was this tremendous collective effort that resulted in Clyde Region's recent re-award of Investors in People (IIP) status.

'The Region first achieved the award in May '96 and re-assessment was necessary to demonstrate our continuing commitment to the best practice in the training and development of our people. The Region has undergone a number of significant changes since 1996 and an important anchor throughout this period of change has been the ongoing training and development of staff,' says Kim.

'This has ensured that our business retains the requisite skills to improve business performance and secure competitive advantage.'

The working practices of the Clyde team were put under intense scrutiny before a final decision was made.

'An IIP assessor interviewed a cross section of our managers, team leaders and staff at St Vincent Crescent and Motherwell to check that our communication processes and training and development practices were effective,' says Kim.

'Thankfully we passed with flying



Mhairi Black, Linsey Kerr, Kim Stevenson and Donald McGarrie from Clyde Region are presented with the IIP award by Bill Struthers, STUC General Secretary (left), at a ceremony at the Marriot Hotel in Glasgow.

colours and a silver quach was presented to us by Bill Struthers, STUC General Secretary, in recognition of our achievement!'

Quality audit success for the Metering Business

A RECERTIFICATION audit at various Metering Business locations has resulted in the renewal of BS EN ISO9002 Quality Management Certificates for both Operations Manweb and the combined Revenue Protection Services based in Portobello, Yoker and Queensferry.

'It's all about maintaining a competitive edge and ensuring the Business is fit for the future,' explains Jim McCurdie, Project Manager responsible for QSE. 'The design, implementation and maintenance of our

Quality Management Systems represent our ongoing commitment to be a market leader in metering activities in the UK.

'The recent audit was carried out by John Hastwell of EAQA (Electricity Association Quality Assurance). The audit covered the full range of on-site and support activities for both Operations Manweb and Revenue Protection Services for the combined ScottishPower group. The Metering Business staff rose admirably to the

challenge of the audit, which can be a daunting experience in itself. The result demonstrates the commitment of staff within the business to meet the rigorous quality requirements of ISO9002 and their continued dedication to the success of the Metering Business.'

Below: members of the Revenue Protection Services team (left) and Clerical and Operational team (right) receive certificates from John Hastwell of EAQA.



Driving a great deal



If you looked on enviously as the latest rash of gleaming new vehicles hit the roads on 1 September, then help may be at hand. On 1 July, a special deal for all ScottishPower employees and pensioners was signed with car manufacturer Toyota. Read on and discover how your dream of a new car could become an affordable reality...

ALL staff and pensioners are to be given the opportunity to own a new Toyota via a personal contract purchase (PCP) agreement. The terms of the PCP are exclusive to ScottishPower and are particularly favourable.

'Employees can buy any model in the Toyota range via PCP,' says John Neal, Procurement Officer. 'Apart from two models – the Amazon Land Cruiser and the new Yaris* – you will normally receive a discount on the price of the vehicle. These discounts will vary depending on which model you are buying. However, the dealers have agreed to discount the cars to a level which means that their own margins are minimal.'

'Toyota is inviting all its dealers to participate in the deal and it is unlikely that any will opt out. This will ensure that all employees should have relatively easy access to a garage that is running the offer.'

Under the PCP, employees will have access to a flat, variable, finance rate of 5.25 per cent. This is extremely attractive compared to the 'normal' high street rates which can vary between 9.5 and 12.5 per cent.

Employees can opt for either a 24 month or a 36 month contract when they sign up for the PCP. The minimum and maximum mileages permitted by the agreement are dependent on the length of contract taken out:

24 month contract
Minimum mileage 10,000 miles per annum
Maximum mileage 40,000 miles per annum

36 month contract
Minimum mileage 10,000 per annum
Maximum mileage 30,000 per annum

'You only have to put down one monthly payment in advance as a deposit,' says John. 'If you want to reduce your monthly payments, you can put down a larger deposit of anything up to 35 per cent of the total purchase value of the car.'

Other costs include a documentation fee of £70, which is payable at the outset, and an 'option to purchase' fee of £40. If you choose to purchase your car at the

end of the contract, then residual values will be calculated in accordance with Toyota Fleet Contract Hire guidelines, which are freely available.

As part of the PCP, Toyota is offering ScottishPower car buyers free metallic paint on all models. And you will be eligible for nationally advertised retail consumer offers funded by Toyota (GB) Ltd, excluding finance related incentives and subject to the terms and conditions of the consumer incentive as advertised.

Why Toyota? 'The deal comes on the back of a recent contract award to Toyota to supply all our operational vehicles,' says Doug Bridson, Procurement Director. 'During the tendering process, Toyota came out clear winners in terms of key variables such as product range, safety, cost of ownership and life cycle cost. It was then decided to try and find some way of extending the benefits of Toyota ownership to all members of staff, including those who would not normally have access to a car as part of their job.'

Anyone applying for the PCP will be subject to a normal credit check; this will be validated by a payroll or pension number.

A dedicated telephone hotline has been set up for employees who are interested in the scheme. By simply calling 01737 785477 and giving the operator basic details of the contract you are interested in, you can receive an instant quote with monthly repayment figures. You can order a car brochure by calling freephone 0845 271 3456. So what's stopping you?

* You can order a Yaris now, but it is not discounted at present as, because it is a new model, there is a shortage of supply. Once the dealers have overcome their supply difficulties, the Yaris model will also be discounted.



Transport Business Manager Alan Smith with some of the Toyota range.



DAVE

A day in the life of a Manweb jointer

Let's get down to the nitty gritty – managers may sit in their meetings all day long, but it's out in the field where the real work gets done – isn't that right? Network decided to see for itself. Journalist Clare Cowie set off on a mission to discover just what happens on site.

Dave (left), with Chris Smith, linesman and Ross Williams, jointer (up pole).

THOMAS

Dave Thomas has worked as a cable jointer from Manweb's Wrexham base for 16 years now, yet he shows no signs of boredom. 'There is no typical day in my job', says Dave. Network decided to take a look and see just what Dave gets up to during one of his 'average' working days...

My working day officially begins at 8.00am. Luckily I live only five minutes down the road, so getting here quickly is never a problem. My first port of call is the front counter in our workshop, where I have a look at my paperwork for the day ahead. By looking at my job sheet and job plan, I find out where I am going to be working that day and what the job will involve. There is sometimes an element of the unexpected in this job as the work that is normally planned for me may change at short notice.

After checking out the scope of the work, I go with my working partner, Graham Pritchard, to the stores to collect the materials required for the job. It doesn't take us long to load up as our van is normally already stocked with most of the tools that we need. Without further ado, we hit the road!

Today, we are working at a site around six miles from our base at Wrexham, so our journey is a relatively short one. The furthest we would ever have to travel to a job is about 30 miles. We arrive at our destination, a newly renovated cottage, where we are contracted to connect up a power supply. Graham and I take a look at the plans and decide how we are going to tackle the job. We are classified as a multi-skilled team, as he is a linesman and I am a jointer.

Having worked together for over two years now, we are pretty familiar with each other's way of working. It only takes us minutes to plan things out, as I had a preview visit to this site last week. However, this pre-planning is essential to ensure that we undertake the work safely and efficiently. The notes provided by our office are also a great help.

My job today is to fit cables from the two wood poles nearby into the cottage, so I'll have to be prepared to spend a fair bit of time climbing poles today! Basically, the cable is clipped

down the pole and then run through a duct into the property. I call on Graham to help me put the cable through the duct, as this part of the job is quite awkward.

Time for a ten-minute tea break and a breather! Today we have quite a bit of company on-site. As well as the other two-man team, the family who are moving into the cottage are around. They are interested in what we are doing, and very pleasant too. Their little boy wants to help. He is given a hard hat and a small job to do in the garden – well away from our work site – but he feels like part of the crew!

Back to work and it's time to start fitting the meters. Before this can be done, I have to erect a meterboard. This is sometimes quite a difficult job as it involves drilling into walls, among other things. Between us, we drill the necessary holes and screw the meterboard securely to the wall. While I make a start on fitting the actual meter, Graham does any work required on the pole, such as stripping and preparing the ends of the cables for connection onto the main line.

Lunchtime! We grab a sandwich and savour a rare bit of summer sunshine for half an hour. It's great to work outdoors in a nice setting like this, though it is not always as pleasant. Often the sites will be fairly dirty and in winter, you can be stuck working halfway up a mountain in the cold and the rain! Today, we still have quite a lot of work to get through, so we are quickly back on the job.

Graham joins me and we continue working together to fit the meter. In our job, teamwork is very important – you have to be able to rely on one another and share the workload. Once the cabling is run through the duct and into the cottage, it is terminated into the meter cubicles. Today, the meter will be fitted inside the house, but on some properties the meter is located on



the outside wall.

Before we connect the cables to the line we have to test them. This is the penultimate stage in the connection process, before we make the system live. I carry out three tests in total: live and neutral tests to check that we have a supply, and a loop impedance test.

Once I've completed the tests, we are ready to finish the job. Either one of us will put the main fuse in – it usually depends on who is on the floor at the time. Today, we do it together and finish off the job by sealing the main fuse and the meter up with temporary plastic seals.

All that remains for us to do before heading back to the depot is to clear the site and pack all our equipment into the van. It's important not to leave any tools or materials around that could be a danger to children, or anyone else who might come across them.

Back at Manweb's Wrexham base, I complete the all-important paperwork. I fill out the job sheet by providing an outline of the work we have carried out and the time we have taken to do it. The number of the new meter is also recorded on the job sheet, so that the accounts department can keep track of any new customers. If time allows, I'll get tomorrow's worksheet and any materials from the stores, so I'm able to go straight to the job tomorrow morning.

Before heading out the door, I pass my job sheet to Alan Hughes, my team leader. After that, I'm homeward bound for some rest and relaxation before the next challenge tomorrow!



Helping to
make

The Link

For many years there was a belief that the Forth & Clyde and Union canals would remain redundant. Secure in the knowledge that they would never be used again, many utilities (electricity, water, telecommunications) made use of the infilled areas to lay cables, either across or alongside the canal bed.

When it was announced that the canals were to be revived in a £78 million project called The Millennium Link, diverting these utilities became an essential part of the major engineering works. There are 33 major obstructions to put right over the 70-mile length of the two canals and a programme of reinstatement work on more than 120 historic listed bridges, aqueducts and other structures.

Most of the engineering work on The Link is 'design and build' and some of it is very innovative. The gigantic nine-storey-high wheel at Falkirk, for example, which will lift boats from one canal level to another, is the only one of its kind in the world. And the canals themselves have their own special requirements.

'We need to ensure there is adequate head room and draft for the boat traffic on the canals,' says Gordon Ramsay, a British Waterways Millennium Link Project Engineer. 'In each case, we work with the relevant utility to review the options. It means a lot of meetings, but it's in everyone's

interest to ensure that there is as little movement as possible.'

All the utilities are working to a deadline of Easter 2001 and careful planning is needed to minimise disruption to road and rail traffic and to keep towpaths open. Part of the problem is that, while there are records showing where the various utilities are, reality often varies slightly from plans.

'It makes the process somewhat convoluted,' says Gordon. 'Recent records tend to be reasonably accurate, but some of these records go back a long way. Cables, for example, may be more or less where they are shown, but may actually be at a different height or depth. Costs are worked out on the basis of the records, but we need to do trials before finally letting the contract.'

In the case of ScottishPower, over 120 separate operations will be required as part of the renovations. The biggest task to date has been the undergrounding of two 33kV cables at Falkirk, where the two canals join.

'First Engineering is replacing an existing bridge with a new, prefabricated bridge on the main Edinburgh to Glasgow line and tunnelling under the track to provide a new passageway for the canal,' explains Alistair Fraser, ScottishPower's Project Manager. 'Our existing overhead lines were interfering with the work of the cranes. In order to do the necessary work without putting local Falkirk

customers at risk or interfere with the railway operation, we had to switch off power overnight at weekends between 11.00pm and 6.00am. We have put in alternative feeds for customers, but obviously we would like to get this work completed as speedily as possible.

'Much of ScottishPower's work lies in identifying where cables lie and which ones are not in use. Records in recent years are very good, but some older records are incomplete. We may even find some cables we have no record of at all!'

'Trenchless technology' is being used in many places to aid cable relocation. 'We are doing all we can to minimise disruption to traffic or local homes and gardens,' says Gordon.

Note: The Millennium Link depends on volunteer groups to help with environmental improvements and some repairs to spillways, weirs and culverts. The Waterway Recovery Group from Manchester is one group that holds working camps where enthusiasts learn new skills and work on the canal at the same time. No previous experience is needed - training is carried out on site and a Canal Camp helps qualify for the residential section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Volunteers are sought for a camp near Linlithgow in October - details available from Neil Edwards, WRG Canal Camps, PO Box 114, Rickmansworth WD3 1ZY. You can also find WRG on the web at: www.waterways.org.uk/index.htm



A new mode of transport: when the canals have been reopened, there will be plenty of opportunity for a leisurely boat trip between Glasgow and Edinburgh.



How to keep your 'Six Pack' cool when camping without a fridge . . .
(L-R) Gayle Dougan, Alison Heron, Colin Rundell, Keliann Mellis, Gavin Brownlie



Planning a strategy for the Mountain bike link section



Alison Heron of 'Six Pack' on the High Ropes Course

Winners of Power Challenge 'Out of Control'

THIS year's Power Challenge took place over the weekend of the 12-13 June and was run by 'Outward Bound Professional' at their outdoor pursuits centre at Eskdale Green, West Cumbria.

Thirteen teams entered the challenge representing various Divisions within the ScottishPower group (Power Systems, ScottishTelecom, Technology, 1998 Change Programme and the GIS Project). The teams arrived on Friday evening with the event starting on Saturday morning.

There was an expectant atmosphere at breakfast on the first day with teams feeling quietly confident, but rather nervous. However, all nerves were dispelled as a starter pistol signalled the start of the event.

The Challenge was designed to engender team spirit and personal development and included problem solving, orienteering (on foot and on mountain bikes), a high wire obstacle course, raft building (and sinking), and numerous other mental and physical tasks. The event culminated in a 'Grand Finale', where each team had to design a flag to represent their team values. The flag then had to be raised up a pole, which had to be constructed out of various sized canes, drain pipe, string and tape. Just to add to the confusion a number of canes had to be retrieved from the middle of a very wet, very cold river Tarn.

The winners of the Challenge were 'Out of Control' representing the PSMC, Prenton, with 'The Sweaty Trainers' of Powerlearning, Power Systems coming in second.

Brian Middleton, the captain of Out of Control said, 'We worked very well as a team and the event has highlighted what can be achieved by good teamwork and being prepared to dig deep and put that extra effort in when it's needed. Well done team!'

RESULTS

- First with 2,840 points, 'Out of Control'
- Second with 2,690 points, Powerlearning's 'The Sweaty Trainers'
- An additional prize was awarded for Commitment and Team Spirit - 'The John Milligan Trophy'. John, who recently lost a long battle against cancer, was responsible for establishing the Team Challenge event in ScottishPower. It was his energy, enthusiasm and commitment that led to this event becoming the success it is today. The trophy, a fitting tribute to John's values, was donated by his wife Janet and daughters Kirsty and Rhona. This was won by 'Six Pack', from Power Systems HR.



TOP RESULTS FOR FIRST AIDERS

TEN safety-conscious teams from all parts of the business turned out at ScottishPower's annual first aid competition at Dealain House, Cumbernauld in April.

'The number of participants really helped boost the competitive spirit,' says Mary Mooney from Powerlearning, who hosted the event. 'Three of the teams travelled from Southern Water for the competition, and 1999 also saw the return of entrants from Longannet and Cockenzie.'

The ScottishPower Shield was awarded to the overall winners from Energy Supply, while runners-up, Longannet Power Station, received the Captain's Trophy.

Southern Water made their long trip north worthwhile by claiming the Reid Trophy 'novice' cup and Sandra Ritchie from Cockenzie went home with silverware too, after receiving the Bruce Shield for the highest individual result in test one.



New home found for Power Systems HQ

POWER Systems Headquarters staff are to move to a new home, New Alderston House, located in Strathclyde Business Park. The Park lies in a triangle between the M8 and the M74 motorway, so links to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Central Scotland are very good. It has been landscaped with a mixture of mature trees and water features.

'The new building will allow Power Systems to bring all its Headquarters functions under one roof within a pleasant business park environment. The move will also resolve the longer term accommodation issues at Cathcart,' says Richard Fennell, Organisation Development Manager.

'We had a number of criteria we wanted the new building to meet. These included good access, high quality communications and pleasant surroundings. We also wanted, if possible, leisure facilities, air conditioning and an open plan layout.'

New Alderston House is not a new building and will require significant internal alteration to make it suitable for Power Systems' use. Since the building has large areas of glass and will be altered to provide full open plan facilities, a comfort cooling system is to be installed.

'We have pulled together a team of experts to ensure that all the company and staff needs are provide for,' says Richard. 'Steven Dickson, Estates Surveyor negotiated the deal within the development consortium and finalised the legal formalities. Alan McCord of Major Projects has overall responsibility

for delivery of the refurbished building for occupation. Alan has the difficult task of ensuring that all contracts are let on the basis of best value for money and sticking to a demanding work programme at the same time.

'As well as the building works, the property requires resources for telecommunications and IT. Alistair Adamson and Ian Cheyne, our two in-house experts, are responsible for ensuring all our needs are catered for. Best estimates for occupancy are mid to late November.

'Every effort is being made to provide a working environment in which people are comfortable and happy with facilities. A modern deli that will double as a presentation area will be constructed. It will seat approximately 100 people, serving deli type food with prices in line with those enjoyed at Cathcart. Robert Conelly is responsible for this as well as for the vending facilities throughout the building. Robert is also negotiating a contract that will provide leisure facilities nearby for staff.'

As with all work locations, a major requirement is adequate car parking. The existing car parking area is considered inadequate, so an extension is to be constructed. This will provide a total of 240 spaces.

Finally, the issues that are overlooked in most office moves - storage and administration. Linda Omazik is compiling a list of requirements and has the responsibility of ensuring a smooth working transition from Cathcart to New Alderston House.

Union Energy brings 'power to the people'

THE seeds of Union Energy were sown back in 1996 when two leading members of the TUC – Peter Ibbotson and Mike Jones – recognised the opportunity that the deregulation of the gas and electricity markets had to offer.

The idea developed, Union Energy became a fledgling company and by the following year, ScottishPower beat off stiff competition for the contract to supply union members with both gas and electricity. The deal means that Union Energy is able to offer its members the prospect of real savings on their gas and electricity bills and take advantage of attractive benefits such as free payment protection cover and a winter break from gas service charges.

But perhaps the most innovative feature of Union Energy is that for every union member who switches, a contribution will be channelled back into the TUC and into the member's own union to help finance energy efficiency projects.

The ScottishPower team responsible for the marketing and promotion of Union Energy is based at Cathcart. It is led by Colin Harrison, supported by his colleagues Eileen Anderson, Kathy McNamara (currently on maternity leave) and Michelle Nicol. Their role is to ensure that 75 union organisations and the 6.8 million individual members get the message – 'Union Energy really does give power to the people'.

'Since the launch of Union Energy in March 1998, the team has worked hard with the TUC to contact trade union members and maximise sales,' says Colin. 'It has been an extremely challenging role, given the diverse range of occupations and activities covered by the unions. But we're delighted with the progress in the first year's marketing programme and we're now fast approaching the major milestone of 25,000 energy accounts.'

'This represents a business with an annual turnover of around £9m from a standing start – quite an achievement I think by anyone's standards! Now, with the deregulation of the gas and electricity markets complete, we have the opportunity to target potential Union Energy customers with a UK-

wide direct marketing programme. We have set our sights firmly on more than doubling our customer numbers in the coming year – a mammoth task that we are all up for and will deliver.'

Colin also sees the additional marketing strength that the Union Energy brand offers as a wider opportunity to win customers.

'For example, a customer who lives in Manchester may now be familiar with the ScottishPower, Manweb and Union Energy brands. If the customer decides to switch their energy supplier, our multi-brand position now gives us three opportunities – an example of classic brand marketing in other sectors but unique in the energy market.'

Now the Union Energy team's challenge to *Network* readers is to discover the answers in the text of this report to the four simple questions set out below. Find them all and you could win £20 of Marks & Spencer vouchers.

- 1 What is Union Energy's next customer milestone?
- 2 How many unions does the TUC represent?
- 3 What type of projects will Union Energy's profits go into?
- 4 When were the seeds of Union Energy first sown?

Please e-mail your answers to Eileen Anderson in Energy Supply by 17 September and remember to include your extension number, department and quote 'Network' in your answer.

Colin, Eileen and Kathy have been the force behind Union Energy.



THE IDEAL PLACE TO BE

The Daily Mail Group is to host the first Ideal Home Show in Scotland.

The show is to be held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow and will run from 9-17 October.

'We are building a prestige stand to provide awareness of the product portfolio for the domestic market,' says Lisbeth Smith, Energy Supply. 'The aim is not to sell, but to ensure that both existing and potential customers are aware of the products and services to enable them to have their home "ScottishPowered".'

During the show, Energy Supply will be running daily competitions to offer you the chance to win an interactive item for your home.

Get ScottishPowered! Get along to the show – a whole host of activities await you.

Wild things – they make your heart sing

LAURA Dutton, left, and Jennifer Capstick were among a group of 52 children from Orrell County Primary School in Bootle who visited the Manweb's Wildflower Meadow next to the Lister Drive office in Liverpool.

Moira Renwick from Manweb and Richard Scott from Landlife, the organisation who transformed the derelict site into a meadow, met with the children. A 'mini-beast' bug hunt and refreshments in the staff restaurant all figured in the visit.

The school trip was organised as part of a Ford Motor Company initiative to link local businesses and primary schools to help children develop life skills such as team work, communication and problem solving.

John's quick-thinking colleagues come to the rescue

JOHN Moran was thankful for the quick reactions of his colleagues when he took a dizzy turn recently while working on a 400 kV overhead line in Torness.

'John was helping to change a top insulator on a pylon when he started to feel unwell,' says Jock McKellar, Team Leader, overhead lines. 'Fortunately he was able to attract the attention of his workmates Roger Ballantine, Francis Mooney and Owen Davies. Between the three of them they managed to hoist the rescue equipment up the tower to John and help him down to the ground safely.'

Although he cannot remember parts of the incident, John is full of praise for his colleagues. 'I couldn't have been in more capable hands,' he says. 'The lads involved acted in a very professional manner – they kept their cool and did a brilliant job.'

John – brought down safely thanks to his colleagues.





PSMC's Millennium ride brings the cash rolling in

FOUR of Power Systems Distribution Control Engineers have gone to the ends of the earth in a bid to raise money for charity.

Graeme Ross, Stewart Forbes, John McNally and Alasdair McNaught, who all work together in the Control Room at PSMC, Hamilton, took to their bikes and cycled the 960 miles from Lands End to John O'Groats in June.

'We wanted to do something completely different for the Millennium,' says Graeme Ross. 'The four of us cycle together regularly, so it was the ideal choice of activity. Our original idea was '1000 miles for 1000 years', although we didn't quite cycle 1000 miles and we finished the run before the Millennium!'

The team completed the journey in an impressive 11 days. 'We cycled between 80 and 100 miles a day, although we did manage to break the 100 mile barrier one day,' says Graeme. 'Naturally, we had to stagger our journey with strategic stops at places such as Exeter, Bristol, Cheshire, Dumfries, Oban

and Inverness.'

In between the long days of cycling, the team rested at courtesy hotel accommodation provided by Key Reservations, one of ScottishPower's regular suppliers of corporate hospitality.

The team was also helped out by Alasdair's wife, Mary, who works as a part-time despatcher at PSMC. Mary followed the team in a support vehicle loaded up with extra supplies and a spare bike in case of emergencies.

Although the group did not need the additional bicycle, the journey was not without its difficulties. 'Although I managed to complete the run, I hurt my knee in the process,' says Graeme. 'I have to confess that during one particularly bad day of perpetual driving rain, I began to wonder if it was all worth it!'

Watching the sponsorship money roll in has helped change his opinion, however. 'We have already raised in excess of £5000 for Yorkhill Sick Children's Hospital Fund,' he says. 'And there's still more to come!'

FISHING FOR FORTH

Competitors from other Regions must have suspected something fishy was going on when Forth Region employees picked up a winning catch at a recent fishing tournament. The Wills & McFarlane Trophies were up for grabs at the Lake of Monteith.

Both trophies are competed for annually. The Forth Team – consisting of C Hynd, J Faifoul and C Dow – snapped up the Wills Trophy, originally donated in 1966 by District Manager, Mr Wills.

A Coats from Clyde won the McFarlane Trophy, with J McDonald from Forth as runner up. The Trophy was presented in 1974 in memory of a young engineer, David McFarlane, a keen angler who tragically died in an accident.

This annual event is always a great success and the 42 anglers who took part agreed it was a great day out.

Kosovo: your helping hands

The plight of Kosovan refugees has touched us all at ScottishPower. Tremendous efforts have been made right across the company to do everything we can to help those in need. Here, Network takes a look at what just some of Power Systems staff have been doing to lend a hand...

MERSEYSIDE

WHEN Operation Christmas Child telephoned Moira Renwick at Lister Drive asking for help with its campaign for Kosovo, she didn't hesitate to spring into action.

'We have done a lot of work with Operation Christmas Child over the years,' says Moira. 'They told me that their representatives had just come back from Kosovo and that the people there desperately needed dry foodstuffs. Their next convoy was going out to Kosovo in two weeks time, so we had to get our act together.'

An urgent e-mail message was duly sent out to all staff and the collection

box by Moira's desk quickly filled up and had to be replaced – again and again. 'Chris Parker, our Health and Safety co-ordinator also gave us £95, made up of donations from staff who had successfully passed their safety audits and been rewarded with £5 each,' says Moira.

A fortnight later, the Merseyside staff had filled a Fiesta to the brim with rice, pasta, flour, sugar and cooking oil – all essential foodstuffs for the refugees. 'This was a great achievement in a very short time, thanks to everyone pitching in,' says Moira.



FORTH

A CRUCIAL Crew exercise was the unlikely trigger for Forth's Kosovo effort.

'I was approached by East Lothian Community Police,' says Doreen Tierney from Forth Region's Safety and Environment team. 'They wanted to know whether ScottishPower could donate two freezers for Kosovan refugees living in a disused old people's home in North Berwick.'

'Recognising the need for action, I contacted Kelvin Mackay, Trainee Manager at ScottishPower's Kinnaird Park store in Edinburgh. He successfully managed to source the freezers from Retail Division.'

Norman Glennie, manager of the centre for refugees, was presented with the two freezers, along with food and clothing collected and donated by Forth Region staff.



SOUTHERN

RODNEY Laidlaw, storeman at Dumfries, was another of the many Power Systems staff who did their bit to help the people of Kosovo.

'Some volunteers were gathering supplies to take out to Kosovo,' says Rodney. 'A request came through from the emergency planning officer at Dumfries and Galloway Local

Authorities, asking if we could spare a forklift and driver to help them out. I made two trips to the collection base and helped load pallets of clothing, toiletries, tinned food and blankets.'

Thanks to the help of Rodney and his forklift, the lorry was soon filled up and on its way to Kosovo.



Hats off to Bright Sparks winners

THE Bright Sparks initiative got off to a cracking start in Cumbernauld this April, thanks to the combined efforts of the Safety Team from Clyde Region and Strathclyde Police Community Involvement branch.

Talks and slide shows on substations and vandalism were delivered to 1400 children across all the Region's schools. The fun – and learning – did not stop there, however. 'After the presentations, we invited each school to submit posters on the topic for a specially organised competition,' says Raymond McDonald, Safety and Environment Co-ordinator. '36 entries were selected by the teachers and passed to us for final judging.'

First prizewinner Mhairi Doris scooped an Apple Macintosh computer for her school – donated by Power Systems – and a Sony Playstation for herself, while runner-up Stuart McBeath won £100 for his school courtesy of Cumbernauld Crime Prevention Panel and a portable sound system for himself. Well done to both!

Watch out – sleuths about!

THE latest spate of danger detectives have been on the prowl in East Ayrshire recently. 'We have just finished a series of workshops for Primary seven children,' says David McKay, Safety and Environment co-ordinator, Southern Region. 'Over the five weeks of the initiative, we saw between 80 and 90 children per day, from 30 different schools throughout the area.'

'We received some really good feedback – from what we hear, the message certainly appears to have been driven home!'

Going forth with Cockenzie

STAFF from Forth Region and Cockenzie Power Station pooled resources recently to ensure the success of a Crucial Crew initiative at Meadowhill Sports Centre, Tranent.

'The Divisions shared the workload by taking a week each at the event,' says Doreen Tierney from the Safety and Environment team at Forth Region. 'For three of the Cockenzie staff, it was their first taste of Crucial Crew work and they all appeared to thoroughly enjoy it – almost as much as the Primary seven children who formed their audience!'



Stephen Lynne, fitter and Ian McMillan, engineer, take the children through their paces.

BERNIE GRADUATES SAFELY

Bernie Woods, Safety and Environment team member from Cheshire Region, graduated recently with a diploma in Occupational Safety & Health from Nottingham Trent University. The ceremony was marked by contributions from the Health & Safety Executive and the Institution of Occupational Safety & Health.



GOOD SHOT!

OVER 30 Scottish employees – present and past – took part in the annual ScottishPower bowling tournament at Buckhaven Bowling Club recently. The Collyns trophy, which was awarded to the overall champions, travelled home to Forth Region with the winning team from Falkirk.

The jubilant team members were Jack McWhinnie, Team Leader Operations, Frank Harvey, Team Leader New Connections, Yvonne Mochan, Team Member, Personnel and William Ferguson, retired Team Leader New Connections.

'Both winners and losers had lots of fun and agreed that it was a great day out,' says Bill Bell, who organised the event.



CHERNOBYL CHILDREN

PowerLearning played host to some young Belarussian visitors in June when 12 children from the Chernobyl lifeline charity visited the Open Learning Centre.

During a supervised computer session, the youngsters had the chance to log on to the internet in Russian and catch up on all of the news from home. Representatives from the charity were also presented with a computer and printer by Peter Jones, General Manager, Southern Region. 'The computer and printer will be used by students from Chernobyl who are staying in Dumfries for a year and are keen to progress their education,' says Peter.



Scouting about

OVER 80 Beavers, Scouts and Cubs took to the hills in April, in a bid to raise money for their youth group.

Angela Ollier – whose sons Ben and Anthony belong to the group – was one of the leaders of the pack who walked the full 21 miles.

'The boys told me that the group was trying to raise money, so I approached the company and asked if the event would be eligible for Manweb's Charity Chest scheme,' says Angela who is an

Administrator with Manweb. 'Manweb agreed to match the amount we raised – up to a maximum of £300 – provided I put on my walking boots with the rest of the youngsters!'

Thanks to a tremendous effort all round – even the youngest six-year-old Beavers walked four miles – the group raised over £1000 for charity. 'We have already bought some tents for the boys and are hoping to get some canoes too,' says Angela.

Bored? Not when Tommy lends a helping hand

WHEN Tommy Raymond's wife, an auxiliary nurse, told him about the suffering of some of her young patients in the paediatrics ward at Crosshouse hospital, he knew he had to do something to lend a hand.

'Some of the children are very ill – there was one child in particular with cystic fibrosis – and they get bored all day in the hospital with nothing to do,' says Tommy, a Site Co-ordinator based at Kilmarnock. 'Our

immediate solution was to take in our son's Playstation for the kids to play with and that set us thinking that a PC for the ward would be educational, as well as fun.'

Tommy and his family threw themselves into

various fund-raising activities, including a sponsored walk and charity games at the annual Kilmarnock Social and Recreational meeting.

'Thanks to generous donations from colleagues, we managed to raise over £200,' says Tommy. 'Management at Southern Region said that if we used this money to buy some software, then they would supply the hospital with a brand new PC and printer!'

The delighted children received the new system at the end of June at a presentation attended by the local Provost, Jimmy Boyd.

'Our work will not stop here, though,' says Tommy. 'Already, Eric Hutchison from the Open Learning Centre has offered free training and the use of our facilities to the hospital staff, so that they can keep up with the technological development of the kids!'





MANWEB GETS IN FESTIVE SPIRIT

Three years ago, staff at Manweb saved the Tuebrook festival from the scrapheap, after the area's Chief Constable said he no longer had enough resources to allow the local community police officers to continue with the event organisation.

This summer, all hands were on deck again to ensure that the event went off with a bang.

'Our HGV drivers have always helped out by driving vehicles in the procession of floats – that is one of the most important parts of the festival,' says Moira Renwick. 'This year, Richard Kinslie and Reuben Evans from Manweb drove floats for two of the local community groups. As well as driving for the procession, they also helped decorate the floats and dismantle them at the end of the day.'

Manweb donated £250 towards the cost of the festival marquee, as well as a microwave oven for the raffle. Moira herself helped out with the administration for the event.

'I offered to do this three years ago, when the local police were struggling with only one manual typewriter,' she says. 'Thanks to word processors and mail merge, compiling the posters and letters is a doddle for us!'



Manweb's fun day

MERSEYSIDE'S fun day for Manweb staff and families was a high spirited event – but with a serious side as well.

Aimed at raising safety, health and environmental awareness, it focused on a number of important issues while making sure that staff were well entertained. Health checks, first aid demonstrations, play safe classes and dental care advice were part of the programme along with environment classes on global climate and the chance to see how a substation works.

Entertainment was varied. The Territorial Army came with some armoured vehicles and Cheshire Falconry gave a display. Acorn Venture Farm brought some of its animals, the local Fire Brigade attended and Landlife gave conducted

tours around the wild flower meadow. And especially for the children, Hiccup the clown gave Punch and Judy Shows, Uncle Dave Joseph did magic tricks and the face painters drew Star Wars designs on a lot of willing volunteers.



SOUTHERN STAFF GO TO THE GALAS

STAFF from Southern Region have been doing the rounds at local gala days, with representatives at the Dailly, Maybole and Minishant galas in June.

'Those who took part did so on a voluntary basis,' says Jane Houston, who would like to express her appreciation for their enthusiasm. 'We raised funds for the new Power Partners Charity by various activities throughout the day.'

'The team worked extremely hard – but we all thoroughly enjoyed it.'



Cheshire tells a cracking tale

ANDY Martin and Steve Muskin from Cheshire Region thought that they were 'going nuts', when they heard a rustling noise coming from an 11,000 volt pole-mounted transformer.

The culprits? Two baby squirrels who had set up house in a nest behind the transformer.

'Although the lads didn't want to take the squirrels away from their families they were concerned for their safety,' says John Marsh, General Manager, Cheshire Region.

A more suitable home was quickly found for the two furry friends at the nearby Ollertons Animal Hospital.



Manweb teams make a splash

TEAMS from Cheshire Depots Chester and Prenton made a splash in May when they took first and second place in a white water raft race in aid of the Leonard Cheshire Trust for the Disabled.

The challenge started when an e-mail was received in error by Paul Thornton at Prenton. He then posted info on all Depot noticeboards, and organised teams and sponsorship. The winning team was lead by Paul Newbrook, Team Leader, Overhead Lines. He said, 'When Paul asked for volunteers, I had a full team of linesmen within minutes that fancied taking up the challenge and our team of

eight was duly formed.'

The two groups travelled to Scotland for the event, which took place on the River Tay. 'We managed to complete the five and a half miles in 42 minutes,' says Paul, who was part of Cheshire's winning team. 'This was a complete turn up for the books as none of us had ever done anything like it before!'

He does confess that his team had a secret weapon, however. 'We were the only competitors to take their fan club with them,' he says. 'Four of the guys were cheering us on from the sidelines!'

As well as having a great day out, Paul's team also succeeded in raising £490 for charity.



For those of you who never met him, but certainly knew the voice, this is Alan Breakall. Alan, the biggest voice in the PSMC, retired on 25 April. For the operational staff in Scotland who talked to Alan as part of their daily routine, he was the one control engineer who never

AN EDUCATION FOR LIFE

A life education project to warn youngsters about the danger of drug and alcohol misuse has just been launched, with the support of staff from Cheshire Region.

Twelve months ago Nantwich Rotary Club launched a bid to raise £50,000 to create a mobile life education centre for the area and was subsequently joined in its quest by Manweb – who donated money towards the cause – and 20 other Rotary Clubs.

FORTH GIVES PARENTLINE A REALLY COOL GIFT



CHILDLINE Scotland recently approached Forth Region to ask for help in the form of a fridge for their

'AYE, ROGER . . . AND OUT'

did have to identify himself by name. His Blackpool accent and – how would we put it? – rather enthusiastic delivery made him a favourite with operational staff all across the Scottish Regions.

Within the PSMC, things were no different. 'We often thought Alan didn't need the radio,' recalls Raymond Nelson. 'If we opened the window you could hear him at the other side of the country anyway!'

So Alan, from the operational staff and your colleagues at the PSMC in Hamilton – GOODBYE. You'll be missed!

'I am delighted that we are supporting this vital project which will be of tremendous use to the young people of Cheshire,' says John Marsh, Regional Manager, Cheshire.

The fundraising and campaigning has now finally paid off and the mobile unit was on full display at the official launch of the life education initiative at Whyche School in Nantwich.

new Parentline office in Edinburgh. Parentline is another part of Childline which is set up for parents who may have problems and just need someone to talk to. It is run by volunteers who give up their own free time and it is completely confidential.

In the photo are Albert Laing, Maintenance Manager, Forth Region, Jeannette Malcolm and Moira Anderson from Children 1st and some of the volunteers who help out in the Parentline office.

Competition time

Our last brainteaser caused not a little puzzlement and the answers were many and various. We particularly liked this effort by Stuart Sommerville, Major Projects, who receives £20 just for making us laugh. Stuart has asked for his cheque to be donated to Barnardo's.

Solution 1 Jemima's clock was a mechanical one with exposed workings at the back. At 28 minutes past 6 a mouse got its tail caught in the cogs. When she first glanced at the clock she did not see the poor mouse, behind the clock, struggling to free its tail. Two minutes later the mouse was still preventing the cogs from moving, so she found that the clock was still telling the same time.

A minute later, just before she looked again, another mouse came and helped to free the first mouse by turning the clock/cog back until the tail was free. She looked at the clock and saw it was now showing one minute earlier (the clock appeared to be going backwards).

She decided to get up and check the clock downstairs. The mice, on seeing that she was getting up, were very alarmed that they might be caught and as a distraction bypassed the alarm circuit causing the alarm to go off. This they hoped would enable them to make their escape.

However, they did not escape quickly enough and she saw the two tails disappear down the back of the bedside cabinet and 'finally understood what was happening'.

Solution 2 Jemima had been drinking the previous night. She was so out of her mind that she didn't have a clue what day it was never mind what time she was reading.

Solution 3 On the previous evening Jemima had a bit of a row with her younger brother Tommy. He didn't take too kindly to his sister winning yet again so he decided to play mind games with her.

She had woken and glanced at the clock when she had been roused from



her sleep on his entering her bedroom at 6.28. He hid under her bed until she snoozed off again.

When she did snooze off he got out to put her alarm back and make her late for her interview, but as she was a light sleeper she woke up again and he had to quickly put the clock down and hide under the bed. He had only managed to put it back two minutes so it read 6.28 again.

When she closed her eyes to gather her thoughts he tried again to put the clock back, but this time only managed to put it back a minute before she looked again. He didn't even have time to get back under the bed, so he hid behind the bedside cabinet this time.

She decided to go downstairs but as she was getting out of bed the alarm went off. It wasn't her own alarm, but her mother's, which had a similar but much louder ring. However, because the wall between their rooms lessened the noise a bit, she thought it was her own alarm that had gone off.

This time when she looked at the clock she was sitting on the edge of the bed, from where she was able to see her brother – and 'finally understood what was happening'.

Solution 4: The previous solutions are wrong but each of them is partly right.

From solution 1: Jemima's clock was indeed a mechanical clock, but more importantly it was an analogue, mechanical clock.

From solution 2: She had in fact had a wee drink the night before and when she tried to set the alarm to go off at 6.30, she didn't do it as accurately as she could have. It would in fact go off at 6.33 (these clocks are never as precise as digital clocks anyway and the drink had swayed her judgement a bit).

The first time she woke it was 6.29 and then she snoozed off for two minutes.

From solution 3: Her brother had in fact come into her room, but not to try and cause her to miss her interview. No, he had been up getting a glass of water and being a bit sleepy and disorientated he had gone back to her room instead of his own. On seeing his sister in bed he then realised his mistake and went to his own room. However, he had put down his glass of water in front of the clock in his sister's room. She then woke at 6.31, but because she saw the clock through the glass of water it appeared to read 6.29.

A minute later when she again looked it was 6.32, but because of the glass it appeared to be 6.28.

She couldn't believe the clock was going backwards and sat up to get out of bed, go downstairs and check another clock, just as the alarm went off.

This time when she looked at the clock she saw over the glass of water it was 6.33 and she 'finally understood what was happening'.

The 'real' answer

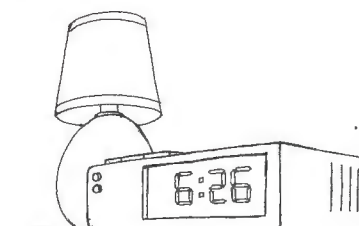
Jemima is looking at a digital clock. However, the top right segment on the righthand digit is not working.

When she first looks at the clock at 0626, it is showing the correct time.

When she looks at it again two minutes later it is 0628, but the 8 shows as a 6 because of the fault, so it still appears to be 0626.

One minute later it is 0629, but the 9 appears as a 5. So it appears to be 0625.

The winner was Graeme Templeton, Operations, Motherwell – well done Graeme!



TRY OUR CAPTION COMPETITION!

THIS issue's competition is perhaps a bit less taxing – simply add a suitable caption to this photo of Cheshire's new Regional Manager, John Marsh. Your suggestions should be sent to David Socha at Cathcart by the end of September. The winner will receive £40 of Marks and Spencer vouchers.

