

We're Only Here For the Pier

Episode 1 "A Lovely Day" (Extract on tape)

The Summer starts again, The Pierrotters form to start their season on The Old Pier in Brightsea. All the characters are introduced, including their struggle against the rampant commercialism of Keith Suede who runs the rival "Fun Pier". Suede aims to concrete and then sell off the beach through a bogus fortune-telling scam. The Pierrotters discover his scheme through Matron's help but their attempts to perform are rained off.

The Pierrotters

Uncle Tacko! *The ineffectual leader of the troupe. He is the soul of the seaside, but hopelessly lost in the real world.(Captain Mainwaring)*

Mister Macko *Uncle Tacko's oldest and closest friend. He is a philanderer always with an eye for the girls (Leslie Phillips)*

McFacko *A Scot with a dark and mysterious secret. He wears kilts and likes cross-dressing. Parsimonious.*

Sir Squacko *He is from the royal family of a very minor European principality. Constantly seeks quests and other knightly quests. Pompous and arrogant.*

Boy Gacko *A gas welder from Barrow in Furness. The youngest member of the troupe. Likes pinball, beer and tripe.*

Additional Characters

Keith Suede *He represents the commercialism of the seaside. He will do anything for money. He is the antithesis of The Rotters.*

Matron *Like Ida from Brighton Head, she is maternal, forthright, practical and has all the common sense the boys lack.*

Episode 2
“I Do Like To Be Beside the Seaside”

Keith Suede wants to buy the old pier to convert it to a theme park called “Chicken World” for The Acme Brothers (a powerful developers from London). Uncle and The Rotters refuse to leave and Uncle is abducted by Suede’s henchmen dressed as chickens. He is suspended under the pier and left to die but rescued by Mister Macko who luckily sees him whilst on a romantic speedboat ride with Hattie from Hove - he is rescued just in time.

Additional Characters

The Acme Brothers *A couple of suited developers whom Suede is trying to impress. They want to develop the pier*

Adelaide Suede *Keith Suede’s beautiful daughter, who is worshipped by Boy Gacko. She is sweet, charming and innocent like Lois Lane. Matron is fond of her, but so is everyone really. She is shocked at her Father’s avarice.*

Hattie from Hove *One of Mister Macko’s many lovers*

Scene by scene

End of the pier

End of the day and end of a Rotter set

Suede’s Office

Suede’s office with Acme Brothers Contractors Inc. We hear Suede’s plan to buy the West Pier and turn it into an amusement/leisure park called “Chicken World”, but can only do this by getting rid of his enemies The Pierrotters who are the tenants of the Rotterden. He says he will do away with Uncle Tacko.

Adelaide Suede serves tea whilst the henchmen get into their promotional Chicken costumes. The contractors leave and await the outcome.

The Rotterden

The Rotters enter back from the gig talking about what fun they’ve had and how well it is all going.

Suede enters and tries to persuade them to leave by offering a new hut on the seafront with hot & cold water, gas etc. Uncle refuses point-blank.

Suede leaves and swears to get back at them.

The Rotters argue about the merits of a new location, but Uncle refuses because of his love for the old pier

Gacko is sent out to get some cakes for tea...

Macko leaves for a hot date with Hattie - a romantic speedboat ride.

In the pier teashop

Gacko is fetching the cakes and whilst there and talking to Matron, Adelaide comes in with some promotional leaflets about Chicken World. Gacko falls for Adelaide in a big way. She returns to the Suede office.

Suede’s Office

The henchmen are told by Suede that their task is to kidnap Uncle and force him to agree to their plans...whatever it takes.

Adelaide is given a note to give to The Rotters (a ransom demand).

On the Pier

Uncle strolling along the pier with Matron. The Chickens attack and Uncle is kidnapped.

The Rotterden

Gacko shows The Rotters the leaflet about the theme park.

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 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 him.

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 making love 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 Rotterden on the Old Pier)...

Speedboat

Hattie spots something ahead, cries “Lookout!” Macko holds onto Uncle and the speedboat drives on, the timber gives way above, Uncle is free.

Rotterden

Suede reassures contractors that it is safe as houses. The contractors hear the noise of the speedboat and the timbers cracking. 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. Adelaide rescues Suede floundering in the water

Sunset Finale

The Rotters keep their den and Suede is thwarted. Gacko and Adelaide in love.

Song “I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside”

Episode 3 “Ain’t She Sweet?”

A swimming competition between the piers. Suede’s Fun Pier team attempt to nobble Uncle’s Old Pier team. Gacko wins having swum via France and been rescued by Adelaide.

Scene By Scene

The Rotterden

The Rotters discussing the exciting swimming challenge against Suede’s Fun Pier.

Suede’s Office

Suede sets out his plan to defeat The Rotters in the competition by cheating and warns Adelaide not to see The Rotters ‘cos he hates them.

The Starting Line

Old Pier Team = The Rotters except Uncle who is firing the starting pistol.

Everyone is nobbled by Suede’s team (including themselves) 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 Old Pier

The mayor and everyone is at the award ceremony on the Fun 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.

Sunset Finale

The Rotters think Gacko is dead.

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 “Deep Sea Blues”

Suede is running a black-market racket in designer underpants from America which are being delivered by a heritage pirate ship and distributed in Brightsea by Suede: he collects the contraband in The Albatross speedboat and then carries it via the miniature railway from Black Head to Suede’s pavilion at the landward end of The Fun Pier for storage. Gacko stows-away and discovers it to be a heritage pirate ship, he captures a parrot for interrogation. The Rotters try to ambush the pirates as they lan at Black Head, but they bungle the attempt. However, all is saved by the sensible actions of Matron and Adelaide with help from the Parrot.

Additional Characters

Throbber *Sir Squacko’s horse. Squacko thinks of him as mighty steed, but is in fact a bit of an old nag like Don Quixote’s Rosinante. The horse speaks to the listeners, Matron and other animals, but not to the Humans.*

Scene by scene

The Rotterdam

The Rotters are chatting and Matron mentions that she has heard The Albatross (speedboat) running at night and Adelaide tells Gacko that her Father has been disappearing late at night and arriving home very late and tired. It all seems very suspicious.

The Roof of The Pier at night

The Rotters are on the roof of the pier with a telescope and watch the speedboat go-out, they see it go in a wide arc towards Black Head and then stop by a large, square-rigged sailing boat. Gacko sees the Jolly Roger flying high. The Albatross then speeds towards Black Head. Pirates!

The Stow-Aways

The next night, Gacko stows-away on the Speedboat and boards the pirate ship. It is deserted, but he finds several wooden legs and lots of bad pirate acting by the crew (it is a heritage ship after all, but Gacko doesn’t know this.) Gacko steals a parrot and brings it back to the Old Pier for interrogation

The Interrogation

The Parrot gives nothing away, so the Rotters decide to ambush the pirates. Matron talks to the parrot (she understands animals) and finds out the truth.

At Black Head

The Rotters are hiding at Black Head. Squacko has brought Throbber in case he needs to give chase over the hills.

The Rotters hear strange Piratical 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 Pirates and Suede load the contraband onto the miniature railway to drive it to the Fun Pier. Squacko (on Throbber) chases after children’s miniature railway that only goes 5 miles an hour and stops at fun fair and the cliff lift.

Meanwhile, the other Rotters steal the Speedboat to get back to the Fun Pier in time to ambush the smugglers and alert the harbourmaster

The Old Pier

Adelaide and Matron have called the harbourmaster 'cos they've spoken to the parrot, with the result that The Rotters are arrested as they land, so they have to explain their suspicious behaviour.

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

The Rotters play a number

Song "Deep Sea Blues"

Episode 5

“The Way You Look Tonight”

Suede has informed the local authority that the Rotterden is in a dilapidated state. A Council meeting is called to determine the future of The Rotterden. In order to distract The Rotters and win influence with the Mayor, Suede has a bathing belles competition at the same time as the Council meeting. McFacko enters the competition in drag and wins. The prize is some money, which is used to renovate The Rotterden and a night out with the mayor - since McFacko is in drag, the mayor is horrified and falls-out with Suede.

Scene by scene

The Rotterden

The Rotters have been warned that there will be a Council meeting to determine their future in the Rotterden.

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.

Uncle is too worried to go because they do not have the money to do the repairs.

Suede’s Office or Mayoral Parlour

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

Rotterden

Matron learns from Adelaide that the meeting is about to happen and tells Uncle the news. He goes immediately to the Council meeting.

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

The Bathing Belles Competition

The judge for the bathing belles is Suede who is also the compere.

1st contestant interviewed by Suede

Beauty contestants = Hattie from Hove, Kemp Town Katie...

The Council Chamber

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

The Bathing Belles Competition

2nd Contestant interviewed by Suede

3rd contestant is McFacko as a woman. He sings “The Way You Look Tonight” and wins the prize.

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

Suede is publicly humiliated.

Sunset Finale

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

Episode 6
“The Sun Has Got His Hat On/Seashells”

Bank Holiday Monday and Suede’s crazy golf course is to be opened by Jeremy Beadle.. Through various misadventures, all The Rotters end-up at The Regent Hotel leading to a chaotic bun-fight. The season ends.

Scene by scene

On The Old Pier

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

The Rotterden

The Rotters are rehearsing hard as Bank Holiday Monday is their last and most lucrative day of the season. Macko cannot concentrate and reveals to McFacko that he has inadvertently arranged to meet Naughty Nina and Evil Eve at The Regent for tea that afternoon at 4PM. McFacko tells Macko to cheer up or their performance will suffer and he wants the cash.

Uncle reveals that Jeremy Beadle 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 light entertainment television personality. Gacko is overcome with excitement, but Squacko is disdainful of Beadle and highly unimpressed. The Rotters leave the Rotterden to perform.

Suede’s Office

Suede briefs his henchmen about the Crazy Golf opening with Beadle and asks them to make sure The Rotters get nowhere near. He also asks them to keep Gacko away from Adelaide.

Rotters on the seafront

Rotters unable to perform anywhere in the Town because of the tight security arrangements around Beadle’s visit. The sound of police helicopters and marching men can be heard. The Rotters observe a battleship out to sea and are challenged by Beefeaters. Frustrated, they head for the Crazy golf opening. Squacko noisily asserting how much he hates Beadle.

Crazy Golf Scene

Tannoy announcement from Keith Suede advertising the Crazy Golf grand opening and the imminent arrival of Beadle. The Rotters try to play near Beadle, but encounter Suede’s henchmen who move The Rotters away forcibly as Uncle tries to do a big introduction. The Rotters can only hear Beadle in the distance declaring crazy golf open.

The Rotterden

The Rotters enter nursing their wounded pride. McFacko describes his passion for Golf and explains that it is the pinnacle of Scots culture and that he is going to go and play on the new course (Gacko and Adelaide agree to caddie for him). Uncle and Matron confirm their assignation and Macko gets ready for the girls at The Regent.

The Regent and the crazy golf course (Intercut)

- Uncle & Matron are having their end-of season tea
- 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 Regent and they follow it.
- Squacko discreetly and humbly approaches Beadle and tells him what a great fan he is and asks for an autograph “for my mother”
- Macko is in The Regent with Naughty Nina and Evil Eve making hopeless explanations, on the verge of being discovered by them, when the golf ball comes through.
- Beadle’s bodyguards think that the shattered window is an assassination attempt and all Hell breaks loose.

Sunset Finale

The Rotters are back on the Old Pier, discussing what has happened. Macko is terrified of Evil Eve who has threatened to have him neutered. Uncle and Matron attempt to hide their frustration at the thwarting of their assignation. The Pierrotters have received a £2,000 bill for damages from the Regent, which McFacko is horrified to hear is coming out of his wages. The Boy questions the embarrassed Prince about the Beadle autograph which has fallen out of his costume.

Matron spots a lone figure standing on the end of the pier. It is Beadle. They sing “Hat On/Seashells” to him. At the end of song Beadle claps on his own and says “Very good, boys, are you students?” “No” Uncle replies “We do this for a living!”. “Oh” replies Beadle, clearly unimpressed. He hands them an envelope, saying “There you go lads, have a drink on me”. After he leaves they excitedly tear open the envelope to find a teabag.

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