Best man vs groomsmen vs ushers: who does what

The best man leads the groom's side: the stag do, the rings, the speech and coordinating everyone else. Groomsmen support the groom and help with the stag do and the day. Ushers look after guests at the ceremony: greeting, orders of service, seating and parking. In the US, groomsmen usually do the ushering too.

Checklist

- [ ] The three roles at a glance
- [ ] What the best man does
- [ ] What groomsmen do
- [ ] What ushers do
- [ ] UK and US differences
- [ ] How to split the jobs
- [ ] Common mix-ups to avoid
- [ ] Keep everyone on the same page
- [ ] Two people think they have the rings. Agree one person and say it out loud.
- [ ] Nobody is on the door. If the ushers are also groomsmen in the photos, they can't be greeting guests at the same time. Plan the overlap.
- [ ] The stag do is left to "the group". Groups don't book things. One person needs to own it, usually the best man.
- [ ] Ushers aren't briefed. A two-minute chat about the seating plan saves a lot of awkward shuffling.

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