

## **New Research Reveals British men are amongst the least generous when it comes to dating**

### **Does your Valentine Fit the Bill?**

**February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011** - British men are amongst the least generous in the world when it comes to paying for a first date, according to new research by **PARSHIP**<sup>1</sup>, Europe's largest matchmaking site.

Only 51 per cent of British men would pay the restaurant bill after that first encounter, ranking them 12th out of 13. This compares with 90 per cent of men in Mexico, 89 per cent in Italy and 82 per cent in Austria.

It also seems that the days of expecting men to foot the bill may be a thing of the past. Almost a quarter (24 per cent) of British women surveyed would actually rather go halves or even pay for the entire meal themselves (18 per cent), making them the second most generous nation of women<sup>1</sup>.

#### **What's my date really thinking?**

The results show just what a minefield dating etiquette can be, especially when it comes to that awkward moment of settling the bill on your first date. It may seem like an insignificant moment but the research shows that it can be a real deal-breaker.

As Britain goes dating mad to celebrate the time-honoured tradition of Valentine's Day, **PARSHIP** warns couples to think carefully when it comes to paying the bill: their research reveals that whether you chose to fork out for your first meal together shows your date just how interested you really are.

Over a quarter (28 per cent) of British people surveyed also said that if their date insisted on going halves it would be a clear sign they are not interested, while almost half (44 per cent) said they would think it charming and courteous if their date did settle the restaurant bill.

**Paula Hall, Parship's relationship and compatibility expert, said:** "The findings show just how confusing dating can be.

"The moment at the end of the date when it comes to settling up can be very awkward indeed, and it's important to realise that who pays is going to send out important signals to your date.

"Wanting to pay the bill is not just about being generous but indicates how much you have enjoyed the date. Suggesting going halves may suggest to your date they're not worth it. However, the survey results indicate that many Irish women are now only too happy to go Dutch. It's all about reading the situation."

Paula Hall's advice for a successful first date is stick to what you can afford and enjoy it.

"The most important thing when you are dating is to try and relax and ultimately have fun."

PARSHIP is an online matchmaking services aimed specifically at people aged 28 to 55 who are serious about forming lasting relationships. It operates in 14 countries across Europe as well as Mexico.

**E n d s**

**Notes to editors:**

<sup>1</sup>The PARSHIP.co.uk member survey took place in December 2010, and all respondents are aged between 30-55 years. A total sample of 5,922 adults took part across 13 countries.

<sup>2</sup>Q. Imagine you are on a first date in a restaurant. The bill arrives. How do you react? A. I offer to settle the bill.

**For  
case**

Country	Men
Mexico	90%
Italy	89%
Austria	82%
France	80%
Spain	79%
Sweden	77%
Denmark	75%
Germany	74%
Switzerland	73%
Ireland	66%
Belgium	53%
Great Britain	51%
Netherlands	45%

Country	Women
Netherlands	20%
Spain	18%
Great Britain	18%
Belgium	14%
Switzerland	12%
Mexico	12%
Ireland	9%
Denmark	9%
Italy	8%
France	7%
Austria	6%
Denmark	4%
Sweden	3%

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