

19th December 2006

Lotto Christmas Cheer For Runcorn Syndicate

It will be a Christmas to remember for a ten strong Runcorn syndicate after they scooped a £1,372,693 Lotto jackpot on Saturday (16th December 2006). Stephen Martin, (44) who fought in the Falklands War, originally set up the syndicate with colleagues from RAF St Morgan when The National Lottery® first began in November 1994. Over the years friends and family members have also joined the syndicate.

Transport Controller Stephen, who buys the syndicate's Saturday Lotto tickets online at national-lottery.co.uk, was watching the Lotto draw at home on Saturday evening. He said: "I'd almost forgotten to get our tickets and had only gone online to buy them at around 5.30pm that evening," Stephen explained; "The numbers were fresh in my mind and when I heard the winning line it sounded familiar. My wife was in the kitchen making dinner so I told her I thought we had won and was going upstairs to check out our numbers on the computer. As you can imagine, she just didn't believe me."

Thinking that this couldn't really be happening Stephen began to doubt whether he had written the numbers down correctly from the television and checked them on Teletext. He commented: "Even my wife had to believe me when I started ringing round our friends and family to tell them. We even opened a bottle of champagne!"

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As well as splashing out on friends and family over Christmas, Stephen is considering treating himself to a special present this year – a Yamaha Fazer 1000cc motorbike. He said: “We are all stunned but delighted with our win. To know we don’t have to worry about the cost of Christmas for the first time in our lives is an amazing feeling.”

The winning Lotto numbers on Saturday 16th December 2006 were: 5, 8, 11, 27, 30, 34 and 46. This Wednesday (20th December 2006) there is an estimated Lotto jackpot of £2.5 million available to win, while this Friday’s (22nd December) EuroMillions Jackpot is £35 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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Notes to Editors:

- Camelot Group plc is the licensed operator of The National Lottery® and is committed to raising money for the Good Causes designated by Parliament. Camelot is not responsible for distributing or awarding these funds
- To date, over £19 billion has been raised for Good Causes by The National Lottery, and more than 250,000 individual awards have been made across the UK – the biggest programme of civic and social regeneration since the 19th Century. The National Lottery has given away over £27.9 billion in prizes and created 2,000 millionaires or multi-millionaires since launch in 1994
- Camelot runs one of the most cost-efficient lotteries in the world, with around 5 per cent of total revenue taken in operating costs. At 40 per cent of total sales (28 per cent to Good Causes and 12 per cent in lottery duty to the Government), Camelot returns a higher proportion of lottery revenue back to society than any other lottery operator in the world. National Lottery retailers receive 5 per cent of total revenue in commission, and 50 per cent of sales is paid out to players in prizes

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- Camelot is committed to the highest standards in player protection and social responsibility in both the retail and interactive environments. The National Lottery website, Sky Active and Play By Text services have been accredited by GamCare, the UK's national centre for information, advice and practical help regarding the social impact of gambling – while Camelot's approach to game design, test purchasing and retailer vigilance campaigns ensures player protection at retail. Camelot has been ranked among the top 30 UK companies in Business in the Community's 2005 Corporate Responsibility Index, becoming a sector leader in the leisure category
- For further information on Camelot, The National Lottery and its games, please visit the following websites: www.camelotgroup.co.uk and www.national-lottery.co.uk
- Players of all National Lottery games must be aged 16 or over
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