

All The Queens Horses Our Fjords at the London New Years Day Parade 2014



HISTORIC PHOTO OF OUR FJORD HORSES OUTSIDE THE FAMOUS GATES OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Fab Four arrived in Piccadilly London in the early hours of New Year's Day morning to prepare for their appearance in 'All the Queen's Horses' part of the famous London New Year's Day Parade, the biggest NYD parade in Europe.

Their designated parking place was outside the well known Café Nero. The Fjords were being prepared very close to where the mighty steam engines were also preparing for the parade; lots of hissing and puffing of steam and loud whistling coming from the great engines.



Along the road in nearby Dover Street, the big bands were practicing furiously. The noise was deafening. It all sounded good to the riders, but the fjords.... They were completely unfazed and just got on with doing what fjords do best - eating.....

Here, Peter, one of the Fab Four, takes up the story

Whilst eating their breakfast, the fjords occasionally gave the bands and steam engines a hard stare when any slightly louder noise occurred.

We assembled at the starting area in Piccadilly at the end of Stratton Street where we could walk the horses around and let them get used to the rest of the horses in the group.

The weather was terrible. The wind was gusty and it was raining hard.



IN THE RAIN

THE CROWDS GATHER

We were placed near the front of the parade behind a very large marching band with eight bassoons and behind us a was convoy of Lambretta scooters some with about twenty head lights on. They had very noisy exhausts and kept blasting weird hooters.



We set off at about midday waving to the spectators who had turned out in their thousands, most with umbrellas and cameras flashing. The fjords were very calm and took the noise,

umbrellas, flashing lights and bad weather in their stride.

We turned into Regent Street at Piccadilly Circus... it was surreal!!



Thousands of people with cameras and camera phones flashing continuously pushed at us, waving furiously. We were waving back and wishing everyone happy New Year. When the parade stopped, and it did so periodically to allow the bands to perform at the various grandstands along the route, we took the opportunity of allowing the public to touch the fjord horses and for us to chat to the hundreds of spectators lining the route.

When we eventually came to the end of parade route we were divided from the bands etc to have pictures taken with a member of the famous Household Cavalry with Westminster Hall and Big Ben in the background.



It was pouring with rain by this time and the wind was making it bitterly cold.

We then proceeded down to Buckingham Palace to have more pictures taken before turning into Green Park and back to Piccadilly. The crowds were still there, cheering and waving.

Although we were all cold and soaked it didn't take the smiles of our faces and the fact that we had actually ridden our beautiful Fjords through central London and had shown them off to so many appreciative people who also had braved the elements to watch us.

As regards the costumes the whole parade was based on the swinging sixties, I was dressed as James Bond in dinner jacket and dress trousers with bowler hat and bow tie. The ladies were to wear a tight fitting black top and trousers



with epaulets on the shoulders, a white belt and boots, to represent the pilots in Ms Galore's Flying school. Stacey on Holly chose to dress as 'Oddjob'

The fjords had white saddle cloths with 007 and the ATQ Horses logo on both sides. Two of the fjords wore black bridles with gold edging.

The horses were to have gold painted hooves and gold glitter spray on their bodies, with the All The Queens Horses twin horse shoe logo on their rumps but due to the extreme weather conditions this could not be done.

We all had an amazing day. The fjords behaved as though they had done it all before. It was a fantastic experience, one that will remain in our memories for a very long time.





Well done to our Fab Four. We thank them for a flawless performance with nicely turned out fjords who were well prepared and trained.

We hope you enjoyed reading about our fjord's London appearance.

**Compiled by
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