

Ben Smith & Claire Moulson

WEDDING bells have been ringing for journalists Claire Moulson and Ben Smith.

Advertiser reporter Claire and the paper's former sports reporter, Ben, exchanged vows on Saturday, June 13, during a ceremony at Bolton Abbey in north Yorkshire.

Scotsman Ben, 30, who is now an online sports reporter for The Times, proposed to his long-term girlfriend in Blenheim Palace in April last year.

"He took me to a little place by the lake where we went on our second date," said Claire, 27, who met Ben

on a journalism course in London.

"He is the most wonderful man I have ever met."

The couple, of Alexandra Road, Windsor, who have been together for three-and-a-half years, held their wedding reception in a teepee in a field next to a river in the village of Burnsall, near Skipton, north Yorkshire.

Their reception was attended by about 130 guests.

"We had sky lanterns at the end of the night, which were magical," added Claire, who was raised in Bradford.

"I wanted our guests to see how beautiful Yorkshire

is, so we loved having an outdoors wedding in the middle of the dales with the most amazing views around us."

The bride wore an ivory dress designed by San Patrick and held white orchids while the groom wore a traditional kilt.

Ben's parents are Isabel and Iain Smith, from Canon Hill Way, Bray. Claire's parents are Pauline and Steven Moulson, from Bradford.

Tristan Guest was best man and chief bridesmaid was Sheryl Lawlor. The wedding party included five ushers and nine bridesmaids.



HAPPY COUPLE: Claire Moulson and Ben Smith.

Two make it through in battle of the bands

Neverify and The Vinyl win places in the final

By Kelly Rawlings
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CROWDS of music lovers packed out Heroes Bar last night for the first semi-final of the Maidenhead Live battle of the bands contest.

Organiser Rachel Pearce, who runs the bar in King Street, Maidenhead, said it was one of the busiest nights they have had so far as five bands went head-to-head in a bid to qualify for the final.

The judges vote was won by Neverify, a metal/rock band from Berkshire.

Bassist Joe Kusionowicz said: "We were all pleasantly surprised to get through to the final, especially when our genre doesn't particularly fit into the competition or venue."

"To have the judges vote us through when they confessed it isn't really their thing is extremely complimentary."

"Ultimately we never set out thinking we could win, we just wanted to bring something different to the table and most importantly entertain, which is what we aim to do"

again in the final."

The audience vote was a close contest, with just two points between the winners and runners up, but it was The Vinyl who came out on top.

It was a busy night for drummer Gavin Locke who plays with both The Vinyl and Neverify.

Stu from The Vinyl said he was thrilled by the audience response. "One of our slower songs It's A Feeling got a really good reaction which was great. We are just recording it as a demo at the moment."

The band which wins the finals will receive a recording session at Denmark studios, a photo shoot with Terry Payman and £200 cash.

Bands lining up for next week's semi-final will be:

- Chigurh
- High Child
- Irregularity
- The Vintones
- The Verdict



THE VINYL: Winners of the audience vote.



NEVERIFY: This band impressed the judges by breaking the mould with their brand of riff-based rock. Pictures: courtesy of Terry Payman Photography - www.terrypayman.com



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