

# WEDDING ETIQUETTE

We are showing below a few suggestions for your reception, including top table seating plan, speeches and traditional wedding courtesies.

- 1) Pre-meal drinks are generally taken while the Bride and Groom pose for the family and wedding cake photographs
- 2) It is customary to receive the guests at the reception. The receiving line usually consists of:

**Bride's Mother, Bride's Father, Groom's Mother, Groom's Father, Bride & Groom, Chief Bridesmaid, Best Man**

- 3) The guests will then be directed to their seats, followed by the Bride and Groom
- 4) Seating plan for the top table can be as below, from left to right facing the guests

CHIEF BRIDESMAID	GROOM'S FATHER	BRIDE'S MOTHER	GROOM	BRIDE	BRIDE'S FATHER	GROOM'S MOTHER	BEST MAN
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- 5) Grace may be said by the Bride's Father before the meal commences
- 6) Toasts and speeches would normally take place at the end of the meal. The following is the usual order of proceedings:
  - i) The Bride and Groom cut the cake
  - ii) Coffee, Cake and sparkling wine are served
  - iii) Toast the Bride and Groom by the Bride's Father
  - iv) The Groom replies and proposes a toast to the Bridesmaids
  - v) The Best Man replies on behalf of the Bridesmaids and reads out the cards.

## TRADITIONS

The wedding bouquet was usually made up of strong smelling herbs to ward off evil spirits and to surround the Bride and Groom with natural beauty. Flowers have their own meanings but most bouquets contained orange blossom, which symbolises fertility.

The dress was always white because the ancient Romans believed that it would ward off the evil spirits and the veil was designed to protect the Bride from the evil spirits seeing her beauty.

Years ago it was customary for the Bride and Groom to drink a glass of honey wine one month after the wedding. A month was always known as a moon - hence the term Honeymoon.