



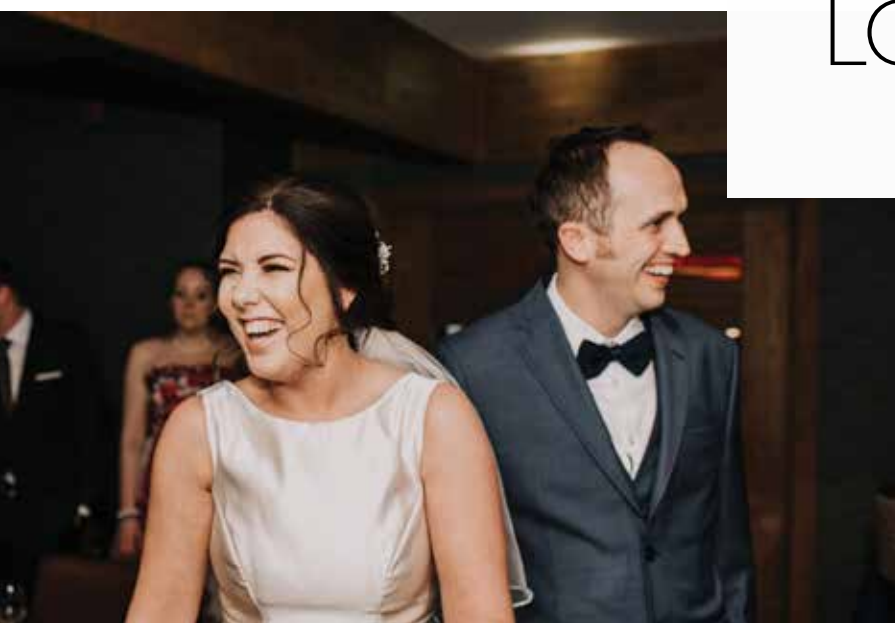
We married at
 LODGE ON
 LOCH LOMOND
 Luss

Kirstie Ferris
 and Connel Treble,
 7th April 2019

Words by Zoë Boothby
 Photography by
 Half Light Photography



“WE LOVED THE VIEW AND THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE PLACE - THE GLASS DOORS AND WINDOWS GAVE IT THE BRIGHT, OUTDOORSY FEEL WE WANTED”



Having decided upon their April date, the couple's thoughts soon turned to the day itself, specifically how they would structure the celebration without the framework a service provides. Thanks to the commitment of the staff, this turned out not to be an issue. "We weren't sure how the day would run with there being no ceremony, but wedding and events co-ordinator Samantha Smalley helped us to organise a schedule and wrote out the timings of the day, leaving us free to concentrate on the entertainment, the photobooth and so on," the bride explains.

Kirstie and Connel's reception started with canapés and drinks ("I don't drink and they had non-alcoholic prosecco without us even having to ask," she enthuses), before 58 guests sat down to afternoon tea, undoubtedly the most important part of their big day.

"We were allowed to put together our own bespoke menu and got to choose every single item," Kirstie says. "The bar manager was fantastic at coming up with great cocktails to go with everything we'd chosen."

It wasn't just the food that the venue took care of: Samantha also sourced all of the crockery for the event, to give the tables that quirky *Alice-in-Wonderland* vibe. The evening was rounded out with cake-cutting, a band, a buffet and a beachside fire.

Kirstie and Connel's big day only goes to show that a wedding sans ceremony needn't be lacking - if you don't believe us, take it from their nearest and dearest. "Everyone told us how much they loved the food and the cocktails in teapots," Kirstie smiles. "They were also huge fans of the firepit and marshmallows, served with whisky and hot chocolate. People are still talking about that now!"

www.loch-lomond.co.uk;
 Photography by halflightphotography.co.uk

Wedding planning can often feel a bit like falling down the rabbit hole. Luckily for newlyweds Kirstie and Connel, that was exactly what they were after. Following a ceremony abroad on the beach in Thailand's Koh Samui, when it came to their home reception they decided to swap the traditional three courses for something a little, well, crazier.

"Our theme was a Mad Hatter's tea party, so we were primarily looking for a venue that would serve afternoon tea," the bride reveals. "We also wanted to capture the ambience of a garden party, so we were seeking somewhere that would give our guests the impression of being outside."

With their criteria set, the couple soon found their ideal venue in the form of the Lodge on Loch Lomond, a characterful hotel on the waterfront at Luss. They were sold. "We loved the view and the way the glass doors and windows gave it the bright, outdoorsy feel we wanted," Kirstie recalls. "Plus, they said we could design our afternoon tea any way we fancied, which was a big yes for us!"

Though the Lodge on Loch Lomond provides one standard package, it also offers couples the opportunity to change things or to add on extras as they wish: Kirstie and Connel opted for one drink on arrival, two cocktails with the food, a cake stand and a master of ceremonies.

