



19 July 2006

Why Smoking Has Been Good For Belfast Winner's Wealth

Tom Ferguson's need for a cigarette has won him and his workmates almost a quarter of a million pounds on The National Lottery®.

The Belfast City Hospital transport manager normally buys his syndicate's tickets in the hospital shop but last week he took his business to a nearby shop when he went for cigarettes. The result has been a whopping cheque for £244,610 – after one of the 14 Lucky Dip® tickets matched five numbers plus the bonus ball in last Saturday's Lotto draw (15 July 2006).

As the 14-strong syndicate – most of them hospital drivers and two of them ambulance men – each celebrated being £17,500 richer, Tom said: "There's no doubt the cigarettes did it for us. We don't play regular numbers and always go for Lucky Dips so my trip to the shop at the back of the hospital did the trick".

"It's made a great deal of difference to all of us", said the 48 year-old father of two, whose elder daughter has started university, "a windfall like this makes all the difference."

The syndicate has been going for four years and has had a few modest wins. The drivers have struck it rich only after changing the number of people in the syndicate from 13 to 14.

Tom said: "We all thought that 13 wasn't a particularly lucky number so we got another of our mates to join in just a few weeks ago. It certainly changed our luck and there's no doubt we will continue with the syndicate. Maybe next time it will be the jackpot."

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News

from The National Lottery®



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Tonight (Wednesday 19 July), there is an estimated £2.5 million Lotto jackpot available to win – while 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 Dream Number Lucky Dip. There is also an estimated £17 million EuroMillions Rollover jackpot up for grabs this Friday (21 July).

-Ends-

**For further information, please contact
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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 £18.6 billion has been raised for Good Causes by The National Lottery, and more than 238,000 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 £26.9 billion in prizes and created more than 1,900 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
- 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
- The crossed fingers logo is the registered trademark of the National Lottery Commission.