



24 December 2007

## **Festive Fortune For Sale Syndicate!**

*Chance conversation leads to discovery of Lotto win*

A chance conversation on the way to work led to a Greater Manchester fencing contractor and his friends discovering they had won a festive fortune on The National Lottery® more than two weeks after their winning numbers came up.

Syndicate organiser Stephen Skinkis from Sale, Trafford, was walking into his yard when someone near his workplace mentioned that a friend of his had won on the lottery.

This reminded Stephen (46), that he had not had chance to check the tickets from the draw on Wednesday 5 December 2007. He then decided to go back to his office at home to look up the numbers online and it was only then he realised the five man syndicate had scooped a £785,425 share of the Lotto jackpot.

Stephen will be going to Australia for a holiday in the New Year and if he had not checked the ticket when he did it, he said he might have been thrown away.

Stephen now plans to buy his mum Mavis and dad John a new car, plus treats for his wife Caroline (47), children Samantha (27), Stephen (24), James (21) and Katie (15) and his four grandchildren.

The syndicate are regulars at the Sale Hotel pub and have been playing the lottery together for three years.

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# News

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Stephen said: “I was on my way into work when I bumped into a lad who works nearby and he said his friend had won some money on the lottery so that reminded me I hadn’t checked my tickets.

“I’ve got an office at home so went back to check my ticket online and it was then I realised we had won, I was so shocked I nearly fell off my chair.

“I shouted to my wife and she thought I was winding her up. Then there was a knock at the door and it was a bloke who owed me £130 for some work I had done for him, so I called him in to check the computer and he said ‘yes I had won’ so I told him to keep the money and treat his kids at Christmas.

“The ticket had just been sitting in the office and I’m due to fly to Australia in the New Year with my brother-in-law Alan Gorman for his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and my son James, so if I hadn’t checked the ticket then it could have been thrown in the bin and we would never have realised we had won.

“I plan to buy my dad a new car and give some money to the children and grandchildren. It’s not enough to retire on, but it certainly has put a smile on my face this Christmas.”

Fellow syndicate member John Lovesay (44), from Northern Moor, said: “I couldn’t believe it when Stephen called me, I just thought he was winding me up, I wasn’t expecting Santa to bring me a £157,000 bonus this year!”

The syndicate’s winning numbers were a combination of birthdays and random selections. The winning ticket was bought at Moornook Post Office, North Parade, Sale. The winning Lotto numbers on Wednesday 5 December were 2, 8, 13, 18, 26 and 39.

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# News

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This Wednesday's (26 December) Lotto jackpot is an estimated £1.5 million while Friday's (28 December) estimated EuroMillions jackpot is £10 million. Every Lotto 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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**For further information, please contact  
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- Camelot runs one of the most cost-efficient lotteries in the world, with around 5% of total revenue taken in operating costs. At 40% of total sales (28% to the Good Causes and 12% 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% of total revenue in commission, and 50% of sales is paid out to players in prizes
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