

Thank you first to Iain in his role as the evening's host
And secondly to Philip for his entertaining toast.
Of course I have to say he's had the easiest job by far
As he's only had to tell us all how wonderful women are.

We all know women are beautiful, and sensitive, and smart,
Perceptive, gentle, organised, astute, and kind of heart.
But now it's my turn to reply, and that's a bit more tough
As I have to say nice things about men, like Phil and Iain Duff!

So instead I thought of a question I'll try to answer if I can:
Just what should a women look for when she's choosing her perfect man?
What should she be thinking as she tries to make her choice
Between a marvellous selection such as this of attractive boys?

An Englishman I fear would serve her beer instead of wine
And she'd better avoid the roast beef if he takes her out to dine.
And sadly if haggis, neeps and whisky's not her lot,
She'd better be very careful of what she gets up to with a Scot.

If she likes a bit of bratwurst then a German could be chosen
Though she must of course make sure his knees look good in lederhosen.
Perhaps instead she'll find she has a liking for the Swedes,
Or that a blond-haired god from Norway is exactly what she needs.

What about an Italian gent if she's looking for someone to marry?
It could be worse, especially if he comes with his own Ferrari.
And if it's Latin types she likes, she won't have any regrets
If she lets a handsome man from Spain help her rattle her castanets.

A Belgian can be good fun for some lager and a chat
But a boyfriend from the Netherlands can be a little flat.
Of course by far the best idea if she's looking for some romance
Is to find a charming, handsome, clever gentleman from France.

Well, whatever her final choice might be, I've noticed something funny:
The reason she chooses her perfect man is just one thing - his money!
So ladies, raise your glasses please as I propose a toast
To the gentlemen of CERFACS - who's the one who earns the most?