



The groom
Steve Brookes, 30
Police Officer

The bride
Nadine Maggs, 29
Sales and Marketing
Manager

Date of wedding: 31st March 2007
Location of wedding & reception:
Richmond Hill Hotel, Richmond

EARLY DAYS

It was most definitely a case of sun, sea and summer love for Nadine and Steve, when they met on the first day of separate holidays in Spain and spent nearly the whole week together. They've recently celebrated with a beautiful wedding after being together for six happy years!

Nadine recalls the moment when she knew she had fallen in love; "Steve was in the British Army at the time we met, and was posted to Macedonia once we returned home from Spain. This proved a real test of strength of my feelings, as we didn't get to see each other for several months and communicated primarily by letter along with the odd eagerly awaited phone call. I found myself anxiously watching the news every day and feeling immensely proud of him; and I had only known him for a week or so. It was then that I realised I had fallen for him." Steve knew immediately that Nadine was someone special: "She was beautiful, funny, bright and I fell for her instantly."

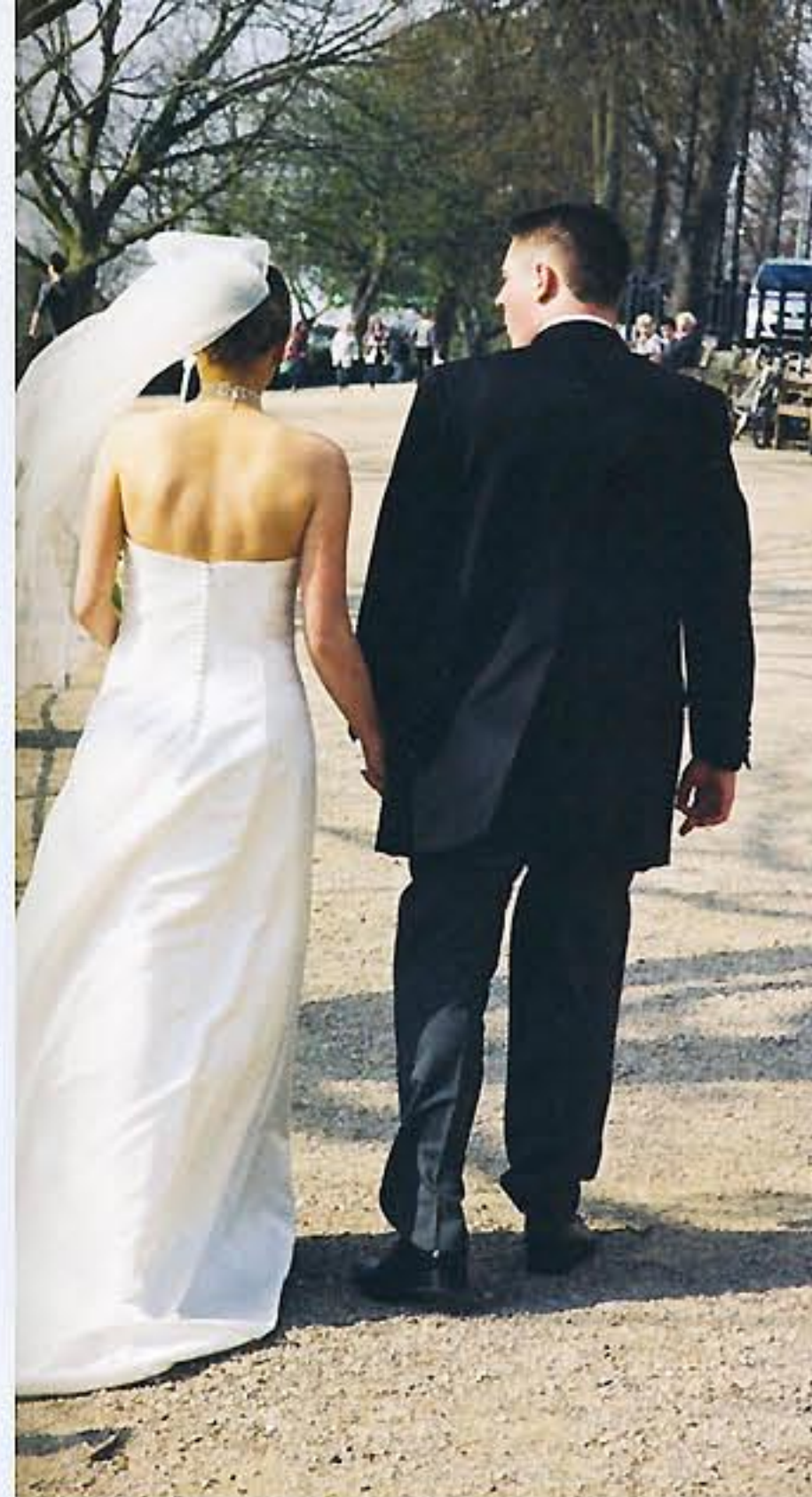
evening at the theatre in a box at Nadine's favourite musical, *Mary Poppins*.

HEN AND STAG PARTIES

Maid of honour Emma arranged everything and kept all the details secret from the bride-to-be. Nadine, along with 10 friends, had a surprise trip to Barcelona for two nights. On the last night they all dressed up as Police Officers in homage to Steve although Nadine recalls, "This however did not stop me from getting my bag snatched at the end of the night. The PVC uniform was obviously not enough of a deterrent! Although, it didn't spoil a fabulous weekend!"

Steve headed to Latvia for a weekend with a few close friends and family. Nadine was openly concerned about them going to Latvia as she had heard the country was not tolerant of Stag Parties and there had been many scams!

Thankfully, Nadine says, "As it was, they were all perfectly fine and it was me that got mugged in Barcelona; they regularly like to remind me of that!"



lucky with their attire, Nadine asked them all what they would like to wear in terms of dress/separates, length of skirt, straps etc, then designed their dresses based on the majority's wishes. Nadine then purchased the fabric and had them made to measure by Jennie Bayliss. The dresses were tea-length, strapless gowns in pale sage green duchess satin, with a darker green chiffon sash around the waist.

Steve chose two best men: his brother Kevin Brookes and best friend Edd Williams, with an extra helping hand from his brother-in-law Rob Evans and friend Phil Jones. All male attendants wore morning wear from Moss Bros and their accessories were made by Jennie Bayliss to match the bridesmaids' dresses.

THE DRESS

The bride's dress was a full-length, duchess satin gown called 'Paige' by Augusta Jones. Nadine had covered buttons sewn to the back to add some detail to an otherwise beautifully simple dress. The ensemble was completed with a three-quarter length veil and striking crystal and pearl choker made by Andrew Prince. For her something old, borrowed and blue, Nadine wore her mother's garter which had been worn when she had got married 30 years ago, everything else was new!

THE FOOD

The happy couple enjoyed a delicious three-course sit-down meal for 65 guests and a savoury buffet in the evening. The dessert was a white chocolate cup filled with dark chocolate and Tia Maria mousse, decorated with fruit compote. Nadine and Steve provided a vegetarian option for guests of ricotta cheese and spinach filo wraps with a tomato and basil sauce.

THEMES AND DECORATIVE TOUCHES

Spring was the inspiration, with the colour green featuring throughout the décor. It was an all-adult wedding, with lottery scratch card favours and a quiz with Champagne prizes. The Rat Pack reception and dinner music, along with an Elvis impersonator, giving the whole evening a grown-up feel! Nadine remembers, "I purposely avoided any distinct theme as I wanted it to be classic and timeless (whilst still fun!)"

The guest tables had four ivory slow-burning dinner candles, floral centre pieces and some scattered rose petals. A circular display of lilies, roses, parrot tulips, lisianthus and hooped grass adorned the tables and matched the bouquets. "As a surprise", Nadine recalls, "my florist added a Parrot Tulip to each guest side plate, as I had mentioned at one of our meetings that I thought it was a lovely idea. I was really touched, as we had ruled it out due to budget constraints. It looked fantastic!"

THE MUSIC

Nadine and Steve carefully chose every song for their ceremony. The waiting music for the guests was Harry Nilson 'It Had to be You', Dusty Springfield's 'The Look of Love', Bobby Darin, 'Fly Me to the Moon' and Josh Groban 'You Raise Me Up'. For Nadine's, Roberta Flack 'First Time Ever I Saw Your Face' set the scene. For the signing of the register Des'ree's 'Kissing You' and Snow Patrol- 'Chasing Cars' was the ideal choice followed by Stevie Wonder's 'For Once in My Life' for their exit. The first dance was to Moondance by Van Morrison, then Nadine and her father shared a dance to Stevie Wonder's 'You Are The Sunshine Of My Life.'

OVERALL

The ceremony was the most special part of the day for both Steve and Nadine, "that was the reason for the whole day and being married in front of our closest friends and family was truly special." Nadine's tip for future wedding couples is to, "Make the most of everything, from the organising to the preparations to the day itself, as you will never get to do it again."

THE HONEYMOON

After their big day Steve and Nadine spent 11 nights in Las Vegas, Los Angeles and San Francisco! When asked if they would they recommend it the response was, "Definitely! A three-part holiday is great fun and you look forward to each part. Driving to each place was also a great way to see the country. We loved Vegas in particular. We stayed at the Bellagio and ventured on a helicopter trip (Sundance Tours) to the Grand Canyon, which was amazing. Alcatraz in San Francisco was another highlight. My favourite moment was dining at the Picasso restaurant at the Bellagio on a beautiful night with a perfect view of the fountains of Bellagio."

NADINE'S AND STEVE'S TOP 5 TIPS!

As quite a number of guests were travelling a fair distance, we decided to make a weekend of our wedding. Both Steve and I stayed at the hotel the night before (separate rooms!) along with many of our guests and we all had dinner together, which was a great start to the celebrations.

We made photo boards of each of us with photos from birth to present day for our guests to look at whilst we were having our photos taken. Our guests really liked having something to amuse them whilst enjoying the Champagne reception.

To encourage everyone on the tables to get talking to each other we prepared a quiz of questions about love/marriage trivia and us. The winning team won a small bottle of Champagne per guest. Instead of putting disposable cameras on tables, we had Polaroid photos taken of every guest and stuck them in our guest book for them to write their message beside.

Both Steve and my Dad were nervous about their speeches, so they did theirs before the breakfast and the best men spoke after the breakfast. This was a good tip as it meant that Steve and my Dad could enjoy their food.

As the majority of Steve's extended family lives in North Wales, we held a second reception for them once we returned from honeymoon. This helped to overcome post-wedding/honeymoon blues and I got to wear my dress again!



From Holiday to Honeymoon

Nadine and Steve's whirl-wind holiday romance turned into six happy years together and now after celebrating their wedding in March it look set to last a lifetime . . .



THE PROPOSAL

After worrying and getting nervous over when and where to pop the question Steve caught Nadine completely unaware one morning while she was coming out of the bathroom! Nadine remembers, "I wondered what he was doing down in the hall on one knee until I saw my dream ring in his hand. I hinted about the kind of ring that I would love and even cheekily drew it at one stage as a tongue-in-cheek joke! Unbeknown to me, Steve took this drawing to a jeweller who made the ring for me and I just love it. I've worn it now for over 18 months and I still admire it every day. Three emerald-cut diamonds are set in 18-carat white gold on an 18 carat yellow gold band."

Nadine and Steve celebrated their engagement with a Champagne dinner in the West End, followed by a magical

THE VENUE

The internet is a great way of researching and viewing potential venues. After searching online, the couple chose the Richmond Hill Hotel as it met with all of their criteria; "We wanted to hold the ceremony and the reception at the same venue. This was particularly important for the reception, as we wanted it to flow seamlessly from the wedding breakfast into the evening, which meant no disruption to alter the room layout." The couple was also impressed by the striking and beautiful ceremony room at the Richmond Hill Hotel.

ATTENDANTS

Nadine had a maid of honour, best friend Emma Cesary, and three bridesmaids Andrea Millar, Karen Evans and Tracy Jones. As bridesmaids they were extremely



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