



30 October 2007

## **Hubble Bubble Toil And 21<sup>st</sup> Double!**

***Lotto 21<sup>st</sup> Double Rollover jackpot is a spellbinding £10 million***

This Halloween (Wednesday 31 October) The National Lottery will celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> Double Rollover since Lotto launched with an estimated £10 million up for grabs on the landmark draw.

As this spooky night is traditionally a time when ghosts and vampires come out to play, new research by The National Lottery® has revealed a list of the Halloween hotties Brits would most like to bite.

Scottish actor Ewan McGregor was named the top male celebrity and Victoria Beckham the top female we'd most like to sink our teeth into. A third of respondents (33%) voted for the star of Trainspotting and Moulin Rouge with nearly a quarter (23%) ranking Rugby World Cup hero Jonny Wilkinson as the second favourite male. Geordie TV presenters, Ant and Dec, followed in third place with 20% of the votes but Welsh crooner Tom Jones would only be the celebrity of choice for 5% of people.

She may have been around for over 11 years but Posh Spice still took over a quarter of votes (28%) and was joined at the top by fellow WAG Cheryl Cole in second place (23%). Welsh songstress Katherine Jenkins scooped the third spot with 18% but Wayne's other half Coleen McLoughlin came in last with only 8% of the votes.

The survey also found which celebrity we would most like to be bitten by – Robbie Williams was the favourite male we'd let take a bite with nearly a quarter of votes (24%) and Strictly Come Dancing's Kelly Brook and actress Keira Knightly were voted joint favourite female (26%).

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He may be travelling down Africa, but actor Ewan McGregor featured high in both lists. He scooped second place after Robbie Williams with 23% of votes followed by Colin Firth, aka Mr Darcy, in third place (18%) as the top males Brits wouldn't mind baring their fangs.

In addition to celebrating the underworld, Halloween is also traditionally a time when magic is most potent and when people tend to become more superstitious. Many jackpot winners would agree that fate has played a helping hand in their lottery luck and gave them a sign that they were about to scoop the big one.

Nearly half (43%) of major lottery winners\* say they had a strange sense of déjà vu about picking up their cheque – as they had already dreamt of banking a big win before hitting the jackpot in real life. A 10-strong syndicate of childminders from Sheffield scooped a £2,077,095 share of the Lotto jackpot last month (29 September) just a few weeks after the husband of one of the syndicate members, Esther Doona, predicted a lottery win in his dream.

Debbie Mather, an amateur tarot reader from Chorley, Lancashire, scooped £5.1 million on Lotto in May 2005 after her cards told her she was due a windfall. The lucky coincidences did not stop there as Deborah had a 'spooky' feeling when she saw that the Lotto machine used to draw her six winning numbers was the name of her birthstone, Amethyst.

Many winners believe they have had their win predicted in their horoscope – Rachel Bryan and her husband Tony hit the jackpot in January 2006 after two horoscopes predicted a windfall. Rachel, an Aquarian, read that 'Luck will visit door 12' (their house number.)

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A couple of days later the horoscope advised ‘the moon lights your prize chart, so keep your lottery ticket in a safe place.’ The couple, from Swanick in Derbyshire, then went on to win £2.5 million.

Other ‘signs’ have been a little more unusual – last year, Emma Cox from Cardiff found a money spider on her hand at work just after she’d bought her Lotto ticket and told one of her colleagues she was going to win the lottery that night. Emma and her boyfriend Luke went on to scoop £1.3 million in the draw later that evening.

A National Lottery spokesperson said:

“Forget traditional activities of trick or treating this Halloween. Anyone who scoops the estimated £10 million jackpot would be able to treat themselves, their family and friends to far more than a slice of pumpkin pie or a toffee apple!

“So many jackpot winners report eerie coincidences and messages predicting their win, so with magic at it’s most potent this Halloween, you’d be wise to pay special attention to any spooky signs – it could change your life forever!”

The last Lotto Double Rollover to be won was on Wednesday 26 July 2006 when John Ackerman and John Stinchcombe, two former miners from Crumlin, South Wales, shared a jackpot of £11,544,846. The first Lotto Rollover was in only the fourth National Lottery draw on Saturday 10 December 1994 – while the first Double Rollover did not take place until the 60<sup>th</sup> Lotto draw on Saturday 6 January 1996.

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If no-one matches the six lucky numbers on Wednesday night, further history will be made as Saturday would see only the third Triple Rollover to date. The first Lotto Triple Rollover took nearly 10 years to arrive when, on Saturday 29 May 2004 six winning ticket-holders each picked up a £3,693,086 share of the jackpot. The second was on October 14 last year when Irene and Ronald Jones from Bilston and a syndicate of 14 postal workers from the Royal Mail's Manchester sorting office shared a massive £18,711,206.

The research was conducted by online research site, OnePoll.com, among 2000 adults between 21st and 25th October 2007.

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**For further information, please contact  
Camelot Press Office: 020 7632 5711**

*\*Source: Research conducted by MORI (Market & Opinion Research International) among 86 National Lottery publicity winners, who have won around £1 million or more (Sept-Oct 2004).*

### 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 £20 billion has been raised for the Good Causes by The National Lottery, and more than 280,000 individual awards have been made across the UK – the biggest programme of civic and social regeneration since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The National Lottery has given away over £29 billion in prizes and created more than 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
- 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



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the top 40 UK companies in Business in the Community's 2006 Corporate Responsibility Index, and is 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](http://www.camelotgroup.co.uk) and [www.national-lottery.co.uk](http://www.national-lottery.co.uk)
- Players of all National Lottery games must be aged 16 or over
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