



For Immediate Release – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Bingo! £115,000!**

## **First National Game Jackpot hits Mecca Sale**

Lady luck smiled on Mecca Sale Manchester when Tricia Alcock won £115,309.88 from the first of the new National Bingo Game Jackpots!

The bingo super fan, known by friends as Pat, scooped the whopping cash prize on her regular Saturday night out with her Bingo buddies.

Pat says: 'It still hasn't sunk in. I've been lost for words since my husband picked me up on Saturday night. I didn't even tell him I'd won or how much until we got home in case he lost his concentration driving!'

Married for 48 years, Pat is also a mum to three children, grandmother to six grandchildren and a great grandmother three times over, and when asked what she'd be spending her money on she said: 'I have no idea at all, I honestly can't believe that I won the National Jackpot!'

Pat's mum introduced her and her sister to a bingo night out some 47 years ago and she hasn't looked back since. Today she plays at Mecca Sale every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday night, meeting up with her four Bingo Buddies.

Pat continues: 'I can honestly say I love going to the club, it gets me out and about of an evening to chat with friends and have a good time and everyone knows me, so it's always great fun. I honestly don't think I would go out otherwise.'

Pat puts some of her luck down to her sisters gold bracelet that she wears on every visit.

'My sister's bracelet is gold and has lots of shamrocks on it. I've always worn it as a bit of a lucky charm, now I'll never take it off!'

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The team at Mecca Sale are planning a celebratory party for Pat and all the club regulars when she collects her winnings and is presented with a cheque by Miles Baron, Chief Executive of The National Bingo Game Association on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Club Manager, Emma Foster said: 'We were all very excited by the new National Bingo Game jackpot and were wondering which lucky player and club would be first to take the prize; never in a million years did we think it would be us in Sale!'

'Pat is a regular here and well known to all the staff and players at the club. We're going to arrange a super celebratory party for Pat and give her the star treatment.'

Taking part couldn't be easier, simply visit your local club, or go online to find your nearest participating club and get down for a session!

For updates on the National Bingo Game jackpot follow **Twitter @NationalBingo and visit [www.nationalbingo.co.uk](http://www.nationalbingo.co.uk).** To stay up to date on the bingo news, winners, fun and games join our Facebook page **Facebook/nationalbingo-game.**

All players must be aged 18 or over. The National Bingo Game is played under the provisions of The Gambling Act 2005. Players should always gamble responsibly and play the National Bingo Game within their limits.

For more information and advice visit [www.gambleaware.co.uk](http://www.gambleaware.co.uk).

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**For updates on the National Bingo Game jackpot follow Twitter @NationalBingo and join our Facebook page, Facebook/national-bingo-game.**

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#### **Notes to editors**

- Total prize money distributed to date is over £1BILLION!
- The National Bingo Game is the UK's second largest computer controlled game in the UK, the national lottery being the largest.
- The biggest bingo win ever was on 23 March 2008, when Soraya Lowell from Motherwell, North Lanarkshire scooped GBP £1,167,795, while playing The National Game at Club 3000 in Coatbridge.
- Between 120 - 200 clubs link together to play the National Game twice a day, every day, except Christmas day.
- Over three million people play bingo regularly in the UK (at least twice a week).
- A night out at the bingo can cost as little as £15-25 each, including game books, duty, food and drink.

- Most common reasons for playing bingo are because it's fun, it offers companionship and the chance to socialise as well as winning big money.
- Celebrities love bingo! Catherine Zeta Jones can thank bingo for her career after her dad won enough to afford to send her to theatre school; other celebrity fans include: Denise Van Outen, Scott Mills and President Barrack Obama's step-mother!
- A number of celebrities also started their careers in bingo calling including Simon from boy band Blue, EastEnder's Shane Richie, Russell Crowe and Kian from West Life.