



Team spirit: The wedding offered Keri-anne and David's friends from Team GB a chance to let off steam following months of hard work before London 2012. Those at the ceremony included (above, from left): Fran Leighton, Victoria Pendleton, Sophie Allen, Rebecca Adlington, the bride and groom, Ross Davenport, Robbie Renwick, David Davies, James Goddard and Michael Rock. Rebecca (right, with the couple and gold medal-winning cyclist Victoria) was one of the bridesmaids, who all wore blue. The wedding's water theme was even reflected in the couple's thank-you gifts, with bridesmaids receiving pearl necklaces and best man and ushers getting pearl tie pins

## EVERYTHING GOES SWIMMINGLY FOR OLYMPIC TEAMMATES KERI-ANNE PAYNE AND DAVID CARRY AS THEY MARRY IN AN EMOTIONALLY CHARGED CEREMONY IN SCOTLAND WITH TEAM GB STARS IN SUPPORT



Olympians Keri-anne Payne and David Carry oversaw every last detail of their stunning Scottish wedding, which took place in glorious sunshine in the groom's home town of Aberdeen.

David says that the Team GB swimmers planned for their special day "in the same way that we'd approach a major competition" and, adds the bride, it was a "great distraction" while training for London 2012 – but neither was prepared for the overwhelming emotions of the day.

David remained cool and calm in front of a cheering crowd at the Aquatics Centre while placing seventh in his 400m freestyle final, but confesses: "When Keri-anne walked down the aisle, I could barely see her through my tears. Seeing her look so happy and beautiful was very, very special. A picture of that moment is in my mind, I hope it always will be."

Keri-anne, 25, a silver medallist in the open-water swimming at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, made a beautiful bride in a floaty Peter Langner gown with sweetheart neckline. Open-water racing is a notoriously bruising event and she sported a black eye after the rough and tumble of the race, but thankfully the swelling had subsided before the wedding.

As she tells **HELLO!**, her day was "perfect": "It was absolutely better than anything I've ever done in the sporting world."

The groom wasn't the only athlete in

tears. Rebecca Adlington, one of the bridesmaids and Keri-anne's best friend, began crying as soon as she arrived at the church. Gold medal-winning cyclist Victoria Pendleton also became emotional when she saw David's reaction.

"My bridesmaids all started crying and I was like, 'Don't do this now, I don't want to cry when I'm walking down the aisle,'" laughs Keri-anne.

### POOL OF TALENT

The service had added significance for the couple as it was held in Craigeibuckler Church, Aberdeen, where generations of the Carry family have married. "The wedding really was a personal reflection of the two of us," says David.

There were more London 2012 swimmers in the church, including Ross Davenport (one of David's ushers), Robbie Renwick, James Goddard, Sophie Allen, Michael Rock and David Davies.

There were references to the couple's Olympic achievements throughout the day and while the congregation was waiting for the bride to arrive, the organist played the *Chariots of Fire* theme music, to peals of laughter. When the service began, the Rev. Kenneth Petrie also alluded to the couple's careers. "I don't need to tell you about commitment," he told the couple.

"You know about that through swimming mile after mile. Swimming ▶

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*David*

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## 'It's been quite light-hearted at times, which is their kind of style' Victoria Pendleton

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The happy pair at the altar before the Rev. Kenneth Petrie (above). David says: "It was incredible to see Keri-anne looking so beautiful. I could barely see her through the tears." The proud bride – a silver medallist at the Beijing Olympics and narrowly out of the medals in London 2012 – shows off her wedding ring to bridesmaid Rebecca and mother of the bride Pat (below)



has taken you all over the world, to the top of your profession; now you need to apply that commitment to married life."

The couple exchanged wedding bands from Jamieson & Carry in Aberdeen, a jewellery store that has been in the Carry family since 1908.

There was another personal touch when bridesmaid Lucy Abbott, a friend of Keri-anne's since school, sang *A Happy Day*, which she had written especially for the couple.

Victoria described the wedding as "lovely". "It's been quite light-hearted at times, which is their kind of style," she told **HELLO!**

The *Strictly Come Dancing* star got to know Keri-anne and David when her fiancé Scott Gardner worked as a sports performance scientist for British Swimming.

"They are a wonderful couple, so perfect together," said Victoria, whose own nuptials will take place next year. "We went out with them last week and chatted about wedding-y things."

After the ceremony, their guests boarded buses taking them to the reception in a marquee in the grounds of David's parents' home. David's father Peter is a former British champion skier, while his mother Jean was a county table-tennis champion.

The newlyweds walked in to the reception accompanied by a pipe band from Robert Gordon's College, where David was once a pupil.

Guests sat at tables named after key locations in the couple's lives, including London, Beijing and Pretoria – a nod to the bride's roots. Born in South Africa to British parents, her family returned to Manchester when she was 13.

In his speech, the bride's father Jim mentioned his daughter's first coaches, who were guests, as well as Olympians Steve Parry, Adrian Turner and Graeme Smith, who had been "big brothers" to her.

"This whole wedding is a big thank you to everybody who has helped us on our journey," David, 30, tells **HELLO!**. "Not only in swimming, but throughout our lives."

### IN THE SAME LANE

The couple have been together for seven years and got engaged after David proposed at their Manchester home two years ago. They say that both being swimmers has been crucial to their relationship. David is a double Commonwealth champion and has a silver European Championships medal, while world champion Keri-anne was the first British athlete to qualify for London 2012. "We both understand the sacrifices that need to be made," she says.

Both say they are never comfortable watching each other race. "Now I know how my parents feel," admits Keri-anne. "When I watch David, I always lose my voice, I go absolutely bonkers. I was incredibly proud of him reaching the Olympic final."

During her event, the 10km swim, David was watching at the Serpentine lake in London's Hyde Park with Prime Minister David Cameron beside him.

"I get so much more nervous about her races than I do my own," he says. "I might be swimming in front of thousands of people, but I am always in control of what I'm doing."

"When Keri-anne swims, the butterflies start. Seeing the thousands of people who came to see her was unbelievable. To make matters worse, I was sitting next to the Prime Minister pretty much the whole way through."

"But it helped calm me down, as I had somebody to speak to," he laughs. ▶



A kilted David leads his new bride into the reception, accompanied by a pipe band from his old school (above), before cutting the cake together (right). Cyclist Victoria and her sports scientist fiancé Scott Gardner (together, below) are planning their own wedding for next year





Keri-anne finished fourth, just four seconds behind the winner.

Afterwards, David broke through the line of officials to hug his fiancée. "It was [TV presenter] Clare Balding who helped me through," he recalls. "She said, 'You must go and see her.'"

How does she feel about her result now? "I'm still disappointed," she says. "I've not had time to sit and reflect; that will come after the wedding. But I'm pleased with my performance, there wasn't any more I could have done."

#### LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED

After the rigours of training, the couple knew the wedding would be a welcome chance for their Team GB friends to let their hair down.

They chose a ceilidh for the evening

## 'It was just such a happy, happy day' David

celebrations and their first dance was to the *Grand March*, which meant that the rest of the wedding party could join in.

"We're so grateful to our parents and family, so having them in our first dance was really important," says David. "Plus, it's fair to say I'm not the most blessed of dancers." They were soon joined on the dancefloor by their teammates.

"They have a huge amount of energy," says David with a smile. "We work so hard that when we

come together and celebrate, we really make the most of it.

"We're in the pool every day and have to watch our diets, but this is an occasion when it doesn't matter if we are feeling a bit rough the next morning."

Rebecca, who took two bronze medals at London 2012, was among those on the dancefloor. "We first met on training camps, and while we don't see each other all the time, we know that we can depend on each other," says Keri-anne of her close friend.

"I'm so happy for them," Rebecca told HELLO!. "I just loved today."

The celebrations included a firework display, as well as an after-party, organised by David in a barn beside his parents' home. "We wanted people to enjoy themselves for as long, and as much, as possible," says the elated groom.

The partying continued until the small hours and was followed by brunch at the house the following day.

David also took charge of arranging a mini-moon, a surprise for his new wife. Stopping first at the Falls of Feugh to watch salmon leaping, they headed past Balmoral and through the Highlands to Inverloch Castle, on the west coast.

#### TIME TO REFLECT

On their return, both will consider their careers. "I'll be getting back in the pool but I'm not sure what the future holds," says Keri-anne. "It's an exciting time. Other doors are being opened and I'm deciding which one to walk through."

David is also undecided, especially about another Olympics – but the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow is tempting. "I'm swimming better than ever and currently ranked No. 1 in the Commonwealth," he says.

Keri-anne would also consider Glasgow. "Even if just for the crowd. In my race, I could have said, 'I've had enough of being punched,' but I heard the crowd and thought, 'I'm giving it all I've got.'"

Before that, though, the couple have a few days to focus on being Mr and Mrs Carry and reflect on their special day.

"It went so smoothly," says Keri-anne. Adds David: "It was just such a happy, happy day." **H**



An Olympic torch arch of honour for the bride and groom before everyone gets on their feet for the lively ceilidh (above)