



The Sure Thing: The Greatest Coup in Horse Racing History

Nick Townsend

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A compelling insight into how legendary gambler Barney Curley pulled off the greatest horse betting scams in history.

For over four decades Barney Curley proved himself a rare exception. The country's most renowned and fearless gambler, a man who will back his judgement to win £100,000 and more on a single day, has consistently emerged triumphant from bloody skirmishes with the old enemy. In the summer of 1975 Curley masterminded one of the most spectacular gambles of all time, with a racehorse named Yellow Sam, costing Irish bookmakers around £300,000; the equivalent of some £2m today. No-one believed anything similar could be staged again this century. Bookmakers now have communications and technology in place to thwart any renewed attempts. But challenges inspire Curley and he was determined to beat the system -- again.

Thirty-five years later from his first coup, Curley set about staging an ambitious sequel to his Yellow Sam scheme. Curley has never divulged the full details of what happened. Now, for the first time, *The Sure Thing* reveals the complete story of the months of planning and preparation, with all the trials and tribulations, that went into the biggest organised gamble in racing history.

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