

The York Rd St Saga as told to Uncle E'Benn

They met in secret session. An emergency meeting of the Joint Office Kommittee Executive. There was much to conjure with.

E'Benn was especially worried. What was this disabling plan that was sweeping through Herospace like an overdose of canteen curry.

"It is a devious device to enable our splendid operators to switch off for a minimum period of eight hours/shift", said Ballcock.

"Could it happen here?". whisoered E'Benn.

"Who would notice?"

"This is the 23rd month of our Nicely Neutered Committee's inspired undercover work to rule, and except for Bollard complaining about the musical content of Longsword's snoring, nobody has noticed it".

"We have been keeping it all rather dark" (not another play on words).

"But attendance has risen to over 5% in some parts of Blunderland".

"Who would have belived that?".

"I've been given a top person's Salary Award", interjected a young graduate of noble lineage and great expectations emerging from the workwood.

"We have a reouest here from a Mr Ron Wrigglesby, can he become a bonus rich assembly operative? His oxo cube has just fallen off its string, and that's his Sunday dinner down the drain".

"Why are we looking on the dark side?", said Ballcock. "As I said at the Norfolk Conference of '84, there will be a substantial readjustment of the MEW payment in '86".

"And if we work very hard, and get our increment, it could mean an extra pound in our pockets".

"Cross my legs and hope for a kiss". said E'Benn before rushing away to look busy. and responsible; and loyal; and dedicated; but not necessarily all at the same time. It would be difficult indeed to justify such an increase in affluence, but to join the top people was always going to be difficult.

"Now that the Great Ones have shown to us how important they believe free style soldering, and random button pressing to be. we shall dedicate ourselves to the glory that is Herospace", said Ballcock.

"Bill and Ben rattled their collective flowerpot, and shouted, "Early retirement!", in unison.

They had no fear of retirement. They had learned to live without money, and work had long been merely a happy interlude in the tedium of life.

"Before we rush headlong into action we must consult all minority groups", cautioned Chairman Longsword.

And a letter was sent to the Feminists for FADEC, the Redibrec Kids and others to few to mention.

The Feminists replied that while a man was just a man, a Sherry was an excellent fortified wine. And if that NT money was not forthcoming she would come and beat up Ballcock until he wanted more.

The Redibrec Kids replied through their leader Bob Headboard that if you had to glow,

then you had to glow.

Kneel Super, Quarter Back for the Mothercare Rams said that it was all Bulls.

The Quality St Gang said what with Fudge's pimple, and Top Cat they had had enough for this decade at least.

"There's a bloke going round stealing rubber plants", grumbled E'Benn making a welcome return to reality.

"There's a dark side to everyone", said Malcolm Smiff. a qualified pimple sorter and philosopher. "There's a definite pimple mountain developing in Quality St, and I can do no overtime".

"We could be given a pimple allowance, like a suit allowance, but more personal", said Ballcock who had medical connections. and a lapsed diploma in pimple squeezing.

"In Acocks Green pimples are becoming quite fashionable", said chairman Longsword wisely.

"Hush everyone", said Ballcock. "I've a new directive from Betty's son. It says that all engineers wishing to visit the toilet must be accompanied by a responsible adult".

"How can such great thoughts emanate from such a tiny personage?" mused the Bat getting ready for lift off. "But will it be too much for Betty's boys? Have you not seen them dutifully trailing behind a clutch of suppliers reps and engineers going for their second or third lunch of the day".

"Not all have the stamina of Dicky Standby, social secretary to Dave Benbun, and Egon Roney's back up man", said Roger Deguise regretfully.

"They will all need more money now. Additional Responsibility for Supervising Engineers".

"Like a MEW payment".

"No more an A.R. for S.E. payment".

"We must devise a master plan". said Ballcock. "Lest we get left behind in this headlong rush for Top Peoples' salaries".

"Action is called for". someone whispered.

E'Benn shuddered.

"How can you be so nasty? Are you some kind of wrecker? We shall be looked after., just you be patient. You can see the cake is getting bigger, and we will get our slice soon. They respect us. Mrs T--", he began to blub.

Andy Longsword threw a white sheet over him. and they led him away, back to the bench, where they gently restrained him with grounding straps and insulating tape, provided free by a caring management.

Next issue:-

Will E'Benn return?

Will the grounding straps hold him? What ever happened to the rubber tree plant?

Will Jim Badley, master criminal, be brought to justice?

Did Pip really play lead violin for the Who?

Who is Pimple Nell?

For the answers to these and many other questions, watch out for the next exciting issue of marvellous rag!