



1 August 2006

## **There's Gold In Them There Hills!** *Welsh ex-miners strike it rich by digging up £11.5 million Lotto win*

Two ex-miners from Crumlin are now celebrating becoming Wales' second biggest National Lottery winners, after unearthing the £11,544,846 Lotto Double Rollover jackpot in last Wednesday's draw (26 July 2006).

The lucky pair – who have been friends for 40 years – have tapped into the 'rich seam' of lottery luck in Wales this year, with spectacular results. Their big win comes just two weeks after McDonald's workers Emma Cox and Luke Pittard from Cardiff won a £1,369,847 share of the Wednesday Lotto jackpot on 12 July.

Other major Welsh winners in recent months have included Swansea ex-teacher, Mike Straddon, who enjoyed £1.3 million of Lotto success on 1 March; Llanelli great-granddad, Bob Bradley, who received a £3.5 million 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday Lotto jackpot bonus on 11 March; and Cwmbran factory worker, Gareth Cooper, who won £2.4 million on 19 April 2006. Wales' biggest ever jackpot win of £12.8 million on Lotto Extra was shared by lucky Llanelli couple, Ken Henry and Sandra Fosbrooke in May 2005.

The two friends, John Ackerman (63), who is married to Pearl (62), and has two children and two grandchildren – and John Stinchcombe (59), who has two children and four grandchildren, and lives with his partner, Julie (53), a teaching assistant – both worked at the Celynen pits in Crumlin before retiring. They have been playing Lotto together since launch, sharing three lines of numbers every weekend – though they do not usually play on Wednesdays.

John Ackerman explained: "We don't usually play on a Wednesday, but Pearl nagged me to get a ticket because she'd heard on the radio that it was a big Rollover – I'm glad she did now!"

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# News

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He continued: “After checking the numbers on Teletext on Thursday morning, I initially thought we’d won £50, so I went to Woolworths on Blackwood High Street – where I bought the ticket – to claim the money there. They told me that the prize was too big for them to distribute.

“It was only then that I realised we’d won the jackpot. I really just didn’t believe it. I rang John straight away and he didn’t believe me either!”

John Stinchcombe added: “I’ve led a very happy life without much money and have never really dreamed of winning the lottery. It’s just unbelievable we have won.”

Both Johns are still waiting for the news to sink in that they are millionaires and say they have no idea what to spend the money on yet. The two friends actually lived next to each other in the same street in Crumlin for years until John and Julie moved to another street nearby just 10 days before the big win. John and Pearl plan to stay in their same terraced house, despite their new-found fortune. Pearl has also said that she will not be giving up her job as a domestic assistant in a local nursing home

Pearl said: “This is the house we worked for years to pay for. I’m not going to leave it now. We’ve worked very hard to get it just how we want it and we’re very happy here. I also love my job, and have already been back since the win – everyone there is really pleased for us and all the residents have been giving me their congratulations”

The winning ticket, which was made up of a regular choice of randomly selected numbers, was bought at Woolworth’s, Blackwood High Street. The winning Lotto numbers on Wednesday 26 July were: 7, 17, 27, 30, 33 and 39.

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# News

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This Wednesday (2 August), there is an estimated £2.5 million Lotto jackpot available to win – while Friday's (4 August) EuroMillions Rollover jackpot is an estimated £16 million. Every Lotto play slip now comes with its own Dream Number – it is up to players to mark 'yes' to give their Dream Number its chance of winning up to £500,000, or choose a Lucky Dip.

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