

Caitlin & Chase, Grubbins Point, Windermere – June 2015

Pre-wedding

- How did you find Annabel? We googled wedding planners in the Lakes and Annabel came up – so we gave her a call, and upon speaking to her we arranged a meeting. The first time we met Annabel we instantly hit it off, and both left the meeting (although didn't feel like a meeting really – more like catching up with an old friend about our wedding plans) feeling at ease and in really safe hands!

- Why did you decide to hire Annabel? - See above!

- What were your main concerns about the planning?

We weren't initially too concerned about the planning – I tend to enjoy pulling big ideas together, and had initially thought we could do it all ourselves. We were more concerned about pulling it all together on the day. But as a naïve couple who'd never planned a wedding before, we decided on a tent wedding, which had a lot more elements to consider than we'd initially anticipated! So Annabel helped put our minds at rest when things got a bit overwhelming.

- How did Annabel help throughout the planning?

We had a few little hiccups to contend with during our planning, and when these cropped up Annabel was at the end of the phone / computer with suggestions and ideas as to how to overcome it. She also suggested suppliers to use, which was a huge help. When things got more complicated as we neared the wedding Annabel was great, and really helped ease any stress. She coordinated all of the suppliers, which to be honest can all be a little overwhelming (we used a fair few!) Annabel has a calming nature, so as soon as you speak to her, her chirpy and happy nature is contagious so you leave the conversation feeling like a weight's been lifted!

Wedding Day

- What were your main worries for the day?

We had a few worried suppliers telling us that if it rained heavily we couldn't use our venue, so that was a bit of a worry (especially when you've not only picked the Lake District to get married, but a field right at the edge of a lake which has since been described to you as a flood risk!) Also fitting everything into the space we had was a concern.

- Did you feel confident in handing over to Annabel?

If we're completely honest, initially no! That wasn't at all to do with not feeling Annabel was up to the job – more a case of wanting to be across everything that was going on and maintaining control (what a control freak!) However, as it got closer to the wedding, we ended up taking a step back (as much as we could) and letting Annabel take the reins, and we're so glad we did!! When Annabel tells you not to worry, trust her. She's the expert! She's seen it all, so is great at putting things in perspective and getting things done!

- Did you notice any problems on the day? If so, did Annabel help at all?

We had a bit of an issue in the morning in that our hair and makeup artists were in a car crash (both okay thank god) but only one could make it and was severely delayed. Annabel was hands-on-deck and managed to find us another stylist to step in last-minute! The originally booked makeup artist that made it over also said that when she spoke to Annabel on the phone following the crash Annabel had been unbelievably calming and really helped her. We didn't notice too many other problems, but I guess that's the sign of a job well done!

- What was the biggest influence Annabel made?

Pulling all the suppliers together and stepping in as we neared the wedding – there were various issues and complications towards the end, and various suppliers requiring the impossible. Annabel was fab at just saying no, and getting all the suppliers to work together to create an absolutely amazing day!

- Did you have to handle any issues on the day (suppliers / guests / timings)?

Our wedding car was very late to pick up the bridesmaids and bride (about 45 minutes) so that was a bit of a stress! It obviously meant the guests had to wait a while, so Annabel made sure the guests all had bottles of water while they waited (it was a hot and dry day – hurrah – so this was a godsend!) The only issue we really had to deal with was that our caterers hadn't put any bottled water or soft drinks (that we'd pre-arranged) on any of the tables, so we had to chase that a couple of times. But where Annabel could she made sure we were doing nothing but enjoying the day and spending quality time with our nearest and dearest!

- Would you recommend Annabel to others? Without a shadow of a doubt!

Wonderful photography from: Laura Babb Photography