

To Russia with love

Moscow's wedding of the year sees James tie the knot with Russian beauty

THE Russian wedding of the year took place recently, but the groom was from Comet country rather than Moscow.

Barry Bremner, of Ashwell Road, Bygrave, attended the wedding of his son James, 35, who was born in Hitchin and attended St Christopher School, Letchworth GC.

James married Lola Gusman, who is the daughter of Yuli Gusman, the host of a weekly television show, film director and producer.

The wedding was covered by the Russian edition of OK! Magazine and Moscow TV, and was attended by celebrities and diplomats.

Among the 450 guests at Safisa Hall in Moscow were around 50 people who flew out from North Herts, including some of James' friends from the Coopers Arms in Hitchin.

Retired journalist and public relations consultant Barry said: "I made a joke in my speech that the traffic problem in Moscow was solved that night as everyone was at the wedding!"

He said: "We didn't really know what to expect, although we knew this

man was wealthy as he's famous in Russia.

"If you can imagine what Posh and Becks' wedding was like - it was every bit as good!"

James, a vice president of marketing at an international software company, and Lola, a corporate lawyer, met in a young business persons' internet chat-



■ James and Lola on their thrones during their lavish celebration

room. James then moved to New York, where they both currently live, in an apartment overlooking Central Park.

The event kicked off with a pre-wedding dinner while the wedding featured performances by Russia's top singer and a member of Boney M, a friend of Lola's who sang Barry Manilow's Lola.

James' friend Rachel Farrow, from

Hitchin, also took part with a rendition of Ave Maria.

The wedding was stage-managed by Yuli's brother, Mikhail Gusman, who is director general of the equivalent of Reuters in Russia, Itar Tass, and conducted in English and Russian.

The event included cocktail parties, Russian and English flags, musicians lined up on the stairway, large monitor

screens behind the platform and thrones for the couple.

Barry said: "I said in my speech that I was glad James married Lola, but I was awfully glad that I was father of the groom and not the bride, because it was lavish to the extreme!"

The couple are currently on their honeymoon, but are passing through Comet country on their way back to New York.

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Thanks to Barry Bremner who sent this clipping.