

26 November 2008

Students Scoop Millionaire Status

A young couple from Barnsley, are celebrating after banking a £1,017,166 share of the Lotto jackpot from last Wednesday's draw (19 November 2008).

Performing Arts student Hannah Muckell, and trainee accountant, Lee Hallsworth, can't believe their luck but both are determined to keep their feet firmly on the ground and continue their studies. The couple have just a short time to pick up their cheque before heading back to college to continue their coursework. Hannah (19) is studying at DeMontfort University and is based at Brooksby Melton College. She is majoring in drama and wants to become a theatre actress. Lee (20) is a trainee accountant studying at Sheffield Hallam, currently with Netto in Sheffield.

The couple buy one single Lotto ticket every week between them. They have played for the last two years and have always chosen the same numbers:

- Hannah – 5 (birthday [May]), 18 (age started playing the Lottery) and 31 (birthday)
- Lee – 7 (Barry Sheen's Bike Number), 27 (birthday [May]) and 33 (Peter Faulding's [stock racer] car number).

Lee was asleep on Monday night when he heard a commotion downstairs. His father was checking the Lotto on Teletext and recognised Lee's numbers on the screen. They both checked the numbers over and over again and again before Lee raced for the phone to call Hannah, who was in her student digs in Melton. She turned the television on and saw the same numbers come up on the Teletext page and was completely speechless.

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Hannah said: "I couldn't believe it was happening. I thought Lee was joking before I looked at my TV and realised it was true. I was with my best friend and we just sat on the bed in silence."

Back in Barnsley, where Lee lives, he was left waiting for a response down the phone. Lee said: "We'd already had the winning ticket for several days so being a sensible accountancy student I put it in my wallet for safe keeping and, after a sleepless night for both of us, I contacted Camelot first thing to double check we had the winning ticket."

Hannah said: "it's been a hectic few days. We are both shocked and stunned but have to keep our feet on the ground. Lee is currently working for Netto so has some early starts and I've loads of course work so I'll be collecting the cheque before rushing off back to college and not to the student bar just yet!"

The couple haven't any major plans for the winnings as yet but are keen to get cars of their own and maybe even a holiday, during collage holidays of course!

They have played the Lotto for the past two years and always buy their ticket from Walkers Newsagents, New Street, Hoyland, Barnsley. The winning Lotto numbers on Wednesday 19 November 2008 were 5, 7, 18, 27, 31, 33 and the bonus ball, 29.

Tonight's (Wednesday 26th November) Lotto jackpot is an estimated £2.5 million, while Friday's EuroMillions jackpot is an estimated £23 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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