

The York Rd Street Saga as told to Uncle E'Benn.

The making of TASSman III

Scene I.

In the latest extravaganza, TASSman is removed from check-off and loses his superhuman powers. Seeing his predicament (using a magnifying glass), Big Blob with henchpersons Pip and Simply Simon decide to take control of all of Herospace, using the Disabling Plan.

"Think of it," mused Pip. "We could reach those parts other Disabling Plans have never reached."

Big Blob nodded sagely, munching his fifth treacle tart of the morning. Now that he had finished building his bright shiny office block, time hangs heavily on his hands

"What about Wigglesby?"

"A pussy cat" said Blob, "I can deal with him".

Scene II

The Boadicea of Herospace reviews her troops, preparing for the Disabling Plan Offensive. Pip, the PM of Herospace, had trained her recruits well, they would be useful to the 'P' Team.

All were graduates of the school of hard knocks, young and thrusting. With wallets full of fivers they studied the leader.

Dressed tastefully in cutaway racing leathers and slim line vinyl wellies that did little to conceal her womanly charms, Pip, deputy leader of the 'P' Team, strode disdainfully through the serried ranks, slapping her thighs aggressively before climbing lithely to the podium.

Sensual excitement ran like tepid gravy over a canteen Yorkshire pudding.

"With your help my children, we will forge the Disabling Plan into such a weapon that it will purge the whole of Herospace of evil. When we have finished, no woman, man or child will ever again walk in fear of "The Herospace SS". TASS will be a race memory, and Big Blob will sit on the right hand of Baron Magoo, and all will be well with the World!

Scene III - Enter our hero.

Rowland Rat, a man burdened with the most beautiful leg in Herospace was disconsolate.

Would his wanderings ever cease? Since coming to Herospace, he had been captured by bandits and had been forced to flee without his trousers - luckily with his virtue partially intact - escaping during a fertility rite much practiced in bandit country where Y fronts, a symbol of purity, were used to cover the head while suitable sacrifice - usually some minion who started work on time - was made to Cuddly Dud.

Rescued by Steve Nailhead whimpering in a bog, he spent a few weeks of rest and recuperation before inadvertently coming under the evil influence of Uncle E'Benn.

These experiences had forged a super being who was to play a significant part in this true tale of manly heroism. But that comes later.

Scene IV

All was tranquillity in Herospace. The lull before the storm.

E'Benn was holding a symposium on early retirement, sponsored by Wigglesby.

"They can ill afford to lose people like me", said E'Benn modestly.

"They would certainly have a problem keeping the toilet seats warm, I suppose", said Ballcock, a potential high flyer, temporarily grounded by slack elastic. E'Benn ignored him. This check-off business was worrying. Ballcock could not adjust to being an ordinary mortal. No longer could he wear his underpants outside his trousers and get away with it.

There was a stirring in the Flower pot, and Bill and Ben poked their heads over the rim and blinked happily. One day Ben would climb out and run away. When he had finished playing monopoly with real houses; that was the plan.

Scene V

Already the Disabling Plan is having an effect.

John Halfchance, a well known nano brain, has been recruited by thigh slapping Pip to regenerate the outer regions of Herospace. The Processed People, led by Bobby Newboss (failed Processed brain), are being evaluated. Near the Ageing Ovens where pensioners are processed, sits Dick Quarterbrain, chief assessor.

Bob Broomhead has already received one point for technical effect, and Graham Burntout (will he be the next Benny in Crossroads) has been given 104 on the Beaufort scale from the Russian judge.

Artistic merit has been left to Jane with two would-be Tarzans already having fallen off the Processed Cheese Plant while practising a swinging between leaves routine.

A rumour spreads through Herospace. Has Ballcock been captured by Fairies, or is it just the way he walks?

Scene VI

Plantoid awoke with a start. The Disabling team were coming. He turned his ancestor's portrait to the wall, and nervously swallowed his lighter.

"Get Jento" he barked. Debs, who had been trying to order some green Tippex for her word processor all morning, responded immediately, running lightly across the keyboard she used a discarded typewriter ribbon to abseil to the ground.

Jento was pumping metal. With muscles bulging he ripped open the jaws of another crocodile clip before turning to his main task of straightening out paper clips.

"Save us Jento," pleaded Debs.

Jento pulled his knitted egg cosy over his head and, slinging his automatic banana across his shoulders, matched Deb's stride as they battled against the pile of the carpet tiles.

"I shall need support" said Jento.

"Borrow my truss" said Plantoid briskly.

"I mean Sci-Fi Turbo"

Sci-Fi Turbo was a legend in his own real time. Born a lowly peasant in Rathbourne Rd, Shirley, he was now engineer in charge of Bill and Ben's flower pot, but that was only a cover for his real job! Recently he had been dropped from a thinly disguised Rolls executive jet to back up the Sparerib SAS unit abandoned in Frogland by an unfeeling Wigglesby.

His mission - to take out the top secret Alternator unit in Pau (pronounced as in chamber pot). Using a specially developed active load the Task was successful. A Downing St spokesperson said after seeing the smoking ruins, "Not since Agincourt have the Frogs been so outfought and bemused. It could delay the Channel Tunnel. - whatever that is."

"You can't have Sci-Fi" said Plantoid. "Wrigglesby has appointed him chief juggler. He has to learn how to keep twenty seven power supplies in the air at once."

"I will go alone", said fearless Jento pulling on his high heeled safety sandals.

Scene VII

Pip stood with legs akimbo, a sneering smile playing on half parted lips. At her back the Disabling men stood ready. But Jento was unafraid. A man had to do what a man had to do! He let out a blood chilling scream and rushed forward. With the timing of a fully trained killer he head butted Pip on the knee. For anyone else it would have been a mortal blow, but Pip (the PM) just smiled and dropped a pile of training manuals on Jento's head.

This could all end in tears. See next issue for the final thrilling instalment.

Next Issue:

Will Rowland Rat become a heroid?

Is Ballcock an associate of Millicent Tendency?

MT appears by kind permission of Steve Nailhead, a prominent Sunday worker.

Find out if Jim Badley the middle man in the great Rubber Tree Rip off has really gone straight.