Ladies and gentleman, I hope you are all enjoying what has been a brilliant wedding celebration. I know this day means so much to everyone involved and I know Scott and Clare are delighted that you are all here to share their special day.

This is actually the first time I have made a speech and its true what they say that it is nerve racking. I only feel slightly better knowing that I am not the only person in the room who is apprehensive, but then again she has just married my brother.....

Some say it goes against tradition to have a sister as a Best Man*,* but I believe that nobody else could possibly stand where I am right now and feel more proud and honoured to be able to represent Scott on this, the most important day of his life. Having accepted the role, I think I have done more than a passable job; I got Scott to the venue on time; sober and most importantly didn't exchange the rings at cash for gold and do a runner.

Firstly, I'd like to thank Scott on behalf of the brides maids for his kind words. Can I also say what a great job they have done today and how wonderful they look. Only rightly outshone by our bride, Clare, who looks truly radiant.

Also on behalf of the bridesmaids and myself, I'd like to thank Scott and Clare for asking us to be involved in the most important day of their lives. I know they've both put a tremendous amount of effort in to the planning of this wedding and I can only hope that, apart from this speech, everything else will have exceeded their expectations.

I'd also like to take a minute to thank the Harpenden House Hotel*,* without whom this wedding would never have been possible.

So, having duly accepted the role of best man , I spent a long time wondering how best to describe Scott with the respect due to a man on his wedding day; how to strike the right tone of sincerity, praise and warmth. You see Scott is a man who truly defies description. I could speak for an hour about him (don't worry I'm not going too) and when I'd finished we'd be no closer to grasping the essential essence of my younger brother.

So to aid you all I've prepared a series of pictures in numbered envelopes on the tables....Don't open them yet....

Now in my capacity as “best man” I was horrified to learn that I was expected to help the groom dress. I decided to skip this job. Scott is 24 years old, after all and based on what we can see today, he's just about learnt to do it for himself now. I'm just amazed he's chosen an appropriate outfit to wear. As you can see in envelope 1, this was not always the case....red high heels for gardening in anyone?

As you are all well aware by now, a best man speech involves a collection of amusing stories; although there is one thing that should not be mentioned at weddings, but I'm going to mention it anyway: Scott's past love....and as you can see in envelope 2 they were inseparable from an early age..Eventually Mum managed to sever this bond by disposing of the ice cream tub. He mourned its demise for weeks, but thankfully he's managed to pull himself together for today.

Anyone who knows Scott will know that his devotion to Claire is seconded only for his passion for motorcycles. This has started from an early age when health & safety was in its infancy and dads boots, gloves and bob the builder helmet would have sufficed.

**ADVICE/ENDING & TOAST:**

Before I finish I have been instructed to give Scott some advice on what people thought were the ingredients to a long and happy marriage:

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

Secondly, Never go to bed mad. Stay up and fight.

Thirdly, Scott, when you have a discussion with Claire, always remember to get the last two words in: “Yes dear”.

And lastly, no husband has ever been shot whilst doing the dishes.

Moving forward into married life A thought we should all perhaps bear in mind is that marriage is not about finding someone you can live with; it’s about finding someone you can’t live without.

SO LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE BE UPSTANDING

RAISE YOUR GLASSES

TO LOVE

TO LAUGHTER

TO A HAPPY EVER AFTER

I GIVE YOU THE NEW MR & MRS KERRISON:

SCOTT & CLAIRE.