

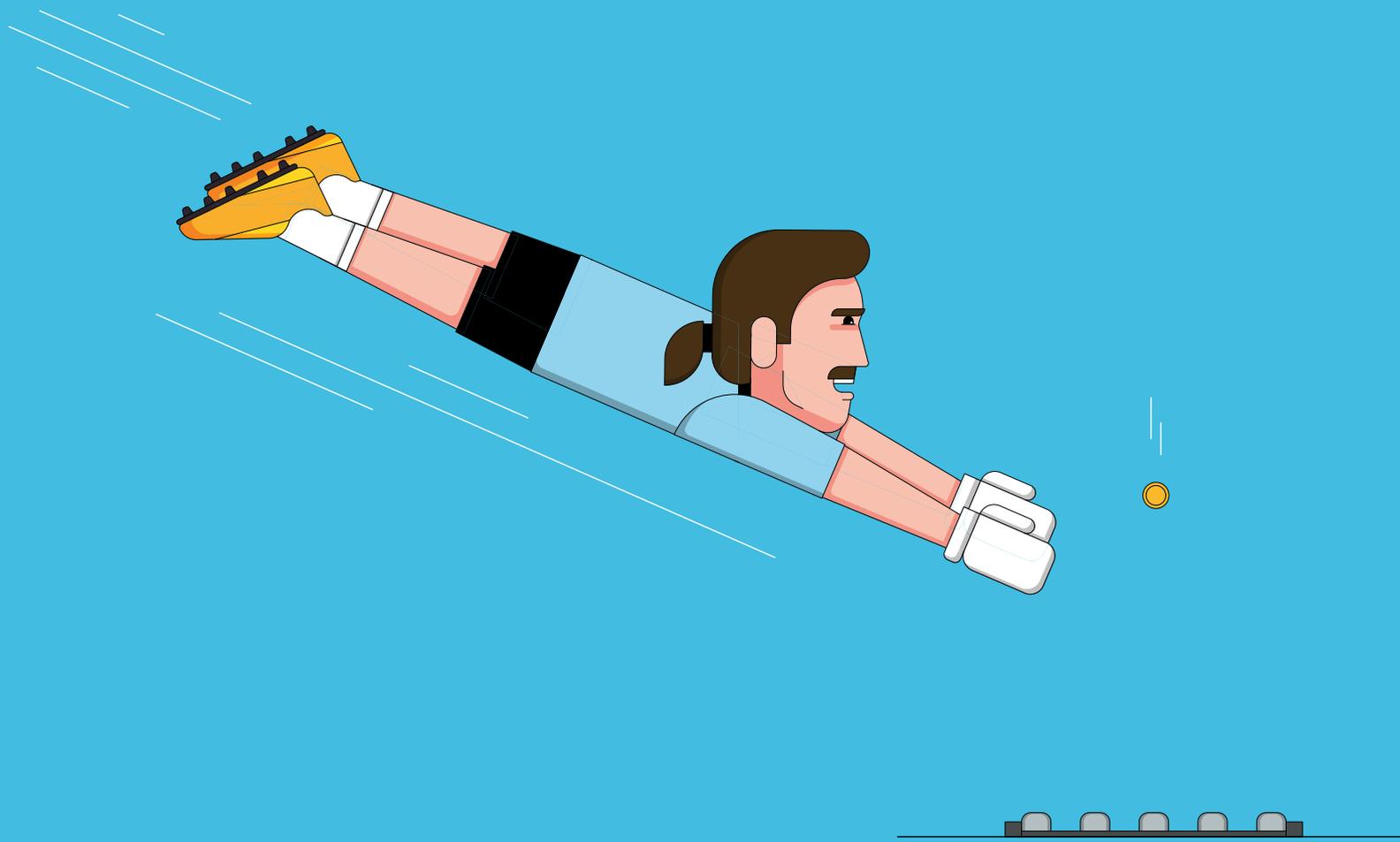
SAVE IT LIKE SAFE HANDS

A YORKSHIREMAN'S GUIDE TO VALUE

PUBLISHED BY PLUSNET



BY DAVID SEAMAN



A LIFE MORE YORK- SHIRE

I'm known around the world for my saving skills on the pitch. Now, I'll be the first to admit that I've dropped the ball (and my Dancing on Ice partner) a couple of times, but I'll always be David 'Safe Hands' Seaman - especially when it comes to saving money. I was brought up in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, in a terraced house with an outside toilet that was home to spiders as big as my hands. We had no money, so saving and being savvy have always been in my blood. Being a Yorkshire lad, it's something you just never lose.

They say you don't get owt for nowt, but I disagree. There's nothing jammy about keeping money in your pocket or getting that bit extra for your hard earned. You just need to know how to go about it.

Times have been tough for a lot of us recently. In this faff-free, limited-edition guide, written in collaboration with Plusnet, I'm sharing with you some simple tips and tricks to saving brass. Some I've used over the years by either being careful or not shy in coming forward. Some I've seen other smart Yorkshiremen use to their advantage. Others might stretch the truth a tad.

There's four chapters. The Savvy Speaker, Baggin' a Bargain, Knowin' Yer Worth and Turnin' Pennies into Pounds. Read 'em, live by 'em and you'll make some champion saves in life.

Take a shot.

David Seaman



THE SAVVY SPEAKER

I'm friendly and, trust me, being friendly is always going to give you a better chance of getting a better deal. You won't get anything by being miserable. What's more, if you don't ask for a deal, you won't get a deal. Way I look at it is every 'no' is a step further towards a **'yes'**.

CHIPPER AT THE CHIPPY

There's nothing like Yorkshire fish and chips. Your local fryer is a hero in God's Own Country and is to be treated with respect. When I was a kid, we'd go to the chippy at closing time to wangle free leftover bags of scraps.

Always be friendly, share a dad joke as you queue and get on first name terms. It'll pay dividends when it comes to the size of the fish and number of chips you get. He might even throw in a sachet of tommy sauce. **Result.**



QUOTE CANNY

Always talk to loads of tradespeople if you ever need anything done. That way you get the best price. Trouble I have is if they know who I am, they up the price – same if you live somewhere posh. So, we get quotes in my wife's name so we don't get ripped off.

Often we end up using people we know up in Rotherham as they give us the best deal. It's a bit like the **price of a pint...** much cheaper up north in Yorkshire.

JOIN FORCES

Why buy when you can share? Got savvy neighbours who're on your wavelength? Develop a relationship and then mention they can borrow your lawnmower. You borrow a hedge trimmer.

You lend them a paint stripper. See where this is going?
Way I see it is something borrowed is **something saved.**



WALK AWAY

My Dad taught me a lesson, when he pretended he was my agent – and that's why I never accept the first offer. When I was speaking to professional clubs it was a new experience but we played hard ball and walked off the pitch with the chairman. They ended up coming back with a better offer. The extra they gave me meant I could get the wide wheeled yellow coupé I had my eye on. Don't be scared to walk away. Never accept the first offer **(and listen to your Dad).**

BAGGIN' A BARGAIN

I shop around. I always have, whether it's internet shopping or on the high street. Don't pay what's on the ticket – always check out every stockist and get a deal. **Compare the prices** because there's no point paying more than you have to.

YORKSHIRE DEALS

Did I mention I love Yorkshire? We really have a lot going for us – beautiful Dales, cracking music and some born and bred broadband providers from Yorkshire who always offer a bargain if you keep an eye out... especially when celebrating **Yorkshire Day.**



PICK IT UP

There's a reason I love saving, and that's because I used to hate the walk to pick the ball up from the back of my net. Nowadays though, I don't mind a walk to pick things up. In fact you can actually save buckets on delivery costs by having whatever you order online sent to your nearest high street store. It's either free or way cheaper – **back of the net!**

VOUCHER VULTURE

I love a good voucher and shopping online is no different. Just google the name of the retailer you want to buy from and add **'voucher coupon code'** and it'll churn up loads of different codes to use at the checkout. Some work, some don't, but I've saved loads this way.



DON'T BUY

Eh? No seriously this often works. Look for what you want, put it in your cart and leave it there – do not click 'Buy'. Go and clean the cooker, read the instructions to your washer, anything really. Then check your emails and you might get one saying the thing you want has been mysteriously reduced in price. It might take a while and it doesn't work everywhere, but it's **always worth a pop.**

KNOWIN' YER WORTH

Now we Yorkshire folk are a loyal bunch and we always look out for our mates... and we have a lot of mates. It's because we love chatting, you see. It means we get to know almost everyone and anyone that cross our path – and that's a good thing. As once you get to know someone and prove you're a good bloke they might give you that little bit extra when you're not expecting it.

It's a two-way street, this saving stuff – a lot like how a goalkeeper has to keep chatting to his defence – you support them, **they'll support you...**

OUTDEAL A DEALER



When I was playing football, loads of the players would buy brand spanking new cars from car dealerships. They thought they were flash. I told them they were daft. They lost thousands the moment they drove them off the forecourt. I'd rather buy from a secondhand dealer I know and trust. I'd always meet them when buying a car and get one that's a few years old. Have a chat and really get to know them and they'll tell you how the motor really runs. Plus, if it's second hand, it's done its depreciating and you get to **appreciate the savings.**

BRING YOUR OWN

Now I'm retired, I don't have to train anymore, I don't have to count the calories or sip spring water when I go for a meal. Tell you what though, look and you'll find so many great little places to eat which let you **bring your own bottle**. I'm not talking about '96 style 'Dentist's Chair' sessions, but rather my local little restaurant where the owner always gets us the best table as we're there all the time!

BIG UP YOUR BUTCHER

I'm on first name terms with my butcher, Terry. When I'm in there being served, I always wax lyrical about how good his more expensive cuts of meat are, like a sirloin steak or pork loin. He loves a natter and often people in the queue go along with my recommendations. In return for being a meat influencer, I get leaner meat and a few extra sausages thrown in.

Winner, winner chicken dinner.

DROP THE CHOP

I grew my hair for years and my ponytail was my trademark. I'll tell you what though, it saved me a fortune. Whilst all my teammates were forking out for daft haircuts from those celebrity stylists, I was counting the savings having my split ends snipped every few months by my trusted, regular barber. When I did eventually chop off my ponytail in 2005, I raised loads for [Cancer Research's Bobby Moore Fund.](#)



TURNIN' PENNIES INTO POUNDS

There wasn't a lot of money around when I was young. It meant we made the most of what you had and made sure you looked after it, mind. **Look after the pennies** and the pounds will look after themselves. You'll be surprised how being careful and saving on the most unlikely things can mount up.



MAKE IT LAST

I was on the golf course the other day with some guy
I once played football with called Dee Lixon,
or something like that. I'd been playing well and
hadn't lost a ball for ages. He saw that my golf ball
was really battered and suggested I'd bin it for
a new ball. I said no, I'm from Yorkshire.
A scuff means nothing. **Plenty of wear left in that.**

FORGET BRANDS

Shop where the value is. Don't be blinded by big brands and don't worry about hitting the discount stores. I bought some shorts a while back because I liked them and they fitted well. My mates really took the pee out of me when they saw the bag of the discount store they came from. Didn't bother me a jot. I saved a few bob. **Why be a fashion victim?**

CAN THE GYM

For such a trim fella, you might think I have a fancy gym membership or personal trainer. Neither are for me, I work out at home to stay match fit. Before I have my full English brekkie I work out using the tins of beans as weights to bulk up my biceps and even use tinned tuna to tone my triceps. Add in some runs up and down the Dales and you can tighten your belt because you're **looking buff** not because of your budget.

TEA BAGS

You can easily get two brews out of one teabag.

Mash it, squeeze it, double dunk it. Gotta be proper tea from Yorkshire of course. Hanging them out on the washing line to reuse is taking it a bit far for me, but no doubt some people from Yorkshire do it.



THAT'S IT.

That's just a few to get you going, but I reckon you'll got the hang of it. It's all about looking for even the tiniest opportunity to save and knowing that they'll all add up to a shed load throughout life.

You don't have to hail from Cleckheaton or Wetwang to live life the Yorkshire way. All you need is that Tyke state of mind. It teaches you the value of everything. Provided you stay savvy, are honest and keep a smile on your face, nobody's gonna get mardy when you gently push for that little bit extra for your money.

Few people got the better of me when saving – there's the odd Brazilian whose name I can't recall – but remember, I'm not an independent financial adviser. I'm just a Yorkshireman whose made some important saves throughout his life, so take these tips with a good pinch of salt.

Be more Yorkshire, wherever you're from.

And save it like Safe Hands.

David Seaman



Being nicknamed 'Safe Hands' is no coincidence. As proud Yorkshire-man who's made his fair share of crucial saves, David's tips show every keen saver how they too can bag a bargain the Yorkshire way. From his from his younger days bartering for scraps in the chippy, to his football days sweet-talking for second-hand cars, Save It Like Safe Hands will help anyone get proper Yorkshire value out of everyday life. Read it. Live it. Save it like Safe Hands.

New Yorkshire Times

"Save It Like Safe Hands is the definitive guide to value from those whole know it best. A must read for savings seekers."

Joe from Sheffield

'Not bad. Worth borrowing off your mate.'

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