



Best Man Speech Examples and Templates.

These are real speeches (as you can probably tell from the spelling mistakes) that have been written by all different types of Best men for all different types of scenarios. We have copied them and put them on our website just for you. Please use them as inspiration. Identities and names are not real and have been altered.

Speech 1.

Ladies, gentlemen, friends and freeloaders. It's been a fantastic day so far. The venue is spectacular, the ceremony was very special and everyone looks lovely. Unfortunately, every silver lining has a cloud, and today that comes in the form of me. For those who don't know me, my name is Keith and today I have the very special privilege of being the best man.

Now, I asked around for an idea of how long my speech should last and the general response was about as long as it takes the Groom to make love. So with that in mind, thank you, you have been a wonderful audience sit get back up Besides this speech, one of the main tasks of the best man is to make sure that the groom gets here on time, gets here sober, and gets here looking good. Well, two out of three isn't bad!

I suppose I should explain how I came to know the groom. The memory is a little hazy, but as far as I can work out I've known Raoul for about sixteen years now. We first met when we were both in primary school, where we played squash together for the school team. The competition between us has always been fierce, and it's nice of him to finally admit the truth - that I am the best man!

Traditionally, part of the best man's speech is spent in a few minutes of character assassination of the groom, but to be completely honest, by disclosing everything Raoul has done I would only be incriminating myself, and I don't want to tarnish my impeccable reputation! I also bought a book about being Best Man which told me I couldn't talk about sex, drugs or violence so that rules out talking about the stag do too!

So if you want to hear all the stories that I'm not allowed to stand up here and tell you, buy me a drink at the bar later and I'll reveal all.

Am I doing alright Raoul? - He said that if I do a good speech today he'll let me be his best man for his next wedding too.

I actually find myself in the rather unusual situation of having known both the bride and the groom since before they were together. When they did first get together which I find difficult to believe was over nine months now they quickly grew to be inseparable. Words cannot describe how happy I am that they're getting married, and I know that Raoul couldn't have made a better choice. Raoul, we have had some excellent times together and I know that we will continue to do so in the future. You have been a great friend to me over the years and I know how happy Karen makes you. It truly is a great honour to be your best man, so thank you.

Now it's customary for the best man to give some words of wisdom to the newlyweds on marriage. Me being single, I can't speak from experience so I went looking on the internet to see what I could find. After a while, I found some really good stuff! Unfortunately it had nothing to do with the wedding, so I looked again and eventually found these useful tips about marriage

- Never go to bed on an argument.... Always stay up and argue.

- The best way to remember your anniversary is to forget it once.

- Raoul, always remember those three little words that make a relationship run smoothly... & quote You're right, Karen

- Karen, you must remember, men are like fine wines, they start out as grapes and it is your job to stamp on them until they mature into something that you would like to have after dinner.

I have a few messages to read out from absent friends read messages

Which brings me to the toast. Ladies and gentlemen, please stand. "May your love be modern enough to survive the times and old-fashioned enough to last forever."

Please raise your glasses to the new Mr & Mrs Venter!

Speech 2.

Before I undertake the customary duty of giving Martin an uncomfortable few minutes it is part of the official duty of the best man to thank Martin on behalf of the bridesmaids, Susan, Katy and Clare for his kind words and for having them play a part of this really special day. I have to say they all look wonderful and have done an excellent job. Indeed they are only eclipsed by the bride herself, who, I'm sure you'll all agree, looks absolutely stunning.

It is a great privilege to be asked by Martin to be his best man. He has quite generously returned the favour that I asked of him 6 years ago, during which Martin took the opportunity to make lots of cheap jokes at my expense, so I now have the right to reply.

I suppose the first thing the best man should explain is how he knows the groom. Well, being his identical twin we first met long before we can both remember, so we are very close. There's nothing I wouldn't do for Martin, likewise there's nothing Martin wouldn't do for me, in fact we spent most of our time doing nothing for each other.

I will start at the point of our early life as toddlers.

Growing up together in those early days, I am proud to say that I was an angelic child, no trouble to anyone, but the same could not be said of Martin. He showed no respect to his elder twin brother. I became an innocent victim of his loutish behaviour. "Lloyd, flush your socks down the toilet" he used to say. And under duress I did.

But that lout grew up into the well-mannered and well-presented individual we see sitting here today. Martin has matured.

For instance I can tell you that Martin is very well read - he has after all read all 45 of the Mr Men books from cover to cover. In fact, at the age of five, whilst living in Australia, Martin had a great idea to wander off into the dense, wild outback behind our house to look for Mr Jelly, whom he had read lived in the middle of a forest. He convinced me to go with him and we got terribly lost. By the time we had found our way home, there were lots of tears. Not for the fact that he had been lost in a forest, but that Martin never found Mr Jelly's house.

On the subject of Australia, it was there that Martin began a love affair which still lasts to this day. McDonalds. Age six, we were ever so excited to make our first visit to McDonalds and the great thing about this place was the kids playground - it was like a mini-theme park - things to climb, things to slide down, things to spin around in all for the enjoyment of children who had just scoffed their face with burgers and fries. It was whilst Mum, Dad, Verity and I were sat inside the restaurant that Martin, having just stepped of the swings, appeared the other side of the window knocking loudly so that everyone in the restaurant noticed him. My parents played along and waved back...until Martin, in full sight of everyone tucking into their lunch, brought up his fast food as quickly as it had originally gone down, all over the window pane. Suddenly my parents stopped waving and momentarily tried to pretend he wasn't theirs, although sadly as Martin's twin was sat with them at their table, they couldn't fool anyone. The waitress gave them some reassurance "Don't worry guys, that happens here all the time."



His love of fast food however never stands in the way of his enjoyment of sport. Martin usually waits until half time to get off the sofa to ring for a pizza.

Some of you may be aware of his passion for cricket. What many of you don't know is that his interest in the sport was born during his time at school. Martin is a modest man - well, that's what he has insisted I tell you - so his cricket achievements are little known. But I can reveal today that at school, Martin SCORED more runs than any other person in the entire cricket team - that was because he was always 12th man putting up the numbers the scoreboard at the pavilion.

After school, Martin went on to study environmental science at Kings College London. I am told by his friends many of whom are here today that Martin had a natural flair for the subject. They tell me that no matter how remote a place Martin was sent away on field trips, he could gauge and interpret the direction of the wind, the contamination of the soil and the pollution of the air to produce an accurate assessment of where the nearest local pub was to skive off to have a pint of lager and a packet of crisps.

But Martin had to fund his extra curricular activities. Being a student with far too much time on his hands and always in need of an extra few quid, Martin decided to exploit a promotional campaign at Selfridges, the famous department store on London's Oxford Street. The deal was that customers were entitled to a voucher if they purchased an item from all seven floors. Martin managed to get round the store and buy small items which came to the grand total of 37 pence. It was an all time record amongst his fellow students. Selfridges had no choice but to pay out the voucher, which Martin then redeemed for cash. What's more impressive or should I say sad is that he did this seven times in one day to walk away with a hard earned pound. Unsurprisingly, Selfridges ended their promotional campaign rather abruptly.

Although Martin studied environmental science, I began to doubt his true commitment to the green cause when he purchased his first car after leaving university a Volkswagen Beetle. Now, I'm not sure what year the Beetle was made, though I believe the front of the car was made in the early nineties and the rear of the car some years before. Martin spent hours in that car, usually trying to get it to start. It was the only vehicle that you wouldn't use a traditional road atlas or street map to navigate your journey. Martin's Beetle was so economically inefficient and powerless that he had to plot his routes using an ordinance survey map to make sure that his entire route was downhill. With careful planning, Martin could achieve this and the only flaw was making the return journey home by the same route.

Being Martin's older twin, by a whole five minutes, I realise Martin that you have now reached the age that I was when I started this speech and with that you will have gained the maturity and wisdom that I had back then. So this is probably a good time to for me to show some respect.

Joking aside, I want to say what a privilege it is today to be your best man. I couldn't wish for a better brother and how much you mean is really impossible to put into words. The whole family is proud of you Martin, and we are all thrilled to see you marrying your beautiful bride today

So it now gives me immense pleasure to invite you all to stand once more and raise your glasses in a toast for Martin and Sue. We wish them well for the future. To love, life, laughter and happily ever after.. Martin and Sue.

Speech 3.

Good afternoon Ladies Gentlemen girls and boys

We have arrived at that point in the day where we must rise from the comfort of our chairs and make fools out of ourselves, well some of us anyway! I however will try and postpone mine for as long as possible and hand you over to Graham Helens father to say a few words.

Thank you Graham.

I would now like to hand you over to Andrew to make his excuses/say a few words.

Well Andrew, I hope you made the most of your speech, Now you're a married man, that'll be the last time you get to speak for 3 minutes without being interrupted!

Ladies and Gentleman, Boys and Girls I hope you are having a wonderful time, For what seems to be the tenth time today I find my self rising from a warm seat with a piece of paper in my hand. I would like to read some messages from those who could not make it to this auspicious occasion.

MESSAGES

Now I will read a few cards which Andrew and Helen have requested that I read

To Helen I'm Sorry I could not marry u myself so I got one of my mate s to do it, but best wishes on your special Day
From the Pope ...

Congratulations on your special day Andrew we will miss u All the girls from the fantasy lounge XX
Other cards

I have never been a best man before, and I am not renowned for my speech writing, But I'll try my best, ""cause Andrew said if I do a good job today, I can be Best Man at his next wedding, too.

It's a great honour ladies and gentlemen but in all honesty I'm actually a little bit nervous doing this, but I feel a bit comforted by the fact I've actually already rehearsed this speech in front of a live audience. - Yep it was Andrews geriatric home - and I think it went well - they all peed themselves

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Peter and for those of you that do ... well I apologise. My full name is actually 'Peter would-you-like-a-drink' For those of you who I meet in the bar later, I'd appreciate it if you could use my full name. [pause]
I am I one of Andrews brothers and isn't it good to see that I am finally receiving the recognition I deserve by being named as Best man.
It is well known that I can talk and I couldn't help but notice that there is a bet on about the length of my speech.
Well, just to let you know, having backed myself at 2 hours 26 minutes and with the kitty currently standing at around pound, I must apologise in advance, so please make yourself comfortable and enjoy the ride.

I would like to thank the bridesmaids Vicky, Grace, Katie and Charlotte whom I'm sure you will agree all look radiant. And how nice it is to see Katie out of her emo/hippy out fit.



I would also like to thank Steve and Will for carrying out the really difficult task of telling people where to sit in church, Nana June for laying on the horse and carriage, Lee for doing the invitation inserts and Uncle Alan for doing the video.

I would also like to thank Auntie Anne, Auntie Pat and Debbie for the glorious flowers in the church and everyone else who has helped with the hall.

Now it gives me great Pleasure to ask you all to raise your glasses for some very important people, without them the today would not be the same, Would you raise your glasses to toast..
The bar staff!!

Speech 4.

Before I begin Helen would you place your right hand on the table, Andrew would you place your left on top of Helens. All will be revealed in good time.

I can confirm to you all that last night Andrew slept like a baby.....that is he wet the bed twice.....and woke up several times crying for his MUMMY!

The only problem we've seen so far is that Andrew and Helen had a bit of an issue with the seating plan, because they really couldn't decide where everyone should sit. So Andrew, in his true fashion, decided to link it to the wedding present list He decided to put those who brought the biggest items nearest the front, and work back from there...
So "pause" and look around at the back for (choose someone) Andrew and Helen wanted to say thanks for the oven glove!

Now Andrew and Helen have been together for a few years now and seem to have found their soul mates in each other.

In life, its difficult to imagine Morecambe without Wise, Andrew without his red MG, Tom without Jerry, Romeo without Juliet, Del without Rodney, and of course Andrew without Helen.
Now as I mentioned, it is a great honour to be Best Man, but with the role comes the job of writing this speech, and to be honest I wanted to make the process as easy as possible.
So where do you begin for ideas?
The obvious place seemed to be the Internet, so with a multitude of resources at my fingertips I dutifully began searching the web.
After a couple of hours searching I found some REALLY good stuff on the net, butthen I remembered I was supposed to be looking for Best Man tips!!!

I did actually find LOADS of ready-prepared speeches on the internet.... but sadly, NONE of them were about a couple called Andrew and Helenso it looks like it's down to me after all.
As part of my research I discovered that according to tradition I am supposed to SING THE GROOM'S PRAISES and tell you all about his MANY good points. Well, I'm very sorry but I CAN'T SING, and I WON'T LIE
Helen is a lovely person. She deserves a good husband. Thank God you married her before she found one!

I do have to say how lucky you are Andrew. You will leave here having gained a wife that is warm, loving and caring. A wife who is funny, and who radiates beauty where ever she goes. [pause]
face Helen
And Helen[pause]
how lucky you are as well [pause]
you leave today having gained a .[pause]
Gorgeous dress and a lovely bouquet of flowers. [pause]

Andrew has had a chequered life and it started some 38 years ago when quite small he entered our family and joined Steve and me.
This was a real disappointment to us as this meant that we had to share our toys with one more person.
However it was not long until Andrew was exposing himself to the whole country literally sitting on a potty in the middle of the countryside as the world went on by.
Later he went on to school and by the age of sixteen he finally left primary school.
He then started his working life Messams, then Curry's, Clinches hotel, the Coach and Horses pub, then the Blue Anchor in Jersey here at the Fishbourne club where he met Helen, then the Blue Bell at Cocking now at Cornelius house where he is hoping to get a discount as he is getting close to requiring a room.

Now we have had a lot of trouble contacting people from his previous places of work, and for some reason Interpol's fraud section has been showing signs of interest, as most of these businesses are no longer ,
the coach and horses gone bust
The blue anchor gone bust
And the bluebell gone bust
But Helen has done a good job at covering the evidence up.

as for Helen well her life has just begun.

But Helen is keeping Andrew on the straight and narrow.

Instead of stories you will have to listen to my martial advice instead.
I'm not sure I'm the best person to dish out advice! But I do have the following words of wisdom for the happy couple.

Firstly, set the ground rules and establish who is the boss:
Then do everything Helen says.

Always remember to tell your wife those three important little words [pause] 'You're right dear'.

Helen A husband is like a tiled floor [pause] lay it right first time and you can spend years walking all over it.

A happy marriage is a matter of give and take the husband gives and the wife takes. [pause]



Remember the 5 rings
the engagement ring, the wedding ring, the suffering,
the torturing and the enduring

Don't forget Andrew if u buy her flowers, she knows your guilty, and she will remember to the second the last time you bought her some ... and the reason why!

Now in case any of you are wondering why I asked Andrew to place his hand on Helens. I will tell you now, Andrew as my final role, it is with great pleasure that I have been able to give you the last 10 minutes in which you have had the upper hand on Helen. It will almost certainly be the last.

May your love be modern enough to service the times and old fashioned enough to last 4 ever.

HERES TO LOVE, LAUGHTER,
AND HAPPILY EVER AFTER,
AS Andrew and Helen START THEIR NEW LIFE,
PLEASE STAND & TOAST THE NEW HUSBAND & WIFE.

If you would all be up standing in my toast

To the new Mr and Mrs Burt
Andrew and Helen

Speech 5.

I would like to ask Beccy's father David to say a few words

I would now like to call on Justin who would like to thank a few people

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, I hope everyone is enjoying this very special day so far. It's been an emotional day,even the cake is in tiers.

I would like to start by thanking Justin for his kind words on behalf of our lovely bridesmaid Kirsty. I'm sure you will agree she has carried out her role superbly, I would also like to thank the ushers..... for at least turning up sober.

I think you will all agree Beccy looks one in a million today ...as opposed to Justin who looks like he was won in a raffle.

For those of you who don't know me, I am Justin's cousin, Neil. And I have the honour of being his best man. And it is a great honour, but in all honesty I am actually a little nervous doing this, but I feel a bit comforted by the fact I have actually rehearsed this speech in front of a live audience at the local old peoples home, ... I think it went well, they all pissed themselves anyway.

.I'd also like to congratulate Justin on a truly magnificent speech, I always knew it would be hard to follow, and I was right, I could hardly follow a word of it.

During the service today I couldn't help thinking its funny how history repeats itself, I mean it was 30 years ago David and Carol were sending their daughter to bed with a dummy.....and it's happening all over again today.

I have known Justin all my life, he has always loved sport especially football, from an early age it was obvious he was a natural defender, he loved to get stuck in.

It's a shame he hasn't carried that over to his working life,
Richie has started calling him god at work because he never see's him,and if he ever does any work it's a miracle.

Now Just has always taken great pride in his appearance, some people have even said he is vain, I never believed this.....much, until the morning we got to the airport to fly off for his stag weekend, he seemed to have a glow about him, all the boys were asking him if he had been using tanning lotion, Justin denied it profusely, after another pint and a lot of abuse he tried to fob us off with the excuse that he was in such a rush when he got up, that in his haste he had mistakenly put Beccy's moisturiser on which had tanning in it, sufficed to say he was set upon then until he finally admitted that he bought the stuff himself.

I just don't know how he thought he would get away with it, it was snowing the week before.

I thought I had better find out some interesting events that happened on the day he was hatched, sorry born.

He was born on the 11th of September 1977 which was a sunday, number one in the charts was Elvis with 'way down', now the only other event I found of any importance in this month was the introduction of free family planning.

Now I wouldn't say Just was an ugly baby, but pat only had morning sickness after he was born.

He was a slightly slow starter as well, at playschool he was different from the other 5 year olds, he was 11.

I remember one day sitting in pizza hut, when the waiter asked if he would like his pizza cut into 4 or 8 pieces, Justin's reply was You better make it 4 because I'll never manage 8.

We have always been close, when we were young we would always be playing something driving our respective parents mad, I remember when Ghostbusters the film was at the cinema, we would be upstairs at Rich and Pat's with all the lights out jumping around like a couple of lunatics pretending to be catching ghosts, our equipment for this was a school backpack and a wire coat hanger each. Well I have a present,.....something you can play with later.....



Now comes the part of the speech where the embarrassing photo's come out, I'm sure you will have noticed there are some numbered envelopes on your tables,

if you would all like to open envelope number 1,

This is a rare photo, Justin has always said he can never seem to get drunk, at one point he was going to the doctor he was so concerned. but all it took was a few drinks with Tude and Spence and you can see the end result for yourselves.

Now if you all open number 2.....Justin has been accused in the past of talking too much, well in this photo he talked that much even his ass went to sleep

One of my last duties before I toast the happy couple is to read a few cards.....

To Justin and Becky , hope you have a wonderful day, sorry we can't be there lots of love Charles Farkin, Mary Farkinand the whole Farkin family

I would like to say best of luck to the two of you , I really am absolutely delighted for both of you. I hope you have a long and happy future together.

And thank you Justin, it really has been a great honour to be your best man, you are more like a brother to me and Nev than a cousin.

It now gives me immense pleasure, not to mention relief to invite you all to stand and raise your glasses to the new Mr & Mrs Harris.. To Justin and Beccy

Thank you and enjoy the rest of the day.

Speech 6.

Right, so where do I start! What the hell took them so long?

Before we get to the ritual character assassination of the groom that forms the basis of a traditional best man's speech I would like to thank Jason for his kind words about the bridesmaids who of course looked gorgeous and did a fantastic job.

It was a great honour to be asked by Jason to be his best man on this important day in his life.

I wanted to do the job justice so I decided some research was needed so I turned to the internet.

I set out to search for information on the responsibilities of the best man along with some hints and tips but as anyone who has used the internet will know, it is very easy to get side tracked especially when the wife's out I am told by my married friends. Anyway after being side tracked for few hours I got back to my research on best man type things.

Joking aside I did find some interesting stuff on continental drift. I know you didn't come here for a lecture on plate tectonics and geography but this is interesting stuff.

Apparently the continents of Europe and America are moving towards each other at a rate of about 5 cms a year. Now this is very slow progress. Scientists have actually created a scale to measure things that move very slowly known as the Jason Murch scale as it based on the time it has taken him to make an honest woman of Christine!

Actually when Jason asked me to be best man my first thought was bloody hell I need to make a speech. What am I going to talk about?

My research told me that my speech should involve some humorous stories at the groom's expense, well character assassination really.

I once went to a wedding and the best man stood up and explained how the groom being a man who had led a chaste and quiet life had given him very little juicy material for off colour and racy stories to fill his best man's speech.

Well the good news is that is not the case with Jason..... the bad news is that I have so much material we could be here for some time so I hope you are all sitting comfortably and have no pressing engagements for a few hours.

No of course I am only kidding..... I do have plenty material but 90% of it's not fit for public consumption.... There was the cast of the ladyboys of Bangkok, the goat....

I know a lot of people here are probably wondering just what does Christine see in Jason?

Well I have known him a long time and too be fair....I don't know either!

It could be his work ethic. We first met when we were both reps flogging carpet.

Jason used to make numerous trips to Chippenham and back. This wasn't actually to visit customers but rather because he was at home most of the time but needed to put some miles on the car to at least make it looked like he did some work.

Jason now works as a training consultant.

He showed some early promise in this field by training Christine to answer the phone to the boss and always tell him Jason had left the house hours ago despite still being in bed.

Despite this unusual approach to selling Jason was very successful. He was guest of honour at a distributor annual awards do. I am sure it was just a misunderstanding that led to a night as a guest of the Berkshire constabulary! I believe a drink had been taken.

So to get back to the question, just what does Christine see in Jason... probably not the work ethic then....maybe his romantic nature?

As anyone who knows Jason and Christine knows they like travel, in fact they have visited so many far off places so often they have a bigger carbon footprint than Alan Wicker. Scientists have estimated they are personally responsible for about 15% of global warming and the submerging of some low lying islands!

They have visited many places including Rome The Vatican City , Venice St Marks Square the Doges Palace, The Bridge of Sighs, Las Vegas The strip, The Bilagio Hotel, New York Carriage rides through Central Park, The Empire State Building, some very romantic places. Ideal for a proposal of marriage you may think.

Well that may be true but Jason chose something else, he chose something altogether less salubrious though he maintains just as romantic, *****s cabaret club and fish and chip restaurant in Las Americas, Tenerife, I am not saying it is rough...actually I really am not saying it is rough because if the



owners find out they would probably have me shot!

So not the Work ethic or Romance, I guess it will have to remain, like why men have nipples and women go to the toilet in pairs One of life's great mysteries.

Although Christine did actually tell me Jason has always brightened up her life.

Well she actually said he never turned the lights off but it amounts to the same thing pretty much.

To be truthful Jason and Christine have shared many romantic moments I would like you to both share one with us all here today.

Christine please can you put your right/left hand flat on the table and Jason please can you place yours on top of it.

Marvellous, I would like you to remember and treasure this moment forever....the last time you will have the upper hand Jason.

On a more serious note I have known both Jason and Christine for many years and value their friendship immensely. Jason has always been a great friend and they have both always been there whenever I have needed them.

I would also like to thank Christine for countless Sunday lunches and use of the spare bedroom despite leading her husband from the path of righteousness on occasion.

I know rolling in at 3.30 in the morning and waking you up wasn't funny but at the time it did seem so and I know as an understanding wife there will be many such occasions in the future...or not as the case may be.

It has been a privilege knowing you both and I feel both your families have become almost like a second family to me. I have got to know all your kids. Jason's mum and dad and Christine's late father Alan who I am sure would have been very happy to see how beautiful she looks today.

Before I finish I have a couple of messages to read out from people who couldn't be here today.

Jason's son Wesley couldn't be here today and sends his best wishes, I think the only person more disappointed than Wesley about him not being here is the guy that has to fight him in the cage later tonight.

There is also a card from those guys from the Avon Packet Cricket club. It says, 'Jason was useless in all positions but we hope Christine has more luck with him later' not sure what that means but anyway...

Ladies and gentlemen I would like you all to be upstanding etc etc

INTRODUCTION

Firstly I'd just like to say I'm very nervous about making this speech. In fact this must be the fifth time today that I have stood up from a warm seat with pieces of paper in my hand.

When Steve asked me to be Best Man, I did quite honestly feel very honoured.

I did however say to him that I felt that the role may be better suited to one of the other guys.

A couple of days later, Steve phoned me and admitted that I was in fact the best of a bad bunch - and then he offered me the job!

I was understandably a little offended at this and I told him that I was certainly not a man that could be bought. The conversation then became heated to say the least.

He then offered to pay for my suit hire, and here I am.

So ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. My name 'John what-would-you-like-to-drink'. I hope many of you will come and say hello at the bar later - but I do insist you use my full name. And it is my pleasure to be Best Man for Steve today.

Next, on behalf of the Bridesmaid, Jemima - you look wonderful and have done an excellent job today. Thank you.

And thanks and well done to Bradley today for giving away the bride

So Steve and Jane you've finally got married, for better or for worse, which is quite appropriate as Steve couldn't have done any better and Jane couldn't have done any worse.

: The Seating Plan'

You will probably not be aware that Steve and Jane had great trouble over the seating plan. Fortunately, Steve gave the room layout some serious thought and took the weight of the decision away from Jane as any supportive partner should do.

What Jane doesn't know is that Steve decided the seating should be according to the cost of your present, so the more expensive you're present, the closer the person would be seated to the front.

So I hope you at the back heard Steve when he thanked you for the tea spoons!

During my research on the internet into best mans role I also looked into weddings in general, I looked at the three key elements of the wedding service itself: -

The Aisle - it's the longest walk you'll ever take

The Alter - the place where two become one

The Hymn - the celebration of marriage

I think Jane must have done the same research as I did, because as she was walking past me, I'm sure I heard her whispering to herself,

Aisle...altar...hymn, aisle altar hymn, I'll alter him etc...

As you have found out by now, a best man's speech involves a collection of amusing stories. Although there are a couple of things that are really not supposed to be mentioned at weddings, but I shall mention them anyway: -First of all, Steve's drink problem - well the main problem is that he can't handle his drink. Mind you his new wife will be able to give him some good training.

And secondly, Steve's ex-girlfriends - I was warned about the potentially delicate duty of keeping Steve's Ex's at bay today. But fortunately Foot and Mouth got rid of most of them four years ago so no worries there

I never thought that Steve would ever marry but at 43 here he is, I remember a few years ago he said "that he would never marry", but if he did, "he would like to marry a woman with small feet".

"Why small feet?" I asked.

"So she can get closer to the sink" he answered.

I have managed to obtain some of Steve's old school reports and some comments from his work colleagues, they all tell a story:

Steve was an ideal pupil who excelled at most subjects'.

Sorry that should be, Steve was an idle pupil who was expelled from most subjects.'

Geography

groom is the only one in the class who thinks Ellesmere Port is a fine table wine.

Biology

whilst groom is often very enthusiastic, he took it a little too far by revising for his blood test.

Religious Education

groom's understanding of Christianity is very limited, so much so that he still believes the book of Genesis was written by Phil Collins.

On leaving school Steve's teenage years can be defined as several years of drinking, throwing up, and sleeping in the toilet cuddling up to the bowl...something he still hasn't grown out of yet.



Now Steve is a hard working young man and his boss made these comments:
'Working with groom is like working with God. He's rarely seen, he's holier than thou and if he does any work it's a bloody miracle.'

WORDS OF WISDOM

Now, coming towards the end of my speech, it is customary for me to offer the happy couple some words of wisdom. So...

To Jane...

Remember that men are like a fine wine...

They start out like grapes...

And it is your job to stamp on them in the dark until they turn into something you would like to have dinner with.

To Steve...

By coincidence, women too are like a fine wine...

They start out fresh, fruity and intoxicating to the mind...

And then they turn full bodied with age, and eventually give you a splitting headache!

TELEGRAMS

While everyone's still awake I'd like to read some of the cards and telegrams which Steve and Jane have received from Family and Friends:

Read close Family cards -

Funnies

So now we just have a couple of Telegrams that have arrived...

To Steve we could have been so good together I will miss our nights by the pool - lots of love, Michael Barrymore.

Dear Steve, congratulations on getting married, and also on winning our big spender of the month award! Lots of love from the dancers at Angels pole dancing Club in Liverpool.

To Steve and Jane, hope you have a wonderful day, sorry we can't be there lots of love Mr & Mrs Farkinand the whole Farkin family

Advice

Before I finish, I would like to give Steve some advice on what people thought were the ingredients to a long and happy marriage so here are a few.

Turn and look at <groom>

Firstly, set the ground rules and establish whose boss...and then do everything Jane says!

Secondly, never be afraid that Jane will leave you - she's spent time training you, she's not going to throw that away lightly!

Thirdly, never forget to say those 3 little words every day for the rest of your life - "YOU'RE RIGHT DEAR!"

Whenever you're wrong, be a man and admit it

...

Whenever you're right, just "SAY nothing!"

As they say a man who gives in when he is wrong is a wise man. A man who gives in when he is right is married

CLOSING

On a serious note for a moment...

We all hope you have a wonderful time on your honeymoon in North Wales, at least that's where I think Steve said they were going, he just said he was going to Bangor for a week.

Steve, we've had some excellent times together over the years, and I know we will continue to do so in the future.

You have been a fantastic friend to me...much better than the other lads...and it really is a great honour to be your Best Man today.

I wish you and Jane every happiness for the future...

TOAST

And on that note, ladies and gentlemen, could I ask you to stand with me, and raise your glasses in a toast to Steve and Jane, the new Mr & Mrs Ratcliffe.

We wish you well for the future.

To Steve and Jane.

And now it's good night and God bless from me.

Speech 7.

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen - Let me first say that the bridesmaids look absolutely smashing today, and only rightly outshone by our bride, Kirsty. And, I'm sure you'll agree with me gentlemen, today is a sad day for single men, as another beauty leaves the available list. And ladies, I'm sure you'll agree that today passes by without much of a ripple.

I was really nervous before hand, so I prepared a few lines - and having snorted them I'm feeling pretty good right now...

I'd like to say a big thank you to my assistants, the ushers - Bruce and Graham. It was a stipulation for the wedding that the ushers weren't allowed to look better than the Best Man today and I'm pleased to say they have accomplished their role admirably. Cheers guys to an awesome job!

I really thought that following a speech by Derek would be quite difficult, and I was right, I couldn't follow a bloody word of it.

So, on behalf of the Bridesmaids, and the Ushers I would like to thank Derek for ...um...whatever he just said.

I'd also like to echo Derek's comments and thank everyone again on their behalf for coming and sharing their special day, particularly those that have travelled long distances. I know how hard it is to get day release!



When Derek asked me to be his best man I was obviously very flattered. But then I realised I would have to give a speech, and that at some point during it I would have to say something nice about Derek. The problem is I've had very little experience of doing either, so please bear with me.

I was actually a little worried as to how long the speech should last so I asked around and the general consensus was that it should go on for about as long as it takes the groom to perform his duties in the bedroom.
So with that ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much, you've been a great crowd!!

The marriage ceremony asks that couples take each other for better or for worse. Well, Derek, in finding Kirsty you really couldn't have done any better. Kirsty - you couldn't have done any worse.

Just on a separate note here - not many people know this, but Kirsty actually had a bit of bad luck this week she had her credit card stolen on Monday...Derek has decided not to report it to the police however because the thief is spending less than she was!

As you know, Derek and Kirsty have been together for years. However, I can remember when Derek first took Kirsty to an expensive hotel for the weekend. He did the whole romantic bit, with flowers and champagne in the room, the whole works. In the morning they went down for breakfast. Derek ordered a full breakfast for himself, bacon, sausage, eggs, toast, cereal, coffee, the works. For Kirsty he ordered just some lettuce and carrots. I asked him later why that was and he said he wanted to see if she ate like a rabbit as well!

As you know, Derek and me are brothers and I've many memories from our younger days, but it has to be said Derek & I didn't always get on. I remember times when he would call me 'Forest Gump', and I would call him 'Fester', and he would both go crying to our Mum! And that was just last week!

As well as the speech, it would seem that there were three main roles that I had to fulfil as a best man.

The first was to get him there on time by making sure he got a good nights sleep before the wedding. Well, I can assure you he slept like a baby - he wet the bed twice and woke up every hour crying for his mum.

The second was to get him here looking presentable with his face and hair in good order. Unfortunately, God didn't get this right first time round so what chance did I have?

Finally, I was to ensure that no angry ex-girlfriends showed up impromptu to spoil the ceremony. Thankfully this wasn't a problem as the recent outbreak of foot and mouth saw most of them either quarantined or shot and burned a couple of years ago.

So what can I say about him?

He's handsome

Successful

Witty

Intelligent

Flash

Charming

Er..Er...

Sorry 'Derek', what's that say, I can't read your handwriting. Oh, yeah fantastic in bed, sorry.

I actually decided that it might be a good idea to ask people what they thought of Derek. So I spoke to a couple of his work colleagues and apparently they refer to him as godlike..... he's rarely seen, he's holier than thou, and if he ever does any work, it's a bloody miracle.

I also spoke to some other people and one person actually told me that they thought he was conceited, selfish, arrogant and insensitive.... Thanks for that Kirsty.

I also decided to do some research on the internet for some facts about the 13th of November. Not many people will know this but on this very day 80 years ago on the 13th of November 1934 the famous Alcatraz prison accepted its first inmates. This is where young men were taken away from their families where they led a life of solitary confinement from which there was no escape. They were endlessly tortured, humiliated and basically forced to do whatever their masters wanted. I'm sure that when Kirsty picked today for the wedding it was a complete coincidence.

Well I feel at this point that it's my duty to offer a small piece of advice to the groom, and Derek will be pleased to know that a successful marriage can be compared to football.

- 1 - Ensure you're fully committed every week
- 2 - Make sure you score every Saturday
- 3 - Make sure you change ends at half time
- 4 - Don't put your tackle in too hard or you might injure yourself
- 5 - No tackling from behind...especially on your wedding night.

Having been married for a number of years myself I thought I could also offer some advice of my own:

Kirsty, remember that men are like fine wine, they start off like grapes and it's your job to relentlessly stamp on them in the dark until they turn into something that you would like to have dinner with.

On the other hand Derek, Women are also like fine wine, they start out fresh, fruity and intoxicating to the mind and then turn full bodied with age before going all sour and vinegary, eventually giving you a headache.

They say that the best mans speech is the worst 5 minutes of the grooms day, but fortunately for you Derek it's almost over. Unfortunately, Kirsty, your worst five minutes will probably come later tonight.

First of all I'd like to read some telegrams



Telegrams

One here from Troon Carpets to Kirsty. Congratulations on your wedding. We're really sorry we haven't been able to fit your carpet on time - however we feel sure that you'll get your underfelt tonight.

TOAST

I'd like to finish up by saying what a great honour it's been to be best man today. On behalf of the bride and groom, I'd like to echo what I said earlier and thank everyone for sharing their special day.

So then, Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me immense pleasure, not to mention relief, to invite you all to stand and raise your glasses in a toast to Derek and Kirsty, the new Mr and Mrs Heathwood. We wish them well for the future, and hope they enjoy a long and happy marriage.

Derek and Kirsty.

Speech 8.

I'm very nervous about making this speech. In fact this must be the fifth time today that I have stood up from a warm seat with pieces of paper in my hand.

Now I did ask for a microphone but was told one wasn't available. So if you can't hear me at the back, the silence from the people at the front should re-assure you that you're not missing out on anything.

May I start by thanking Nick on behalf of the Bridesmaids', Laura and Georgia for his kind words. I'd also like to add my own compliments to Kimberly, who I think you'll agree looks absolutely stunning today! And after last night's festivities, we haven't done a bad job on Nick either, thanks to some hard work this morning from Nicky Clarke, Trinny and Susannah.

For those who don't know me, my name is 'Jeff what-would-you-like-to-drink'. I hope as many of you will come and say hello at the bar later - but I do insist you use my full name.

When Nick asked me to be his best man, I felt honoured, I felt nervous, I felt distinguished, I still felt nervous, I was privileged Nick, Nick I was petrified.

It's the first time I've had the been asked to be a best man, it's the first time I've ever been here to the Kings Croft Hotel, it's the first time that Nick has complimented me in over 25 years, but best of all it's the first time Nick's ever paid for dinner.

So, Nicholas Andrew Hinde, born 5th of October 1975, This is your life. Incidentally you were born the same day as Kate Winslet, and the year in which we were introduced to Bohemian Rhapsody, Jim'll-fix-it and Fawty Towers. Margaret Thatcher also became leader of the Tory party in 1975.

Were any of these an influence on how Nick turned out? I'll leave that up to you to decide.

Well I first met Nick when we started in the infants at St. Joseph's back when we were 4 or 5 years old. Since then we went right through school together where Nick was always top of the class. We studied together until after our A'levels, when we both went our own separate ways. Nick went off to Jesus College, Oxford to study Engineering. And I went to the DSS, Pontefract, to sign on every fortnight.

Nick worked hard at university and came away with his degree in Engineering, and many stories about student life in Oxford, none of which I can include today for legal reasons.

Now when Nick arrived back from University it wasn't long before we were given the chance to move out of our parents and take up residence in St. Gerard's Presbytery in Featherstone. We were looking after the house for the priest there whilst he was over in Australia for about 8 months. Rent free accommodation, and both single we made the most of our spare time. We spent most evenings just going to see our neighbours next door, more commonly know as the Featherstone Hotel.

Our first night in the Featherstone Hotel was one I think neither Nick nor I will ever forget. We entered a bit gingerly as this was an establishment which was well known in the area, and not for its overly warm welcomes. We shyly ordered a pint each from the bar and proceeded to introduce ourselves to the landlord. He couldn't have been happier to meet us, and with the amount of money we put behind over the months that followed, he must have had pound signs in his eyes. Now that first night went well, too well in-fact. We played pool, table football and met all the locals. Before we knew it the time was 1.15 in the morning the doors were all locked, upon enquiring how we should leave we were ushered through the kitchen and out of a small door at the back of the pub. This was the first of many late nights we spent in the pub during our time in Featherstone.

Now unbeknown to the landlord of our new local we weren't the honest pair from the presbytery everyone thought we were. In fact we used to cheat at every opportunity we got. Using mobile phones during the pub quiz, submitting more than one answer paper, and bad mathematics at the dart board were among some of our tricks. But the pinnacle of our dishonesty was cheating at 'Play Your Cards Right'..... just to win a bottle of wine. In 8 months of playing we never failed to win.

This was due to the angle that the cards were lent against the wall it meant we could see the face of every card from the table we always sat at. But it wasn't quite that simple, as which ever one of us was drawn out to play had to go and stand by the bar. So this is where we used our cunning and developed a code to indicate the direction the outcome of the next card. Whoever was still sat at the table would place one hand on their pint if the next card was higher, or put it down on the table if you had to guess lower.....Although going lower on a 3 did raise the odd eyebrow from time to time.

So from Living in down town Featherstone, Nick decided the time had come to purchase his own house. He entered the housing market with a quaint dormer bungalow back in Pontefract.



Now Nick being Nick, bought this house with the plan of making a couple of small changes. Small was a bit of an understatement, as with help from dad, Nick has now re-boarded the whole of the downstairs floor, changed the kitchen work surfaces, installed double glazing, rewired the whole house, incorporated cupboards into the bedrooms, carpeted the garage, gutted the bathroom, put in a burglar alarm, moved the boiler, set up a large screen projector with surround sound in the lounge, erected a new shed, built a new wall at the front of the house, landscaped the back garden.....and now he tells me he's started on a conservatory. There's enough work there to keep Lawrence Llewellyn-Bowen and the Home Improvements team busy for 3 series.

So back to today:

I was speaking to Fr Funnell whilst we were waiting for Kimberly to arrive the church this morning, and he was telling me that when Nick and Kimberly started going to his marriage preparation classes, he wasn't always sure if Nick was really ready marriage.

There was one time when Nick was asked, 'What is Kimberly's favourite flower?' To which he had no hesitation in replying, 'Self Raising!'

'What makes a good wife?' 'One who helps here husband with the washing up!'
And, 'What's the last thing you'll say to you wife before going to sleep?' 'It doesn't matter what I say, you'll buy it anyway'

I've also spoken to some of Nick's work colleagues who tell me that his nickname at work is 'The God', its true, apparently he makes his own rules and if he does any work it's usually a miracle.

And when I asked Kimberly last week to describe Nick in one word, it took no time at all for her to come back with an answer.....'Perfectionist', everything has to be right, but not just right it has to be absolutely spot on...Else he starts again. So much so, that when Nick recently painted the living room skirting boards, it took no less than 7 coats of paint until he was happy.

And who else do you know that takes a ruler into the bathroom every morning. [Pull out ruler] Yes it's true I've seen it when I used to live with him. But why would you need a ruler in the bathroom? Well in Nick's case it is to make sure his sidies are exactly the same length and cut perfectly straight.....So ladies, if you see ever your man taking a ruler into the bathroom in future, it isn't because he's a little paranoid, he's just been taking tips from the Nicholas Hinde school of hair dressing.

Now I do have one final story that I couldn't finish without telling. Nick may not seem the sporty type, but he is an enthusiastic squash player, and a good one at that. And back, when we used to live together we played regularly at Knottingly sports centre. Now for those of you who haven't played squash, you use a small hard ball like this one [Hold squash ball up.] Now a squash ball needs to be warmed up before you can start playing, and the usual way to do this is to hit it against the wall for 5 minutes once you get onto the court. Nick however, not wanting to waste any time or money used to massage the ball in his hand and put it in his pocket to keep it warm. Now before I go on I must apologise to any women who used to attend the step aerobics classes at Knottingly from 6 until 7 on a Thursday night. Because as we were arriving at about five past 7, the step aerobics class were just leaving, and this meant about 30 women going out of the main door as Nick walking in past them all, still massaging the squash ball in his pocket. What they must have thought of him I don't know, but it wasn't pretty!

Now traditionally I have to offer Nick some advice. So, never be complacent, always keep an eye out for those little tell tail signs in your relationship.....like if you see that the milkman's wearing your socks ...Or the postman starts calling round on a Sunday.

Kimberly you must remember, men are like fine wines, they start out as grapes and it is your job to stamp on them until they mature into something that you would like to have after dinner.

Now I have a few cards to read out from those who couldn't make it today:

Dear Nick,
Thanks for the weekends lazing by the pool, I do hope you've made the right choice.
Love Michael Barrymore.

Dear Kimberly
It was nice while it lasted, but I guess we'll have to call it a day now you're married.
From Brad Pitt

[Read some real cards out] and [Poem]

So to wrap up, I'd just like to say, Nick, thank you for giving me the opportunity to enlighten all you family and friends here today.

And Kimberly just remember..... If your wine rack's ever running a bit low, all you need to do is take Nick to the Featherstone hotel on a Wednesday night for 'Play Your Cards Right'.

All that leaves me to do now is to ask you all to be upstanding and join me in wishing Nick and Kimberly all the best as they enter married life together. So please raise your glasses to: 'THE BRIDE AND GROOM'.

Speech 9.

Ladies and Gentleman, Boys and Girls I hope you are having a wonderful time,

However, every silver lining has a cloud and unfortunately, I am it.....

2005 has been a great year.....sorry, sorry that was last years speech.



MESSAGES

Now for those of you who don't know me, I am Andy, Matt's Brother and partner in crime...and despite the nerves, I have really been looking forward to today, as after all the years I have known Matt, he has finally admitted that I am in fact the "Best Man".

It is well known that I can talk and I couldn't help but notice that there is a bet on about the length of my speech.

Well, just to let you know, having backed myself at 2 hours 26 minutes and with the kitty currently standing at around £, I must apologise in advance, please make yourself comfortable and enjoy the ride.

I'd like to start by saying that Kate, I've known you for years and you are like a sister to me and I am sure everyone here will agree with me when I say how stunning you look today...

As for the bridesmaids....you really look beautiful girls and you all have been fantastic, well done.

Thanks also to the ushers whom without today, you wouldn't know where to sit..Thanks boys...and of course Matt, for asking me to be his "bestman"

As Matt's brother, I was always going to be in contention for the role of "Best Man" but I was still extremely proud to be asked and I hope that I have done the role justice, it is certainly an experience I will cherish and something which my legal team won't forget as they work around the clock to find out why most of the stag do arrangements backfired.....

Now, by disclosing everything Matt has done I would only be implicating myself and I really don't want to tarnish my impeccable reputation! I also bought a book about being Best Man which told me I couldn't talk about sex, drugs or violence so that rules out talking about the stag do too!

I first met Matt 27 years ago when I can only assume that my mom and dad were that disappointed with their first attempt that they decided to try again!

It didn't take me long to think that I must have been adopted as I found it hard to accept that Plug from the Bash street comics was my brother....all teeth and ears.....

It wasn't all bad though, in fact we were the perfect team growing up, I talked all the time and Matt just listened!

In fact, he didn't say boo to a goose for the first 19 years of his life and I was certain I would have to learn sign language, thankfully, it turns out that Matt was neither deaf or dumb although his school reports suggested there may be something in the latter.

It's fair to say that education wasn't Matt's forte, however, he did excel at sport in particular cricket where I remember him turning out against a team of police at the age of about 12 and nearly taking their heads off with a couple of vicious bouncers, I think if he wasn't 12 they would have arrested him for assault!

Football also features in Matt's life and I have had the pleasure of going to some great games with him with Aston Villa, England and most recently Barcelona, all memories which will last a long time.

Ironically, most of my memories of Matt on the pitch as a player relate to injuries.....in fact to this day I have never seen anybody dislocate both knee caps within the space of a few months and then break their ankle.

Generally speaking, older brothers are supposed to be responsible, role models who look after their younger siblings yet it always appears to be me looking after him whether he is trying to steal our neighbours Christmas trees, putting our friends house up for sale, splitting his head open on tree branches, finding the fastest ways out of clubs, getting motion sickness in taxis after a night out or evading the local police....by the way thanks dad.

It wasn't long before our exploits earned us the nickname of the Mitchell Brothers within our close circle of friends although we even used to argue which one was which.....

Hopefully though the groom is now in safe hands with his new wife who will no doubt keep him on the straight and narrow?

Matt and Kate both met at a place they have since managed to avoid.....work...and it wasn't long before Matt was on the airwaves of the local radio station telling all who would listen how wonderful Kate was.

Such were the high hopes of Matt finding his ideal girl and to check he wasn't making it up, me and the lads all waited outside his house after his first date with Kate to see how he got on, I can still see the shock and horror on his face as we surprised him.....

On a serious note, whilst it is impossible to summarise the 27 years I have known Matt, I would like to say that over the years he has been the best anyone could hope for in a brother and the most supportive of friends...I know that he will maintain these high standards as a loving father and now husband.

You only have to look at Jessica and Lucy to realise how lucky Matt is and I am sure that having three beautiful girls in his life brings him much happiness.



Now, if you could join me in a toast to some very important people without who today just wouldn't be the same. I'm sure all of us at some point will shuffle past them and exchange a few fond words.....ladies and gentlemen, I'd like you to raise your glasses and say a toast....to the bar staff!

I would now like to finish with a self penned poem:

You took me to a gay bar, in pursuit of your future bride, Dragged me on a narrow boat, with nobody I knew, I'm sure you would have kidnapped Kate, at times I almost did, To see you now both happy, is no surprise at all, I hope today was special, tomorrow better yet, Consider me your shadow, never far away For me you are a legend, my friend, my family.

To the newly weds: "May for better or worse....be far better than worse"

THE BRIDE AND GROOM

Speech 10.

I would like to thank Graham for his kind words on behalf of the bridesmaids who look absolutely wonderful and have done a fantastic job today.

I would like to start by complimenting the bride on how amazing she looks this evening.

As for Graham, well what can I say, we tried our best.

It was of course a great honour to be chosen as best man. But from the moment Graham asked me it was clear that the best man speech would be the most challenging part of the day. If only because of having to select, only some, from the wealth of embarrassing stories of which I could choose.

So I had to prepare.

I took my standard approach and indeed most men's approach when faced with a problem they know little of nothing about. I bought a book and surfed on the internet.

Now for those of you who have had the pleasure of being best man will understand, the book found its way to the bin almost before I got through the door.

And, as I'm sure I'm not the only bloke in the room who has found far more interesting things to look at on the internet. I drew a blank.

The most reliable source of information would clearly come from the friends and family with whom he would share this special day.

So Graham, I wrote down a few words with which some of them used to describe you.

A great friend (that was mine)

Thoughtful, caring, trusting and charismatic (all very kind words)

Round and hairy (that I think came from one of the tables at the back - thank you very much).

In fact one sage person observed that marriage was clearly a serious undertaking and that it should be taken into lightly. But then commented that at 15 stone, they were pleased to see that Graham had applied these words of caution to the letter.

In fact I barely found a person who had a bad word to say. Although, I did find some.

When I heard belligerent, lazy, stubborn and obstinate I thought hang on that's a bit rough (maybe not entirely untrue but certainly a bit unnecessary for a best mans speech)but if his parents don't know him then who does.

When speaking to everyone I learned a bit about Graham's childhood. I met Graham at university and knew little about how he grew up.

Hi sisters confirmed, what I had expected myself, that it was indeed from an early age that Graham had realised his appearance would be a fundamental part of his character. However, it appears that he struggled to find a style of his own.

(Embarrassing photo's scanned onto slides for projector)

The other personality trait which everyone agreed defines Graham is his general obsessiveness. Whether it relates to his passion for his hair, his neatness, his formula 1 addiction or his obsessive talking which coupled with his unhealthy love of technology can form a lethal combination.

I thought it had been just me who had been subjected to marathon conversations about the racing specifications of the latest F1 McLaren, his most recent upgrade of mobile phone, or the relative merits of all four championship manager football games. But it appears he has inflicted this to some degree upon all of us. But we love him all the same.

Having shared some of your thoughts with me. I will be glad to share with you some of my own experiences with Graham.



If you had supposed that there was a darker side to Graham, you'd be right.

This is the time, where as tradition dictates, I would be failing in my duties as best man if I did not include some stories about laddish behaviour and drinking ridiculous amounts of alcohol. However, stories like this can come across so easily as being juvenile and distasteful.

I have three good examples of such stories.

The first, Graham, having been apprehensive about being dressed up for his 21st birthday was relieved to find that the costume chosen was that of a racing driver. Only to be horribly disappointed that the nipples and bottom had been cut out as we dressed him up ready for a night on the town.

Another good example would be Grahams first and hopefully last attempt at forming international relations with France. For which he supported by myself and many friends found himself on a booze cruise in Cherbourg. After having been drinking for 24hours he was dressed up as Frenchman complete with a Berret, Stripey T-shirt and a String of onions. I think by the end of the holiday we had even gone as far as developing the stereotypical smell of the Frenchmen. A true ambassador of the country Graham.

The final example would have to involve the events of the stag do in Prague of which I will only share only this. When confronted with an angry Czech police officer, who brandishing a baton and gun, has just stopped you for being drunk and disorderly - what do you do? It is braver man than me who when horribly drunk, dressed as a super hero, with an inflatable sex doll in one hand and with a ball and chain in his other answers to the question 'What is your name' with 'I'm Batman'. Adam West would have been appalled.

But I would like to move on from disgusting to delightful.

As a single man I have often asked myself where you go to find single, eligible girls. Graham took the rather unorthodox route of travelling to Germany. (One I hadn't considered). However, as we know, it worked out exceptionally well. And as for me at work, I've heard that I will have an answer to my transfer request to Berlin shortly.

I'm not convinced that love blossomed as quickly on Zoë's part, as from his speech, it seems too had done with Graham. I think the words I heard used were jumped up and overconfident. But I wouldn't worry about that Zoe, I've heard him described as far worse things before.

However, having reached Germany Graham wasn't to be knocked back. And being the dedicated and work-orientated man that he is covered far more ground in the handover that I'm sure is outlined in the Urenco corporate handbook.

And I for one am glad that he did as it was the start of a beautiful relationship which we are all here to celebrate today.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it has been a fantastic honour doing this job today. You've been very kind in listening to me. And, now I have just a few thank yous to add.

Firstly, I'd like to join Graham in thanking Richard and Sheila Isaac for being fabulous hosts.

Secondly, I'd like to thank Chester Zoo for giving Graham day release from the monkey enclosure.

I'd like to thank you all for joining Graham and Zoe Celebrate this very special day in their lives.

I have one special thank you which I have had to add today. We had a minor disaster last night at Graham's house. His trusted Bestman, when ironing our shirts for the big day, managed to burn a massive iron mark on the sleeve of, guess who, but the Grooms shirt. Thinking quickly we swapped it with one of the Ushers. Judging by his face he has had no idea but deserves thanks for taking one for the team. Mr Tim Sharpe.

Read out cards.

And finally, it gives me the greatest pleasure to invite you all to be upstanding and join me in toasting the bride and groom on what I'm sure will be a very long and happy marriage.