



Sunday in the park

Glorious sunshine helped to draw the crowds in their thousands to the Manweb-sponsored Sunday in the Park event in Chester.

The audience included just under 500 Manweb staff and their families, who were treated to a free picnic by the company as they enjoyed the afternoon of non-stop music at Grosvenor Park.

The event, compered by Granada TV weatherman Fred Talbot, was part of Chester Summer Music Festival and, for the second year running, Manweb families were invited along.

Entertainment for the afternoon was provided by the ScottishPower Pipe Band, plus Celtic Affair, who played Irish folk music, the soul sounds of Soulution, the smooth harmony of the Bill Basey Big Band, and the Real Macaws, who treated the audience to the catchy rhythms of salsa and samba.



A musical treat for baby Elliott Taylor, age one. Elliott is the son of Manweb chauffeur Alan Taylor.

New recruits

Female bowls players are wanted to swell the ranks of the Liverpool-based Manweb Ladies Bowling Club.

The team, which plays on Tuesday afternoons at the Thingwall Road Sports and Social Club, is looking for new members of all ages.

Team Captain Doris Morgan said: "We used to play in the Liverpool Ladies League, but we're now down to around seven or eight members. We're looking for new players to join the team, including retired Manweb staff." Anyone interested can contact Mrs Morgan on 0151 734 1858.



Sarah and Tom Wood, whose dad Steve is Cheshire Regional Manager, enjoy their Manweb picnic.

CONTACT

NEWSLETTER FOR MANWEB PEOPLE

JULY 1997

ON TARGET FOR 1998

by Sarah Batley

The specialist computer systems of Manweb, as part of the ScottishPower group, have been accepted by electricity regulator Offer as ready for first entry into industry testing and trialing in the run-up to 1 April, 1998, when the electricity market opens up to competition.

Ensuring that we are ready for the marketplace is the 1998 Change Programme, with 500 staff based at Chester and East Kilbride, headed by Willie Gallagher.

Willie said: "Only those companies who have proven that their systems and processes are robust and fully tested can compete for customers outside their own territory on 1 April. I am delighted that Manweb will join Eastern, Yorkshire and SEEBOARD as members of this 'core' industry market."

Gas

Charles Berry, Chief Executive, said that competition is now very close in electricity supply and in the gas market, which opens up in February 1998. "The intention is to defend our customer base within this region whilst also growing by gaining new customers elsewhere."

"There has been a lot of press about who is going to be ready. Everybody in Manweb should know we will be ready for 1998 and we will be at the forefront - we will be the first to have our systems ready for testing. This should place us in a good position, as long as we never take our eye off the ball on efficiency and excellence in customer service, which is the foundation of our business," he added.

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Tuning up for his new job

Tuning up for his move north of the border is Manweb's former Financial Accounting Manager Eifion Jenkins, who has been appointed ScottishPower's Group Financial Accountant, based in Glasgow. He is pictured with members of the ScottishPower Pipe Band during the recent Manweb-sponsored Sunday in the Park event in Chester.

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Aberystwyth's winning footballers, back row, l-r, Iwan Jones, Aled Hughes, Michael Griffiths, Graham Evans, Dai Jones, Gareth Williams and his son Iestyn, Alwyn Roberts. Front row, l-r, Andy James, Gary Jones, Gwynfor Evans, Dai Ricketts, Glyn Jones, Andy Turner and Stewart James.

Meteors crash out

Aberystwyth Depot's football team scored an impressive victory in the final of Machynlleth's Sir Howell J Williams Cup.

They won 3-0 against a team from The Skinners, Machynlleth, having beaten Machynlleth Rugby Club in the first round and Pioneer Food Store in the second.

Meanwhile, Christleton Football Club was the venue for Manweb's annual rounders tournament.

Fourteen mixed teams took part, with the Rhosyllen-based 'To Be Announced' team beating the 'Meteors', from the Metering Business.

The winning team is pictured, back row, from left, Brian Carman, Antony Jones, Jason Neil and John McMahon.



Front row, l-r, Alison Norfolk-Hughes, Bethan Jones (capt), Jo-Anne Rowley and Caroline Warner.

On target for 1998

Continued from page one

Offer has announced that within the Manweb region the CH postcode, covering Chester, Mold, Connah's Quay, Buckley and Holywell, will be open to other regional electricity companies to bid for custom.

The area opened up to electricity competition within Manweb represents about ten per cent of our customer base, with a wide cross selection. Other places opening up in this first phase, where the ScottishPower group could compete to gain customers, include Inverness, Hull, Norwich, Bolton, Canterbury, Nottingham, Swansea, Greenwich, Southampton, Torquay and Walsall. Only companies whose systems are ready, and who have opened up their own areas to outside companies, will be allowed to

seek customers outside their region.

When this phase is complete, more than 2.5 million people in the UK will be able to choose their electricity supplier. There will be two more phases before the whole country is able to choose. The competition introduction has been phased to ensure that systems and process can cope, whilst allowing companies to continue giving excellent customer service.

Gas market trials in the Southern Water area have shown that up to an eighth of those living in the Manweb region could choose the company as their gas supplier.

Murray Stuart, ScottishPower chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting in Glasgow that overall the company aimed to win 15 per cent of the electricity market in the UK.

Chance to gain new skills

The call has gone out for young people to join a project which will give them a unique experience whilst gaining new skills.

The Prince's Trust Volunteer scheme in Wrexham, run by Manweb, is now recruiting new team members, aged 16 to 26, whether in work or seeking a job. Recruitment will also soon start for projects at Rhyl and Caernarfon.

The PTV is an initiative by the Prince of Wales to enable young people to develop their confidence, motivation and skills whilst serving the community. It is run in north Wales by Manweb with cash from the European Social Fund (ESF). The programme develops key skills in teamwork, communication, decision making, problem solving and caring for others and the team members gain both NVQ and City and Guild Qualifications.

Manweb Chief Executive Charles Berry said: "We encourage staff to take part in the projects, either as team leaders or team members. We believe the PTV offers self-development benefits both to young people and to our employees. The projects also directly benefit the communities in which they live and we operate."

Leader

The Wrexham course team leader is Gareth Davies, 29, who normally works on overhead electricity lines carrying up to 132KV across north Wales. He said: "The teams are made up of people who are in work and seeking to develop their skills, and those of unemployed people who want to show potential employers that they have a lot to offer."

"We will be going away for a week of outdoor activities, before choosing a project in the Wrexham area on which we will work together. Then the unemployed members will go on work placements before we get together for a final project, and then present all our work to friends, colleagues and local businesses."

"If anyone from Manweb has a son or daughter who might be interested in joining the project, I'd be delighted to hear from them."

Gareth, who is a fluent Welsh speaker, can be contacted on 01978 832274 (internal 740 2274).

MCS takes to the skies with a unique solution

Manweb Contracting Services found a novel way of taking electricity wires through a Welsh National Park - re-using a Victorian clay pipe which once carried water. The company has won a £360,000 contract to install more than five kilometres of cable to carry energy from a new National Power hydro-electric turbo generator at Llys Dulyn in the Conwy Valley. Sarah Batley reports.

National Power's 0.5 MW generating plant, which is partly built into a hillside to minimise its effect on the countryside, will harness the energy created by water being transferred from Llyn Dulyn for the public water supply, generating electricity which will be exported into Manweb's regional network.

As the area is within the Snowdonia National Park, National Power did not want to erect pylons to carry the wires. Instead, a clay pipe, laid in the 1880s, which has previously linked the lake to a water treatment plant in the village, is being re-used as a conduit for the cables rated at 11,000 volts. The ancient practice of water divining was used to plot the location of the pipe.

The pipe was cleared of tree roots and rocks before a small feeder wire was laid, which will be used to pull through the heavier cable. Steve Liversage, project manager for MSC, said: "We found a 14 metre root inside part of the pipe, which we had to pull clear."

The specially-made cable was supplied by BICC Construction Cables, which is based at Helsby. In making the cables the standard PVC oversheath was replaced with a much more robust material, to ensure there was no damage to the cable during the pulling in operation.

Helicopters

Helicopters, from Inverness-based PDG, flew the 1.2 tonne cable drums up the mountainside, along with concrete and other equipment to joint the cables 200 metres apart. The empty drums will also be collected by helicopter.

For safety reasons traffic on the main road through the village and along the Conwy was stopped when the helicopters passed overhead carrying the drums. These initially caused problems by spinning, but this was overcome by attaching extra loads beneath. The helicopter flights, from a compound next to Dolgarrog Aluminium, attracted the attention of lots of local youngsters.

The two pilots, Dominic Lawlor and Paul Smith, used mirrors beneath their machines, a Dauphin and Squirrel, to keep a check on the safety of the loads. Despite strong winds and showers everything went up according to the programme and landed safely, thanks to the skills of the two pilots. There was even time to take up a posse of reporters and a film crew to record the event for the local media and the BBC.

Teams from MCS have been kept fit as they have to walk along the mountainside, between joint bays.

Allan Littler, Contracting Services Director, said: "National Power obviously didn't want to construct pylons in this beautiful area, nor did they want to dig up the countryside. Using this pipe was an excellent way of carrying out the work with the minimum disruption."

John Baxendale, Resources Manager of National Power Hydro at Dolgarrog, said: "Innovative solutions have been



The heavy cable drums are flown up the Conwy Valley.

developed which mean that the latest technology can be employed to maximise the benefits of renewable hydro electricity whilst minimising environmental impact in our special area of the Snowdonia National Park."

The scheme has been approved by Snowdonia National Park Authority, the Environmental Agency and the Countryside Council for North Wales.



Winners of the morning session: 1st Merseyside Region Drawing Office (above), 2nd MSP (below - wearing Region 3 shirts), 3rd ScottishPower (bottom left).



In at the deep end for this victim of the slippery 'Poles Apart' game, while a team-mate inches her way forward.



A safe landing at the foot of the 'Over the Top' inflatable slide, with a drenching for those taking part.



The afternoon session winners: 1st Contracting (above), 2nd Hall's Hair Raisers (below), 3rd Metering (bottom right).

A KNOCKOUT EVENT



Manweb and ScottishPower staff had a knockout time when they joined forces to compete in a charity fund-raising event.

Held at the Manweb Sports and Social Club in Thingwall Road, Liverpool, this year's 'It's A Knockout' event attracted 17 teams - 10 of them from Scotland. As there were so many staff taking part, two competitions had to be held.

With friends and family cheering them on, team members were soon soaked to the skin as they tackled a series of weird and wacky soapy water-based games on the inflatable obstacle course.

Winners of the morning session were Merseyside Region's Drawing Office team (nicknamed the Dirty Half Dozen), with the Multi Service Project (wearing Region 3 shirts) and the Bravehearts (Power Systems Scotland) in second and third places respectively.

Manweb Contracting Services took the top honours in the afternoon session, with a team from Region 3 Customer Service, nicknamed Hall's Hair Raisers after their Regional Manager Ray Hall, taking second place and Metering coming third.

With sponsorship money still pouring in, this year's event

by Jackie Unsworth

looks set to break the fund-raising record, with over £2,000 pledged so far.

Continuing the tradition of the previous year's winners choosing the charity to benefit, Region 3 Customer Service had selected Christie's Hospital Malignant Melanoma Fund. This was in memory of a former colleague, the late Bill Bartlett, Manweb's former Head of Customer Service Operations, and his daughter Clare who died of cancer.

Merseyside Regional Manager Bill Tubey, who presented a giant cheque to the Appeal at the end of the games, said: "It was a brilliant success in bringing together colleagues from ScottishPower and Manweb for a bit of fun."

"The great thing was that some of the teams had a mix of Manweb and ScottishPower staff because of integration."

"Many of the Scottish staff came down to Liverpool the day before the event so that they could make a weekend of it and have said they are really looking forward to taking part in next year's competition."



Having a splashing time, above, while, right, Hall's Hair Raisers aim for some extra points on the hoop-throwing game.



Power games

A team from Manweb's Wales Region achieved fourth place in a national competition designed to test teamwork, ingenuity, mental agility and stamina.

The Rhostyllen-based team was selected to take part in the electricity industry's Power Challenge competition after earlier making the grade in ScottishPower's own Team Challenge event.

Also among the 16 teams participating in the national event was a group from Caernarfon Depot, which ended up in 13th place, while ScottishPower's Forth Region took 6th place and Longannet Power Station came 8th.

The overall winners were PowerGen's 'Ratcliffe Rats'.

Held in the Scottish Highlands over three days, the competition was both mentally and physically demanding.

Distribution Engineer Tony Bainbridge led the Rhostyllen team in ScottishPower's own event but then handed over to Wrexham Network Manager Andrew Lloyd for the national competition.

Tony said: "The team did extremely well, coming second to Forth Region in ScottishPower's event, and then going on to take 4th place in the national competition."

Desperately seeking golfers

Calling all golfers... Manweb Golf Society is desperately looking for new players.

The next event in the club's golfing calendar is on 17 September at Aldersley.

If you would like to sign up or find out more about the Club's activities, contact Howell Watson on 703 3059.



Manweb's Moira Renwick with some of the completed furniture. She is pictured with woodwork students Damian McCaul (left) and Paul Airey (right), and Chris Keeley, Head of the school's Craft Design and Technology Department.

Pupils box clever with recycled wood

Unwanted wooden panels stored at Manweb's former Head Office proved to be a treasure trove for a Liverpool school.

The wood, mainly desk modesty boards and corner units no longer required, was recycled to make jewellery boxes, video cabinets, coffee tables and bedside cabinets by Year 10 pupils at Cardinal Heenan High School in Honeysgreen Lane, Liverpool 12, as part of their woodwork GCSE projects.

The wood was 'rescued' by Merseyside Region Community Liaison Officer Moira Renwick, who said: "I noticed the wood stacked up in a room at Sealand Road, and when I found out it was no longer required, I mentioned to Mike Budd, in Property Services, that I knew of schools that would be thrilled with it. He agreed that a school could have the wood for free."

"Pupils have to buy their own wood for their GCSE projects, and because we provided most of the materials, they were able to make bigger objects than they could normally afford."

Bridging the gap

Entries are invited for the annual Electricity Supply Industry Bridge Tournament, which will be held at National Grid House Restaurant, Coventry, on 11 October 1997.

The competition, which is in its 22nd year, is open to all current, former and associate members of electricity industry sports and social clubs, and all levels of competence at Bridge are catered for by the Swiss Teams format.

Teams of four are invited, but if you are unable to make a four, still send your name as the organisers will try to form a team for you.

The entry fee is £15 per person, including lunch and tea.

Entry forms and details are available from Bernard Lloyd, Ringsbury House, Ringsbury Close, Purton, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 9DE, telephone 01793 770272.



Caernarfon Network Manager Colin Blundell presents a £200 'Supersafe' cheque to Pauline Loftus, teacher in charge of the pre-school assessment unit at Ysgol Coed Mawr, watched by some of the pupils and helpers.

Safety at work

Staff on course for more Open Learning

Following the success last year of courses available through the Open Learning scheme, further academic and practical programmes will be available to staff from September. These include:

Academic Programmes

- NEBSM Supervisory Management
- HNC Business Studies
- IPD Certificate in Personnel Practice

Practical Courses (subject to availability at local colleges)

- Basic Brickwork
- Basic Plumbing
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Introduction to Welding
- Car Maintenance

Language Courses

Welsh, French, German and Spanish (various levels).

If you are interested in any of these courses or require further details, please contact your local Open Learning Co-ordinator, or telephone Roy Jones, ScottishPower Learning (700 2051), as soon as possible.

Luck of the draw

The winner of the £300 top prize in the EEIBA's June draw was retired employee K Griffiths, with the £200 award going to H Evans, also retired. The other winners were as follows:

£100 - N F Lee (retired); £75 - L Potter (retired); £50 - F J Isaacs (retired) and L T Jones (First Hydro); £30 - A E Smitten, R Cartledge (both retired), D G Owen and T Hughes-Morris (both First Hydro); £25 - E W Jones (First Hydro), N Hunter (Manweb House), L H Smith, L Blackburn, K Tomlinson, B M Coulthard, D Jones, J A Linforth, R J Berry (all retired), and J Fortune-Jones (EEIBA member).

Special offer for Contact readers

Four-day family cruise-break

From £89pp

Efteling in Holland, a picture book world of fantasy, magic and adventure is a recent winner of the international Applause award for the best theme park.

Sailing there direct from Newcastle, you can cruise into a world of pleasure and relaxation with Scandinavian Seaways.

The moment you step on board, you'll find the best traditions of sailing, ensuring your minicruise is as relaxing and enjoyable as possible.

On board there are restaurants which rival the best ashore, from 'a la carte' to

A world full of wonders, Efteling is the largest theme park in Europe, covering more than 72 hectares with over 50 spectacular attractions.

These include 'The Pegasus' flying roller coaster, 'Pirana' white water rapids, 'Half Moon' swingboat - the largest in Europe - and the mystical 'Dreamflight'.

the Smorgasbord, a traditional array of hot and cold dishes which can be sampled as often as your appetite will allow. And if you're looking for more of a

snack, there is a cafeteria with freshly baked Danish pastries.

There is plenty to keep you occupied, with evening entertainment which includes dancing to a live band, various choice of bars, the disco or why not enjoy a recent West-End film in the cinema. On arrival in Holland you will have the freedom of your own car to travel to your hotel

in Katsheuvel where the Efteling theme park is situated.

Your Cruise-break includes a one-day entry to the park, including a hotel stop-over at the family Hotel de Kroon in Kaatsheuvel just a five minute walk from the park's entrance. The package includes carriage of your car and parking is free at the hotel. The rooms are equipped with en-suite toilet and shower, colour TV and telephone.

Price includes: two nights on board ship based on a berth in a four-berth inside cabin, one night at the family Hotel de Kroon in Kaatsheuvel, based in a twin room, plus breakfast, one-day entrance ticket per person to Efteling theme park. CALL 0990 333222 AND QUOTE CODE: Z1067

Departures: 13, 20, 27 September From £99 per adult £78 per child

Departures: 4, 18, 25 October From £89 per adult £74 per child

This offer is subject to availability and is not combinable with any other offer or discount published in the Scandinavian Seaways brochure or elsewhere and is only applicable on new bookings.

pays dividends

Safe working by staff at Caernarfon Depot paid dividends for a local school's special needs unit.

After achieving an accident-free month, £200 was awarded from the Supersafe 2000 scheme for the staff to award to the charity of their choice.

The money was donated to Ysgol Coed Mawr, Bangor.

Meanwhile, as part of a local initiative to boost safety performance in

Merseyside Region, members of the Service Refurbishment team have been awarded the Regional Manager's Cup.

This award, is presented quarterly to the Merseyside team with the best safety record.

Regional Manager Bill Tubey is pictured (front, right) presenting the Cup to Team Leader Vinnie Henniker, watched by colleagues from the winning section.

