Five share Pounds 27m lottery

BYLINE: Paul Rowinski

SECTION: Home news

LENGTH: 299 words

A Pounds 27.1m national lottery rollover prize will be split between five winners after last night's draw for the biggest prize offered so far this year. The draw triggered one of the most frantic rushes for tickets the nation has seen, writes Paul Rowinski.

The jackpot was a double rollover after nobody won either of the two previous draws last Wednesday and the previous Saturday, giving each winner a Pounds 5.4m tax-free lump sum. The machine that produced the winning numbers - 15, 21, 29, 32, 33, 40, with 42 the bonus - was set in motion by Posh Spice, Victoria Adams of the Spice Girls pop group.

Last night Camelot said its network of retailers had struggled to keep up with demand, especially towards the end of the day when it peaked at 7m tickets an hour. The normal weekly takings of about Pounds 68m rocketed to Pounds 88m, of which Pounds 38.8m will go to the lottery's five good causes.

Yesterday's draw was only the third double rollover. In the first, on January 6 last year, three winners shared Pounds 42m and three weeks later four shared Pounds 40m. If nobody had won yesterday it would have triggered Britain's first triple rollover on Wednesday with a purse estimated at Pounds 35m.

The surge in ticket sales also boosted the number of lesser prizewinners, with 45 matching five balls with the bonus number to win Pounds 92,271.

Another 1,325 won Pounds 1,958 by matching five numbers while 73,801 ticket holders earned Pounds 77 by matching four numbers.

Before the draw the lottery helpline was inundated with calls from syndicates seeking legal advice on sharing a fortune in case they won. Last night Camelot's claims lines remained open 90 minutes longer than normal, until midnight, to deal with the huge number of claims expected.

LOAD-DATE: October 1, 1997

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Nationl Lottery; Results

Copyright 1997 Times Newspapers Limited