



12 February 2008

## **The Man Who Knew He Would Win EuroMillions**

Londonderry man, Ryan Magee, had a premonition that he would win a share of last Friday's massive £96 million EuroMillions jackpot (8 February 2008) – and today he is Northern Ireland's third biggest National Lottery millionaire\*, worth almost £6.5 million.

The 27-year-old IT specialist was so sure he would strike it rich that he bought 11 tickets in four different towns – and one of them did the trick. It was one of 16 tickets throughout Europe that shared the huge fortune – and one of six bought in the UK. The computer expert, who is expecting his second child with wife Margaret in August, runs his own servicing and repair business – he matched five numbers and one Lucky Star number to win £6,462,181.30 after the huge jackpot rolled down to the next winning prize level in Friday's draw.

Ryan said: "In the week leading up to Friday's draw I was certain I would win. I just couldn't get it out of my head so on the day, while I was travelling on business, I bought tickets in Omagh, Strabane, Coleraine and Londonderry. The winning ticket was the last one of the 11 I checked by which time the numbers were in my head so I knew straightaway that I'd won. But despite my premonitions I still couldn't believe it."

He continued: "My only regular flutter is three lines on the Saturday Lotto draw so my 11 tickets were out of the ordinary for me – I really did have that lucky feeling. I was at a house party on Friday night and all my friends checked their tickets. But I never check my tickets on the night – I always like going to bed thinking I could wake up in the morning a millionaire."

Top of the Magee's shopping list is a pet dog for 10-year-old son, Lee – while Ryan has his eye on a Ferrari, which now has pride of place as the screen-saver on his home computer, and Margaret fancies 'a nice house in the country'.

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They now also plan to expand his business, while Margaret intends to continue her work as a student mental health nurse. All of which is well within their scope – interest alone on the win comes to around £20,000 per month.

As a family the Magees have had more than their fair share of luck on The National Lottery. It has been a bittersweet week for the family, however, as Ryan's father, Lloyd, had just started treatment for nose cancer – but is expected to make a full recovery. Lorry driver, Lloyd, is chairman of the Bond Street Community Association on the Waterside which won a grant of £80,000 by public vote in a People's Millions feature on UTV. The grant from the Big Lottery Fund was for the development of a play area for children in the district.

Ryan said, "I sit on the committee with my father and we were thrilled with the win. Now comes my win, it's just unbelievable."

The winning ticket was bought in Strabane – at the Centra in Ballymagorry Post Office. No ticket carried the five numbers and two Lucky Stars to win the jackpot outright and Ryan's Lucky Dip® ticket was one of the 16 across Europe which won the next prize level of five main numbers and one Lucky Star number. The winning EuroMillions numbers on Friday 8 February 2008 were 17, 28, 30, 38, 44 and the Lucky Star numbers were 1 and 4.

This Wednesday (13 February), there is an estimated £2.6 million Lotto jackpot, while Friday's (15 February) EuroMillions jackpot is an estimated £11 million. 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 Lucky Dip.

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### Notes to Editors:

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- 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% 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
- 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 is ranked first in the leisure sector in Business in the Community's 2006 Corporate Responsibility Index
- 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
- The crossed fingers logo is the registered trademark of the National Lottery Commission.

### **\*Top 10 National Lottery millionaires in Northern Ireland:**

| Rank | Date        | Amount        | Winner            | Area         |
|------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1.   | 14 Jul 2004 | £20,100,472   | Iris Jeffrey      | Belfast      |
| 2.   | 18 May 1996 | £10,248,233   | Peter Lavery      | Belfast      |
| 3.   | 8 Feb 2008  | £6,462,181.30 | Ryan Magee**      | Londonderry  |
| 4.   | 19 Aug 1995 | £3,822,330    | William McConnell | Coleraine    |
| 5.   | 17 Nov 2001 | £3,530,184    | Eamonn Morrison   | Co. Antrim   |
| 6.   | 7 Jul 2007  | £1,655,605    | Denis Doherty     | Londonderry  |
| 7.   | 24 Jul 2002 | £1,456,675    | Stephen Boyd      | Limavady     |
| 8.   | 12 Aug 1998 | £1,327,259    | Darryl McConnell  | Lisburn      |
| 9.   | 28 Feb 1998 | £1,149,673    | Audrey Black      | Larne        |
| 10.  | 24 Jan 1998 | £1,055,171    | Tracey Makin      | Newtownabbey |

\*\*EuroMillions winner

N.B. All statistics are based on data for millionaire publicity winners only, taken at the time of their win.