

KEEPER AND DOWN THE PUB It was a dream fulfilled for Status Quo when they joined Sunita (Shobna Gulati) and the Rovers regulars



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**PHOTO
EXCLUSIVE**

Street rockers

Corrie and the Quo playing the same gig? Well, whatever you want!

Over the past 40 years and 33 albums, Status Quo have outlasted as many fashions and fads as you'd care to mention. So it seems apt that the denim-clad rockers have joined forces with that other British institution – celebrating 45 years in December – *Coronation Street*.

Francis Rossi (pony-tail) and Rick Parfitt (blonde) make a guest appearance in the Rovers next week, popping in for a pint after a local gig. "I can remember being sat in front of our old Sobell black-and-white telly looking at this very bar back in the early 60s," recalls Parfitt. "Minnie Caldwell, Ena Sharples, they were all there. Having a pint in the Rovers is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It's like being part of British history!" Similarly, his mate Rossi is full of

praise for the Quo's temporary home. "Everybody made us feel so welcome. And it's a real family atmosphere on set. No airs and graces. It's a bit like being in Status Quo – you don't last this long unless you have a bit of a laugh and a joke."

But there are no jokes when Rossi and Parfitt meet Les Battersby (played by Bruce Jones), for Les turns out to be the "ginger berk" who, years previously, forced Rossi off stage and left him with permanent whiplash. Hence the neck brace... and the punch-up (right).

"When we do bump into him, things turn nasty," reveals Rossi. But isn't Les the archetypal Quo fan? Denim jacket? Tight jeans? "I think we've been around for so long that there's no such thing," reckons Parfitt. "In Scandinavia, we get the

heavy-metal crowd, but in Britain we get everybody from eight to 80. We know that Bruce is a big fan. He always pops backstage for a natter."

You'd think that playing yourself wouldn't be too difficult, but, says Parfitt, "As soon as that red light went on, I started cacking myself. For one scene all I had to do was look at Jack Duckworth and nod, but I kept thinking, 'Bloody 'ell... I'm on *Corrie*'. I just wanted to burst out laughing."

"Having said that, getting us together was a brilliant idea," Rossi adds. "Anybody and everybody can watch *Coronation Street*, and anybody and everybody can come to a Status Quo gig. At the end of the day, it's just rock 'n' roll, innit!" **Danny Scott**



AGAIN AND AGAIN Francis Rossi, Rick Parfitt and drummer Matthew Letley of the Quo rehearse the all-important "duffing-up" scene with *Corrie*'s Bruce Jones, who plays Les Battersby, and stunt co-ordinator Stuart St Paul



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