

Other Episodes

Episode 1

A Lovely Day

Episode 2

“I Do Like To Be Beside the Seaside”

End of the pier

Rotters performing on the end of the pier at the end of a set and about to return to the Rotterdam

Suede's Office

Suede's office with Acme Brothers Contractors Inc. Suede wants to buy the Old Pier to turn it into an amusement/leisure park that ties-in with the costumes of his henchmen (“Chicken World”), but can only do this by getting rid of The Rotters. Uncle owns freehold of Rotterdam ‘cos left to him by Great Uncle Tacko!

“Chicken World is just what Brightsea needs.” The contractors ask about the rights to property on the pier, Suede says there's no problem and he'll get The Rotters out.

Adelaide brings in tea, we hear that she is Suede's daughter and the contractors find her very attractive.

The contractors leave and Suede tells his henchmen that he will sort out The Rotters whilst they get into their costumes - the henchmen complain a lot about their naff costumes. Suede tells Adelaide to go out and do leaflets and posters. He says he'll meet them all at the office after seeing The Rotters and making them an offer they can't refuse.

The Rotterdam

The Rotters enter back from the gig and reminisce about the past and Uncle's history with the pier and den. Making tea, explosions etc. Squacko comments on squalor. Suede enters the den to try and buy the space and bribe them away with a new hut on the seafront with hot & cold water, gas etc. Uncle refuses point-blank. Suede leaves and swears to get back at him. The Rotters argue: McFacko keen on the down-payment, Squacko keen on comforts, Gacko keen on proximity to amusements, but Uncle refuses due to tradition. Gacko sent out to get cakes for tea... Macko has got to go for a hot date with Hattie - a romantic speedboat ride.

In the pier teashop

Matron and Gacko talk. Matron asks particularly about Uncle. In the middle, Adelaide comes in with leaflets about Chicken World. Gacko grabs one and reads it out. Gacko falls for Adelaide in a big way. She returns to the Suede office.

Suede's Office

Tannoy announcement: “Come to Chicken World, opening in just 4 weeks!” Suede getting henchmen ready to go out, they complain about costumes, but are now told that their task is to kidnap Uncle and force him to agree to their plans... whatever it takes. Adelaide enters and talks about Gacko, Suede is angry at this and gives her a note to give to The Rotters (a ransom demand). He promises to take The Acme Brothers around their new premises.

On the Pier

Uncle strolling along the pier with Matron. The Chickens attack! and Uncle is kidnapped. Matron leaves Uncle to buy ice cream/candy floss so only sees the incident from a distance and hurries back to the other Rotters to relay the news. Adelaide is shocked at what she sees and helps Matron whom she follows to The Rotterden.

The Rotterden

Gacko telling the others about Adelaide and shows them the leaflet.

Matron and Adelaide enter and say that they have just seen Uncle being abducted by chickens.

Adelaide gives them the note from Suede (she doesn't know what is in it). It is a ransom note - The Rotters must leave the pier or Uncle will be stuffed and basted.

They are shocked: Gacko is upset and angered by Suede's macho attitude, McFacko needs Uncle to get money from the gigs, Squacko sees it as a heroic challenge against the oiks.

They are all annoyed at Macko for going off gallivanting again.

They resolve to search for Uncle.

Macko and Hattie

They meet under the pier

Beneath the pier

Uncle being lowered on a rope by his ankles towards the waves to be drowned by the rising tide. He is attached to a rotten girder beneath the Rotterden. Uncle refuses to sign Suede's document and the Chicken Men taunt Uncle.

The Chicken Men abandon Uncle to his fate and go to meet Suede as arranged...

The Rotterden

As they are leaving, they hear faint cries and groans, but believe it to be Macko and Hattie under the pier. They leave to look for Uncle on the seafront.

Macko & Hattie

Getting onto the speedboat for a romantic trip.

The Rotterden

Suede and the contractors enter the empty Rotterden. It is smelly, dirty, damp and rotten and liable to fall down any minute.

On the Pier

Led by Matron and Adelaide, the Rotters find the Chickenmen as they leave the pier and force them to say where they have left Uncle. They rush back and see Uncle hanging under the pier, they don't know what to do, but see a boat speeding towards him...

Speedboat

Driving under the pier at full speed

Under the Pier

Uncle humming comforting tunes as the noise of a speedboat approaches. Composing his memorial service. A soliloquy about how appropriate to die suspended beneath his beloved Rotterdam on the Old Pier on an old rope from a rotten decking timber...

Speedboat

Hattie spots something ahead, cries "Lookout!" Macko recognises Uncle, Uncle says "Quick, save me, grab me and pull me off!" Macko holds onto Uncle and the speedboat drives on, the timber gives way above, Uncle is free.

Rotterdam

Suede reassures contractors that it is safe as houses. The contractors hear the noise of the speedboat and the timbers cracking. Suede has to shout above the din. The entire floor collapses beneath them. Suede and contractors fall into the water.

On the seafront

The Rotters see the collapse and rush to the end of the pier.

In the water

The contractors swim ashore vowing never to trust Suede's hopeless plans again. Suede floundering in the water, can't swim. Adelaide rescues him.

Finale

Rotters keep their den.

Suede thwarted.

Hattie stroppy and says never wants to see Macko again.

Gacko and Adelaide in love.

Uncle nursed by Matron.

Song I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside

Episode 3

“Ain’t She Sweet?”

The Rotterden or The Teashop

Conversations with our Mam on the telephone about Adelaide - she is always just a voice

The Pier Teashop

Adelaide Suede starts working for Matron in the teashop. Matron likes her. Attractive in a demure way like Lois Lane or Rose in Brighton Rock. She is an incredibly good swimmer. Suede warns Adelaide not to see The Rotters ‘cos he hates them.

The Rotterden

There is a swimming competition between the piers and is actually between the Old Pier and the New Pier. The Rotters are the Old Pier Team, Suede’s gang are the New Pier Team. They swim from New to Old Pier.

Suede’s Den

New Pier Team = 2 henchmen (dressed as mermaids) and Suede who was a brilliant county swimmer.

The Starting Line

Old Pier Team = Macko (lured by mermaids?), McFacko (he was the Caledonian Champion of the Highland Water Games) and Gacko (he can’t swim but after seeing Adelaide enters anyway).

Gacko appears in a rubber ring and water wings.

Uncle is a sort of umpire in a boat, Squacko tries to get in Uncle’s boat in his chain mail (on account of sharks) and falls out of it, refusing all offers of help.

Uncle fires gun and tries to urge the swimmers on but gets in the way in his boat.

Henchmen are swimming and try to nobble Macko by luring him as a mermaid, they also end-up nobbling eachother.

McFacko near the finish gets accidentally nobbled by Uncle’s boat.

Everyone is nobbled except Boy Gacko, whom they have not seen and so assume he never started, but in fact he has been swept in the wrong direction and is swimming towards France.

On The Finish Line

Everyone believes that the race is null and void, and that Gacko never started.

In the Sea

In fact Gacko has swum towards France and is greeted in French by Frenchmen in a fishing boat.

On The West Pier

The mayor and everyone is at the award ceremony on the New Pier, but Adelaide is still worried about Gacko who can’t swim. Everyone assumes he’s gone home except Adelaide who goes off to look for him and rescues him.

The Rotterden

The Rotters are left worrying 'cos Matron has told them he didn't go home and was last seen swimming in the wrong direction.

The Rotters think Gacko is dead.

Suede arrives to commiserate at the loss of the Boy and that his daughter has gone too.

Meanwhile, Adelaide has saved Gacko and they get to the Old Pier and enter The Rotterden.

Gacko awakes with her giving him the kiss of life...paradise!

Gacko is declared the winner. General celebrations.

Suede has lost both daughter and the competition.

Song

"Ain't She Sweet?"

Episode 4

“Tubas in the Moonlight”

The Rotterdam

An American Big Band are trying to get changed in the Rotterdam

Matron fancies them, so Uncle is annoyed and not keen on Americans anyway - “ All that chewing gum and Coca Cola, it’ll never catch on.”

Matron hears The Skylark (speedboat) running at night and Adelaide mentions to Gacko her Father’s recent, strange nocturnal behaviour. Squacko’s mission is to investigate.

The Roof of The Pier at Midnight

The Rotters stay-up at night on the roof of the pier with a telescope and watch the speedboat go-out at midnight, they see it go in a wide arc towards Black Rock and then 3 short flashes followed by 3 long flashes from a lamp at the headland guides the speedboat in.

The next night...

Squacko stows away on the Speedboat, whilst the others hide at Dark Rock with Throbber in case they need to follow the bandits over the dunes.

Black Rock

They hear strange American noises/voices and references as the boat pulls in.

At an agreed signal from Squacko, he pulls a sword and cries “Habbatchya!” and the others all attack but only succeed in capturing Squacko. The Rotters steal the Speedboat to get back to the New Pier in time to ambush the smugglers and alert the police

Squacko (on Throbber) chases after miniature railway that only goes 5 miles an hour and stops at funfair and the bandstand. Throbber only ever walks and chews grass - maybe we hear him being bored...

The West Pier

Adelaide and Matron have called the coastguard/police ‘cos they’ve seen the speedboat go out

The Rotters are arrested as they land and they try to explain their suspicious behaviour

The story is explained:

Suede is doing a black market contraband/spiv scam via the speedboat: contraband from a submarine is being brought by speedboat to miniature railway at Dark Rock and then to Suede’s hut/pavilion at the landward end of The New Pier for distribution.

The contraband is nylons and chewing gum for the GI’s. An American submarine has been delivering the stuff for the American Big Band who are called The Moonlight Serenaders. Suede has commissioned the speedboat but is not very naughty except that he has handled it all incompetently

Squacko arrives too late and ready to fight - tries to attack police, then the Americans, then the Rotters, then falls off horse.

Rotters and GI’s agree to play a number together:

Song

“Tubas In The Moonlight”

Episode 5

“The Way You Look Tonight”

The Rotterden

The Rotters have been warned that there will be a Council meeting to determine their future in the Rotterden. They will be summonsed in the next 2-3 weeks.

.McFacko says he is off to see his Auntie, but this is a lie! The others go off to the bathing belles competition to cheer themselves up apart from Uncle who is too upset and concerned to go (he chains himself to the Rotterden as he suggests they should all do, round the clock, in turns!)

Mayor/Suede scene to set-up the scam

Suede has done a deal with the Mayor to let him have the Rotterden in return for a bribe and a night out with the Bathing Belle winner.

Suede has organised the bathing belles competition to distract all the Pierrots and to pandar to the Mayor. The competition is an example of the kind of entertainment he wants to do on the concretised seafront.

The West Pier - Rotterden

Adelaide tells Matron that the meeting is NOW! Matron dashes in, finds Uncle chained to a pillar and tells him the news.

Uncle has to go immediately to the Council meeting to explain why the Rotterden is so unsafe (gas, roof, general dilapidation). Keith Suede has brought it to the attention of the Health & Safety committee on the Council.

Uncle does not have the money to do repairs.

The Council meeting is to evict The Pierrotters unless they make repairs.

Uncle & Matron go to the meeting. On the way, Uncle rows with Matron after reminiscing over their heydays when Matron was a beauty. Reveal their former liaison. Nostalgia for the past.

The Bathing Belles Competition

Squacko & Gacko are keen to go and watch but also to keep an eye on Macko. The judge for the bathing belles is Suede who is also the compere.

The Council Chamber

Uncle creates a scene at the Council chamber and is thrown-out

The Bathing Belles Competition

1st contestant interviewed by Suede. Beauty contestants = Hattie from Hove, Kemp Town Katie...

McFacko enters as a woman called Brodie to win the CASH prize, then sings Macko “The Way You Look Tonight”.

McFacko wins and gets the cash.

McFacko then claims his night out with the mayor.

Mayor arrives back from the Council meeting, is presented to McFacko, he realises he is a man and turns against Suede and his perverted ways.

Suede is publicly humiliated and Macko arranges to meet Hattie and Katie next week at The Grand.

End of The Old Pier

McFacko gives the cash to Uncle to do the repairs during concluding sequence so that they can all stay on the pier.

Episode 6

“Seashells”

On The Old Pier

Uncle & Matron discuss Bank Holiday and their assignation for the Grand later that afternoon. Gacko confides to Squacko about his meeting with Adelaide later at The Grand.

In The Rotterdam

Rotters are rehearsing hard ‘cos it’s Bank Holiday Monday - their favourite and most lucrative day of the year. Their attempts at rehearsing Hat On are interrupted by Macko’s lapses of concentration. He keeps breaking-off to proclaim his ardour for Hattie of Hove, Kemp Town Katie etc.

McFacko asks reason for Macko’s distress whilst making-up at the mirror, he weeps and wails and reveals that he has inadvertently arranged to meet Hattie *and* Katie at The Grand for tea at 4PM. McFacko and Macko puzzle as to what to do - impossible to cancel as the girls aren’t on the telephone. Hattie lives with parents who dislike seaside entertainers and Katie is a lapsed Catholic nun who has yet to inform the convent! McFacko tells Macko to cheer up or they’ll be no good performing and he wants the cash.

Rotters ready to go out, Uncle saves some exciting news:

Macko Why didn’t you tell us before?

Uncle I didn’t want you to get over-excited too quickly like you usually do,
Mister Macko

Uncle reveals that Bruce Forsyth is visiting Brightsea to open Keith Suede’s new Crazy Golf course...this could be their big chance if they play within earshot of the television star. Overcome with excitement, Gacko starts shouting, stamping and singing songs from the shows. The Rotters leave the Rotterdam to perform.

Suede’s Office

Suede with henchmen (dressed as Eighteenth Century footmen?), briefing them about both Forsyth and ensuring Rotters don’t “mess things up”, especially to keep Gacko away from Adelaide. Also, the Prince of Luxembourg is in town for the parade and therefore things need to go well today (part of Suede’s plan to expand into Europe).

Rotters on the seafront

Rotters unable to perform anywhere in the Town ‘cos too much going on. At The Lawns they can’t perform ‘cos of security arrangements for a regimental cavalry parade. They are told to get lost by The Brigadier who, once the Rotters have left, says something like “We can’t have riff raff like that hanging around when we’ve got the Crown Prince of Luxembourg coming to take the salute”, “I hope he gets here soon, he was due half an hour ago and we’ve got a whole civic itinerary to get through” - Squacko is excited by the military pomp and says he’ll come back later with Throbber. Frustrated, The Rotters head for the seafront.

Crazy Golf Scene

Tannoy announcement from Keith Suede advertising the Crazy Golf grand opening and the imminent arrival of Bruce Forsyth. Rotters doing business on the seafront trying to get close to Forsyth. Encounter henchmen who move Rotters away forcibly

as Uncle tries to do a big introduction. Rotters can only hear Forsyth in the distance declaring crazy golf open. Disappointment.

The Rotterden

Rotters nursing their wounds, during course of which McFacko says how he really likes golf and is looking through all the stuff to find his clubs (Gacko and Adelaide agree to caddy for him) and Squacko wants to get off to the parade with Throbber. Macko desperate to get to The Grand.

Squacko and the Parade

Turns up to the Parade on Throbber, there are crowds gathered chanting “We want the Prince! We want the Prince!” Asks minion which way should he go, “Who do you think you are?” “I am the Prince of...” and trots through an avenue of cheering crowds, takes the salute and is treated as if he is the Crown Prince of Luxembourg. He gets taken on the civic itinerary...

Intercut Short Scenes

- Uncle & Matron are meeting saucily in The Grand
- Squacko is being entertained by the Brigadier as if he really is the Prince of Luxembourg
- McFacko is playing golf (Gacko and Adelaide are with him), he hits the ball through a window of The Grand and they follow it.
- Macko is in The Grand with Katie and Hattie making hopeless explanations, on the verge of being discovered by them, when the golf ball comes through.
- The Prince’s bodyguards think that this the shattered window is a shot at the Prince in an assassination attempt and all Hell breaks loose.
- Squacko is revealed as The Prince of Porridge not Luxembourg, Macko is revealed as a gigolo, Uncle and Matron have their night spoiled.

Final Scene

Back on the end of the pier, discussing what just happened

Uncle has made everyone dress up and do the traditional end of season song for the Old Pier.

They arrive at the end of the pier and there is a figure standing alone - it is Brucey, so they sing “Seashells” for him.

At the end of the song, Brucey claps on his own and says “Very good, boys, are you students?”

“No we do it for a living”

“Oh, good luck, here’s something for your trouble”

“Gee thanks Mr Forsyth”

“It’s threepence...tight-fisted beggar, television’s dead anyway, digital’s the thing now” etc.

END

Notes

End of season

Bank Holiday Monday

Punch + Judy/ Sunbathing/hotels/tea at grand/bike ride/car rally/ gala gig/

1-arm bandits/ What butler saw/

Based on a day's performing?

Problems - difficult people, noise, other people's pitch, weather, loss of voice, broken strings, arguing, heat, thirst, make-up melting, illness,

3 girls on the go

Macko trying to avoid all 3 girls meeting at the same time

Ernie Wise/ Norman Wisdom/ Dennis Norden/Frank Muir/Bruce Forsyth

Wise & Morecambe will never catch on

We have to rehearse new act 'cos Tommy Handley is going to be there

Suede tries to disrupt to gig by blowing-up the pier or fuse the electricity - he ends-up being arrested

Macko isn't rehearsing properly 'cos of girls

All 3 girls go off with Bruce Forsyth (didn't he do well/ etc.)

Rotters sabotage Palace Pier gig with Jim Davidson

We want to be seen by the star

Like Radio 1 Roadshow

Variety bill on Bank Holiday

Suede has organised a big gig but not invited us

Rotters disappointed 'cos Bruce Forsyth will be there and they want to meet him