

Boost for the EEIBA

Manweb's monthly Prize Draw Club raised over £14,000 for the Electrical and Electronics Industries Benevolent Association (EEIBA) in the year ended 30 September 1996.

During the year, additional members transferred to the Manweb club from the Manchester branch - staff employed by First Hydro and based primarily at Dinorwic Power Station.

The November draw winners were as follows:

£300 - R D Owens (Liverpool); £200 - K E Cox (retired); £100 - A J O'Connor (other); £75 - B Johnston (retired) and R W Beattie (First Hydro); £50 - C J Johnson (Prenton); £30 - M A Sillitoe (retired), G Williams (Prenton), A E Titchard (retired), D Nicholls (retired), M McCann (retired) and S T Ellis (Contracting); £25 - I Butterfield (retired), N L Appleton (Prenton), L Cooke (Prenton), R P Stephens (retired), W Mongey (retired), M J Conway (Rhostyllen), J A Brown (retired), and E W Foster (retired).

A full set of accounts and list of all winners over the last 12 months has been sent to all members by post.



Christmas cracker

Manweb's annual children's Christmas party was a real cracker for four-year-old Sian Jenkins, pictured receiving her present from Santa. Sian, daughter of Andy Jenkins, who works in the Plant Workshop at Queensferry Depot, was amongst 75 youngsters who attended the party, organised by the Head Office Sports and Social Club and held at Queensferry. In addition to meeting Santa, the children were treated to face painting, a magic show, disco and games.

SNOW BUSINESS

A fluffy 5ft high snowman called Snowy has stolen the hearts of pupils at a Liverpool school.

Snowy, who was donated to Anfield Infants School by Manweb, once graced the reception area at Sealand Road during the Christmas period, but was too big to take to the new head office.

He has been warmly welcomed at his new home, to such an extent that the children hug him at every opportunity.

Barbara Harris, Facility Manager in

Property Services, who arranged for Snowy to go to Anfield Infants School, said: "The snowman is in danger of being hugged to death at the moment and was also included in the school nativity play."

And Head Teacher Cathy Fairclough said: "The children just love him. They think he's wonderful."

The children are so delighted with their new playmate that they have written to Barbara, whose sister teaches the special needs class, to thank her (see right).

Anfield Infants School
6th December 1996
Dear Mrs Harris,
Thank
you for the snowman
he is in the corridor and
he makes our school look
nice.
Love from Sian
and all the boys
and girls
XXX

CONTACT

NEWSLETTER FOR MANWEB PEOPLE

DECEMBER 1996



Manweb linesmen carry out repair work to the storm-damaged network in the Scottish Borders.

STORMTROOPERS

After working round-the-clock to restore electricity supplies to thousands of customers in Wales, linesmen from Manweb headed north of the border to help their ScottishPower colleagues.

by Sarah Batley

In a reciprocal arrangement, 38 linesmen and two engineers travelled to Scotland at the beginning of December to join in the repair operation when blizzards left 30,000 Scottish homes off supply.

Just a couple of weeks earlier, teams of linesmen and engineers from ScottishPower had been drafted in to help carry out repairs to the Manweb network, damaged by heavy snow and gales.

The exchange of key workers is a mark of our successful integration with ScottishPower.

In the past, Manweb, like other electricity suppliers, relied on the goodwill of neighbouring companies to help out in emergencies. As part of a larger group, ScottishPower and

Manweb now have more resources to call upon. Steven Stewart, ScottishPower's

Construction Manager, said the partnership worked well.

"We are very grateful for the help the Manweb workers gave us and I would like to thank them. They more than reciprocated what our lads did when they came down to Manweb," he said.

Alan Richardson, Managing Director of Power Systems, will be writing to the teams to thank them in person for their efforts.

The Manweb mobilisation was swift - the ScottishPower call for help was answered within six hours, although the journey north was initially threatened by the snow, with the M74 into Scotland closed for a spell.

The severe weather had caused the worst-ever damage to the ScottishPower network, with 650 wooden poles and 50 steel towers broken or pulled to the ground by the weight of ice. More than 200km of conductors had to be replaced.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS



Celebrating a special milestone

Long-serving Merseyside Region employees celebrated their special milestones with Manweb when they gathered at the Devonshire House Hotel, Liverpool, to receive 20 and 30-year awards from Regional Manager Bill Tubey.

Receiving framed certificates were: Construction Engineer Phil Cato (30 years' service), Jointer John Drew (30), Business

Support Manager Shaun McGuinness (20), Bricklayer Paul Coleman (20) and Substation Attendant Billy Crooks (30). They are pictured with their partners, who received flowers from Bill Tubey (6th from the left). A sixth employee, Jointer's Mate Frank Patterson (30 years' service), was unable to attend the celebratory meal and presentation.

DAVID DONATES HIS WINNINGS TO CHARITY

A Chester charity benefited to the tune of £100 from a competition to name Manweb's new Head Office.

The winner, Head of Legal Services David Linton, decided to donate his prize to the Centre for Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Development in Broughton.

The judges, including Chief Executive Charles Berry and Property Services Manager Peter Webb, decided David's suggestion - Manweb House - was most fitting from the entries submitted, rejecting alternatives such as Mancot, Scotweb and Scotman House in the process!

Albert Fairhurst, the charity's Appeals Manager and Founder Member, said: "Manweb's continued support for the work of the Centre is most admirable, and I would like to thank David, in particular, for this splendid donation." David is pictured (right) presenting the cheque to Dr David McGlown, who runs the Centre.



Storm troopers

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Ian Barraclough, refurbishment co-ordinator based at Rhostyllen, was amongst those from north Wales and Cheshire who went to the Scottish Borders.

He said: "We went to work as normal that morning, but by 5pm that night we were in Galashiels!"

His team, who drove up to Scotland in Land Rovers and four-wheel-drive vans, worked through until 11.30pm and were back at work at 7.30am the next day, fortified by sandwiches and Mars bars.

They were joined by a second wave of help from Manweb, making a total task force of 300 staff from ScottishPower, Manweb, Southern Electric, Scottish Hydro and Southern Ireland working on repairs.

Ian said: "We were re-erecting lines which had fallen down. We couldn't put poles back up at first because there was a lack of JCBs and Hi-Macs. We worked as a team under ScottishPower, who gave us a permit to work.

"We worked well together with ScottishPower, and we were all keen to get on with the job."

He added: "It was bitterly cold. One night it went down to minus seven Centigrade. The conductors had gone into the



A steel tower snapped in half during the severe weather in Scotland.

River Tweed and we had to get a rope to pull them out. It was so cold the rope froze to my gloves and everything was solid with ice. But at least it was dry while we were there - the wind and snow had stopped."

The blizzards had caused a build-up of snow and ice on the power lines, leading to approximately £3 million worth of damage. Generators were brought in and rest centres set up where people could call in to get food or to stay overnight. An estimated 100 people were provided with bed and breakfast accommodation.

Can you help?

Dear Editor

The Nugent Care Society is a registered charity, working with people with a variety of special needs in the north west. We are frequently given electrical goods by kind donors, who wish us either to pass them on to needy families or individuals, or to sell them in our recently opened charity shop. As you will appreciate better than anyone, we cannot supply such items to members of the public unless they have been checked and approved as safe. However, if we were to pay the full cost of such inspections it would not be economic.

If we were able to obtain the services of a qualified electrician on a voluntary basis, the situation would be different and it would mean that we could make good use of donated items.

I am writing to ask if you could assist us by circulating our request for help to recently retired members of your staff. If you have any suggestions or can offer help, I would be very pleased to hear from you (tel 0151 708 0566).

Andy Wood
The Nugent Care Society
150 Brownlow Hill
Liverpool L3 5RF

POSTBAG

Hidden treasure

Dear Editor

I am a retired staff member and have a Sinclair Spectrum 128k with microdrive. Unfortunately I can no longer get microdrive cassettes. I wonder if any of your readers might have any hidden in their lofts.

If so, I would very much like to contact them. At my age I can not face the thought of ditching my present system and trying to learn a new one.

While I spent most of my working life with Manweb, I am also ex-ScottishPower, having worked for some years at Dewar Place - happy days.

Jim Lornie
4 Norwood Drive
Chester CH4 7RH.
Tel. 01244 671762

Advisory role

Dear Editor

Young Enterprise is a scheme for school sixth formers in which they set up and operate their own company for one school year. It gives them valuable experience of business and can be of benefit to their future careers.

Manweb has in the past had a small number of staff who have acted as business advisors but there is a need for new people who would like to give a little of their time to put something back into the community. The experience is enjoyable and worthwhile.

The Chester and Deeside Area Board of Young Enterprise has been one of the high performers in the UK. Anyone interested in becoming an advisor should contact me on 747 5165 (internal) or 01978 665165 (external) for further details.

Bob Campbell
Property Services
Manweb



The Ellesmere Port winners, with Manweb Chief Executive Charles Berry (back row, 3rd left) and, to his left, Chronicle Managing Director David Faulkner.



Co-Chairmen Charles Berry and David Faulkner are pictured with the Chester winners, who show off their plaques, specially designed by Liverpool sculptor Stephen Broadbent.



Above: Manweb's Chief Executive Charles Berry with guest of honour, Coronation Street's Sherrie Hewson.

Below: Wales winners (l-r) Irene Morgan and Reg Barritt (Environment), Andrew Williams (Young Person of the Year), Charles Berry, Eunice Moore (Woman of the Year), David Faulkner, Jean Durham (for Group of the Year) and Ernie Bolton (Man of the Year).

CHEERS TO THE '96 CHAMPS

Actress Sherrie Hewson played a starring role as guest of honour at the 1996 Manweb-Chronicle Community Champions awards ceremony.

Sherrie, better known as Maureen in Coronation Street, told the packed audience at a glittering gala night at the Chester Grosvenor Hotel: "It makes the heart beat faster to hear the wonderful contribution so many people have made."

All the award winners, each of whom had made a significant contribution to their local community, had been considered by a judging panel made up of

Manweb and Chronicle Newspapers representatives.

Manweb's Chief Executive Charles Berry, who co-chaired the event with Chronicle Newspapers' Managing Director David Faulkner, said: "Manweb is delighted to be associated with the awards for the eighth successive year.

"My predecessor Mike Kinski told me this would be a most wonderful night and now I understand what he meant."

And David Faulkner said the awards underlined that the national headlines might often be dominated by doom and gloom, but behind the scenes there were many people making a wonderful contribution to our society.

Role Models

"They are role models whose work is a compelling example of all that is good about the area in which we live," he added.

"They are, indeed, our community ambassadors and, until this evening, many of them have been unsung heroes and heroines."

Granada Television news presenter Trevor Green described the contributions to the community of each of the 30 winners - five from each of the newspaper's circulation areas of Chester, Wales, Mid Cheshire, South Cheshire, Runcorn and Widnes, and Ellesmere Port.

Each area had chosen its Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Group of the Year, Young Person of the Year and Environmental Champion. All the winners were presented with awards, while special presentations were made to overall winners in each of the five categories.

Charles Berry and David Faulkner congratulated the winners while Sherrie Hewson presented each with a specially commissioned plaque.

The audience rose to their feet as a special award was also presented to Runcorn and Widnes Young Person of the Year, 15-year-old Rosie Rathbone, who is badly crippled by cerebral palsy yet devotes herself to helping other disabled people.



Wheelchair-bound Rosie Rathbone receives the overall Community Champions award from (l-r) David Faulkner, Charles Berry and Sherrie Hewson.



Overall winners

Man of the Year: Reg Slack.
Motor Neurone Disease (MND) sufferer Reg, 64, of Ellesmere Port, is a keen artist but can no longer hold a paintbrush in his hands. Despite his disability, he is now learning to paint by holding the brush with his mouth. He raises money for the MND Association's Wirral branch by selling his highly acclaimed works of art, some of which were featured in charity Christmas cards and calendars.

Woman of the Year: Sue Ley.
Cerebral Palsy sufferer Sue, 51, of Rudheath, has made a fantastic contribution to the Mid Cheshire Community. She lives a full life, dedicated to helping both disabled and able-bodied people.

Young Person of the Year: Beverley Davies.

Beverley, 15, of Holmes Chapel, South Cheshire, won her award for waging war on highways bosses at Cheshire County Council in a bid to get the speed limit reduced on a busy main road, where, at the age of 14, she had been injured in an accident as she crossed the road.

Group of the Year: Boot End Action Group.

This group was born out of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme set up in the Boot End area of Bagillt. It now has 25 members who have set their sights on achieving far more than just keeping burglars at bay. They tackle a range of community problems, from clamping down on drug pushers to confronting rowdy youths and vandals and ridding the area of graffiti.

Environmental Champion of the Year: Ashley School.

This Widnes school is the first in Britain to fly the Eco flag after winning the Eco schools award, organised by the Tidy Britain Group, for its environmental programmes. Projects have included classroom recycling, litter picking, tree planting and tidying ponds and wildlife areas.

HEARTS OF GOLD

If the severity of a charity challenge is measured by the contents of the back-up vehicle, then four Manweb employees recently embarked on the toughest task of their lives.

Kits to combat trauma, hypothermia, frostbite and heat exhaustion, as well as an advanced first aid kit, were on board a Manweb Land Rover accompanying a Lister Drive, Liverpool, team as they set out on the Pennine Challenge.

Craft Attendants, brothers Brian and Kenny King, along with Jointers John Drew and Ronnie Cleary, walked 127 miles over the southern half of the Pennine Way, from Edale to Bowes, on a gruelling 10-day trek.

They raised £1,000 for the Liverpool-based Roy Castle Cause for Hope Appeal, and this sum was matched by Manweb.

Taking turns to drive the back-up vehicle, on loan from Manweb, the foursome decided to do the walk in memory of Ronnie's brother Jimmy (also John's cousin), who was the first person in the north west to have a heart and lung transplant. Sadly, Jimmy died in June 1990.

Northern

They plan to embark on the northern part of the Pennine walk - a 129 mile trek from Bowes to Scotland - during 1997, again for the Roy Castle appeal.

None of the team had special training for the walk, but all are fit and keen sportsmen, and as a member of the Territorial Army, Brian King has medical training.

In the end, the only 'emergency' treatment needed was for blisters.

John, who started the walk on his 50th birthday, said: "The Pennine Challenge was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life.

"But I still managed to celebrate my birthday with a pint at the highest pub in Britain, the Tan Hill Inn, which is at 1732 feet!"

The four are champion fund-raisers with hearts of gold.

Along with colleagues at Lister Drive, they have raised up to £4,000 a year over the past 12 years, mainly through charity football and cricket matches.

They have also provided funds to send sick children for treatment in Hungary, Mexico and the USA.

Ronnie said: "We do the fund raising because there are so many people in need. We do what we can to help them."

Liverpool lads put their best feet forward for a charity challenge



Above: On top of the world! Pictured outside Britain's highest inn are (l-r) Brian King, Ronnie Cleary, Kenny King and John Drew.

Below: Ronnie, Kenny and John consult their maps before setting out on the next stage of their journey.



The volunteers, along with canine recruit Willow the Alsatian, by the pond at Minera before putting into place some of the native plants which will attract wildlife to the area.

VOLUNTEERS HAVE A SPLASHING TIME

by Sarah Batley

A beauty spot has been created out of waste land, despite thick snow, heavy mud, freezing water and a playful Alsatian dog.

The transformation has taken place thanks to Manweb's sponsorship of the Prince's Trust Volunteers.

The team at Wrexham has, in three weeks, created a pond at Minera Lead Mines, now a Wrexham County Borough Council Country Park.

Digger

The site, high on a hillside, was scooped out by a mini digger.

A dipping platform was created so youngsters can see the wildlife in the pond.

The Fire Brigade had to come along to pump out the water before the team could line the pond. The brigade later returned to pump the water back in again.

Finally the volunteers

planted bushes and created a path up to the pond.

Team Leader Rachel Shorney, a design engineer with Manweb, said: "It's a brilliant opportunity for everybody to work as a team. We are doing something for the community, as it will be used by local schoolchildren."

However, the team's work was hampered by heavy snow, freezing temperatures and thick clay mud, along with the antics of the pet Alsatian of park ranger Siobhan Palmer, who says the transformation of the area has been stunning.

Visitors

She will use the pond for her environmental work with children and visitors.

The employed members of the team have now gone back to their jobs, whilst the others have gone on to work experience.

They will shortly embark on another community project with the PTV, and plans range from a trip to Euro-Disney for local youngsters, to an adventure playground at a local school.

The Princes Trust Volunteers (PTV) initiative, founded by the Prince of Wales, enables young employed and unemployed people, aged 16 to 25, to work together and develop their confidence, motivation and skills whilst serving the community.

Last month, new schemes were launched in Wrexham and Caernarfon, in addition to the scheme already operating in Rhyl.

Leaders from the world of business gathered at Manweb's offices in Rhosyllen and Caernarfon to see how the company is leading the way in supporting the local community through these schemes. Manweb is providing team leaders and resources to support the projects.

Lord Elis-Thomas, President of the Welsh Language Board, was guest of honour at the launch of the Caernarfon scheme, the first bilingual PTV project, which will be featured in next month's Contact.