

# Derek has 'bingo-ing' crazy since his big £20,000 win



Derek shows off his winning bingo board MI1138B07  
Photo by Gary Louth

A BINGO-MAD granddad from Blackley has finally hit the jackpot after playing every afternoon for a year.

Derek Cloran, who plays bingo seven days a week, scooped more than £20,000 when his numbers finally came up on Friday March 9.

The 44 year old father of two, won the £20,000 National Bingo Afternoon Delight Game, plus the regional prize of £577 and the house prize of £30 at the Gala Club, in the North City Shopping Centre, Harpurhey. He shouted house in just 41 numbers, the lowest call in any of the 500 clubs playing across the country.

He said: "I couldn't believe it when I was told I had won. I was shaking like a leaf and went white when I found out - I think it was more disbelief than anything else. I jumped up and down and hugged my sister and everybody else

around me."

Derek, who has agreed to split his winnings with his sister and bingo playing partner Denise Wilson, has vowed to keep on playing and said he wants to use the money to splash out on a trip to Spain and also treat his family including his two young grandchildren aged four and one.

He said: "I've never won anything in my life. I play bingo purely as a social activity, rather than to win, if I win enough to pay for my date I'm happy. I've never had money so this win is life changing for me."

Caroline Jones, the Harpurhey club's assistant manager, said: "I'm pleased for Derek because he is a regular player and a really nice person. It really could not have happened to a nicer man. Every afternoon the National prize is £20,000, except for Saturdays, so it's well worth a pound of anybody's money."