

### 'A SHOCK TO HIS SYSTEM'

Oscar was proud of the progress that he had made in the British political system. Despite having been educated in one of the country's top private schools, he had convinced many 'ordinary voters' that he was the person who would make Britain a better place for them.

Atavism was the answer. It was time to remind people of the way the world used to be, taking them back to their childhoods, when they all had a belief in Father Christmas. Oscar created a new movement with the slogan, BSB, 'Bring Santa Back'. Having the money to invest in the production of hundreds of thousands of red Santa hats with BSB on the front, Oscar spread the word. The movement became huge with a message that brought young children and adults together in a way that had not happened for generations.

The 'BSB' movement was going to take Oscar to power, to a position that he had always felt was his 'divine right'. But there was only one problem. Oscar's surname was Frisk, which means 'healthy' in Swedish. Oscar was concerned that it did not sound 'British' enough, and thought that he had to do something about it.

The time came for Oscar to address the first party conference.

'I shall prove to you, the British people, that, despite the origin of my surname, I am truly British, and I shall do this by visiting Santa Claus himself to assert my true identity. At the same time, I shall recognise Santa's greatness as our true spiritual leader.'

These words were greeted by cheers and shouting as followers waved their BSB Santa hats in the air! 'BSB! BSB! BSB! BSB!' reverberated around the hall.

Oscar's seat on the plane was booked as he flew, First Class, to Stockholm, before taking a chauffeur-driven sleigh to the North Pole, where he was to meet Santa Claus in person, to receive his endorsement as Britain's Santa Claus representative on the ground.

Oscar's sleigh approached Santa Claus village.

But what was going on? There was complete silence! All that could be heard was the sound of the cold Arctic air wafting through the trees! Was this some kind of sabotage operation, organised by Oscar's enemies back in the U.K.? A lone voice could be heard from amongst the snow-laden trees.

*'Hej! "Hur mår du?"*

'Hello! How are you?' the gnome repeated, this time in English to avoid any confusion.

'But what? Who?' Oscar was confused.

'If you are a true follower of Santa Claus, you will know that Christmas Eve, the Night Before Christmas, is the time when we open our Christmas presents here in Sweden, not on Christmas Day, as in Britain. Santa Claus has already gone to do his work across the globe. Are you a true Santa Claus follower or are you just a fake?'

There was silence across the Arctic. Had this humble gnome said something that many others had secretly believed, but not dared to say? Only time would tell.