



Press release

23rd August 2020

LUCKY METRO CENTRE BINGO PLAYER SCOOPS £50,000 JACKPOT WITHIN A WEEK A CLUB REOPENING!

One lucky Metro Centre bingo player received an unexpected boost to their Thursday (20th August) night at Buzz Bingo, Gateshead, when it became super sized, thanks to winning an eye-watering £50,000 Jackpot on the **National Bingo Game**.

The player, who wishes to remain anonymous, was flabbergasted when they called 'house' to nab the jackpot prize, much to the delight of other players in the club who clapped and cheered in celebration.

The giant-sized win comes one week after Buzz Bingo reopened its Metro Centre club, welcoming regulars and newcomers back through its doors with new enhanced safety measures.

The winner said *"When the caller said I'd won £50,000 I couldn't believe it! I've never been on holiday abroad so I'm going to book a holiday, pay off my mortgage and car, and treat my kids and grandkids"*

Justine Curren, Assistant Manager at Buzz Bingo, Metro Centre says: *"We can't believe that just one week after reopening we've had a player win the National Game and scoop the big £50K prize; we're utterly delighted to bring a little happiness to the community. The atmosphere when they won was incredible – everyone was on their feet cheering. It's certainly a moment we won't forget."*

Following Government guidance, Buzz Bingo has implemented careful safety measures to ensure customers and colleagues can play bingo safely. Clubs, which began reopening in a staggered approach from 6 August, will all have reopened by 27th August when the final clubs open their doors.

Measures across all Buzz Bingo clubs include –

- ***Introducing a new maximum capacity*** to allow for social distancing
- ***All clubs will now have markers on the floor***, both inside and outside, to keep customers safe while queuing

- **Perspex screens** have been installed at the reception, bar and bingo sales, as well as between machines and fixed gaming terminals so that players and colleagues are able to maintain social distancing
- **Some seats will be marked as 'out of use'** to keep players safely distanced – there will be 'group' and individual seating areas to allow families and 'one household' to play together
- **All colleagues across the clubs will be in line with COVID Secure risk assessments** and a new and more frequent cleaning rota will be in place
- **Sanitising stations will be available around clubs** to keep hands clean before touching bingo equipment or machines which players will be encouraged to make use of
- **Contactless card payments** will be increased up to the value of £45
- **There will be a number of changes to the menu and the way food is served** to ensure kitchen staff are able to work socially distanced
- **Continued personal support for all customers** – extending the Buzz Buddies support offered in lockdown for elderly and vulnerable customers

As a thanks to local NHS workers for their tireless efforts during the pandemic, Buzz Bingo is also introducing a new feature in its Main Event games. NHS Lucky Stars will form part of the regular games and see 5p from the sale of every paper book or electronic touchpad package donated to the NHS.

Alastair Stewart, Business Development Manager at the **National Bingo Game** said: "We are thrilled for our lucky **National Bingo Game** £50,000 Jackpot Buzz Bingo Metro Centre winner: it is great to welcome back players and celebrate winners, and we hope that they enjoy their winnings, especially the family holiday."

To find a participating club and for further information on the **National Bingo Game** visit www.nationalbingo.co.uk or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NationalBingoGame) and Twitter.com @nationalbingo.

All players must be aged 18 or over. The National Bingo Game is played under the provisions of The Gambling Act 2005 and played under National Bingo Game Players' Rules. Players should always gamble responsibly. For more information and advice visit www.BeGambleAware.org

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

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About The National Game

- The National Bingo Game started in 1986, with the current format launched on 30th April 2018

- The new National Bingo Game is a Full House only game and offers players the following prizes:
Club Prize – won in every club, on every game
Jackpot Prizes of £50,000, £1,000 and £100
- To win a Club Prize a player must be the first in their participating venue to successfully complete a full house.
- To win a Jackpot Prize a player must be the first in their participating venue to successfully complete a full house as follows in the following number of calls:
16 numbers or less to win £50,000
20 numbers or less to win £ 1,000
24 numbers or less to win £ 100
- Tickets for the National Bingo Game are £1 for 2 tickets OR £2 for 5 tickets
- Total prize money paid to date by the National Bingo Game 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 National Bingo Game is played twice a day, every day, 364 days a year
- Around 270 clubs across the UK offer the National Bingo Game, including Gala, Mecca, Majestic, Castle, Carlton and Beacon, in addition to a wide range of independent clubs
- National LIVE is a linked interval game also provided the National Bingo Game Association.
- 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 cash prizes
- 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 former President Barrack Obama's step-mother!
- A number of celebrities started their careers in bingo, including Chris Tarrant, Simon from boy band Blue, East Ender's Shane Richie, Russell Crowe and Kian from West Life.

About Buzz Bingo

Buzz Bingo is the largest operator of licensed bingo clubs in the UK, with 119 locations. Owned by Caledonia Investments Buzz Bingo also operates online.

W: www.buzzbingo.com