

SINGLE MUM WINS £3.4M ON ICELAND BINGO WITH 15P STAKE

A single mum has become the richest woman from online bingo in the UK – winning £3.4 million from a 15p stake.

Anne Marie Farrar had only been playing the bingo for two years and used to see her flutter as a 'treat.' Last month she won £3.4million on the Iceland Millionaire Genie Jackpot with a 15p stake and became the second biggest Bingo winner in the UK – ever*.

Each time it spins, players have a random amount of winning a progressive jackpot and Anne Marie, 26, says she is still in shock since the win last month.

Canning, Joint Managing Director at Iceland, comments: "We're very excited about Anne-Marie's win of £3.4million and the fact that it's the second biggest online bingo win recorded in Britain! It's a life-changer for Anne-Marie and the team at Iceland Bingo is proud to be part of it too.

"The odds of winning with Iceland Bingo are just 11 to one, compared to The National Lottery, where the odds of winning are 54 to one. That's why Anne-Marie was able to place a 15p stake and scoop the top prize of £3.4million."

Speaking about the moment she realised she had won, Anne-Marie says: "I remember staring at the screen and seeing all these numbers, there was so many of them. I had this huge amount in front of me and I couldn't believe my eyes! I called my mum to get her to check online that someone had won the prize and she said they had.

"I just can't believe it's me!"

Anne Marie, who two sons aged seven and nine, is going to treat them with a trip to Disneyland, Florida and hopes to travel round Europe too. She is also looking forward to buying her first car – A VW Golf – once she's learned to drive.

She adds: "I haven't even passed my driving test yet and while I like walking, it will be nice to be able to get in a car and run the kids around.

“I’m also planning a trip to Disneyland. I have been saving for years to take the children and now we can go and not worry about money. I’ve never actually been abroad on holiday before so this will be an amazing experience.”

She has also moved out of her old rented home in Sowerby Bridge and into a £155,000 semi in nearby Halifax so both of her kids can have their own room.

Anne Marie said: “I just wanted a nice place, nothing too big, but with a good sized garden so the kids can play out and enjoy it. My new house has three bedrooms and we are really happy here.”

The second biggest Bingo winner in the UK plans to get back to work and despite the huge chunk of money in the bank, she remains modest, saying: “I went to the Lakes District last weekend with a friend and we had a few nice meals out and drinks but nothing too extravagant.

“I think it will take me a while to realise. I know how I live my life will change as I have so many more opportunities for me and the children which is lovely. It is a huge win but I want to stay grounded. I don’t think it will change me as a person.”

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

*The record for the biggest online bingo win in the UK is held by former Jobcentre worker John Orchard, 52, who scooped £5.9 million in December 2012. Soraya Lowell, 40, from Larnarkshire, Scotland, was the biggest female winner, having picked up £1.2 million in 2008.

About Iceland:

Iceland is the home of frozen food, and an award-winning leader in product innovation. It is recognised as one of the country’s easiest, friendliest, and best value places to shop, and as the Best Big Company To Work For in the UK. With 850 stores throughout the UK and a national online shopping service, Iceland puts innovation, quality, affordability and customer service at the heart of everything it does. Iceland is the expert in frozen food, delivering great ideas that take the hassle out of the meal for busy, value conscious families.