

CONTACT

Manweb's monthly newspaper
for staff and their families.

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

Vol. 41 No. 11

November 1989

Safety play gives a shock message to schoolchildren

DEADLY GAMES

by Gaynor Kenyon

MANWEB is sponsoring a theatre company to tour Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales schools warning how youngsters who play near electricity are dicing with death.

The month-long tour of hard-hitting plays was launched with a preview to two local schools at Manweb's Chester head office on November 10.

"Nationally, in the electricity industry, nine youngsters have died in accidents in the last five years. Tragically one of those occurred in the Manweb region earlier this year.

"This tour will strengthen our on-going safety campaign and hopefully help to prevent a

recurrence of such distressing cases," said Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston.

Liverpool-based Premier Theatre Company, also supported by Merseyside Arts, has created a

forceful dramatisation of what can happen if young people flout safety precautions.



Roaring success for Lions

by Sam Doughty

AFTER resolving the heating problems for the elephants and hippos at Chester Zoo, Manweb has helped the Lions... by supporting a Bonfire Night extravaganza.

Well, not exactly the lions in the zoo, but Chester Lions, who organised the annual bonfire and fireworks display which is normally used for overflow car parking. In fact the animals were more than three quarters of a mile away.

Highlight

The event attracted more than 12,000 people from the Chester area, who saw the bonfire lit by Dee Valley District Manager Dr Jim McLennan.

The highlight of the evening was the firework display, and again it was Jim McLennan who set off the first firework.

Manweb was the main sponsor for the evening and brought



a coach-load of children from a community centre in the Lache area of Chester.

The PA system kept the visitors entertained and there was a marquee with chestnuts, hot-dogs, hamburgers, toffee Apples

and all sorts of goodies on sale. The St John Ambulance Brigade was in evidence in case of any problems.

Once again there was an excellent display of fireworks with perfect organisation from

the experienced team of Chester Lions.

Sarah Bluetop and Nicola Vaughan, from Boughton Heath, Chester, are pictured having a sparkling time.

Picture by Max Cooksey

Working with Manweb's Safety Adviser Colin Herbert, the company has also produced a detailed teacher's pack to accompany the production, which fits closely into the science guidelines of the national curriculum.

Demand

All 40 performances have been snapped up by the region's schools and due to demand Manweb hopes to extend the tour at Easter.

Diane Hancock, Premier Theatre's Director, said: "We're not trying to frighten children, because I don't think you really learn if you are frightened. What we want to do is make them think about what's going on.

Difficult

"It's quite a difficult thing to actually make electricity interesting in theatre terms and also get over the message that while electricity is good, we have to take care of it, and that there are dangers."

Pictured above, Premier cast members (left to right) Sue Cathrine, Gerry Connolly and Jane Blye are watched by pupils of Sychden Primary School, Mold, during the launch of the safety play "Deadly Games" at Manweb's Head Office.



Horsing
about

Page 6



Local
hero

Page 3



Sparks fly

Page 11



Super
salesman

Page 5

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Advertising Manager: Denys King, D. & P. King, Stoneleigh Hall, Cranston Road, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 3HN. Tel: 0342 324963. Fax No.: 0342 410060

Changing faces



Alan is given a super send-off

COMMERCIAL Work Control Assistant Alan Spargo was given a super retirement send-off by colleagues at Clwyd District Office.

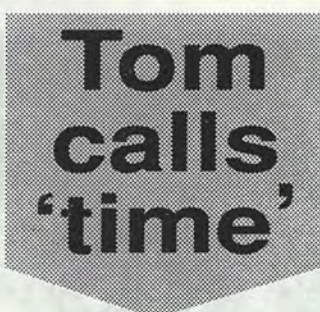
Alan, pictured with his wife Joyce, joined the electricity supply industry in 1948, and was a member of the Manweb cricket team as well as being a firm Liverpool FC fan.

A Black and Decker Drill and a bouquet for Mrs. Spargo were among retirement gifts presented by District Installation Manager Roy Haley, who joined colleagues in wishing Alan a happy retirement.



Clocking off after 44 years' service

LOOKING forward to a well-earned retirement after 44 years' service is New Crane Street 2nd Engineer, Mains, Ken Edwards. A keen golfer and skier, Ken, 58, entered the electricity supply industry before nationalisation, with North Wales Power at Crewe in 1945. He joined Manweb on its creation. Friends and colleagues organised a collection for the long-serving engineer and a presentation was made by Dee Valley District Manager Dr. Jim McLennan who joined staff at New Crane Street in wishing Ken and wife Valerie a happy retirement. Ken is pictured (centre right) being wished good luck for his retirement by Dr. McLennan and colleagues at New Crane Street.



FORMER pub landlord Tom Johnson has called time on his career with Manweb. Tom, Mid-Cheshire's Customer Accounts Manager, has retired after 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

The son of a publican, Tom grew up in the George at Frodsham and then the Castle at Halton, and later had a pub of his own.

Married with three children and two grand-daughters, he started out



with Manweb in 1949 as a temporary Clerk in the Accountancy Section, No. 2 Sub Area, Eversley, and joined the permanent staff two years later.

He was promoted to Assistant (Consumer Accounts) in 1955 and then became Senior Clerical Assistant (Consumer Accounts) at War-

ington in 1970. He was appointed Principal Assistant in Mid-Cheshire's Consumer Accounts Department seven years later, and became Executive Officer in 1985.

Tom did his National Service in the Marines and was stationed in Plymouth.

A keen football fan, Tom also

played soccer in local amateur leagues, and also was a member of the Manweb Area 2 Eversley team.

Tom is pictured with his wife Evelyn at his retirement party, when District Manager Ken Crabtree presented him with caravaning equipment on behalf of colleagues.



A new line for Steve

DEE Valley Office Manager John Griffith (centre, left) presents a telephone to popular Admin. Assistant Steve Parry, who has left Manweb to begin a new career.

Steve, who worked in General Administration, joined Manweb 15 years ago and was well-known throughout the District. His new job is with Sharp Manufacturing at Llay, as Administration Manager.

New accountant joins Manweb

MANWEB has appointed Mr. Neil Tolson as Business Unit Accountant within its Network Services Division.

Mr. Tolson, 34, will be developing a management accounting function to provide financial information and statistics for the Network Services Division, which is responsible for the operation and development of Manweb's electricity transmission and distribution system.

Originally from Whitehaven in Cumbria, Mr. Tolson lives in Lowton near Warrington, and worked for British Nuclear Fuels plc at its Risley headquarters before coming to Manweb.

He joined the nuclear industry from school, working at Sellafield before being sponsored to study accountancy at West Bromwich College and Derby Lonsdale College.

After gaining his Chartered Institute of Management Accountants qualification he moved to British Nuclear Fuels at Risley where he was Engineering Division Assistant Accountant before joining Manweb.



Crossword number 16

ACROSS

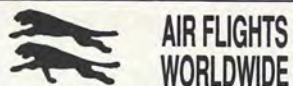
1. Blemish beginning with money from abroad (9), 8. She can reverse the flow before starting home (5), 9. Mollie floundering in the channel as a diver (9), 10. A lot of people exult at reaching Land's End (5), 11. Contact to obtain a loan (5), 13. Get up or back with some purpose (5), 14. Not far from the stage at the top of the hill? (4), 16. Be persistent about the dog (5), 18. Copy the illiterate signature at the top (4), 19. Not favouring a chucklehead caper (5), 21. Move quickly to establish the range (5), 22. Cry out in a half-hearted way down here (5), 24. More than enough illness for a crook to catch (9), 26. Play unskillfully

as a way to get a drink (5), 27. He makes a claim before getting an offer (9).

DOWN

1. His calls may be answered by troop movements (6), 2. Check certain to spread the risk (8), 3. The case of the hidden killer (7), 4. Intention to demand a hundred and fifty off (3), 5. Don't start drawing a vessel (5), 6. Half a dozen move into port (4), 7. Follow in the dark (6), 12. Is he relatively likely to take the pledge? (5), 15. Diet Nora devised when not allowed much (8), 17. Put out in uncommon transport (7), 18. Possible concealment after a morning attack (6), 19. Worry over the Queen's progress (6), 21. Slough representative was troubled at first (5), 23. What fun to be a high-flier! (4), 25. Enemy army with no Roman Catholic contingent (3).

Solution on page 12



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District goes green

MID-Cheshire went green when Shell delivered the first consignment of unleaded petrol to a Manweb District. Welcoming the tanker's arrival at Manweb's Crewe office, District Manager Ken Crabtree said: "We're delighted to be the first district to go green. It's a real opportunity for us to show our concern for the environment."

Mr. Crabtree also praised the work of Mid-Cheshire's mechanics, who converted 30 vehicles to run on lead-free petrol in preparation for the delivery.

The district has 130 petrol and diesel engine vehicles based at Crewe and its Northwich Depot, and District Transport Supervisor Brian Johnson plans to have all suitable vehicles modified in the near future.

The Mid-Cheshire delivery continues the ini-

tiative which began in March, when Head Office took Manweb's first unleaded petrol delivery, and there are plans for more districts to go green.

Pictured filling up with lead-free is District Transport Supervisor Brian Johnson, watched by (left to right) Shell Territory Manager Dana-Leigh Strauss, Mid-Cheshire District Manager Ken Crabtree and Special Projects District Sales Liaison Paul Rosenberg.



Help for elderly at risk

MANWEB has distributed thousands of free temperature gauges to help those elderly people most at risk this winter.

The thermometers, marked in the fahrenheit scale, show clearly when a room is too cold or too hot, enabling the occupants to manage their heating more efficiently.

Often on limited budgets, the elderly are most susceptible to the cold and are less able to detect changes in the temperature around them.

Welcomed

The gauge ranges from 50 degrees fahrenheit (too low for comfort and safety) to 80 degrees fahrenheit (energy wasting) and the cards also carry tips on conserving energy while still keeping warm.

Local Age Concern organisations have welcomed the initiative and will be distributing the cards to those most in need.

Huw is hailed a hero

by Jackie Unsworth

DEE Valley Electrician Huw Williams has been hailed a hero for saving the life of an elderly man. Huw, 26, (pictured) was fitting a burglar alarm at a house in March-wiel, Wrexham, when the owner came rushing out with blood gushing from his wrists. Pensioner William Pound had fallen on a pane of glass in his greenhouse, severing the main artery.

Quick-thinking Huw, who has worked for Manweb for two-and-a-half years, tied a piece of cable around 66-year-old Mr. Pound's wrist to try and stop the bleeding, and drove him straight to hospital.

After a three-hour emergency operation, Mr. Pound was allowed home. He later telephoned Huw to thank him for saving his life.

"Mr. Pound was in a terrible state when he came rushing out of the house," said Huw. "Blood was pouring from his wrists, so I used some cable to try and stop it. I learned afterwards that he had cut the artery and that he could have bled to death."

Mr. Pound said: "I'd like to thank the Manweb man very much from the bottom of my heart. His quick-thinking could have prevented more serious injury and I am very grateful to him."

Huw, who is married with a 14-month-old son, came in for some more praise at the annual Dee Valley LJCC meeting on November 3, when he was presented with a tankard in recognition of his heroic actions.

In a letter of congratulations to Huw, Dee Valley District Manager Dr. Jim McLennan said: "I was very please to hear about your quick-thinking in dealing with Mr. Pound. It was a very bright move on your part. I expect many of us would have



stood around wondering what to do.

"Obviously you did this simply to help a fellow human being, but it is also good for Manweb that customers see that although we work efficiently, we are caring folk as well."



Contest ends on high note

HEAD Office was the scene for the final of the Battle of the Bands in the Twelfth Night Electric Music Contest. Dr. Phibes and the House of Wax Equations pipped the Prime Time Preachers by a fraction of a point in the Manweb Music Machine sponsored competition.

Around 600 music fans danced to the sound of the two competing bands. The contest has been organised at Sealand Road by Acumen, a Chester based agency, in the form of a series of 12 contests with two bands each week competing for a chance to make a record and have 1,000 singles pressed.

Acumen's Dave Wood was delighted with the way the contest had gone. He said: "This has been an absolutely great series

of concerts, and the comments from the young people attending have been very positive. They are delighted that Manweb has supported their music. I have received a petition, signed by over 300 people who have attended, wanting more concerts. I am hoping that I can work with Manweb again to meet that demand."

Judges Mark Dale (left) and Mark Jones (right) are pictured with the winning band.

Fantastic four scoop prizes



A FANTASTIC four from Clwyd have won prizes including the overall top award in the Ambassador Club's Triple Chance competition. First prize of a dishwasher was won by Llandudno Junction Electrician Bill Owen for generating four or more Ambassador Club leads, while one of three portable television second prizes for three sales leads went to Liz Evans, Rhyl Customer Accounts.

Winners in the categories for two leads and one lead were Rhyl Supplies Engineer, Russell Murray who won a stereo cassette player and Llandudno Junction Electrician John Powell, who received a personal stereo.

The Triple Chance competition was organised to promote sales of appliances, storage heaters and contracting services.

Presenting the prizes at Clwyd District Office, District Manager, Doug Willacy congratulated the winners on their efforts, and paid tribute to the rest of his staff, who this year alone have generated Ambassador Club leads worth £306,000, putting Clwyd at the top of the Ambassador Club table.

"We are not only the top District for Ambassador Club leads, but also have the highest conversion rate and the highest sales value," said Mr. Willacy.

Ambassador Club Treble Chance winners in

other districts were:

North Mersey: K. Whitehead (personal stereo); Liverpool: Mrs. C. Potter (personal stereo); Mid-Mersey: N. J. Hart (personal stereo); Dee Valley: J. Pemberton (radio cassette); North Wirral: P. A. Upton (personal stereo), A. Button (personal stereo); Mid-Cheshire: F. Baldwin (radio cassette), Mrs. M. P. Wild (personal stereo); Gwynedd: T. Roberts (colour TV), K. Pitts (radio cassette); Oswestry: Mrs. L. J. Joyce (colour TV), R. H. Birks (radio cassette); Aberystwyth: D. R. Lewis (personal stereo), M. W. Jones (personal stereo); Head Office: Mrs. P. Dodd (personal stereo).

Clwyd's Fantastic four are pictured receiving their Ambassador Club prizes. From (left to right) are: John Powell, Russell Murray, District Manager Doug Willacy, Bill Owen, Liz Evans, Clwyd Energy Sales Manager Graham Ffoulkes.



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GRAEME COOPER continues his monthly close-up series with a look at Manweb's hi-tech Utilisation and Technology Transfer Unit.

Tomorrow's world... today

TO market power effectively Manweb must be able to tell customers how electrical technologies can meet their needs efficiently and economically. The Utilisation and Technology Transfer unit provides expert advice and support, introducing new and existing technologies to Manweb customers as well as promoting electrical technology to schools, colleges and universities.

Whether it's a steel plant needing advice on electric furnaces or a shop looking for an improved ventilation system, UTT has the skills to advise customers on how they can use electricity to overcome their problems and improve existing processes.



Technology Transfer Engineer Keith Nord working with UTT's Autocad computer aided design system.

Headed by Technical Sales and Development Manager Dr. David Walker, the unit is a small, highly professional team with expertise in a range of areas including chemistry, metallurgy, electro-heat and building services, such as heating and ventilation.

UTT consists of a team of Technology Transfer Engineers: Doug Gregg, John Edwards, Keith Nord, Andy Jones, Phil Warren and Robert James.

Their range of skills allows the unit to offer expert advice on how electricity can be applied to a broad variety of situations, where to the customer the technology is purely a means to improving his own processes or services.

"We can speak to customers in their own language, and show them how a new technology can help increase efficiency or reduce costs," said Dr. Walker.

The unit offers a range of services, from supporting and training Energy Marketing personnel to advising customers and organising seminars for audiences as diverse as industrialists, structural engineers, universities and schools.

"Industry is always interested in new ideas, but sometimes doesn't have the time to explore them," said Dr. Walker. "UTT can do the spadework to show customers how they can use electricity to solve their problems."

Established in 1987, UTT works closely with the Electricity Council Research Centre at Capenhurst, where new electrical technologies are under constant development, and the unit introduced many of the processes and innovations developed at Capenhurst to Manweb customers.

At Deeside Aluminium technical help was given with melting, while at Laporte Industries in Widnes an electric coreless induction furnace helped the company lower costs, produce a higher quality of ferrous sulphide and reduce pollution.

UTT's work has a strong environmental element - both in terms of living and working environments and in the broader context of reducing pollution and promoting the efficient use of energy.

At Bass Brewing Ltd. in Runcorn, liquid oxygen was being used to control effluent smells. Manweb's UTT unit advised the installation of a VO2 Venturi aerator (developed at Capenhurst) which solved the problem using oxygen from the air. The savings made mean the project will pay for itself in just two years.

Domestic and commercial premises also benefit from the introduction of new technologies, as at the Grosvenor Arms Hotel in Pulford, Cheshire, where a trace heating instant hot water system recommended by UTT's John Edwards was one of the energy-saving measures which helped win a 1989 Beta Award for energy efficiency.

The Unit also offers a comprehensive building services monitoring facility, where energy and



An effluent tank at Bass Brewing, Runcorn, where a Venturi aerator is helping reduce smells and save money. UTT's Dr. David Walker (left) is pictured with Bass Effluent Treatment Manager Nick Massey.

water consumption profiles can be produced to help customers optimise their use of energy, and as part of Manweb's Medallion 2000 homes initiative, UTT is working to develop the total electric living environment, complete with heating and mechanical ventilation systems.

Using computer-aided design, UTT can simulate building environments and predict energy consumption. Alternative building configurations can be tried, allowing customers to appraise them fully.

A wide range of monitoring technologies are available. At Brymbo Steel Works for example, high speed photography was used to analyse furnace performance.

Other Manweb customers have benefited from the introduction of infra-red drying, low-cost steam compression and pollution reducing chemical production.

Himself a former Capenhurst research scientist, Dr. Walker is keenly aware of the need to bring new technologies out of the laboratory and into the commercial world.

"We have a superb history of technical innovation in Britain, but industry frequently fails to exploit this," he said.

By making Manweb's customers more aware of how electrical technologies can help them, UTT is working to change this. And as the demand for technologies which are both efficient and environmentally friendly increases, UTT's work looks set to have benefits all round - for customers, the environment, and for Manweb.



ARTHRITIS RESEARCH

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Going to work on an egg

POWYS sixth formers tested their wits in an unusual Manweb science competition at Theatr Hafren, Newtown. The 120 students, attending the Engineering Council's Turn on to Engineering Conference, were challenged by Manweb to boil an egg and toast a piece of bread using only basic scientific equipment.

The egg race competition, electricity.

which was hatched by Manweb Technology Transfer Engineer Andy Jones, included some stiff questions to get students thinking about the applications of

"The winning team, who gave an exceptionally high standard of answers, included students from Newtown High School, Coleg Powys Montgomery College

and Llanidloes High School.

As well as a certificate, prizes of pen sets went to the winners, and runners-up received torches and roller-ball pens.

Privatisation update

Secretary speaks out following speculation

ENERGY Secretary John Wakeham has responded to speculation about the electricity privatisation programme. In a statement he said: "It remains our aim to privatise the electricity industry this Parliament. Speculation will not change that. We want to give the customers a competitive industry and new rights, not leave them in the hands of a public sector monopoly."

New post for Mike

MANWEB has appointed Mike Metcalfe as its Regulator Relations Manager, based at Chester.

Mike, 43, will head a team responsible for liaising with the Director General of Electricity and his staff, and the Consumer Committee when Manweb becomes a private company in 1990.

He joined Manweb in 1974 and has held a number of senior appointments in audit and district administration. Since 1985 he has been Personnel Manager.

His wide experience and knowledge of Manweb will be used to the full in his new appointment, responding to the diverse requirements of the Director General, who will be responsible for the regulation of the electricity after privatisation.

"The Government's objectives are clear and have not changed. We are well on our way to meeting them. But the final pieces are still being negotiated and I will not be drawn on press speculation."

He went on to say: "Privatisation will introduce competition from day one. It will ensure electricity is produced cheaply and more efficiently. New rights for customers will be established, with guaranteed standards of service. All this will be backed up by a new regulatory office. Employees will get a stake in their future and the freedom to manage their businesses without interference."

"The security and safety of supply will be guaranteed by regulatory standards and diversity in power generation. Our policy will ensure that part of our electricity comes from power stations that do not rely on fossil fuels. This is essential for security of supply and helps to meet environmental concerns."

"In this new competitive environment those who supply fuel to the electricity industry will have to ensure they too are competitive," he added.



Director General visits Manweb

THE Director General of Electricity Supply, Professor Stephen Littlechild, visited Manweb's head office at Chester as part of a fact-finding visit around the country.

He and his deputy, Penny Boys met Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston and his Executive directors. Also there to meet the Professor was the recently appointed Manweb Regulator Relations Manager Mike Metcalfe, who will be responsible for liaising with the Professor's office.

Energy Secretary John Wakeham appointed Professor Littlechild as Director General of Electricity to head OFFER (The Office of Electricity Regulation), on September 1 this year.

The responsibility of the Pro-

fessor and his team is to promote competition and monitor the operations of the privatised electricity industry, in order to ensure the present high standards are maintained.

Professor Littlechild said: "As the privatised electricity industry's watchdog I have a key role in making it function in competitive, customer-sensitive way."

Professor Littlechild is pictured (above, right) with (left to right) his deputy, Penny Boys, Mike Metcalfe and Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston.

Lessons to learn

BRITAIN'S about-to-be-privatised Electricity Supply Industry has much to learn from the Americans, says Patricia McNally, who has just returned from an 8,000 mile tour of the United States on a Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship.

Patricia, Head of Public Affairs for the Electricity Council, visited nine major power utilities in her eight week study of electricity marketing in the United States.

She said: "In many ways the British Power System is technically more sophisticated than the American system and there is no doubt that the Americans are fascinated by the changes that privatisation will bring to our system - particularly to generation."

"But we have much to learn from their private sector experience. It is clear, for example, that the regulator plays a very big role in a private sector electricity industry and his/her actions can greatly affect company profitability."

"American utilities put a lot of effort into their relationship with the regulator. I came across a lot of interesting ideas. Many of the utilities also have effective programmes to help them keep in touch with their shareholders and staff and gain their support."

Long service

CONGRATULATIONS to the following staff who have clocked up 20, 30 or 40 years service in the electricity supply industry during September and October.

40 YEARS: North Mersey - Gwyn Williams, 1st Engineer. Dee Valley - Haydn Hughes, Supervisor, Customer Accounts. North Wirral - Ron Jones, Energy Sales Manager. Gwynedd - Emlyn Evans-Hughes, Craftsman Installation Inspector; Will Owens, HGV Driver; Len Roberts, Section Engineer; Will Jones, Craftsman Electrical Statutory. Aberystwyth - Reginald Bright, Craftsman Installation Inspector. Mid-Mersey - Norman Cragg, Wages Clerk. Clwyd - David Jones, Electrician.

30 YEARS: North Mersey - John Leatherbarrow, Shift Electrician. Head Office - Alan Bower, Executive Officer, Income. Mid-Mersey - Bill Mills, Mains Foreman, Runcorn Depot. Dee Valley - Michael Evans, Electrical Fitter, Legacy; John Lloyd, Electrical Fitter, Legacy; Andrew Morris, 1st Engineer, Installation and Service. North Wirral - Geoff Abel, District Manager; Tony Gibson, Foreman Electrical Fitter. Mid-Cheshire - Stephen Davies, Electrical Inspector; Frank Penk, 2nd Engineer, Installation; Barry Westwood, Service Electrician. Gwynedd - Gwilym Jones, Foreman Statutory; Allan Vincent Owen, Craftsman Electrician, Delivery; Richard Owen, Craftsman Shift Electrician. Oswestry - David Richards, Craftsman Installation Inspector; John Smith, Craftsman Overhead Lines/Street Lighting. Aberystwyth - David Fazakerley, Temporary Chargehand, Statutory; Meirion Wyn Jones, Foreman Installation Services, Machynlleth; Evan Thomas Pritchard, Foreman Installation Services; Trevor Williams, Electrician, Dolgellau. Liverpool - John Atkinson, 2nd Engineer, Network Services; Alan Sandells, 2nd Engineer, Network Services.

20 YEARS: North Mersey - Vincent Thomas, Storekeeper; David Winter, 1st Engineer. Head Office - Paul Cook, Principal Assistant, Stores Accounts; Nigel Crossley, Principal Assistant, Pensions; Alan Hughes, Stores Inspector; Brian O'Connell, Executive Officer, Debt Control, Income; Don Roxburgh, Personnel Policy Manager; Alan Fox, Account Executive, Customer Marketing; Wendy Callcott, Data Prep Supervisor; Robert Jones, Principal Assistant, Internal Audit; Jean Lavender, Clerk, Appliance Marketing; Doris Metcalfe, Private Secretary; John Peaker, Head of Information Services; Mildred Morris, Typist. Mid-Mersey - Bill Berry, Installation Inspection Foreman; Colin Keam, Statutory Electrician. Dee Valley - Elfyd Evans, Electrician; Brenda Jones, Clerk, Commercial Work Control; Roger Parry, Supervisor, Customer Accounts, Andrew Pooley, Customer Accounts Manager; David Spencer, Electrical Fitter; Malcolm Williams, Electrician. Mid-Cheshire - Bryan Flint, Chargehand, Debt Control Clwyd - Ian Baxter, Craftsman Electrician, Shift; Michael Thomas, Record Draughtsman. Gwynedd - Alfie Jones, Meter Operative. Aberystwyth - John Rees, Admin Assistant, Combined Work Control. Liverpool - Steve Griffin, 1st Engineer, Energy Marketing; Ken Davies, Electrician, MMP.



Super salesmen scoop awards

MANWEB's 1989 Salespeople of the Year were congratulated by Director, Power Marketing, Colin Leonard when they came to Head Office to receive their awards.

The contest, which is part of the National Sales Award competition, featured Industrial, Commercial and Domestic categories, with prizes of £300 in addition to inscribed plaques.

The winners were: Industrial - John Appleton, 1st Engineer Energy Marketing Industrial Sales (North Mersey); Domestic - Bill Hasprey, Energy Marketing Sales Representative (North

Mersey); Commercial - Doug Houlbrook, 2nd Engineer, Commercial Energy Marketing (ex Dee Valley, now a Customer Marketing Account Executive).

"The winners showed initiative and consistent performance demonstrating outstanding sales skills," said Electricity Sales Manager Dave Tinsley.

Now the Manweb winners will attempt to repeat their success in the national competition.

Colin Leonard is pictured (2nd from the left) presenting awards to (left to right) John Appleton, Bill Hasprey and Doug Houlbrook.

Lindsay strikes gold

HEAD Office System Operation Clerk Lindsay Jones has received a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Lindsay, 21, joined Manweb just two months ago after gaining a BA(Hons) degree in History at York University.

Also the holder of Bronze and Silver Awards, she qualified for the Gold by completing various projects, including charity work and a 50-mile trek across Snowdonia.

Obituary

IT is with sadness that Contact reports the death of Gwynedd Installation Manager Colin Daniels.

Colin, 38, had been ill for several months with a brain tumour. He died in hospital at Bangor, leaving a widow, Linda, and two young daughters.

Tribute

He joined the electricity supply industry in 1968 as a student engineer with South Eastern Electricity and came to Manweb in March, 1988, after five years with the Electricity Council in London as an Assistant Product Officer.

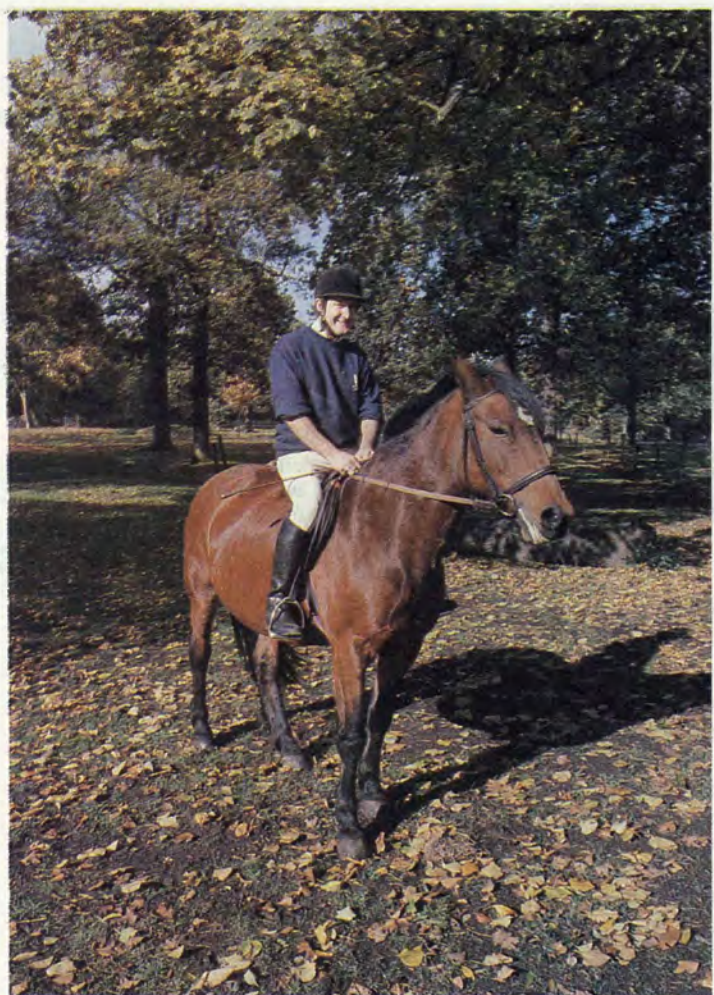
Gwynedd District Manager Dick Owen paid tribute to Colin, who, he said, had been "very loyal and conscientious" in his work.

"Although he was only with us for a short time, he made many friends and was well respected. His illness came as a shock to us all and he will be greatly missed."

Service

Many colleagues from Gwynedd and several other districts and Head Office attended the funeral service at Bangor Crematorium.

We are also sad to report the deaths of retired Clwyd Electrician Thomas Robert Jones, 83, former Mid-Mersey District Customer Accounts Manager Bob Martin, and retired Oswestry employee Bill Evans, who was 79.



Above: North Mersey Office Manager Len Cornah gets the bit between his teeth and joins in the action.

Below: A young rider tackles the potato race.



Fun at gymkhana event sponsored by Young riders saddled for some horse-play

DISABLED young adults saddled up for some horse-play when they took part in a gymkhana event. Thirty-five handicapped people, mostly from the Brooklea Adult Training Centre, Litheridge, took part in the event at the Croxteth Park Riding Centre, Liverpool.

Sack races, obstacle courses and potato races, all on horseback, were organised for the young riders, who each received rosettes from the Riding Centre.

Manweb provided the prizes - six clock radios and six £5 record tokens - and the awards were later presented by North Mersey Office Manager Len Cornah, who also helped organise the event.

Len, based appropriately enough at Bridle Road, is a keen rider in his spare time and has been involved with Riding for the Disabled for several years.

He helped organise a similar gymkhana event at Croxteth

Park last year and is Treasurer of a fund-raising committee which to date has brought in more than £600 to buy special riding equipment for use by disabled people.

Len said: "Once again the

event was a great success and everyone had a whale of a time. The youngsters were extremely competitive and the winners were thrilled with their prizes. We hope this will continue to be an annual event".

Report: Jan
Picture: [unclear]



Above: They're off... The youngsters are put through their paces in the obstacle race.

Boost for charities

KIND-HEARTED staff at Manweb's North Wirral District have raised almost £1,000 for local charities. The money has been deducted from employees' pay-packets under a 'Give As You Earn' scheme run by the Prenton-based District.

Arrowe Park Hospital's Special Baby Care Unit, Wirral Toy Library and the Holiday Home for Handicapped Children at Prestatyn, have each received a third share of the money.

North Wirral District Manager Geoff Abel is pictured presenting cheques to (left to right) Kathryn Mitchell and baby Sean, of Wallacey, Elise Robinson, Secretary of the holiday home, Sister Anne Jou, of Arrowe Park Hospital, and Kath Simpson, from Wirral Toy Library.



Surprise in store for brave Denise

STAFF at Manweb's Widnes Shop organised a Charity Day, raising £500 to help brave Denise Birch of St. Helens enter a Disney World holiday. Denise, 22, who is suffering from a progressive central nervous system disease, comes originally from Hale Village near Widnes, and when Manweb Regional Staff manager Julian Jenkins - also from Hale Village - heard of her trip he suggested the fund-raising fun day.

Widnes Shop Manager Mark Hodgetts and his staff were delighted to help, and soon had things organised.

The event featured a raffle, with the top prize of a Vacuum Cleaner supplied by Vax. Other manufacturers also donated prizes, and Liverpool FC sponsors Candy gave a football signed by the team.

In addition Mark Hodgetts contacted Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, who signed 300 leaflets which were snapped up by customers.

Staff wore fancy dress, turning them into kung fu star Bruce Lee, Red Indian chief and others, also laid on free refreshment customers.

"The day was a tremendous success," said Mark. "We raised for Denise, had our best ever figures and managed to get the whole town talking about us!"

Widnes Shop Manager Mark Hodgetts is pictured presenting Denise Birch (front) with her cheque, with mother Joyce Birch and grandparents Ralph and Hesketh.

Manweb e up lay

event sponsored by Manweb, attended the Riding

die Unsworth
Mike Hall



Nostalgic discovery

Dear Editor,

I have come across this photograph and wondered if it could be published in Contact for nostalgic reasons. It is the Manweb Area 2 Eversley team, which was in the Runcorn and District Football League.

The photograph was taken during the 1955/56 football season and the team is as follows:

Back row, left to right, Joe Antrobus, Tom Johnson, Frank Threadgold, Ralph Wilkinson, Raymond Mullin, Brian Brolly and Derek Dykes.

Front row, left to right, Ray Garner, Bob Abel, Glynn Threadgold, Tony Thorniley and Keith Lockett.

Eddit Lunt was a regular with the team but was absent when the photograph was taken.

Frank Threadgold,
Customer Accounts Manager
(Debt Control),
Liverpool District



Drop us a line

DO YOU have a view you'd like to share or an opinion you'd like to air? Then why not drop us a line?

Write to: The Editor, Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb, Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LR, and make sure you include your name and address, or work location. All letters are dealt with in strict confidence and your name can, upon request, be withheld.

We're all
revved up

Dear Editor,

I wonder if somebody could clear up a mystery to my colleagues and I at Lister Drive Transport Workshops.

In page 3 of Contact (October 1989) an article reports on the presentation of a transit van (the latest of three) to a charity, then goes on to say it was SOLD to the charity.

After extolling the virtues of Manweb throughout Contact for various goodwill schemes, etc., we find it deplorable that the van could not have been presented free. After all, a W-reg van was, I believe, sold for £400, which is less than a month's pay for the average employee.

E. MacIntosh,
Liverpool District

Editor's note: The vans we present to charities are not brand new and are likely to need money spent on them in the future. It's important that charities should be aware of this and have a commitment to carrying out any necessary repairs. We find that by asking them to make a contribution, they take this responsibility much more seriously. The charities we have helped have been very happy with these arrangements.

Furniture on sale to raise funds

TAKING delivery of a consignment of office furniture are Barnardos charity workers, watched by Manweb Accommodation Assistant Don Scott (second left).

Manweb donated the equipment to the charity during refurbishment of head office.

The desks and chairs will be used in Barnardos centres throughout the region and any surplus will be sold to raise funds.

The charity workers are (left to right) Audrey Street, Tom Boyne, Lee Burrows and Ken Spurrell.



2/2/1989 14-40-17
Pay **DENISE BIRCH**
FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS or order **£500.00**

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Report: Jackie Unsworth
Pictures: Mike Hall



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People in profile

The third part of
a special feature
by Graeme Cooper



Colin Leonard
Director, Power Marketing

Power Marketing

To be continued in the New Year with a look at the
Corporate Services.



Bryan Ogden
Head of Energy Marketing

THE Energy Marketing Department is responsible for developing marketing policies to meet the needs of all market sectors and for electricity sales to existing and potential customers using less than 1MW. The department also provides advice on energy efficiency and technical support to both customers and sales staff.

Manweb's goal of increasing electricity's share of the energy market has been strengthened by the expansion of the Energy Marketing team to include managers specialising in separate market sectors, and co-ordinating the work of Energy Marketing's sales force within each district.

In charge of overall sales is Electricity Sales Manager, Dave Tinsley. His team includes specialists in all Manweb's target energy markets. Malcolm Cooper is responsible for Domestic Energy Marketing, including Economy 7 and Electrachech.

His counterpart in Commercial Sales is Chris Liddicoat whose department is building increased electricity usage in shops, offices, schools, hospitals, churches and leisure and catering premises.

Industrial Energy Marketing is headed by Terry Dunne, who as well as increasing electricity's share of the industrial and agricultural market, is also developing electricity's share of space heating in these areas.

As well as direct sales to customers, Manweb's innovative indirect 'Trade Partners' marketing strategy - Headed by Trade Liaison Officer, Peter Benstead, aided by nominated District sales staff - is proving highly successful.

The sales teams are supported by expertise in key areas. Utilisation and Technology Transfer is headed by Dr. David Walker, whose team provide technical advice and support on the transfer of new and existing electrical technologies to Manweb's customers.

Publicity and advertising are the responsibility of Reuben Perry, and the completed Energy Marketing team will include a Market Research section.



Bill Bartlett
Head of Business Intelligence Unit

FAST and reliable information is crucial as Manweb approaches privatisation, and when the new plc begins trading in the competitive marketplace it will be vital to the company's survival.

The Business Intelligence Unit has been created to meet this need, providing Power Marketing with essential data, and keeping other departments informed about developments.

Forecasting Manager Roger Smith's section provides information about the future economic conditions in which Manweb will be trading. This is necessary not only for Power Marketing, but for Manweb as a whole, providing a basis for the company's Business Planning. In addition the section predicts the demand for electricity.

Customer Intelligence is headed by Alison Eakins, and is responsible for providing information about Manweb's major customers to Customer Marketing's Accounts Executives and other Manweb Departments. The work includes analysis of companies' financial performance and preparing reports on market trends for the product or service sold by the Manweb customer.

After Privatisation Electricity Supply licences will be monitored by the Regulator, and he will require a range of statistical information on sales, tariffs and other matters to be sent to him.

Andrew Iddison manages a section responsible for preparing and collating information which will be contained in these reports, and liaises with Manweb's Regulator Relations Manager, Mike Metcalfe.

Carole Poland is responsible for Computer Liaison within Power Marketing - except for the Income Development section, which has its own Computer Development Section. Carole works closely with Dewi Jones of Information Services to provide a centre of advice and expertise on mainframe and PC applications.



Bob Hodson
Head of Customer Marketing

THE Customer Marketing Department, headed by Bob Hodson, is responsible for ensuring Manweb's major customers, using 1MW or over, receive the best possible service. Customer marketing will have a vital role to play in a competitive market.

Manweb will be able to apply for second tier licences to supply customers outside its area and Customer Marketing will be employing the Board's expertise with major industrial and commercial users to market effectively and positively to prospective new customers.

A team of Accounts Executives, John Ellis, John Robinson, Cliff Havilland, John Mayes, Alan Fox, Doug Houlbrook, Len Dorr and Dave McCann, has been appointed, each with specific responsibility for a group of customers.

"Our major customers have welcomed the Account Executive arrangement," says Bob Hodson. "We've had feedback showing that a single point of contact is what they are happiest with, and we are now building on the excellent contacts made by both District and Head Office staff."

The Account Executives' twin objectives will be to ensure Manweb retains its major customers and to maximise sales. The key to success will be a flexible, highly personalised service.

Customer Marketing will work closely with Tariffs and Customer Contracts to ensure customers take advantage of any options available.

To co-ordinate and facilitate Manweb's range of services Account Executives will need to liaise with staff in Energy Marketing and all divisions, and consequently it will be necessary for them to be familiar with every aspect of Manweb's work.



Alan Wadcock
Head of Income and Accounting

THE Income & Accounting Department is responsible for collecting all of Manweb's income.

In the Districts, Customer Accounts staff are responsible for getting the meters read, most of the debt collection, keeping customer records up to date and anti-theft work. Once meters have been read it is the responsibility of Head Office staff to ensure that the accounts are billed promptly and that the cash received is correctly accounted for and allocated. Head Office staff are also responsible for administration of budget accounts and certain specialised account collection activities.

"One of the measures of the success of Power Marketing will be our ability to improve cash flow," says Alan Wadcock.

Improving customer service also features highly in the department's plans. All standard letters (there are more than 300!) have been revised, in conjunction with the Plain English Campaign, to make them clearer and more acceptable to customers and many staff have been on training courses aimed at improving customer awareness.

Two new sections have been added to the department recently. Accounting is responsible for preparing the business accounts, monitoring inter-business charges and providing financial advice to departmental heads. The Database and Settlements Section will maintain the electricity purchase and sales databases, essential for contract management, forecasting and customer marketing, and will verify the electricity purchase charges received via the National Settlements System.

"The interaction between the Districts and Head Office operations make the Income activity unique", says Alan Wadcock. "I am very fortunate that working relationships between the two groups of staff are so good."



Terry Brookshaw
Head of Power Procurement & Trading

THE Power Procurement & Trading Department will be responsible for all matters relating to the purchasing of electricity. This is a totally new concept for Manweb, as for some 40 years all the Board's power needs have been arranged and provided by the CEBG, under the Bulk Supply Tariff (B.S.T.).

It is planned that the B.S.T. will be replaced by a system of contracts between the Public Electricity Suppliers, (previously the Area Boards) and National Power, PowerGen and the Government-owned nuclear power company. There are also likely to be contracts with independent power generators, some of whom are already in existence.

Under the Electricity Act, 1989, a proportion of Manweb's needs must come from non-fossil sources, including renewables, such as hydro-electric and landfill gas as well as nuclear generation.

Initially though, most of the Area Boards' power needs are likely to be met by National Power and PowerGen. The contract arrangements for supply are still being discussed, and Terry Brookshaw is closely involved in these talks.

There are many factors to be considered, and the Power Procurement and Trading Team is examining all of these.

Power Projects Manager is Ben Campbell. He and his team are looking at various possibilities for power supply, including independent suppliers and Manweb generating its own power.

Power Economics, under Dr. Andrew Wright, is examining the most effective ways of buying power, taking into account the varying economic factors and developments which will affect the electricity market.

Ian Sharpe is the manager in charge of Power Contracts, who as well as negotiating for supplies, is concerned with the actual development and implementation of contracts.

Jeff Scott is the manager in charge of Trading. His section will be responsible for trading contracts once they are established and minimising Manweb's purchase costs. They will also be active in load management, matching the power available to customers' requirements.



Mike Boxall
Head of Tariffs and Customer Contracts

THE Tariffs and Customer Contracts Department is responsible for the commercial terms on which Manweb will deal with its customers. This covers not only price but also other contractual features and supply conditions.

The Pricing Section, managed by Pat McLafferty, looks in detail at the costs incurred by Power Marketing and identifies how these should be recharged to customers. It will also assess the appropriate profit margins, taking account of market conditions and the effects of regulation.

Once tariffs have been set it will be necessary to arrange for their publication and application to customers' accounts and to provide advice to customers and Manweb staff as necessary.

"We anticipate an increasing number of customers will be interested in exploring non-standard pricing packages which Manweb may offer," says Mike Boxall. "The development and pricing of such arrangements will also fall to the Pricing Section, though they will tend to do this in response to requests from the Customer Contracts Section."

This group, headed by Bob Sheedy, will identify customers for whom individual contracts are more appropriate than published tariffs.

The section will be responsible for the negotiation of contracts with customers and will therefore consider all elements of these agreements.

The Supply Section, led by Bill Tubey, provides the main point of contact with Network Services. The section will concentrate on both the technical aspects of the distribution system as they affect customers, and on the method of charging for both use of the system and new connections.

There is an important role in liaising with District staff, particularly in the Supplies Sections, who will handle enquiries from customers on a day-to-day basis.

Marketing Manweb

UNDER the control of Director Colin Leonard, Power Marketing is responsible for power procurement and the sale of electricity to all customers. The Division employs some 1,130 people, at Head Office and District and incorporates the activities previously undertaken by the Income Section of the Financial Department and the Energy Marketing and Tariffs and Economics sections of the Commercial Department.

As well as these established functions, Power Marketing has taken on roles new to Manweb, such as contracting to purchase electricity.

Power Marketing will produce its own separate accounts to show the division's performance, and will operate almost as a self-contained business, receiving income

from customers, negotiating with generators and paying Network Services for the use of the power distribution network.

The range of suppliers avail-

able to Manweb will include National Power and PowerGen, as well as any independent commercial generators that emerge, and Manweb is examining the possibility of generating a proportion of its own power.

To forecast customer demand, and meet the need for other information a Business Intelligence Unit has been established.

Other developments include the creation of the Customer Marketing Department to look

after larger customers and to try and ensure that they leave their business with Manweb. This section will also spearhead the marketing activities outside Manweb's traditional geographical area.

"We have now appointed our senior managers, and we are in the process of making the division run as a business," says Colin Leonard.

He and his executive team meet regularly to deal with the

problems and strategic issues of operating in a new business climate, and Colin Leonard is keen for all Power Marketing's personnel to be involved in formulating the division's plans.

"Everyone has a part to play in making Power Marketing a success," says Colin Leonard. "All of us can have a real effect on the bottom line profit, and it's important for the individual to know where he or she fits in."



Planning on a perfect Christmas

CHRISTMAS is just a few weeks away and it's time to start planning for the festive season. Christmas dinner is the highlight of the holiday and turkey is generally the first choice for the most memorable meal of the year. But this year why not try an impressive roast rib of beef, a succulent roast goose or spiced roast loin of pork?

ROAST RIB OF BEEF (serves 6 to 8)

6lb (2.7kg) rib of beef (ask the butcher to leave the rib bones about 2ins above the lean meat; 1tbsp (15ml) flour; 1tsp (5ml) mustard; salt and black pepper.

Allow 15 minutes per pound plus 15 minutes for rare beef or 20 minutes per pound plus 20 minutes for medium. Place on a wire rack in a roasting tin. Pre-heat oven to 220C, 425F, mark 7. Mix the mustard and flour and rub over the beef, sprinkling with salt and pepper. Place in pre-heated oven and roast for 20 minutes. Then turn oven down to 190C, 375F, mark 5. Start timing the joint from this point. Serve the beef with Yorkshire pudding and crisp, crunchy roast potatoes and carrots.

YORKSHIRE PUDDING

4oz (125g) plain flour; salt; 1 egg, lightly beaten; ½ pint (300ml) milk or milk and water mixed.

While the meat is cooking, make up the Yorkshire pudding batter (this can be made in advance and stored, covered, in the fridge). Sieve the flour into a bowl, add the salt and make a well in the centre. Add the egg and work into the flour with a wooden spoon. Slowly pour on the milk, beating well after each addition until the batter is smooth.

2lb (900g) potatoes, peeled; 2oz (50g) lard or dripping; 2lb (900g) carrots, peeled; 1 beef stock cube; dash of sherry; 1tbsp (15ml) light brown sugar.

Prepare the potatoes, cook in salted water for 10 minutes, drain and plunge into cold water. Drain and scratch the surface of each potato with a fork. Meanwhile, heat the lard, dripping or oil in a roasting pan in the oven until really hot. Place the prepared potatoes in the oven with the beef 30 minutes before the end of cooking time. Turn up the oven to 200C, 400F, mark 6 after you have removed the beef (leave to stand in a warm, not hot, place).

Place lard, dripping or oil in Yorkshire pudding tins and heat until the fat is piping hot. Remove quickly from the oven and pour on the batter mixture. Return to the oven and cook for about 30 minutes, until risen and golden. While the potatoes and Yorkshire pudding are cooking, place the peeled carrots into a large pan of boiling water with a stock cube dissolved into it. Add the sherry, sugar and salt and cover the pan. Cook for about 20 minutes until the carrots are just tender. Drain and serve the carrots around the beef with Yorkshire puddings and roast potatoes.

ROAST GOOSE WITH APPLE AND APRICOT STUFFING (serves 6 to 8)

11lb (5.5kg) goose, thawed if frozen; ½ onion. Stuffing: 2tbsp (30ml) oil; 2 onions, peeled and finely chopped; 3oz (75g) apricots, chopped; 3oz (75g) dried apple, chopped; 6oz (175g) fresh white breadcrumbs; 3oz (75g) chopped back bacon, rind removed; 2oz (50g) pine nuts; 1tbsp (15ml) fresh chopped parsley; salt and pepper; 1 egg, lightly beaten.

To make the stuffing, heat the oil in a pan and add the onions. Fry for about five minutes, until softened, and leave to cool. Add the dried fruit, breadcrumbs, bacon, pine nuts, parsley, seasoning and egg mix.

Wash out the goose and stuff the neck end of the bird with the stuffing. Place the onion half in the cavity and prick the skin of the goose all over. Roast on a rack in a roasting tin, covered with foil, for 20 minutes per pound (450g) in a pre-heated oven on 190C, 375F, mark 5. Pour off the fat during cooking as needed, and remove the foil for the last 30 minutes. Serve with roast potatoes and vegetables of your choice.

SPICED ROAST LOIN OF PORK (with stuffed rosy apples)

6lb (2.7kg) rolled and tied loin of pork (ask butcher to cut through the chine bone); 3tbsp (45ml) light soy sauce, 3tbsp (45ml) dry vermouth; 1 small onion, peeled and finely chopped; 1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed; 1tsp (10ml) ground cumin, salt and pepper, fresh sage to garnish.

The day before cooking, place the loin of pork on a work surface and score the skin with a sharp knife in diagonal slashes between the string. Place the joint on its side in a roasting tin. In a bowl, mix together the soy sauce, dry vermouth, onion, garlic and cumin, using a pastry brush, paint the marinade onto the meat, leaving the skin dry. Cover and repeat several times. To cook, place the meat skin upwards in a roasting tin, and sprinkle the skin liberally with salt, rubbing into the slashes.

Pre-heat the oven to 220C, 425F, mark 7, and bake the pork for 20 minutes before lowering the heat to 190C, 375F, mark 5. Allow 35 minutes per 1lb (450g) plus 35 minutes. If the joint begins to burn, cover with foil.

STUFFED ROSY APPLES

Twelve small Cox's red apples, lemon juice, 2oz (50g) butter; 3oz (75g) fresh breadcrumbs; 1oz (25g) mixed nuts, chopped, 2tbsp (30ml) chopped fresh sage or 2tsp (10ml) dried; 2oz (50g) frozen cranberries or redcurrants; 1tbsp (5ml) grated lemon rind.

About an hour before the end of cooking time for the loin of pork, core the apples and place them in cold water with a squeeze of lemon juice. Make up the stuffing by heating the butter in a frying pan, add the breadcrumbs and nuts and fry until golden. Remove from the heat and stir in the sage, cranberries, seasoning and lemon rind.

Drain the apples and place in a roasting tin. Carefully spoon the stuffing into each apple and cover the tin with foil. Place in oven and roast for about 25 minutes until soft.

Roast your potatoes in the top of the oven 50 minutes before the end of cooking time. Remove the pork and apples from the oven and keep them warm, and turn up the oven to 200C, 425F, mark 7 for a further 10 minutes to crisp up the potatoes. Serve with vegetables of your choice.

Choice wines

BEFORE choosing your wines for Christmas, it's vital that you first plan your menu so that you can decide what will best suit the meal.

You don't need a cellar in order to store wines, but you do need to keep them at a constant temperature, even for a short time. Bottles should be kept flat or at a slight angle and in a cool, dark place. A wine rack in your kitchen is

fine, providing you don't keep moving it, and it should be kept away from direct light and strong heat.

Most red wines need to be given time to reach room temperature and should be opened one hour before serving.

White wine needs three hours in the fridge and half an hour in an ice bucket.

Sherry is something to offer mid-morning with mince pies or as an aperitif. A good all-round is Amontillado medium sweet.

Champagne first thing on Christmas morning is a real treat for yourself and your guests. Look out for major brands, and Sainsbury's own is excellent value.

If you like sparkling white

wine, a good fun drink is Buck's Fizz - orange juice and bubbly mixed. An inexpensive sparkling wine is Spanish Cava. Perfect with turkey is the white, fruity German Moselle, Bereich Bernkastel, and a sweet white wine to serve with your Christmas pudding or a good, young, crumbly Stilton is Bordeaux, Barsac or Laupiac.

A fruity red wine for easy drinking is an Italian Bardolino or the more fashionable

Montepulciano, and a robust red to go with the goose, pork or tangy cheeses is the Spanish Corres Gran Coronas.

If you are looking for a good red wine to go with beef, lamb or game, try a Burgundy Rhone. Sainsbury's Hautes Cote de Beaune is an excellent choice.

Port is the perfect ending to any good meal, and is excellent with Stilton. A very good, reliable ruby red is Fonseca Bin 27.

A Yuletide treat

AFTER a mouth-watering Christmas dinner, 'yule' just love some of the alternatives to the traditional Christmas pudding.

SNOWBALL PUDDING (serves 6 to 8)

8oz (250g) full fat cream cheese; 3oz (75g) caster sugar; 3oz (75g) unsalted butter, melted; 2oz (50g) hazelnuts, chopped; 1oz (25g) candied peel; 2oz (50g) glace cherries, chopped; grated rind and juice of two oranges and one lemon; 8 trifle sponges; ½oz (15g) gelatine; 2tbsp very hot water; 5fl oz (150ml) carton of double or whipping cream.

Beat the cream cheese with the sugar and melted butter until the mixture is smooth and creamy. Stir in the chopped nuts, candied peel, chopped cherries and grated rind. Slice each sponge crossways into three thin slices and put three or four slices on the bottom of a 2 pint (1.2 litre) pudding basin. Spoon on a layer of the cream cheese mixture, add another layer of sponges, and so on, ending with a layer of sponges.

Dilute the juice of the oranges and lemon to ¾ pint (450ml) with hot water. Dissolve the gelatine in a cup with 2tbsp of very hot water and stir it into the juice. Strain the juice over the mixture in the pudding basin, making sure the juice gets to the bottom of the dish by pulling the mixture back with a spoon. Put the basin in the fridge to set.

When well chilled, dip the basin briefly in hot water and turn the pudding out onto a serving plate. Whisk the cream until thick and ice the pudding all over with it. Decorate the top with a sprig of holly. Chill again before serving.

YULETIDE CHOCOLATE LOG

For a perfect, even Swiss roll, it is important to line your tin properly and neatly with a sheet of greaseproof paper or non-stick baking parchment 2ins (5cm) larger than the Swiss roll tin.

3oz (75g) plain flour; 1oz (25g) cocoa powder; 4 eggs, size 3; 4oz (125g) caster sugar; extra caster sugar for dredging. For the filling: 6oz (175g) fresh or frozen cranberries; 4oz (125g) granulated sugar; 1tbsp cornflour; ¼ pint (150ml) whipping or double cream. American frosting: 6oz (175g) caster sugar; 1 egg white, size 3; pinch of cream of tartar; drop of vanilla essence. To decorate: Sifted cocoa powder; frosted

holly leaves; frosted cranberries.

To frost holly leaves, first clean and dry some leaves. Using a small paint-brush, cover with egg white, then sprinkle with caster sugar. Shake off the excess and leave to dry.

To frost cranberries, choose small even-sized cranberries. If using frozen berries, defrost them completely and pat dry. Beat the egg whites until frothy and dip the cranberries into the egg and then into caster sugar. Shake off the excess sugar and place onto a sheet of greaseproof paper on a wire rack until dry.

Pre-heat the oven to 200C, 400F, mark 6, and lightly oil a 13x9in (33x23cm) Swiss roll tin and line with paper. Sift the flour and cocoa powder together onto a plate or sheet of greaseproof paper. Whisk the egg whites and caster sugar together in a large bowl over a pan of gently simmering water until the mixture is lifted. Remove the bowl from the heat and continue whisking until cool.

Fold in the flour and cocoa very gently, using a metal spoon, and pour the mixture into the prepared tin, covering the base and filling the corners. Bake above the centre of the oven for 12 to 15 minutes until well-risen and springy to the touch.

Place a sheet of greaseproof paper on a damp tea towel and dredge with some caster sugar. Turn the Swiss roll out onto the paper and peel away the lining paper carefully. Trim the edges of the sponge with a sharp knife, then make a shallow cut about ¼in (6mm) from one of the long edges. Using the paper, fold over from the cut edge of the sponge and roll up. Remove the cloth and leave to cool on a wire rack.

Place the cranberries and sugar in a pan with 2fl oz (50ml) water. Heat gently while stirring to dissolve the sugar, then bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer gently for five minutes.

Blend the cornflour to a smooth paste with a little water and stir in. Cook until the mixture thickens, then leave until cold, stirring occasionally. Whip the cream in a separate bowl. Unroll the cooled Swiss roll carefully, remove the paper and spread with the whipped cream. Spoon on the cranberry filling.

Re-roll the Swiss roll with help of the paper and transfer to a cake board or plate. For the frosting, place the sugar, egg white, cream of tartar and 2tbsp hot water in a bowl over gently simmering water.

Whisk the mixture until it forms soft peaks, remove the bowl, add vanilla essence and whisk again until cool. Spread onto the filled chocolate roll at once and run a fork along the length of the cake to create a bark effect, then dust with cocoa powder. Decorate the log with frosted holly leaves and frosted cranberries.

Free Ads

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 bedrooms, shower, fridge, fully fitted. From £75 per week. Tel: 0978 362615/352653

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 junction 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 or half-board. Lic. restaurant open to non-residents. Lunch, afternoon tea, dinner. Private parties catered for. Further details: Hwylfa Dafydd 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, Snow-

donia National Park. For infmtn.: C.Jones, 2 Meadow Drive, Porthmadog. Tel: 0766 2519

Newquay - Cornwall, family-run guest house with good home cooking. Family rooms. Friendly atmosphere, Sea views. 200 yards from town centre. Dinner, bed and breakfast from £70 per week. Former Merseyside family will make you welcome. Disc. for Manweb empls. Apply Avondale, 28 George Road, Newquay, Cornwall. Tel: 0637 872234.

Llandudno - April Court. Small family-run private hotel (Welsh Tourist Board - two crown). Close to local amenities, beach, town centre, theatres, golf courses, etc. New Alpine Ski complex in beautiful natural setting. Ideal base for exploring beauty-spots of Snowdonia. Good home cooking and comfortable, friendly atmosphere. Children welc. Enquiries to April Court, St David's Place, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2UG. Tel 0492 77898.. Disc. for Elec. Board employees and families (both past and present).

Algarve - Privately-owned villa set in large gardens in the Monchique Hills. Spilt level/dining room, good kitchen facilities, utility room, two-good sized bedrooms, terraces with garden furniture. Panoramic views of the West Coast, 24 kms away. Swimming pool. Maid service. Food hamper provided. Flights arranged. Tel: 0352 50159 or 0244 316682.

Anglesey - Self catering and coarse fishing holidays. Two lakes on 15-acre site overlooking Snowdonia. Touring caravans and tents welcome. Brochure available. Tel: 0248 713410

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

Newquay - Cornwall. Luxury caravans with shower, and economy vans. Colour TV, flush toilet, etc. Pleasant site near town and beaches. Cleaned and main-

tained by owners. From £50 per week. Tel: 0637 876589 (Gill).

Spain - Luxury villa, three dbl bedrooms and two two bath-rooms. Private swimming pool. Quiet area "Calpe" Costa Blanca. Walled gdns, terraces ect. Five minutes from uncrowded beaches. Available from £150 per week. Telephone 0736 664177.

Dolgellau - Traditional farmhouse cottage set in a seven-acre smallholding in Snowdonia National Park. Sleeps seven plus cot. Tastefully modernised. Fully-fitted kitchen, inc dishwasher and microwave. Storage heaters and large inglenook fireplace. Ample parking and grounds. Kennel for pet by arrangmt. Easy access to mountains and sea Beautiful scenery and lovely walks. Prices from £100 to £220 per week. Tel: 0341 423912

Cardigan - 12 miles. Lux. 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, prking. BB/EM £65 - £80 per week. ESI staff. Tel: 063787 4291 (Mr Pleasants).

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, 1 1/2 miles from shingle beach of Menai Straits and four miles from sandy beaches of Llanddwyn. Nature reserve, bird sanctuary, sea zoo, shops and restaurant nearby. Weekly prices - July/August £220, September 1 to 15 £180, September 16 to 30 £160, October £130. Telephone Deeside 819768.

Llandudno - Rosaire Private Hotel. Family run and situated in lovely garden area of town, yet close to all entertainment and shops with no hills to climb. Free car park. Tea/coffee facilities. Some en suite rooms available. Excellent home cooking, served at separate tables. Telephone 0492 77677 or write for brochure to Mr and Mrs W.G.Evans, 2 St Seiriols Road, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2YY.

Anglesey - Bed and Breakfast/self catering summer let. Secluded farmhouse with panoramic views of the Snowdonia range. Within 10 minutes of the main town Llangefni and sandy beaches. Idyllic for bird watchers. Tel: Bodorgan (0407) 840038.

Presthaven Sands - North Wales. Caravan to let. Colour TV. Shower. Fully fitted. Good site facilities. Tel: 061 366 8789.

City of Chester - Self catering flat. Centrally heated. TV, fridge, linen provided. Parking, all inclusive. Tel: 0244 42538.

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Luxury Caravans - Eight berth. Llanrhystyd, West Wales (on the Cardigan coastline). Pleasant site (no club) nine miles from Aberystwyth and 11 miles from Newquay. Near to beach with beautiful scenic views. Families only. Sorry, no pets. Contact K. A. Cull on 0939 33005.

Ski - La Clusaz, France. Departs Manchester January 8, 1990. Half board. Costs £240 per person, inclusive of lift pass, insurance and Manchester flight supplement (price based on four sharing). Equipment hire £20 and lessons £20 are extra. Traditional French village with extensive ski circuit, ideal both for beginners and experienced skiers. Further details from Standish Ski Club, Tel: 0257 425866.

FOR HIRE

Electric Supply Club - Thingwall Road, Liverpool 15. Small lounge with bar. Accommodates 40 to 60 people. Available for functions most nights. Free to members. Contact Mr R. Morton, 051 722 3838.

FOR SALE

Dining Room Suite - Grey. Kitchen set (table, two chairs, two stools). Power-Electric Cooker Hood. All excellent condition. Offers. Margaret Jones 051-336 4379 after 6 p.m.

Cassette - Sony TC13SSD, £35. Casio MT68 keyboard, £60. Sanyo speakers, 30WPC, £30. All o.n.o. Telephone Mrs. S. E. Williams, 051-653 3416.

Sofa Bed - Used very little, £80 o.n.o. Telephone F. L. Williams on Prestatyn 4924.

Two Bikes - Raleigh Aero-Pro BMX Lightweight Competition. Excellent condition. Cost £250 new. For sale at £50 each. Contact Mr. R. Maddaford on 051-644 0763.

Snooker Table - 6' x 3' with legs, PLVs, balls and cues. Very good condition. Cost £160, but will sell for £80 o.n.o. Contact A. Hugheson 051-226 4481.

Lawn Mower - Aspara 18" Cut Rotary. Body a bit rusty, otherwise in good working order. Complete with grass box. £20 o.n.o. Contact A. Hugheson 051-226 4481.

Larder Fridge - Tricity Polar-frost, 4 cu. ft. (no ice box). Slight damage to inner plastic shelf, but in good working order. 35" high x 19 1/4" wide x 24" deep over handles. £18 cash. Can be seen at Head Office. Contact C. White-side on H.O. ext. 2980.

Knitting Machine - Bond, with ribber and accessories. £100 o.n.o. Contact M. Machin on 0978 846148.

Zoom Lens - Tamron, 80 - 210mm, with case. Excellent condition, £35. Camera tripod, £10. Contact Alan Dickinson on Aberystwyth int. ext. 2162.

Hi Fi - Quality Gale 401C Reference Speakers. Superb condition. Little used. £295 including stands. Aiwa stereo cassette deck. Immaculate, high quality; £85. Armstrong 625 tuner amplifier in excellent condition, 2x40 watts, £60. Contact Robin Sharvin on 0270 841676 after 6 p.m., or Mid Cheshire int. ext. 2304.

CARS

Ford Capri - 1600 LS, X Reg. Reliable and economical. Sensible offers around £1,500. Must be seen to be appreciated. Contact Tracy Murray on H.O. int. ext. 2075.

Mini Mayfair - D Reg., red, 16,500 miles, 3 months tax, 10 months MOT, radio, rear seat belts. Excellent condition, £3,195. Contact Angela on H.O. int. ext. 2925.

Montego - 1.3L, 1986, C Reg., red, 37,000 miles. Excellent condition, £2,995 for quick sale. Telephone 051-644 9058.

Vauxhall Cavalier - 1986, C Reg., dark red, 12 months MOT, 3 months tax. Stereo radio cassette. Tilt/slide sunroof. Immaculate condition; £2,650. Contact Chris Jones on Buckley 550655 after 6 p.m.

PROPERTY

Rockferry - Modern, spacious, 3-bed. semi-detached house situated directly overlooking the River Mersey from the Wirral side. Fitted kitchen with oven, hob, extractor fan. Large gardens. Many more features. £49,950. Tel. 051-644 9058.

New look in store

A NEW look is in store for customers visiting two of Manweb's Merseyside shops.

Bootle and Birkenhead shops were relaunched on November 10, after a major refurbishment scheme to give them a brand new image, and to mark the occasion Manweb staff served up treats in the form of free gifts with certain purchases, special offers and competitions, with super prizes including a midi stereo system.

The improvements are part of a massive, on-going shop refurbishment scheme being carried out by Manweb, to the tune of £2 million during this financial year.

Manweb has spent £1/4 on re-vamping the Bootle shop, at 121 Mariners Way, New Strand, which has been extended and attractively fitted out.

A further £100,000 has been spent on totally re-fitting the Birkenhead shop at 32-36 Milton Pavement in the Shopping Precinct.

Manweb's Shop Operations Manager Bill Wakelin said: "The shops have been refurbished to a very high standard, to provide an even better service for our customers."

"They have to remain open during the refurbishment work and I would like to thank customers for putting up with the inconvenience. I'm sure they will agree, when they see the results, that it has all been worthwhile."

Exam dates

THE Part 1 examinations of the Incorporated Society of Estates and Wayleaves Officers will be held at the Cotswold Conference Centre, the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, on September 10, 11 and 12, 1990.

Candidates will be examined in agriculture, surveying, forestry and recreational land management, law of contract and land law, urban and regional planning.

Further details, syllabus and application forms are available from the Society's Secretary and Registrar, R. J. B. Carruthers, ARICS, MRAC, HMSEWO, 3 Hyde Green, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 1QL.

Applications from candidates wishing to sit these examinations should be submitted by January 1, 1990.

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High voltage action at RL match

Story: Jackie Unsworth
Pictures: Mike Hall



Above: Manweb Account Executive John Ellis (centre) meets the Warrington Borough Council contingent (left to right) Housing Director Tom Roberts, Principal Building Surveyor Alan Wilcock, Senior Engineer Harry Burgess and Architectural Technician Ged Sonnerson.

Below: Sparks fly between the Saints and the Wires during the all-action match.



SPARKS flew when Warrington's "Wires" clashed with the St Helens "Saints" in an electrifying rugby league match sponsored by Manweb's Mid Mersey District on October 29. Guests from industry and commerce, including representatives from three local authorities, were invited along to watch the high-powered match at Warrington, following a buffet reception at the District Office.

The hospitality event was organised by 1st Engineer, Energy Mar-

keting, Allan Hill, who said: "It was a great opportunity for us to meet some of our customers, and to foster better working relationships. We discussed business as well as rugby!"

"The event was extremely well attended and very much appreciated by those who came along."

Among the guests were representatives from Warrington, Halton and St Helens Borough Councils, Pilkingtons, Bass and British Aluminium.

Award

After the match, which St Helens won 15-3, guests were invited along to the Sponsors' Lounge, where a Warrington player was presented with the Man of the Match award by Manweb Account Executive, Customer Marketing, John Ellis.

Then it was John's turn to receive a plaque on behalf of Manweb from Warrington RL Chairman Peter Higham as a memento of the occasion.

It was the second rugby league match to be sponsored by the District. Earlier this year customers were treated to another high voltage game in which Wigan beat Warrington 10-4.

Sport extra



Above: Warrington player Gary Sanderson receives his Man of the Match Award from John Ellis.

Below: Supporting the Saints was a small delegation from Pilkingtons, pictured with Manweb Electricity Sales Manager David Tinsley (centre). They are: Electrical Engineer John Bromilow (left) and Geoff Hand, Project Development Engineer.



Business links are formed

CONTRACTING organised a Golf Day to get to know existing and prospective customers from across the Manweb area.

Director, Trading, Peter Hopkins welcomed competitors from more than 30 businesses and organisations as well as Manweb's own golfers to the contest at the Hill Valley Golf and Country Club in Whitchurch.

A range of prizes was awarded, and the overall winner was Alan Rees, Managing Director of Lovell Partnership Homes, Altrincham, who received a Wedgwood dinner service.

A raffle was also held, with staff and guests raising £101 for the Electricity Supply Industry Benevolent Fund.



Success on a plate for golfer Ian

OSWESTRY Linesman Ian Rodger (right) is presented with a silver tray by Ieuan Evans, Captain of Manweb Golf Society, after winning the recent Captain's Day competition.

The tournament - the biggest and final event of the year - was held at Oswestry and around 60 players from various Manweb locations took part.

Ian, who was also presented with a trophy which he will keep for a year, took the first prize with 39 Stableford points.

Tournament's 'first lady'

MANWEB's Cynthia Scott ended a successful golfing year by winning the ladies final of the British Telecom Mobile UK Stableford Championships.

Cynthia, a Clerical Assistant/Librarian in Information Services, Head Office, took the trophy with 34 points playing to a handicap of seven.

Prize

The event was held at Woburn Golf and Country Club on October 17 and played on the men's course.

Cynthia, Lady Captain of

Hawarden Golf Club and also a member of Old Padeswood Club, said: "I won the Lady President's Day Prize at Padeswood and used that card to enter the British Telecom Championships."

"I also won the club championships and the match play competition, so you could say it has been a very good year for me."

CONTACT Sport



Award for top runner

GWYNEDD District Manager Dick Owen presents the Manweb Perpetual Trophy to schoolboy Aedden Whittaker, of Llanberis, the winner of the Under 12 Snowdon Race 1989.

Sponsored by Manweb, the Snowdon Race - or Ras Rhyngwladol Yr Wyddfa - is an internationally famous annual event run from Llanberis to the summit of the mountain, at 3560 feet, and back.

The distance is approxi-



mately 10 miles, including a mile of road running, the gentle slopes of Cwm Brwynog and the rugged rocky climbs of Allt Moses and Clogwyn Coch.



MANWEB Display Supervisor Bill Swann (above) proudly shows off the John Greenhalgh Memorial Trophy following his recent success against fellow Nalgo members at Hawarden Golf Club.

Treasurer of the Manweb Golf Society, Bill, who is based at Head Office, won the annual event with 43 points in a Stableford contest and will keep the trophy for a year.



Soaked . . . but it was all in a good cause

SHATTERED and soaked to the skin . . . That's how livewire Oswestry clerks Sharon Coleman, Gill Tinsley, Samantha Kelly and Jill Bennett ended up after tackling a tough army assault course. But it was all in a good cause.

the energetic quartet were put through their paces at Nesscliffe Training Camp, near Oswestry, to raise funds for Leprosy, the British Leprosy Relief Association.

Competing against other teams representing local businesses and organisations in the Oswestry area, the Manweb girls, who called themselves the Livewires, each managed to complete the gruelling course and raised a total £226 for the charity in the process.

Sharon, 25, a Clerk in Commercial, said: "We had to tackle 10 different obstacles, including a 12ft wall, scrambling net, bars, ropes and a water jump. It was quite tough and we all got soaked, but we did all manage to get round the course."

"In fact, we enjoyed ourselves so much that we plan to do it again next year, and hopefully we will persuade some of our male colleagues to join in."

Pictured relaxing after their fund-raising efforts are (left to right) Samantha, Sharon, Jill and Gill.

Bowling champs

LISTER Drive's Contracting Department once again bowled the opposition over in the annual Liverpool District Inter-departmental Bowls Competition.



Captained by Electrician Reg Owen, the winning team was presented with a shield and trophies during a celebration disco and dance at the Electric Supply Club, Thingwall Road, Liverpool.

The Pairs Competition was won by George Johnson, of General Services, and Mike Forber, of Meter Modernisation.

Pictured with their prizes are members of the Contracting team (left to right) Stores Foreman Ron Woods and Electricians Gary Wilson, Reg Owen, Barry Segnan and Jimmy Parry.

Crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Birthmark, 8 Edith, 9 Guillemot, 10 Crowd, 11 Touch, 13 Rouse, 14 Brow, 16 Recur, 18 Apex, 19 Antic, 21 Sweep, 22 Below, 24 Affluence, 26 Strum, 27 Pretender.

DOWN: 1 Bugler, 2 Rein-sure, 3 Holster, 4 Aim, 5 Ketch, 6 Vigo, 7 Shadow, 12 Uncle, 15 Rationed, 17 Rapture, 18 Ambush, 20 Career, 21 Swamp, 23 Lark, 25 Foe.

THE SPORTING CHANCES

by Mitch



Manweb pedal power

MANWEB took an interest in pedal power when Liverpool District sponsored the Annual Wheel Race, organised by Merseyside Wheelers. The cycle race covered 52 miles and 40 laps of Liverpool's Newsham Park, and first past the post was Nigel Simpson, from Wembley.

Manweb donated three prizes which were presented by Energy Sales Manager Graham Houghton. The cycle racers are pictured (above) getting into top gear at Newsham Park.