

A Conversation with **JEFF RICH** (Status Quo)

By Mike Beckett

I don't suppose you get many chances to interview rock star legends, but I had my chance when I met up with Jeff Rich who was the drummer with Status Quo for fifteen years. I am aware that this feature will only run to around 800 words, so how can I possibly cram so many years of making music around the world in such a small space. I'll not try!

"I was born in a Jewish part of Hackney to working class parents and first became interested in drums after watching a black and white film with the Benny Goodman Orchestra playing, and particularly liked listening to the drummer, Gene Krupa, who really inspired me. I messed around playing with knitting needles and pots and pans, but drumming had got under my skin. I couldn't afford a drum kit, but I did see in a shop window a little snare drum for sale at nine pounds nine shillings and sixpence.

"So, I took a little job cleaning cars and would put my money away after my parents ticked a card to keep track. I finally

I went for an interview along with about 70 other drummers – but I got the job. It was with a band called Stretch, who had a hit single called "Why Did You Do It?" and we did Top of Pops in 1976.

