

Wednesday 22 March 2006

Fortune Teller Predicts Lotto Success For St Helens Syndicate

A syndicate of friends from St Helens is celebrating a Lotto windfall of £178,300, just days after a fortune teller told the syndicate leader that he was going to receive a large sum of money.

Syndicate members, Joe Griffiths, Renee Webster and Betty Griffiths all met at the Parr Labour Club and have been playing Lotto together since it began. It was syndicate leader Joe (70) who visited the fortune teller – a family friend – who told him he was in for a fall, and then for a windfall.

Joe explained: “I didn’t really believe in fortune telling, but she made three predictions. One that I would fall, and I fell down the stairs at Warrington rugby ground after watching a Saints rugby game there the other day. Then she said I was going to receive a substantial sum of money, and we won the Lotto. Finally she said I’d win an even bigger amount, so two out of three isn’t bad for now!”

The syndicate almost missed out on the money altogether, after Joe threw the ticket in the bin the day before the draw.

He continued: “I checked the numbers on Tuesday night, thinking it was Wednesday, and I screwed the ticket up and threw it away because I didn’t think we had matched any numbers. “My wife, Dorothy, said to me ‘Why have you done that? It’s only Tuesday’ – so I fished the ticket out of the bin and ironed it out again!”

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Joe, a retired machine operator with Pilkington, watched the draw on Wednesday night and knew straight away that they had won, but it wasn't until Thursday morning when he checked the prizes on Teletext that he realised how much they would receive.

"I froze when I saw the amount on the screen, and I went and woke Dot to tell her the good news. Then I rang Renee and Betty who were delighted. I was stunned for a few minutes, but I didn't get too excited until I got the cheque. I must have checked the ticket 10 times to make sure I was right!"

The friends are not planning a huge celebration with their winnings, but Joe has already got his eye on a new car:

He added: "I've needed to change my car for a while, so I'm going to trade it in for a newer version. Dot and I will also go on a few holidays to Benidorm or Majorca, but most of my share will go to my five children."

The winning numbers on Wednesday 15 March were 1, 14, 21, 30, 35, 48 and the bonus ball was 24. The winning ticket was bought from Ashtons Green Post Office in Parr.

Tonight (Wednesday 22 March) there is an estimated £2.7 million Lotto jackpot and an estimated £2.9 million Lotto Extra jackpot available to win – while Friday night's (24 March) EuroMillions Rollover jackpot is an estimated £44 million.

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