

The 10 Craziest Bets in Football History



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The 2022 World Cup has already seen some [shocking results](#), with favourites like Spain and Germany knocked out of the competition.

For one unlucky punter, Saudi Arabia's victory over Argentina robbed them of a whopping £131,491.

With this in mind, the team at [Cheeky Punter](#) decided to find the 10 craziest bets in football history. If you're thinking of placing a bet in time for the final, read on!

1. The Largest Bet in World Cup History

The 2010 World Cup was memorable for many reasons: Luis Suarez's handball, Frank Lampard's missed opportunity and, of course, the vuvuzelas. But for one plucky punter, the South African World Cup will be seared into memory as the time they missed out on £800,000.

An anonymous punter placed a £417,000 bet on Germany to beat Spain in the Semi-Final. The nail-biting match was 0-0 until the 73rd minute when Carles Puyol scored the winning goal, snatching away the audacious punter's £800,000 payout. To this day, the bet remains the largest loss of any football match ever.

2. A Dream Come True

After having a dream where Xavi Alonso scored from inside his own half, Liverpool Fan Adrian Hayward placed a £200 bet that the midfielder would do the same thing in real life.

With 125-1 odds, Hayward waited six months before Alonso scored the dazzling 70-yard-strike in an FA cup match against Luton. Hayward went berserk as his dream became a £25,000 payout.

3. The Underdog

In 2011, one brave punter placed a £2.50 bet on a nine-match [accumulator](#), backing many 'underdog' teams like Blackburn and Wolves to win. In one particularly unusual move, the punter backed Atletico Bilbao to draw with Barcelona in the Copa del Rey.

Miraculously, they secured their £272,000 payout when Bilbao's Fernando Llorente scored in the final five minutes to make the final score 1-1.

4. Four Weddings and a Football Match

A '[both teams score](#)' bet often seems like a safe choice, but what if it had to happen 15 times? That's exactly what Wolves fan Brian Matthews did in 2016.

Matthew's 15-bet triumph was secured by an unlikely equalizer from Middlesbrough's Marten de Roon. The goal against Man City was unexpected but secured Brian the £112,500 to pay for his wedding, a new car and his entire mortgage.

5. Elvis Isn't Dead

When Leicester City won the Premier League in 2016, it was a shock to many. According to most bookies, Leicester securing the title was as likely as Elvis being found alive, but many punters placed their bets anyway.

The risk paid off, with one gambler winning £200,000 after placing a £100 bet at the start of the season.

6. 7-1 Shocker

For many, Germany's 7-1 win over Brazil in the 2014 World Cup was one of the greatest shocks in football history—but not for one punter. The anonymous fan predicted the win with surprising accuracy, stating that Germany would beat the hosts 7-1 with Sami Khedira on the scoresheet.

By the end of the match, the £20 bet had become a £46,000 payout.

7. Triumph and Tragedy

British football fans rarely follow the African Cup of Nations, but those who do could reap the rewards. In 2010, Mali clawed back from a 4-goal deficit against Angola with only 11 minutes to go.

The shocking comeback lost one student their entire £4,400 student loan after discovering a win would only have accumulated £44. Meanwhile, a British man's £5 bet raked in a massive £7,595.

8. Moyes the Money Snatcher

A Welsh pensioner lost out on a million pounds from a £1 bet after a single game ruined his predictions. The man had successfully predicted the outcome of 14 matches including the winner of the North London Derby. He only needed Manchester United to beat Liverpool for the chance of gaining £1 million.

After David Moyes ruined Man U's chances, the pensioner lost £28,000, receiving a payout of £72,000.

9. The Instant Millionaire

Daman Chick was unaware he had become a millionaire in 2016 when a £5 bet made him rich overnight. The Aston Villa fan had wagered that Portugal's Eder would score the opening goal in the Euro's final against France.

Chick guessed the striker would score in the 84th minute and was the closest estimate to Eder's goal in the 109th minute, winning him £1 million under [BetVictor's](#) 1m Goal Competition.

10. Divine Inspiration

Have you ever made a spontaneous decision and it ended up being the best choice you ever made? For one London gambler that spontaneous decision changed their life forever.

Just 20 minutes before the final whistle on a series of Saturday games, one lucky punter placed eight bets, all of which turned out to be right. The divine inspiration earned the punter a total of £650,000.

So, if you're hoping to place a bet, remember that many of these big wins were based on unexpected outcomes with low-risk bets. Consider putting a small amount like £1-5 on your favourite underdog and see what happens.