

# CONTACT

Manweb's monthly newspaper for staff and their families.

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

Vol. 41. No. 4

April 1989

Delivery marks the start of lead-free conversions

## FLEET GOES GREEN

MANWEB became Shell's first north west consumer customer for unleaded petrol on March 21 . . . the first electricity board in England and Wales to take this major environmental initiative. The delivery of lead-free fuel marked the start of the conversion of the Board's commercial fleet.

This first delivery from Shell's Stanlow Refinery is being stored at Head Office, and as the conversion programme progresses, other Manweb depots will have "green" petrol pumps.

"Not only are we intending to change all our 950 petrol engine vehicles that can be converted, but drivers of our 250 contract hire cars will also have the opportunity to switch over to unleaded petrol free of charge," said Network Services Director Denis Farquhar.

### Delighted

Shell's Northern Consumer Sales Manager Vince Timmins said: "We are delighted that Manweb has taken this important step and we look forward to other north west companies following its lead."

The initiative was also welcomed by the Campaign for Lead Free Air. Campaign Director Jane Dunmore said: "This is a splendid move by Manweb and I hope it will be a trend-setter for all other firms to follow."

Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston's car was the first of the Board's vehicles to "go green" and was one of the first Jaguar Sovereigns in the country to be converted.

The Board has 1,600 fleet vehicles—cars, light vans, trucks and large "curtain-sider" lorries—

running on either petrol or diesel. Manweb will continue using some diesel vehicles, and in future all new petrol vehicles bought will run on unleaded fuel, as will all contract hire cars, unless the driver requests otherwise.

Letters have gone out to all contract hire car users giving them the go-ahead to have their current vehicles modified if they wish, at no cost to themselves.

Dave Stevenson, Manweb's Special Projects and Transport Manager, said the conversion of the commercial fleet would be a gradual process.

### Commitment

It was likely, he said, that the smaller depots at Mold, Northwich and St Helens—where fewer vehicles are based and therefore the changeover could be carried out more quickly—would be first to get "green" petrol pumps

"Some of the other electricity boards have decided to convert their contract hire cars, but we are certainly the first to make this positive commitment to modify our commercial fleet to run on unleaded petrol," he added.



Chauffeur Gordon Phillips fills up the Chairman's car with unleaded petrol, watched by Network Services Director Denis Farquhar.

## Staff nose ahead in the Comic Relief stakes



MANWEB staff proved they had a nose for raising money when they got into the Comic Relief spirit last month.

A rash of red noses broke out as fund-raising fever reached epidemic proportions at Head Office and throughout the Districts, bringing hundreds of pounds pouring in.

Many staff donned fancy dress, including those at North Mersey (pictured left) who set off from Bridle Road after work on a tin-rattling tour of the area. And it was a case of "noses



grow on you" for Jason Neil and Carol Wright (above) of the Budget Accounts Section at Head Office.



Success on a plate

PAGE 6



Sheer magic

PAGE 8



Just like my dad's

PAGE 5



Ice champs

PAGE 12

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# Changing faces

## Liverpool's shining example

STAFF at Liverpool District have said a fond farewell to one of their "leading lights". Mrs Norma Stubbs, who retired on March 18, was a Clerical Assistant in Engineering Work Control, where she concentrated on street lighting work.

Presenting her with various gifts on behalf of friends and colleagues, Supplies Manager Haydn Evans paid tribute to her efficiency and dependability as a member of the Engineering Department.

Among her many gifts was a carriage clock, received from the staff of Liverpool City Lighting in recognition of their close working relationship.



## Sister Sheila's career move

ADMINISTRATIVE Services Manager Tom Hamilton presents a gold locket to Manweb's Nursing Sister Sheila Ehlen, who has left to pursue a new direction in her career.

Sheila, who joined Manweb two years ago after working at the Countess of Chester Hospital, has bought a retirement home in Chester, and will care for the elderly.

## Frank Prile

APOLOGIES to recently retired Mr Frank Prile for the mix-up in last month's Contact, when we described him as a Store-keeper at New Crane Street, with 14 years' service. In fact, he was a Linesman at Legacy Depot, and had worked for Manweb for 34 years.

## What's going on in your District?

WHAT'S new in your district or department? Have you a view you'd like to air or an idea for a story? Then why not let Contact know?

Write, phone or come and talk to Contact Editor Jackie Unsworth in 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: Steve Parry, ext 2112, North Wirral: Mike Townson, ext 2202, Mid-Cheshire: Pat O'Neil, ext 2111, Clwyd: Rod Taylor, ext 2118, Gwynedd: Malcolm Donaldson, ext 2250, Oswestry: Sid Warburton, ext 2230, Aberystwyth: Keith Jones, ext 2202, Hoyle Training Centre: Pauline Lewis, ext 251.



## Cliff's super send-off

STAFF at Chester Shop gathered in force to give Sales Assistant Clifford Robinson a super send-off. Clifford, 60, has taken early retirement after almost 29 years with Manweb.

A former Senior Rep in Energy Marketing, Clifford, who breeds and shows poodles in his spare time, is pictured being presented with a dressing gown and personalised cigarette lighter by Shop Manager Ian Traynor, on behalf of colleagues.

## Staff retire . . . with 300 years' service

THE Income Section at Head Office has said goodbye to 13 members of staff who have retired after clocking up almost 300 years between them!

The staff, the majority of whom attended a special farewell lunch, are as follows (length of service in brackets):—

**Credit Sales:** Patricia Barrow (39), Mavis Bennett (15), Celia Thomas (14); **Budget:** Sylvia Howells (14), Doreen Lanceley (15); **Quarterly Accounts:** John Jones (36), Beryl Kyffin (15), Betty McCormack (17), Ve Rooney (16); **Cash Income:** Patricia



Kay (40), Margaret Okaj (32); **Legal:** Margaret Rush (16); **Final Accounts:** Margaret Williams (18). Alan Wadcock, Financial Manager, Income (back row,

centre), is pictured with the retiring members of staff during their farewell lunch.



## High flier Charlie takes off . . .

A POPULAR member of Dee Valley's Energy Marketing team has retired after 25 years' service with Manweb. Sales Team Leader Charlie Williams, who served with the RAF during the Second World War, was presented, appropriately enough, with a model aeroplane.

And to keep him busy in his spare time, colleagues bought him another type of plane—a wood plane—plus a Workmate bench and a huge block of timber!

Charlie, 64, was a Hoover rep before joining Manweb as a salesman at Wrexham. In 1970 he became an Energy Sales Assistant and in 1986 was promoted to Sales Team Leader.

During his war service Charlie, who is a keen stamp collector and gardener, was one of the RAF's youngest warrant officers.

He is pictured shaking hands with Dee Valley Energy Sales Manager Keith Hibbert, surrounded by colleagues.



## Staff say thanks for 15 years' help

NORTH Mersey Engineering staff showed their appreciation for the willing help given over 15 years by Ron Thompson, who recently retired from the Head Office Planning Section.

Ron, pictured (centre) surrounded by his friends from the District, was presented with a coffee maker, audio cassettes and other gifts after being wined and dined at a local pub.

## Manweb staff hit by tragedy

**THE semi-final of the F.A. Cup between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest should have been a feast of football. As we all now know, it was a day of tragedy in which men, women and children died, crushed and trampled in the mayhem on the Lepping Lane terraces at the Sheffield Wednesday ground. Some of those who lost their lives were relatives or friends of Manweb staff.**

Following the disaster, Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston authorised an immediate payment of £5,000 from the Board to be donated to the Hillsborough Fund which has been launched by Liverpool Football Club.

Shocked employees throughout Manweb have rallied round and are raising cash for the official fund. It is now known that employees in Liverpool, North Mersey, Mid-Mersey and North Wirral suffered bereavement or members of their family or friends were injured in the Hillsborough horror.

Liverpool fan David Dreyfus, who witnessed the terrible

scenes at Sheffield, joined forces with his colleague in Head Office Finance, Tim Roberts, to organise a collection at Sealand Road.

They raised £390, taking donations in a bucket in the Head Office restaurant, and have been in touch with the Districts to co-ordinate the effort so that a joint cheque from all Manweb staff could be sent to the disaster appeal.

Still shocked because of what he saw at Hillsborough, David revealed he had had a lucky escape. He had gone to the match with a ticket for the ill-fated Leppings Lane terrace, but by chance another fan with

a stand ticket had asked him to swap.

David agreed to switch tickets, paying the fan who wanted to stand on the terraces the difference. "I didn't know the bloke and I don't know what happened to him, whether he is alive or dead. I just hope he is all right," said David.

David Jenkins, a Clerk in Credit Sales at Head Office, is hoping to boost the appeal with a marathon cycle ride from Chester to Aberystwyth.

A member of the Birkenhead Victoria Cycling Club, 19-year-old David hopes to complete the 94 mile journey, plus a further seven miles from his home in Shotton to Head Office, in five hours.

"It shouldn't be too difficult. Last year I cycled 244 miles in 12 hours," said David, who has been cycling with Victoria Club for the last 11 years.

He added: "I was moved by the news of the disaster and thought this would be a good way to raise money."

**Reports by  
Sam Doughty**

## Lucky to be alive

**MANWEB Financial Projects Manager Bob McMahon and his two teenage children are lucky to be alive after being caught up in the crush at Hillsborough. Bob, who is based at Head Office, had arrived at the ground at 2.25 pm with his 17-year-old daughter Kathy and son John, aged 16, and already a huge crowd had formed.**

He said: "Once inside the ground there were no directions nor anyone telling us which way to go. There appeared to be only one way to the pitch, down a tunnel, which came out right behind the goal. It wasn't the place I wanted to be with two youngsters, but I assumed I could go to the side once through the tunnel.

"On the terracing we went left to try to reach the corner. But there was a barrier down stopping the centre section spreading out. It was very tight. More people poured down the tunnel and it got tighter and tighter until we couldn't move. Still people poured in, so I got my back to a barrier and held Kathy in front of me to stop her being crushed.

"John was by me, and he placed his foot on the barrier to push backwards. He kept his legs straight and was forced up on top of the people in front. I found out later that he had managed to scramble over people's heads to the perimeter fence. He tried to climb it and was eventually shoved over, landing on the other side quite dazed. But at this time I didn't know this. I had lost him. I couldn't move and felt desperate and helpless.

"My face and that of the man next to me were touching at times and Kathy was between us. She slipped down once or twice and we both pulled her up. I told her to keep her head up and breathe fresh air.

"People were falling down. One fellow was right by us and I grabbed his belt and someone else grabbed his head. Suddenly there was a surge and I nearly ended up on top of him.

"The police and fans ripped open the fencing with their bare hands. I saw no wire cutters. That eased the pressure as people poured on the pitch.

"I could breathe again. The crush was over. I clambered on to the pitch and couldn't believe my eyes. There were bodies everywhere. I stepped over them to get to John, who had been helping to stretcher the injured and the dead out—not something a 16-year-old lad should be involved in.

"It was devastating. A big, tough-looking guy covered in tattoos was kneeling by one of the bodies. He looked up at me and burst into tears. Another man was running back and forth yelling 'Tommy, Tommy'. That could have been me looking for John. Those poor people down at the front never had a hope in hell. We are lucky to be alive," said Bob.

Watching helplessly in the stands at the side of the pitch were more Manweb employees. Andy Sturgeon, a Clerical Assistant at North Wirral District, said: "We could see something was wrong, and people from the stand ran over to help. I had mates in there. Two of them died. It was terrible."

North Mersey Energy Marketing Manager Cliff Robinson said: "We saw people giving mouth-to-mouth, some of them not knowing what they were doing. The bodies were taken out on makeshift stretchers. It was a terrible sight."



## One in a million

**ONE in a million! That's North Wirral's Contracting team after achieving a turnover of £1m for 1988/89. It was the most successful year ever for the District's Contracting staff, who are expected to bring in a profit of more than £90,000.**

North Wirral Installation Manager Jeff Scott said: "It is the first time the District has had a turnover of £1 million on contracting, and is all the more impressive given that last year we made a loss of £5,000 at District level on a turnover of £850,000."

To mark the occasion, District Manager Des Lock (pictured left) presented special sweaters to members of the Contracting team. They are, from left to right, Pamela Pyke, Peter Thompson,

Brenda Robinson, Steve Gauller and Colin Hough.

Mr Lock said: "There are still areas which offer scope for improvement but I must express my appreciation to all concerned for their effort and support in achieving this outstanding result. I believe that improved performance can and must be sustained in the future to ensure that North Wirral continues to be recognised as a major centre for contracting in the new Trading Division."

## Trevor's fund-raising boost

**CLWYD District Manager Doug Willacy presents a £150 cheque to Installation Inspector Trevor Field (right), the first payment out of Manweb's Charity Chest.**

Trevor, who is based at Rhyl, organised and ran a tombola stall at the Ideal Homes Exhibition held at Pontins, Prestatyn, in May, raising a total of £195.71 for the British Red Cross Society.

The money Trevor raised, boosted by the further £150 from the Charity Chest, will be used to send handicapped adults from all over Clwyd on holiday to Pontins at Morecambe this year.

Since its launch in January, the Charity Chest scheme has attracted applications from dozens of Manweb employees who want to raise money for charities in Merseyside and North Wales.

Under the scheme, Manweb will match, £ for £ up to a maximum £150, cash raised by staff for local community projects. However, only registered charities are eligible.



Application forms and further details about the scheme are available from Public Relations, Head Office, ext 2090.

● Manweb and the Milk Marketing Board have joined forces to cook up a fund-raising evening for the Charity Chest.

The event, in the Head Office restaurant on Tuesday May 9, includes cookery demonstrations by the MMB and British

Meat and various displays by local producers.

Tickets, costing just £2, are available from Debbie Parry, Public Relations, ext 2091, or the Chester Chronicle series of newspapers. The price includes a glass of wine on arrival, a 'goodie bag' and entry into a prize draw. All proceeds from the evening, which starts at 7.30 pm, will go into the Charity Chest.

# Dai's charity sea marathon

MANWEB Joiner Dai Davies is keeping his fingers crossed for fine weather during May. Dai is a member of the Aberystwyth Lifeboat crew planning a sponsored row across the Irish Sea to raise money for the Mid-Wales Scanner Appeal.

For the last few months Dai has been in strict training for the marathon journey of 97 miles from Arklow in Ireland to his home town of Aberystwyth. But the timing of the epic adventure, which could take up to 30 hours to complete, all depends on blue skies and a calm sea.

## Freezing

Two teams of five will take turns to man the oars of the 22ft long rowing skiff Draig y Môr (Dragon of the Sea). And with strong tides and headwinds to contend with, plus freezing temperatures during the night, the plucky fund-raisers have a gruelling task ahead of them.

They will, however, be accompanied by a support

vessel manned by other lifeboatmen, for safety's sake should the weather suddenly change.

The hull of the Draig y Môr was made locally and fitted out by Dai and another member of the rowing team in their spare time.

Dai said: "We haven't set a target but we hope to raise a substantial amount of money for the Scanner Appeal. A huge fund-raising effort is going on in Aberystwyth and this is our contribution to the community.

## Confident

"It's going to be tough going for the rowers but we are all putting in plenty of practice, building up from two hours'



Ready to launch their charity venture—Dai (left) with some of the Aberystwyth lifeboatmen who will be taking part in the sponsored sea crossing.

rowing per night to four hours. I'm feeling very confident and am looking forward to the event."

Father-of-two Dai, 32, has worked for Manweb for three

years. He joined the lifeboat crew 14 years ago and has been involved in hundreds of rescues in the choppy waters off Aberystwyth.

The strenuous training Dai

has put in won't go to waste after the sponsored row. He and his fellow crew members plan to compete in the Pembroke and newly-formed Ceredigion skiff racing leagues.

# Bilingual bills are introduced for Welsh customers

MANWEB has introduced bilingual electricity bills to all customers living in Wales. For some years electricity accounts have had the pre-printed wording in both English and Welsh, but it has never been practical to produce the details of the bill in both languages.

Six months ago, as an experiment, customers in Manweb's Gwynedd District were sent two bills, one in English and one in Welsh, giving them the option of paying the one they preferred.

## Approval

It has now been possible to write a computer programme which includes both languages side by side on the bill, and Manweb hopes this will meet the approval of all its customers in the Principality.

Manweb provides its customers in Wales with an electricity supply, a sales and service organisation for appliances and electrical installation. Wherever possible the response to letters or in telephone conversations is in the language chosen by that customer—even from Head Office at Chester.

## Caring

The bilingual bill is just one of many documents produced in English and Welsh by Manweb. The Customer Charter and Customer Service Manual are two recent items produced in both languages, the latter being a guide for caring agencies, such as Citizens' Advice Bureaux, on the standards of service Manweb guarantees.

# Sales squad is rewarded

THE super salesmen responsible for the four winning entrants in the Manweb PEP and Beta awards were rewarded for their efforts when Power Marketing Director Colin Leonard presented them with shields.

Pictured receiving their awards are (left to right) Bob Isherwood, 2nd Engineer, Oswestry Energy Marketing (PEP Category I—Forestart); John Mayes, 2nd Engineer, Mid-Cheshire Energy Marketing (Beta Category I—Aston Methodist Church); Oswestry Energy Sales Manager Don Wade (PEP Category II—Express Foods); Colin Leonard, and Roger Critch, 1st Engineer, Liverpool Energy Marketing (Beta Category II—Wharf Restaurant).



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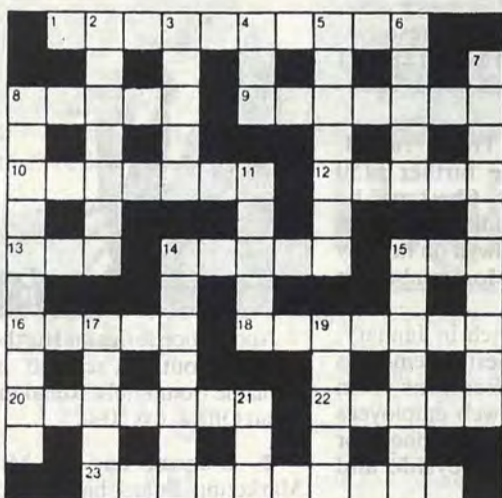
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# Crossword No. 9



## Across

1 What bats do that's untrustworthy (3-2-5), 8 Able to get aboard as a rule (5), 9 Void use of the tricky and deceitful (7), 10 Put on an act before nurse (7), 12 Material let out to encompass usual ends (5), 13 Rule out loss of royalty in financial dealing (3), 14 Creep finding a way to do nothing (5), 15 Source of heat arising from a ring maybe (3), 16 Not even plum jam gets you started! (5), 18 Compel fencer to dance round the ring (7), 20 War machine finding a way to provide beer (7), 22 Plan to send soldiers (5), 23 Oglng in a glass factory maybe? (6, 4).

## Down

2 Light to carry (7), 3 Jag-being taken around (5), 4 Agree to say nothing (3), 5 Allowed to include over-the-top dance (7), 6 Try to catch a dwarf (5), 7 Rating as fools people who get in the way (10), 8 Brown maybe having team potential (10), 11 Miss a trick (5), 14 Have fun getting high with a bird (7), 15 Putting one's finger finally on a lot of hair material (7), 17 Drop skirt to give a man a start (5), 19 Sweet stall (5), 21 Try to get paid for taking the river away from the city (3).

Solution on Page 9

# Squash courts

THE squash courts at Chester College are to be made available to Manweb staff. The two glass back courts can be booked during the day or evening when not in use by organised College groups.

A fee of £10 per year plus £1 per 40 minute session will be charged, and this includes the use of the changing rooms and bar. Anyone interested should contact Joan Royle at the College in Cheyney Road for further details.

# Best feet forward

MANWEB staff are being urged to put their best feet forward and join the Chester Fun Run, organised by Cheshire Nalگو, on May 7.

The seven-mile event, which will start at 11 am from the County Officers' Sports Club, Plas Newton Lane, Upton, is in aid of the Cheshire Society for the Deaf and the Research Trust for Metabolic Diseases in Children. Those taking part will have the option of gently jogging or walking the seven mile course.

Application forms and further details available from Kerry Jones on HO ext 2130 or Roger Bracey on ext 2162.

# David's dream comes true—courtesy of Manweb A van just like dad's

A NINE-YEAR-OLD boy who wanted a Manweb van just like his dad's has had his dream come true. David Edwards had searched high and low for a replica of the vehicle his father Jeff, a Dee Valley Shift Electrician, drives.

Eventually he wrote to Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston asking for his help. He said: "Dear Mr Weston, Can you please tell me why I can't buy a Dinkie toy van with Manweb written on the side? You can buy every one you can think of except a Manweb one. I've got a Telecom, a Gas one and a Royal Mail one, but I still can't find an Escort Manweb van like my dad drives. Please can you arrange for a factory to make me one."



During his visit to Queensferry Stores, David had a ride on a fork lift truck and helped load washing machines on to a truck.

David's plea was taken up by undergraduate trainee Keith Hart-Jones, on work experience in Manweb's Public Relations Department. He got in touch with the model vehicle manufacturers but was told it was not practical to manufacture toy Manweb vans, as they would only have a local appeal.

So, undeterred, Keith decided a D-I-Y job was the solution and set about customising a model police van.

"I took off the sirens, sanded the toy van right down to the metal, primed it and then gave it five coats of white paint before adding tiny Manweb logos in the corporate colours. A coat of lacquer, and it looked like the real thing," said Keith.

The behind-the-scenes scheme was kept secret from David, who, after being told why there were no toy Manweb vans on sale, was invited to visit Dee Valley District.

Even Dad was asked to "keep mum" about Keith's undercover operation, and an unsuspecting David turned up for his tour of Legacy Depot with 1st Engineer, Transport, Jim Davies as guide, a delicious lunch of chips washed down with Coke at the District Office, followed by a visit to Queensferry Stores where he was shown around by Financial Manager (Expenditure and Stores) Peter Falcon.

But the highlight of the day was a visit to Head Office, where Mr Weston was waiting to present him with the model Manweb van.

Keith said: "When the Chairman handed him the toy van,

**Story by:  
Jackie Unsworth**

**Pictures by:  
Max Cooksey**



Above: Surprise, surprise! Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston presents the model van to David.

Below: It's just like my dad's. David with the tiny replica of the Manweb van his father Jeff, also pictured, drives.



David was absolutely thrilled. He didn't say very much. I think he was overwhelmed by it all."

Afterwards, David sent another letter to Mr Weston, in which he wrote: "Thank you very much for my day out around

Manweb. I really enjoyed myself. It was very interesting and I liked going for a ride in the articulated lorry, loading washing machines in the stores, working the fork lift truck and drilling and sanding in the garage.

"Please will you pass on my thanks to each department I went around, especially Keith Hart-Jones for my brilliant van and Jim Davies for being so kind to me. Perhaps some day I will work for Manweb."



## Head Office Print Department under Siege

ORGANISER of the Siege of Chester Pageant Audrey Street collected over a quarter of a million leaflets promoting the event from Manweb's Head Office Printing Department in Chester.

The leaflets, printed free of charge for Barnardos North West, were circulated during the run up to the May Bank Holiday event.

Audrey (left) is pictured with (left to right) printers Paul Clarke, Stephen Lloyd and Sue Adams.

The Siege re-enacted the Cavaliers and Roundheads' Civil War battle in Chester and the full supporting programme included demonstrations, archery, cavalry and music.

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# On the Wire



## Poetic justice

**FRUSTRATED** by the delay in repairing a leaning 'A' pole pointing ominously towards her garden, a worried Knutsford householder decided to take drastic action to persuade Mid-Cheshire District to get a move on.

The work wasn't progressing quickly enough for the elderly lady, who tried telephoning and writing to Macon Way to chivvy things along.

Behind the scenes, of course, Manweb was doing its level best to get the job in hand. Then Mains Manager Paul Wilkinson received the following poem:

### Current Affairs

That power pole's certainly listing  
The brook is lapping all round  
The bank is completely eroded  
That pole was once in firm ground.

As phone calls proved quite abortive  
A letter to Manweb was tried  
"Please, please could you do something  
I don't want my garden plants fried."

Don't bother to answer her letter  
Just acknowledge and say  
"All's in hand"  
And for goodness sake don't phone or visit

*Old women just don't understand.*

*But then I suppose she is worried*

*I'll tell you my great master plan*

*We haven't much staff or machinery*

*But next week we can spare one man.*

*Tell him to take that old goat stake*

*And that piece of old towing rope*

*Secure the pole where she can see it*

*Something's done—and it will give her hope.*

*And then if the Peover Eye rises*

*The current still weakening the pole*

*And all those volts fall in her garden*

*She'll have known we have tried—poor old soul.*

Coincidentally, the poem arrived the day the work was programmed to start. Now that's what I call service . . .

## It's enough to drive you up the pole

OUR colleagues at Electrical Review seemed to miss the point when they used a photograph of Manweb's Chairman Bryan Weston climbing a high voltage pole in their March edition.

Mr Weston had donned safety gear to put in place the first of a new type of danger sign to warn others of the hazards of tampering with electrical equipment.

Electrical Review's caption under the photograph read: "Signs placed high on HV poles now serve as a warning to low-flying aircraft . . . and literate baby-carrying storks". Very funny.

## Taking the piste . . .

YOU can understand why everyone has been "taking the piste" out of one of our colleagues in the Trading Division at Head Office, following his recent exploits on the ski slopes.

Feeling full of confidence after his first ever skiing trip to the Italian Alps, he was naturally keen to keep on top of his newly-acquired skills and booked himself a session on the dry slope at Llandudno. And that's where he slipped up . . .

His prowess on the piste was sorely tested when, after less than half an hour into the session, he took a nasty tumble, breaking his thumb and blacking an eye in the process.

Although he's now fully recovered, our hero is still nursing a badly bruised ego, so I won't add insult to injury by revealing his name.

## On the horns of a dilemma

TALKING of Environmental Services Manager Doug Gregg, he very kindly passed me this cutting (left) from the March issue of Plumbing and Heating Equipment News.

Can you spot the deliberate error? Well look closely at the "hippopotamus" in the photo. Looks more like a rhinoceros to me!

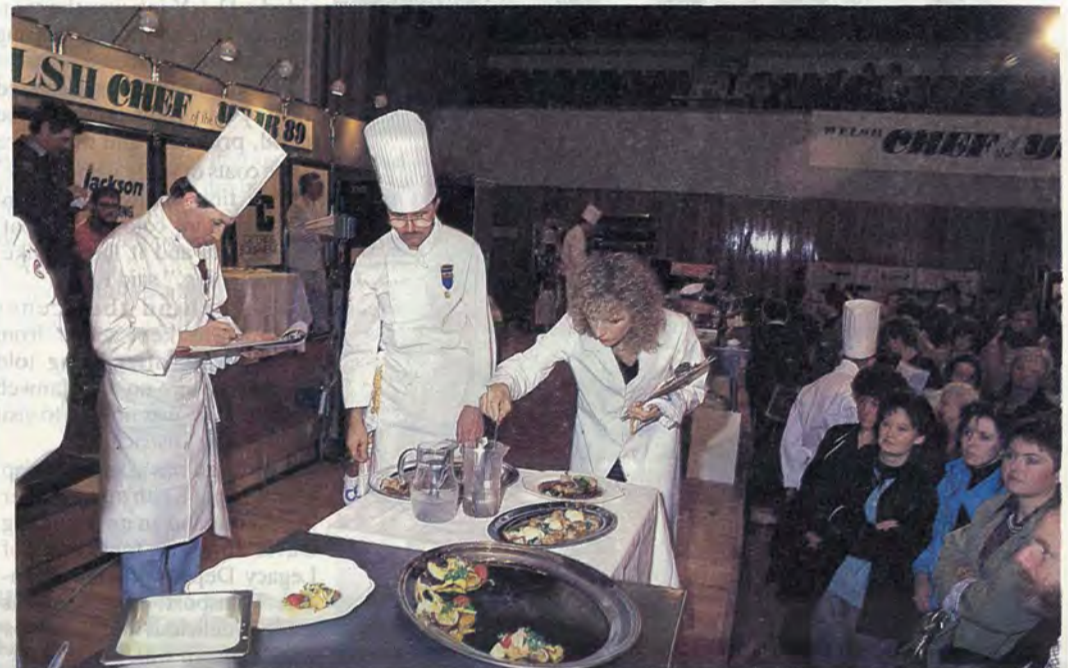
## Share those funny stories

DO you have an amusing story to tell or a funny photo to show? Then why not share it with On the Wire? Write, telephone or call in and see Contact Editor Jackie Unsworth, Room 5E1, Head Office, ext 2090.

# Culinary crown is scooped by So Success on a the 1989 We

THE sweet taste of success came to 31-year-old Trefor Jones when he scooped the culinary crown and the top prize of £1,000 in the Welsh Chef of the Year competition 1989. Representing South Wales, Trefor, Head Chef at the Celtic Manor Hotel, Newport, Gwent, beat two other finalists in the competition, sponsored by Manweb, South Wales Electricity and Taste of Wales Ltd., in association with the Wales Tourist Board.

In second place was North Wales heat winner Jerry Davies, of the Bryn Howel Hotel and Restaurant, near Llangollen, who received £500 and a bronze Cookery and Food Association medal, and the third prize of £150 went to David Davies, of the Pavilion Hotel, Aberystwyth, who represented Mid-Wales.



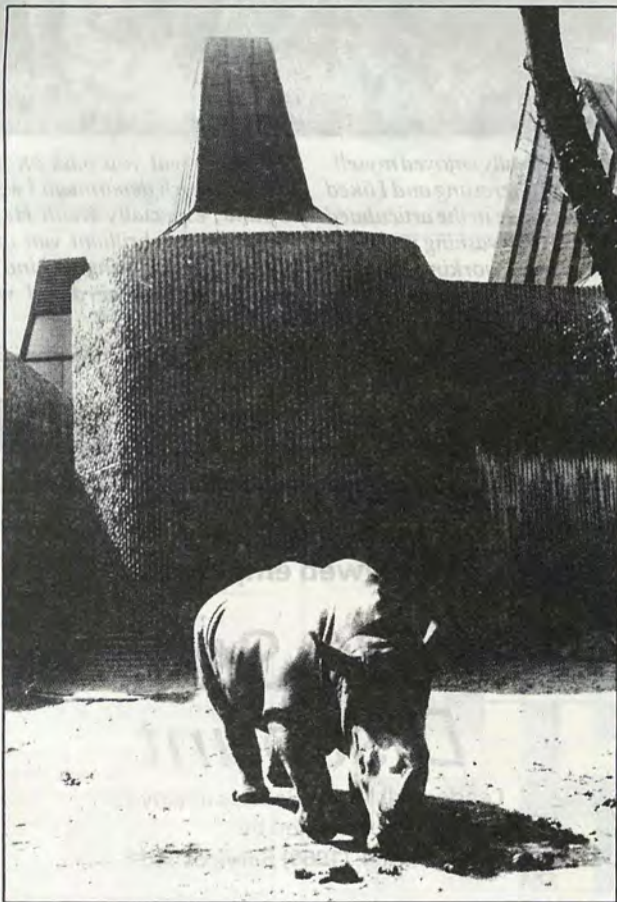
A tense moment for the finalists as the judges—Stuart Langfield, Jeff Hyde and Jilly Gooden—start marking the prepared dishes.



Above: Aberystwyth District Manager David Price presents the £1,000 prize to Welsh Chef of the Year Trefor Jones, watched by Jilly Gooden.

Right: The trio of top chefs, from left to right, runner-up Jerry Davies, winner Trefor Jones and David Davies with the big prize money!

## Even hippos need it!



Actually, their keepers need it — it being domestic hot water mainly for washing — well you would wouldn't you — working with hippos (and elephants!)

Five storage water heaters, Andrews Hi-Flo type 29/130, running on natural gas have been installed in the elephant and hippo buildings at London Zoo. Each has a storage capacity of 136 litres, recovery rate through 44°C of 592 litre/hour and a heat input of 37.2kW.

PHEN CIRCLE 193

# th Wales contender plate for sh Chef

Story: Jackie Unsworth  
Pictures: Max Cooksey



Success on a plate! Trefor Jones with the delicious dishes that earned him the culinary crown.

Hotel, Llandudno, and Jeff Hyde, of the Cookery and Food Association.

Jeff said: "Although we weren't able to award any gold medals, the general standard of this year's competition was very good. Trefor's main course was perfect, his sauces delicious and he made good use of colour. He was the clear winner."

#### Pressure

And Stuart added: "We totally agreed that Trefor was the winner, but it was quite a close-run competition. From a presentation

point of view, Trefor's dishes really stood out."

Announcing the winners, Manweb's Aberystwyth District Manager David Price paid tribute to the three finalists for their efforts. He said: "They all worked very hard to produce some excellent dishes under extreme pressure."

"There has been a high standard of entry this year, and the judges have had a difficult task on their hands."

Mr Price went on to thank the Wales Tourist Board and the Cookery and Food Association for their support.

## Boost for Scanner Appeal—Page 8

## Post Bag



## Pat-on-the-back for caring couple

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring to your attention something I think deserves a mention in your (or should I say "our") *Contact* newspaper.

Mr David Wilcox, Shop Manager at Warrington, had dealings with an old lady regarding a new but faulty Tricity cooker. Our engineer had called to repair it but due to a major problem had to disconnect the cooker. He informed the shop that the lady had no means of cooking.

David was on his rota day off and had a phone call from the shop over another matter. He enquired about the old lady and her cooker and was told of the latest problem.

David went to the shop and collected a loan set of cooker rings, made a flask of soup and took them, plus his own toaster, to the lady's home that evening, along with Carol, his wife, who is the receptionist at Mid-Mersey District Office. The customer was delighted.

I think in David and Carol we have two real ambassadors for Manweb and Mid-Mersey District.  
**Julian Jenkins,**  
Regional Shops Manager.



A grandstand view of the Cater '89 exhibition, with the Manweb stand in the foreground.

## Top prize and a silver medal for talented Timothy

THERE was also success on a plate for the first ever Young Welsh Chef of the Year, 22-year-old Timothy Dewhurst, from the St Tudno Hotel, Llandudno. He beat two other finalists, taking the £250 top prize and a silver Cookery and Food Association medal.

In second place was John Morgan, 22, of the Celtic Manor Hotel, Newport, who won £100 and a bronze CFA medal, and the third prize of £50 went to 18-year-old Lee Jones, of the Conrah Country Hotel, Chancery, Aberystwyth.

The Young Welsh Chef section of the competition was introduced this year, and Timothy tempted the judges with a delicious starter of pears with Welsh cheese and a creamy watercress sauce, followed by leek-stuffed fillets of sole topped with a crust of fresh herbs and white wine, and, for afters, apple sponge with champagne sauce.

#### Interest

As in the senior contest, the three finalists had to produce a three course meal for four within three hours and at a cost of no more than £28.

Taste of Wales Chairman Christopher Pollard said he hoped the competition would boost interest in Welsh food, adding: "We want people to learn about the best of Welsh produce."

"These young chefs will, I am sure, prove to be excellent ambassadors for the principality."



# Wine tasting brings the funds pouring in

STAFF at Aberystwyth District were toasting their success when a Tutored Wine Tasting hosted by TV presenter Jilly Goolden raised more than £1,200 for the Mid-Wales Scanner Appeal. Jilly, star of BBC2's *Food and Drink* programme, was in town as a guest of Manweb, to appear at the Cater '89 exhibition at University College, Aberystwyth, and to join the judging panel at the Welsh Chef of the Year competition.



The Mid-Wales Scanner Appeal was given a massive boost at the Tutored Wine Tasting. Pictured left to right with the giant cheque are Aberystwyth District Manager David Price, Health Authority Chairman James Thomas, Jilly Goolden and Aberystwyth Energy Sales Manager Allen Carr.

Organised by the District on the eve of the Welsh Chef final, the Tutored Wine Tasting was held at the Pavilion Restaurant, Aberystwyth, and was attended by local businessmen and women.

The evening got off to a spell-binding start when Manweb Commercial Assistant Tomos Davies, disguised as Mr Mestopheles, performed a 'magic' show . . . with the help of an Electratech control panel.

Showing off a new line in sales patter, Tomos dazzled his audience with a demonstration of how the Electratech system works, using it to produce some amazing special effects—including a microwave light show and a laser display.

The highlight came when he coaxed a member of the audience to lend him a £10 note to show how it could be used to boil a pan of water on an induction hob. The crowd held their breath as Tomos placed the tenner between the hob and the pan, and were amazed when steam began to curl into the air as the water began to boil.

Then Tomos performed the ultimate magic trick when he whisked the £10 note—still in mint condition—from under the bubbling pan of water . . . and



Money to burn! Magic man Mr Mestopheles (Tomos Davies) had the audience spellbound during this neat trick with an induction hob.

persuaded its owner to donate it to the Scanner Appeal!

The Tutored Wine Tasting put everyone in even better spirits, as they sampled wines from France, Germany, Chile and Lebanon while Jilly explained their merits. The wines—more than £1,000 worth—were donated by the Augustus Barnett company.

The evening ended with a raffle and after the proceeds were totted up, a giant cheque for £1,219.87 was presented by

Aberystwyth District Manager David Price to the Chairman of East Dyfed Health Authority, Mr James Thomas.

Mr Thomas revealed that because of the massive support for the Appeal, it was likely the body scanner would be bought and installed at Bronlais Hospital, Aberystwyth, within the next financial year—12 months sooner than expected.

He said: "I am very grateful to everyone for their support. The amount of money raised tonight is absolutely fantastic."

## WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from two World Wars, Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus, Ulster, The Falklands and all those areas of turmoil where peace must be restored.

Now, disabled and mainly aged, we must look to you for help. Please help by helping our Association.

BLESMA looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps to overcome the shock of losing arms, or legs or an eye. And, for the severely handicapped, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help the disabled by helping BLESMA with a donation now or a legacy in the future. We promise you that not one penny will be wasted.



THE FIRST STEP by a recent, young double amputee

**PLEASE GIVE THROUGH GIVE AS YOU EARN TO THOSE WHO GAVE FOR YOU**

Give to those who gave—please  
Donations and information: The Chairman, National Appeal Committee, BLESMA, Midland Bank PLC, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX



**BLESMA**  
BRITISH LIMBLESS  
EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION



## FRED'S PUZZLE CORNER

### Building words

HERE'S another chance for you to construct some words and complete the pyramid. To solve the puzzle all you have to do is work out the first answer, then add a letter to it to complete the next line and so on. Rearrange the letters, if necessary, as you go along. The clues are as follows:—

1. Exist, by the sound of it.
2. Initially, a Bachelor of Arts.
3. Pinch.
4. Farm Building.
5. Wee Scot.
6. Uncovering . . .
7. . . . Then dressing.
8. Snatching.

Send your answers on a post-card to: "Building Words", Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR. The winner will receive £5.

### Prizes on their way

THE winners of Contact's recent "Catchphrase" and "Going Round in Circles" competitions are M. Strangward, of the Head Office Payroll Section, and retired employee Tom Challinor, of Frodsham, who gave the following correct answers:—

**CATCHPHRASE:** Sleeping Beauty, Puss in Boots, Babes in the Wood, Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

**GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES:** (Clockwise) Nap, Store, Pare, Vole, Err, Amp, Isle, Epee, Pet. (Anti-Clockwise) Tepee, Peel, Sip, Mar, Reel, Over, Ape, Rot, Span.

Sybil Cooper, of Guilden Sutton, Chester, was the outright winner of the "Square Deal" and "It Grows on You" puzzles. She gave the following answers:—

**SQUARE DEAL:** Realm, Drain, Rotor, Rider, Adapt, Miner.

**IT GROWS ON YOU:** Ire, Sire, Spire, Aspire, Hat, Heat, Heath, Hearth, Has, Hams, Harms, Charms, Tip Trip, Strip, Stripe, Lit, Slit, Split, Splint, Pan, Plan, Plane, Planet.

Cheques for £5 are now on their way to the three winners.



# Role reversal for Manweb

MANWEB has opened a new accounts office in the Focus TV store at Liverpool's Belle Vale Shopping Precinct. The new office is a complete role reversal, as Focus normally trades from the larger Manweb shops.

With the nearest Manweb shops several miles away in Allerton, Huyton and Old Swan, the office in the Focus store is proving popular with customers, opening three mornings per week to take account payments, deal with enquiries and sell savings stamps and meter cards.

Martin Jones, Executive Officer in Cash Income at Head Office, said: "The new office has been a tremendous success. On the first day we took

around £8,000 and if demand warrants it, we may look at extending the opening hours.

"Our customers are really pleased they no longer have to travel so far to pay their bills."

● Martin Jones is pictured at the opening of the new office with (left to right) Focus store Manageress Jackie McCoy, customer Agnes Hughes and Manweb Cashier Angela Bell.



# District initiative in war on crime

THE growing problem of theft from prepayment meters has prompted a major initiative by Manweb to cut the crime rate. North Wirral District, where the problem is particularly serious, has joined forces with Merseyside Police and the Birkenhead Victims Support Scheme to develop a Crime Prevention Roadshow.

A caravan, containing a card operated meter display and various crime prevention information, is being taken by Manweb to areas on the Wirral where thieves have struck.

North Wirral District Manager Des Lock said: "The idea is to persuade customers with prepayment meters to change to the new, modern and efficient card operated meter system.

"With the use of a card, which can be purchased from all Post Offices and Manweb shops, customers will no longer have the worries of a large amount of money being deposited in a prepayment meter, making their homes a target for thieves. This is a serious problem which is on the increase around Merseyside and the Wirral in particular."

Manweb has also taken the caravan into the main Wirral shopping centres to spread the word about how card operated meters can help reduce the theft problem. The caravan is manned by police crime prevention officers, Manweb staff

and welfare groups, to ensure advice on all aspects is available.

Val Simpson, Senior Co-ordinator of Birkenhead VSS, praised the Manweb initiative. She said: "We have the dubious distinction of being the Merseyside Police division with the highest crime rate, and linked with that Manweb has had a serious problem of debt and losses due to thefts from coin meters.

"The caravan has been specially fitted out as an information centre for the public and is an excellent example of the inter-agency co-operation we enjoy on the Wirral."

● District Manager Des Lock is pictured above showing visitors to the caravan the card operated meter display. They are, from left to right, James Catto, Janet Brooks, Pat Van Der Hock, Lin Lloyd and Val Simpson, all from the Victims Support Scheme, North Wirral Customer Accounts Manager Edna Holroyd, and Manweb's Debt Counsellor Sheila Golborne.

# Civic Shields are presented

A GWYNEDD housing association has been presented with a prestigious Civic Shield award from Manweb. Mr Owen Wynne, Chairman of Cymdeithas Ty Eryri, received the award from Gwynedd District Manager Dick Owen for the upgrading of 35 properties on Ty Hen Estate, Rhostrehwfa, Llangefni, to Civic Shield specifications.

The two, three and four-bedroom terraced houses have had their old storage heating systems replaced with a new more cost-effective system designed by Manweb to take advantage of Economy 7 cheap night rate electricity and the highest standards of insulation.

And Wrexham Maelor Borough Council has picked up three Civic Shields for providing tenants with energy efficient cost-effective housing. The 57 properties—at Maes-y-Capel in Coedpoeth, Pleasant View, Pentre Broughton, and the Prince of Wales Court, Summerhill—now have full comfort conditions, low running costs and clean reliable electric heating with minimal maintenance.



# EEIBA draw winners

THE £300 prizewinner on the EEIBA's February draw was C. M. Smith, of the Income Section, Head Office, with the lucky number 894. The other winners were as follows:—

£200—C. M. Shepherd, Head Office (2457); £150—J. R. Beach, retired (1871); £100—E. A. Allen, Head Office (518); £75—N. F. Healey, retired (1642); £75—E. Jones, retired (1995); £50—S. C. Shaw, Head Office (863); £50—P. Rosenberg, Head Office (776); £50—D. McCallum, Head Office (410); £50—K. Griffiths, retired (1559); £30—E. D. Lanceley, Head Office (881); £30—E. P. Roberts, Queensferry (1134); £30—L. A. Baron, retired (357); £25—H. Hassall, retired (1969); £25—K. T. Murray, Dee Valley (1302); £25—J. Yates, Belling (743); £25—J. Cunnah, Clwyd (2730); £25—S. L. Cheshire, North Wirral (2575); £25—G. Furness, retired (2158); £25—J. W. Jump, retired (16).

# AGM at North Wirral

THE Annual General Meeting of the Manweb (North Wirral) Retired Staff Association will be held at the District Office on May 3 at 2.30 pm, when officers will be elected. District Manager Des Lock will welcome those attending and refreshments will be served before the meeting starts.

# Stamp appeal

MANWEB staff are reminded to pass on all their used stamps to Energy Marketing, Head Office, to help towards raising funds for a guide dog for the blind. All donations to John Shead in 2W1.

# Crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Fly-by-night, 8 Canon, 9 Devious, 10 Pretend, 12 Tulle, 13 Ban, 14 Sidle, 15 Gas, 16 Lumpy, 18 Enforce, 20 Tankard, 22 Draft, 23 Making eyes.

DOWN: 2 Lantern, 3 Binge, 4 Nod, 5 Gavotte, 6 Troll, 7 Assessment, 8 Capability, 11 Dodge, 14 Skylark, 16 Germane, 17 Minim, 19 Fudge, 21 Dun.

PROUDLY showing off his brand new Barbour waxed cotton jacket is 12-year-old Jamie Ansell, the winner of Manweb's painting competition, on the theme of safety, for children.

Jamie, of Llandiloes, Powys, received his prize from Oswestry District Manager Lyn Price.

# Information incorrect

IN the February edition of Contact we provided a list of long-serving Manweb employees. Due to incorrect information we referred to Oswestry Craft Attendant Mr George Brunt when, in fact, it should have been Mr Geoffrey Brunt who has clocked up 40 years with the Board.

# David is local heat winner

BIRKENHEAD student David Hughes won the Manweb regional heat of the national Catermind competition at Liverpool's Eleanor Rathbone Theatre.

Organised by the Industrial Catering Association, this annual event is sponsored by the Electricity Supply Industry and is open to catering students aged under 21.

David, who is studying at Wirral Metropolitan College, scored the highest ever points in the 15 year history of the competition and his victory has earned him a place alongside the other 11 regional winners at the final on May 10 at the Barbican, London.

Magnus Magnusson will question the students and present the winner with a cheque for £1,000 and the prestigious ICA Cup.

● Manweb's Sales Development Manager is pictured presenting David with the Catermind North West Liverpool Trophy.



# Cooking with MARY



## How to cause a stir...

**STIR-FRYING** is an easy method of cooking, which originated in China. It consists of finely chopped or sliced ingredients, which are continuously stirred during frying in hot oil so they are cooked evenly whilst their flavour, colour and texture is retained. Prepare all the ingredients before you begin cooking. Constant stirring is required, so you won't have time to start chopping and slicing as you go along. Chop or slice the ingredients into even-sized pieces to ensure even cooking.

A carbon steel wok is the traditional type of pan to use, as the deep round base provides a large surface area for quick cooking. This type is best for gas hobs, but flat-based woks are also available for use on electric hobs. Don't worry if you don't have a wok—a large deep frying pan can work just as well.

### QUICK CRUNCHY GARLIC CHICKEN

(serves four)

2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed; 5 tbsp dark soy sauce, 2 tbsp cornflour; 4 chicken breasts, sliced into thin strips; 4 tbsp corn oil; 4oz (125g) whole blanched almonds, 1 large red pepper, seeded and sliced into strips; 1 bunch spring onions, trimmed and chopped; 6oz (175g) beansprouts, 2 tbsp sugar; 1 tbsp sherry; 8oz (225g) cooked brown rice, to serve.

Method: Put the garlic and four tablespoons of soy sauce into a bowl and blend in the cornflour. Add the chicken strips and mix until well coated. Cover and then chill in the fridge for about ten minutes.

Heat the oil in a frying pan or wok, add the almonds and stir-fry for two minutes. Add the peppers and chilled chicken and stir-fry on a high heat for about eight minutes until the chicken has separated and browned. Add the rest of the ingredients plus the remaining soy sauce and cook for a further five minutes. Pile on to a warmed platter of hot cooked brown rice.

### SPEEDY SEAFOOD RISOTTO (serves four)

2 eggs, size two; 4 tbsp corn oil; 1 onion, peeled and chopped; 1 garlic clove, peeled and crushed; 2 fresh squid, cleaned and sliced into rings; 8oz (225g) smoked haddock, skinned and cubed; 4oz (125g) frozen prawns, defrosted; 1 yellow pepper, seeded and sliced into rings; salt and freshly ground black pepper, grated rind of half a lemon and a dash of lemon juice; 8oz (225g) cooked brown rice, to serve; fresh prawns to garnish.

Method: Put the eggs into a pan of simmering water and boil for about ten minutes. Heat the oil in a large frying pan or wok and add the onion and garlic. Fry for two to three minutes, until the onion has softened. Add the squid and stir-fry for five to six minutes, until cooked. Add the haddock, prawns, pepper, seasoning, lemon rind and juice. Stir well and cook on high heat for about five minutes. Drain the eggs, plunge them into cold water and shell. Cut eggs into quarters. Serve the stir-fry on a bed of brown rice, garnished with the eggs and fresh prawns.

### QUICK AND EASY CREAMY LEMON JELLY

Make up a packet of lemon jelly with milk. Decorate with whipped cream, lemon slices and grated chocolate when set.

## Sponsorship package gives a boost to budding businesses

**FLEDGLING** firms have been given a chance to spread their wings thanks to a major sponsorship package from Manweb.

Manweb has pledged more than £1,000 to the Entep Trust Ltd, the Ellesmere Port-based enterprise agency which provides a counselling service to local small businesses.

So far this year the Trust has given expert advice to more than 700 clients in the Ellesmere Port and Neston areas, and has helped 80 new businesses to start up.

The Trust is funded through private sector sponsorship, Cheshire County Council and the Government's Local Enterprise Agency grant scheme.

Manweb is sponsoring Entep over a three-year period—£300 this year, £400 in 1990 and £500 in 1991.

Entep Trust General Manager Peter Metcalfe is pictured (right) receiving the first cheque from Manweb's Dee Valley District Manager Bob Hodson (left). Also pictured are Manweb's Chairman Bryan Weston and Deputy Chairman Richard Gales.



## Safety message to conference

by Gaynor Kenyon

**MANWEB** Deputy Chairman Richard Gales stressed the important role safety will continue to play following the proposed privatisation of the industry. He was speaking at the electricity supply industry's 26th Annual Safety Conference, held at Head Office between April 4 and 6.

"Along with other Area Boards we at Manweb have embarked on a major campaign to highlight the importance of safety. We want higher standards and we want to get across the message that all accidents are avoidable," said Mr Gales.

"We have set up a Committee for Safety Initiatives which is instructing managers to monitor the use of personal protective equipment by staff and to develop training programmes for staff in safe working and accident prevention.

### Importance

"Hopefully measures such as these will help us increase the importance of safety and decrease the number of safety related incidents as we progress up to and beyond privatisation," he added.

The three day conference attracted Area Electricity Board representatives from as far afield as the Channel Islands, Northern Ireland and Scotland and also included delegates from the CEEB, Health and Safety Commission and trade unions.

## Costly chink in Goliath's armour

**"ROBBERS and thieves—that's what you are. As long as you get your money you don't care how much electricity costs!"** This was the rebuke from an annoyed customer regarding his electricity bill.

I tried to explain that electricity was the essential base of our quality of life and was good value for money. In fact, it was cheaper now than 50 years ago.

by Doug Gregg  
Environmental  
Services Manager

With a beaming smile that almost split his ears, he produced from his trench coat (yes, you guessed it) his electricity bill for 1939, the amount payable was 4s 4d. That's about 22p in today's currency.

Furthermore, if the account was paid before January 31 a five per cent discount was deductible. To my astonishment the discount of 2d had not been collected. Obviously I was talking to a man of means.

### Barrage

I was in a difficult spot looking for a counter argument to the now escalating barrage being thrown at me, whilst he was addressing the other amused customers in our reception hall.

Just about beaten and ready to creep back into my commercial hole, I suddenly realised I could see a chink in this Goliath's armour. One old penny per unit plus a shilling meter rental, this colossal bill was for only 40 units of electricity.

I told the customer the average consumption in Manweb was now 4,000 units—100 times his figure—and would have cost him £15 1s 4d, although his

quarterly salary would have been only £50 in 1939. This bill was almost 30 per cent of his gross salary.

In today's terms, where the average earnings are about £15,000 per annum, a 30 per cent bill would amount to approximately £5,000 or £1,250 per quarter. Manweb's average domestic bill was only £65.

I told him that if he related this to everyday items, a pint of beer a day would cost him £90 per quarter, or one pint of milk and a loaf of bread each day would be £77 per quarter.

### Politeness

Furthermore, as about 83 per cent of the average electricity bill was to purchase raw fuel to produce the electricity, only about five per cent goes to my salary. So if I was to work for nothing, I told him, you would still have to pay 95p in the pound for your electricity.

Alternatively, if you would pay an extra 5p in the pound for this obviously cheap commodity, you could therefore double my salary. And with the utmost politeness and pleasure, I escorted him to the door.

# LJCC annual conferences Mid-Cheshire

**MORE than 100 employees and a few retired members of staff attended Mid-Cheshire District's Employees' Conference at the Black Greyhound, Northwich, on Thursday, March 30. Ken Crabtree, the District Manager, said he was delighted so many people had participated.**

The Conference had originally been planned for October/November but was postponed as the Chairman's Roadshow was due to visit the District at about the same time. His visit had proved most informative and everyone hoped there would be more to say on privatisation by holding the Conference later.

There was a lot happening and staff were recommended to read *Contact* and the other progress reports to ensure they kept themselves informed. Mr Crabtree went on to report the progress in the District at a time of highly buoyant economy in this part of the country. The work had doubled overnight and was still increasing. Staff had done tremendously well to meet all the customer requests.

From January 1 we would become Manweb plc and held our own success in our hands. We all had to make sure we were efficient and effective and that good customer services remained of paramount importance, said Mr Crabtree.

## Image

He was then followed by Joy King, Head of Public Relations, who spoke about the Board's public image and other matters.

One question was raised at the Conference about the wearing of a Manweb uniform. This was answered by John Cheers, Installation Manager, who had raised the matter with Head Office. Overall would, he said, be available within the month as it was recognised that appearance, in terms of dress and manner, was important in portraying the good image of Manweb and its staff.

# Aberystwyth

**A MAGIC lantern show by Sahib from Head Office, who had returned from an Asian journey, was the main feature of the Aberystwyth employees' open meeting. Held this year at the Dolguog Hotel, Machynlleth, the meeting was chaired by District Manager David Price, who gave a brief resumé of the year in the District.**

## Sam Doughty reports

Shops sales to December were just below target but the energy sales targets were slightly up. Installation and service work was turning round into a profitable prospect.

The introduction of service standards during the year was welcomed by Mr Price, and only four £10 payments had been made in the District to date. He expressed concern about safety standards and urged staff to be more safety conscious in their work.

## Intrepid

He had no worries in respect of privatisation and felt that Aberystwyth staff also had nothing to fear. It was then time to introduce the guest speaker, with his slides and tales of India.

Treading in the footsteps of the Raj, Sahib John Powell, Resource Engineering Manager at Head Office, had led a trio of intrepid engineers into the wiring jungle of the Bangalore electricity network. He had one of Aberystwyth's staff with him on his tour, Supplies Manager John Brown.

A contract to plan the electricity network for Bangalore, the Garden City of India, was won by Manweb in a joint bid with a firm of consultants, Merz and McLennan, through BEI Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Electricity Council. The joint team was led by John Powell.

The city, which has a population of 3½ million, is the fastest growing in India, but the network supplying their needs ranges from quaint to frightening. The Karnataka Electric Company, who supply the energy, called for help from abroad.

The Manweb bid beat foreign competition and John and his team visited the area to assess and draw up a plan for the network.

In his talk he showed, with the aid of his 'magic lantern' and slides, the hair-raising complexities of the network and the beautiful scenery. In his humorous commentary he told of the strange working practices India had inherited from the days of the British Raj, and the dietary problems and ultimate effect of them on the team!

Food was, in fact, the next item on the agenda and the company sat down to a meal, not of chapattis and curry—but a good old English roast.

## HOLIDAYS

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

**Caravan**—Towyn, Near Rhyl. Six-berth, two bedrms, shower, fridge, fully fitted. From £75 per week. Tel: 0978-362615/352653 (Mrs Jones).

**Carmel**—Caernarfon. 19th Century stone cottage in own grounds. Excellent views. Three bedrooms, bathroom, lounge and parlour. Large kitchen with cooker, fridge and freezer. Tel: 0286 880 749. Alwyn Pritchard, 16 Maes Hyfryd, Carmel, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

**Criccieth**—North Wales. House overlooking village green. Sleeps six. CTV. Beach and shops two mins. Tel: 076671 2614 (Ann Tudor).

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

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

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

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

**Tenerife**—Get away to the sun. From £30 per week. Aprtmnts. in Los Christianos. Access to two large pools, tennis crts., two restaurants, maid service. Only 50 yards from a golden beach. Flights arranged. Tel: 061-483 8314.

**Weston-sup'r-Mare**—Static caravan on farm. Six-berth, sep. dbl. bedroom, shower, toilet, TV, etc. All-season price £70 per week. Tel: 093472 292 (Mrs Huett).

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

**Spain**—Luxury villa, three dbl bedrooms and two bathrooms. Private swimming pool. Quiet area "Calpe" Costa Blanca. Walled gdns, terraces etc. Five minutes from uncrowded beaches. Available now from £150 per week. Telephone 0736 66417.

**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 arrngmnt. Easy access to mountains and sea. Beautiful scenery and lovely walks. Prices from £100 to £220 per week. Tel: 0341 423912.

**Cardigan**—12 miles. Lux. six-berth static caravan, near beaches. Families only. Tel: 0492 580 253 (evenings).

**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. Discount for ESI staff. Tel: 063787 4291 (Mr Pleasants).

**Costa Del Sol**—La Cala De Mijas Costa. Luxury villa, sleeps six. Month of September in group share for sale. Phone: 051-427 6247 for more details.

**Abersoch**—Luxury eight-berth caravan situated on pleasant farm site, close to beach and shops. Shower, TV, flush toilet, 240 V, H & C, cooker, fridge, sink, gas fire, etc. Vacancies March to November. Families only. £100 per week. Tel: Buckley 549248.

**Anglesey**—Tal-y-Bont Cottages, Dwyran. Luxury cottages set in a 17-acre smallholding, 1½ miles from shingle beach of Menai Straits and four miles from long 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 for further details.

**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.

# Free Ads

## FOR SALE

**Knitting Machine**—Toyota 901. Ribber and table. Lace carriage. Punch cards. Wool winder. All accessories and manuals. £295. Contact Mrs J. Gough, Chester 819110.

**Spectrum Cmptr**—48k, with tape recorder, tapes, power supply and various manuals. £50. Telephone 0704 79280.

**Camera Outfit**—Chinon CE5. Includes camera, power winder, large flash, padded bag. Hardly used. In good condition. £100. Contact D. Hayes, Head Office ext 2837.

**Windsurfer**—Vinta 365 beginner/intermdte board. Footstraps. Complete with 5.5 sq m Vinta fully battened rig. Vario boom. £235. Contact M. Jefferies, Head Office ext 3013.

**Wetsuit**—Typhoon two-piece suit. Medium size. £50. Contact M. Jefferies, Head Office ext 3013.

**Windsurfer**—Master-class 295 TDC 86. Excellent condition. £200. Contact Mrs J. Needham, Head Office ext 2760; home Chester 383248.

**Storage Radiator**—Creda TSR 18 2.5 kw. £30. Contact Gina Hodrein, Meter Security, North Wirral, ext 2152.

**Golf Clubs**—Half set of Pinseeker Pro Golf Clubs and Bag. As new. £65. Contact A. Evans, on Flint 5121.

**Echoplex**—Four-into-one Mixer, £60. Sugden A 28 amp, £80. Custom-built guitar, £100. Contact Mrs S. E. Williams on 051-653 3416.

## PERSONAL

**Oil Paintings**—From photographs. Portraits, pets, boats, landscapes etc. Professional artist. Reasonable rates. Contact Ray Ball, Rhyl Depot.

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# CONTACT Sport



## Target date set for firearms seminar

EXPERTS from the shooting world will discuss the rules and regulations surrounding the sport at a seminar organised by Manweb Shooting Association. They include Home Office ballistics specialist Colonel Frederick Mead and the Chairman of the Cross Party Committee on firearms legislation William Ross MP.

Head Office Engineer Tony Pierce is Chairman of the newly-formed Association and organiser of the seminar. "There are a lot of complex laws surrounding the use and issue of firearms and we thought it important that our members fully understood them."

"The seminar should enlighten not only our own 52

members but also members of other more established shooting clubs who are also welcome to attend," he said.

Subjects covered will include the Firearms Act and its administration, forensic ballistics, licence applications and firearms law.

Other speakers are Cross Party Committee elected mem-

ber Martyn Jones MP Clwyd SW, and the Committee's Research Assistant Desmond Hughes and Oswestry solicitor Jeremy Case.

The seminar will take place on Saturday May 20 at 7.30 pm in the Head Office Restaurant. Tickets, costing £2, which includes a prize draw, are available from Tony on extension 2165.



## Super skating squad

MANWEB'S Sales Development Manager Malcolm Cooper presents a £250 cheque to the Welsh Ice Skating team to cover their travelling expenses to the Wales v Scotland International at Irvine.

Captained by 16-year-old Steven Cousins, the Welsh squad swept to victory, beating the Scots by 20 points to bring the Celtic trophy back home.

Steven, of Connahs Quay, is the son of Liverpool District Installation and Service Manager Dave Cousins. Fresh from his recent International victory in Poland, he followed up this success by beating Britain's No 2 Senior Skater and Captain of the Scottish team, John Martin, in both the Figure and Free Skating events.



Above: We are the champions! From left to right, John Tennison, Snooker Secretary Pat Byrne, Dave Shepherd, Colin Roberts, Mike Hughes, Len Phillips, Sports and Social Club Chairman Eifion Jenkins, Keith Roberts, Mike Edwards, Ian West, Rachael Ashbrook, Andy Hughes, Helen Boyle and Gary Jaros.

Below: Pool and snooker champions Keith Roberts (left) and Mike Edwards.

## Snooker and pool champs

THE Snooker and Pool Lunchtime Knockout Tournaments, which have been running at Head Office since October, reached their thrilling climax recently when the finalists faced each other for a green baize battle royal.

Presentations of trophies were held in the Snooker Room for the winners, who were as follows:—

Snooker Singles — Mike Edwards (runner-up Len Phillips).

Pool Singles—Keith Roberts (runner-up Ian West).

Snooker Doubles — Keith Roberts and John Tennison (runners-up Dave Shepherd and Gary Jaros).

Pool Doubles—Shane Yates and Andy Hughes (runners-up Colin Roberts and Ken Sudlow).

Ladies Pool—Chris Lyon (runner-up Rachael Ashbrook).

Mixed Pool Doubles—Gary Jaros and Julie Williams (runners-up Mike Hughes and Helen Boyle).

● The winners of the Monday Evening Head Office Inter-departmental Snooker League were "Pass the Rest", who amassed a total of 16 points by winning eight out of their nine matches. In second place, with 14 points, were the aptly named "We're Not Trophy Hunters".



### HAMBONE by Mike Flanagan



Chester and North Wales Chess Association present the

## World Chess Champion GARY KASPAROV

In a simultaneous thirty game display

DATE: SATURDAY 6TH MAY, 1989

PLACE: MANWEB SEALAND ROAD, CHESTER

TIME: 2.30 p.m. — DOORS OPEN 1.00 p.m.

ADMISSION: BY TICKET at £2.50 each

Tickets and prospective challengers contact:-

Richard A. Furness,  
9 Cranwell Avenue, Culcheth,  
Cheshire WA3 4JX. Tel: (092576) 2654

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## Phyllis bowls the opposition over

MANWEB Sales Assistant Phyllis Watkinson has earned herself a place on the short mat bowls team representing England next season.

Phyllis, who works in the Prescott shop, and her husband Derek won the National Short Mat Pairs Event at Birmingham on Sunday, March 12, beating pairs from all over England,

after first qualifying in a local heat.

With the England team, the couple will play against Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and next April will compete in the World International, to be held on the Isle of Man.

Phyllis is also a keen outdoor player and since taking up the sport her successes have included Fleetwood Festival Women's Open, the Nalگو event, Frodsham Carnival, Owley Wood Tournament and Ormskirk's Comrades Competition. She also plays in the Mid-Cheshire County Team.