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Beckham And Rooney Just The Ticket For Fans

England fans went into a football frenzy in more ways than one on Saturday – not only backing Beckham and the boys on the pitch for their opening World Cup fixture, but also taking inspiration from the shirts on their backs when it came to picking their lucky Lotto numbers.

New figures released by The National Lottery® show that the most popular number played in the Lotto draw on Saturday (10 June 2006), when England faced Paraguay, was 7 – David Beckham's England squad number. The startling similarities between the beautiful game and the UK's favourite millionaire-making game did not stop there, as the second most popular number chosen was Wayne Rooney's squad number 9 – while the next was Rio Ferdinand's 5, followed by Ashley Cole's 3 and Joe Cole's 11.

A National Lottery spokesperson said: "Our players' favourite numbers vary each week so it's clear that on Saturday everyone was football obsessed – thinking only of Beckham and Rooney. We saw a rush of play in the morning as people stocked up for BBQs or made their way out to watch the game, and these numbers prove they only had one thing on their minds.

"Before Wednesday's draw we expect to see the Rooney and Beckham frenzy on 7 and 9 continue, but it may be that players will start to support RoboCrouch or Owen – backing 21 and 10 – hoping for a goal feast against Trinidad and Tobago."

Ahead of Thursday's big match, it seems that when it comes to matching Lotto numbers, backing England could genuinely benefit your wallet. Across the last 90 days, the most frequently drawn Lotto balls were 6, 9 and 7 – the usual England and World Cup squad numbers of John Terry, Wayne Rooney and David Beckham

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News

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Notes to Editors:

- Camelot Group plc is the 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 £18.5 billion has been raised for Good Causes by The National Lottery, and more than 237,000 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 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
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