



*A Day in the
Life of a Toastmaster*

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The
Merseyside
Toastmaster*





A Day in the Life of a Toastmaster

7.00am

Great, Its a pretty ok day weather –wise, terrific.....its Helen & Chris's wedding day, this lovely couple have been looking forward to today for a long time and they deserve the best.

7.10am

Settle down with a nice cuppa on the patio, and muse the events leading up to today, and the days planned running order.

I think back to our first meeting after the web site contact, 8 months ago when Helen & Chris first made their enquiry about my services as a Wedding Toastmaster for today's wedding,

They didn't really know what a wedding Toastmaster / Wedding day organiser does.

We met at their home and discussed in fine detail everything they wanted to be included in their special day, how many bridesmaids Helen had, plus 2 flower girls (a niece from either side) how many ushers, where the wedding ceremony was to take place, and where the wedding celebrations were to be later, and all the details for a day to remember.

Our next meeting was 2 months before the great day, and we pretty much went over the same stuff to see how things were working out, the venue for the wedding ceremony was booked, as was the venue for the wedding reception, caterers all sorted, photographer / videographer, all done, wedding invitations etc all organised, with both families helping.

Chris needs some help with his speech, both content and delivery, as does Helen's dad Richard, so we arrange to get together and do a practice run, Mark (the best man) is confident he will be ok.

I make a note to contact the venue organiser to check the details of the day with them and of course the wedding photographer.

Our final meeting, it's just 1 week before the magical day, was to dot the I's and cross the T's, with regards to the timings of the wedding day and, who was doing what etc.,

Helen is quite nervous now, her wedding day is nearly here, so loads of reassurance is needed to take the stress away, so we agree a secret code word for the day, just between the two of us.

If so if Helen is feeling stressed by the demands on her, or if I see her getting stressed, we say the code word and I rescue her for a short break, (it's not always necessary, but better to have a plan in place just in case,) as I hate seeing my bride, or groom for that matter not able to enjoy, what is **their DAY**, so a short break, 15 minutes or so away, from the wedding guests, always does the trick nicely.

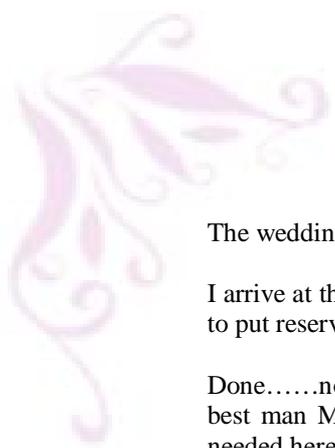
In the week before the wedding I've visited the church/ wedding venue, and talked and agreed roles with the vicar/registrar.

Visited the wedding reception venue and agreed the timings with the venue manager, re arrivals, drinks on arrival, wedding breakfast time, toasts. Etc.

And now that planned for wedding day is here. It's today, and this is where my role as wedding toastmaster / wedding day organiser, really comes alive.

Time to get moving.....My uniform is all ready, after being collected from the dry cleaners (after every wedding) the day before, all the notes are ready too, that we have made on how the day's proceedings are to go.

Having agreed these with the Bride and Groom, these are my responsibility for the day, and they don't need to concern themselves with the detail, my day is a busy one, as the Bride and Bridegroom's personal assistant which means, they CAN relax, knowing their wishes are in safe experienced hands, and the day will flow in the way they want it to.



The wedding is at 1.00pm.

I arrive at the church 2 hours before, meet with the vicar and re check our schedule, all agreed, then off to put reserved notices on some seats for immediate family parents etc.

Done.....now off to front door to meet Chris, the bridegroom, nervously fidgeting with his tie, the best man Mark is trying to chat and tell some funnies to calm him down, some gentle re-assurance needed here, and a bit of confidence building and Chris's will be fine.

WOW!!! His buttonhole is crooked, I need to straighten that quickly before his bride arrives, and fix the knot in his tie, bless him, he's so nervous.

Now its time to arrange the ushers, and meet and greet the guests, before the bridal party arrives, my role today is to be the eyes and ears of the Bride and Bridegroom, and to advise their guests on seating arrangements, etiquette, etc, and to attend on any guest that may have special needs.

All done, now Chris and Mark have to take their places before Helen, her mum, and the bridesmaids arrive, great here they are now.

Photographer is doing a great job, mum looks so proud, I offer her my arm (and proudly walk her down the same aisle that her husband will walk Helen in a few minutes) and guide her to her seat.

The Vicar and I have agreed that I will address the wedding guests in church with regards to the 1) confetti policy 2) switch mobiles off 3) photo's during service etc, etc.

Then back to welcome the Bride and her bridesmaids and of course a very proud dad.

Helen looks divine, calm collected, dad looks uneasy, shifting from foot to foot, fiddling with his tie, he's more nervous than the bride bless him, still it's a great honour for him today, and one that most dads dream of, so maybe he's right to feel this way, so to lighted the moment I encourage everybody to smile, and re- assure dad, that he looks just right for the important role he's about to play.

Photographer finishes, got his best shots, time for me to get the processional party into order, and signal the vicar that we are ready,

Great,..... the entrance music is playing, I move the bride and dad into position, fix her veil, (the bridesmaid has forgot, nerves again bless her), give them big beaming smiles so they respond and relax, and off they go, slowly, sedately, to the wedding music playing, and towards Chris, who's just sneaking a look at his lovely bride, (as is everybody in the congregation,)

Wow!!!! What a wonderful sight and experience to see a lovely couple about to take their vows, in the presence of all their family and friends. The romantic in me is constantly reminded why I LOVE Being a Wedding Toastmaster.

Time for me to head for the venue, a nice hotel about 6 miles away

On arrival, my first task is to contact the front of house manager and compare notes/timings etc for the wedding breakfast / speeches etc.....good everything matches, which means we will be working as a team, from the same instructions of the Bride and Groom. (Just occasionally there may be a slight hic cup, and if so, we usually manage to rectify before the guests and happy couple arrive.)

My next task is to check my microphones are in situ, and carry out a sound check for the announcements and speeches. Then inspect the room where the wedding breakfast will take place, check that the names of the top table guests are as per my notes and in the order that they will be announced,, and that the cake knife is safely placed ready for the cake cutting.

I also must, check out the best area to place the receiving line, check the table plan is in situ, and is



conveniently located for the guests to peruse on arrival, any Welcome' notices are easily seen, and of course liaise with the Photographer and Videographer.

Ok, almost done, just need to locate the fire exits / toilets/and bar in order to direct the guest who request the information.

Everything is just right.....now it's time to don my RED COAT on again and get all set and ready to receive the first arrivals.

2.45 And the firsts guests arrive, 'oh what a lovely service' says one lovely old lady, (the Grooms Nan) and Helen looked absolutely radiant, they both look so happy. (Time to start getting the guest book signed)

3.45 All the guests have now arrived, all 120 of them and the atmosphere is electric, everybody laughing, shaking hands, hugging and kissing.

4. 00 pm the first car arrives with the bridesmaids and flower girls, the bride and groom will be here in 5 mins, time to make my first official announcement.

'Ladies and gentlemen, our bride and groom are about to arrive. Would you please make your way to outside the reception area where we can greet them with a round of applause and a cascade of confetti?'

4.05 Helen and Chris arrive, looking fabulous, so thrilled with their day so far, the car glides to a halt, the chauffeur opens the doors and I move forward to assist Helen out of the car, behind me the front of house manager has a tray with 2 glasses of champers on it, I bet they are really looking forward to their first refreshing drink. The photographer is clicking away, and the guests are cheering loudly, the happy couple are smiling and waving to friends.

4.45pm Time to invite our Bride and Bridegroom Helen & Chris to view their wedding reception room before the guests take their seats, the photographer wants some nice pictures for the album as well.

5.00pm Wedding breakfast is set for 5.30pm and Chef will be ready to serve some very fine food, which will be at its best by 5.30. Better not disappoint him; he's so keen for all the guests to enjoy his creations.

5.05. I've coaxed the receiving line into position, both sets of parents, bride, groom, best man, chief bridesmaid, all set to receive their guests.

The ushers are now assisting to move the guests gently to the line.

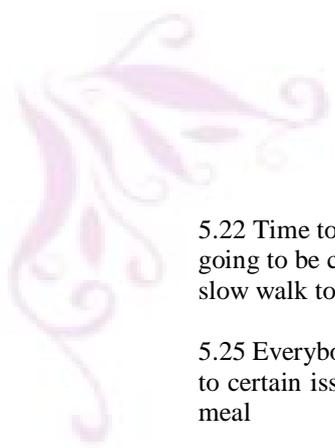
5.07 My second announcement, I gavel 3 times.....loudly..... (Only so everybody will hear) Ladies and Gentlemen,, on behalf of the Bride and Groom and their parents, I welcome you to the Gladstone Hotel for the wedding reception of Helen and Chris, please make you way to the Admirals suite where you will be greeted by your hosts before the wedding breakfast is served'.

Good they are moving in nicely, sometimes as a wedding Toastmaster I will (if the hosts request it,) formally announce each guest to the receiving line)

The top table have been asked to wait to be formally announced after the receiving line is completed; the ushers have been requested to stay behind to assist in opening the entrance doors as the top table enter, then for the Bride and Bridegroom.

5.20. All the guests are now seated, the room is alive with laughter and good humour, and these guests are loving every minute.

5.20 Helen and Chris need a short break, so I seat them with a nice glass of Champers and give them 10 mins to rest, (they look so happy,) and this will be the first time that they will have been alone since they said 'I do'



5.22 Time to introduce the top table, (previously I've chatted to them about which order the names are going to be called), and they enter the room exactly as advised,.....when they hear their own name, nice slow walk to their seats, amidst cheers and hand clapping.

5.25 Everybody is seated, ready to receive the Bride and groom, I have a chat to the guests with regards to certain issues, and one or two little things that will help the Bride and groom relax and enjoy their meal

5.29. I have great pleasure announcing my favourite announcement, that of receiving the new Mr and Mrs.....to a great round of applause.

Great Helen and Chris are both seated, I will now say grace if requested, then .A quick 'thumbs up to the catering staff, and the starter is served.

5.30. My role now is just to be on hand for Helen and Chris in case they need anything, and to check the guest book is signed.

After the wedding breakfast is over, the Guest's drinks are topped up in readiness for the toasts.

I discretely move over to our first speaker, Helens dad, just to give him a bit of notice, that he's on first, and to give some encouragement to, thankfully, a few glasses of wine have helped as well, next to Chris, to do the same, then onto Mark.

6.45. We're all ready, and I introduce Helens dad, and we're off,..... great speech, straight from the heart, now after a round of applause, it's Chris's turn.....again...wow.....his confidence has grown and after a few moments he relaxes and the speech flows nicely, now onto Mark, no confidence problems here, this guy has worked hard, and he delivers a great speech which the bride and groom and their guests love.

7.00pm. Now it's my turn with 'The Toastmasters Toast' this one I love and I try to make each one personal to the lovely newly wed couple before me.

7.05. The formal cake cutting, time to invite Helen and Chris to cut their wedding cake, and gather their guests around to take pictures, I position the knife correctly with the bride and groom, and then step back away from the camera's

7.30. The newlywed's first dance, this is lovely and Bride and Groom have gone for the traditional way. (There are several ways this can be done) I formally announce them on the floor, and they step forward to the sounds of their favourite piece of special music.

ME ?????????? I step outside.....my duties completed.....for a well earned cup of tea.

8.00pm. Time for The Toastmaster to take his leave, discretely I say bye to the occupants of the top table (by now scattered around the room, then to my Bride and Groom, mine no longer because my duties have all been completed, the day has gone to plan and has been a wonderful experience for everybody, I thank them for giving me the opportunity of looking after them for what is the most special days in their life, a shake of the hand, a hug from Helen, then off home.

8.15pm,. Driving home I muse on the day's events, could I have done something's better??? One never knows, but, at least I know I did my very best for my Bride and Groom, to help all their plans come together smoothly, and with lots of nice people.

A long and rewarding day, what a great compliment Helen & Chris have given me, entrusting me as their Toastmaster.

Again I remember why I love Weddings so much.....