# Bargain Hunt faces calls for shake-up amid steady ratings and auctioneer controversy



Bargain Hunt, the beloved BBC show that has been capturing the hearts of viewers since its debut in 2000, now finds itself at the centre of criticism as audiences voice their dissatisfaction with its seemingly stagnant format. The series, which demonstrates the thrilling yet unpredictable world of antiques trading, has loyalty among its two million weekly viewers. However, the fresh apprehension expressed by fans highlights an urge for significant change as it marks its 25th anniversary.

Recent episodes, like the one filmed in King’s Lynn and Swaffham in Norfolk, featured contestants trying their luck at purchasing antiques to resell at auction. In the latest installment, a red team comprising Kerri and Lorraine edged out the blue team led by Bruno and Tom, even though they recorded a total loss of £58 on their purchases, which included a Norwegian brooch and vintage china. Despite the triumph, reactions from viewers have been mixed. Some declared the show "predictable" and called for a "total shake-up," even suggesting that the auctioneer Charlie Ross should be replaced to inject some vibrancy into the programme. Comments on social media echoed this sentiment, with one viewer lamenting the lack of change since the show's inception, stating, "I cannot believe that utter drivel is still going and it’s not changed since it first started!"

In response to the growing critique, Executive Producer Paul Tucker acknowledged the need for renewal while balancing the legacy of the programme. Speaking during a commemorative interview, he touted that “subtle changes” have been made over the years but emphasised the importance of maintaining what makes the show enjoyable: “Don’t ruin what’s good, but at the same time… keep changing things to keep it relevant.”

The controversy surrounding one of its familiar faces, auctioneer Charles Hanson, adds an intriguing layer to the show's narrative. Recently acquitted of serious allegations regarding coercive control and assault against his wife, Hanson’s return to the series on 2 June was met with scrutiny. The trial, which concluded in February 2025, found no evidence supporting the claims against him, leading to his exoneration. Outside the courtroom, Hanson expressed relief, saying, “I'm delighted that after a year and a half the truth has finally come out. I can finally live my life again.” His reinstatement as a prominent figure in the show presents a renewed focus on the production and on how it navigates potential public relations challenges amid evolving viewer expectations.

The consistent ratings of Bargain Hunt suggest that it still has a robust fan base, but now more than ever, the pressure to innovate is mounting. Critics are pointing out that unique moments, compelling stories, or surprise elements are needed to reignite viewer interest. As discussions about the future of Bargain Hunt unfold, the challenge will lie in striking a balance between maintaining the show’s cherished elements while rejuvenating its format to capture both long-time supporters and new audiences. As it stands, a delicate dance of nostalgia and modernisation appears essential for the continued success of this television staple.

The ongoing discussions reflect not only a single show's trajectory but also resonate with the broader landscape of television programming, where innovation and tradition must coalesce to remain in favour with an ever-evolving viewership.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/bargain-hunt-charlie-ross-predictable-b2760678.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/bargain-hunt-charlie-ross-predictable-b2760678.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/bargain-hunt-charlie-ross-predictable-b2760678.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/bargain-hunt-charlie-ross-predictable-b2760678.html), [[4]](https://news.sky.com/story/bargain-hunt-auctioneer-charles-hanson-cleared-of-coercive-control-and-assault-allegations-related-to-his-wife-13318790)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/feb/28/charles-hanson-bargain-hunt-auctioneer-cleared-coercive-control-assault-allegations), [[4]](https://news.sky.com/story/bargain-hunt-auctioneer-charles-hanson-cleared-of-coercive-control-and-assault-allegations-related-to-his-wife-13318790)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/bargain-hunt-charlie-ross-predictable-b2760678.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/bargain-hunt-charlie-ross-predictable-b2760678.html> - Viewers of the BBC's 'Bargain Hunt' have expressed dissatisfaction with the show's repetitive format, which has remained largely unchanged since its debut in 2000. The programme, featuring contestants purchasing antiques to sell at auction for profit, has been criticised for its predictability. In a recent episode set in Norfolk, the red team emerged victorious despite incurring a £58 loss on their purchases. Fans have called for a 'total shake-up' of the show, with some suggesting the removal of auctioneer Charlie Ross to revitalise the format.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/feb/28/charles-hanson-bargain-hunt-auctioneer-cleared-coercive-control-assault-allegations> - Charles Hanson, a prominent auctioneer on the BBC's 'Bargain Hunt', was unanimously acquitted of all charges related to coercive control and assault allegations made by his wife, Rebecca Hanson. The trial, which concluded in February 2025, heard claims that Charles had been violent towards Rebecca over an eight-year period. However, the jury found no evidence to support these allegations, leading to his exoneration.
4. <https://news.sky.com/story/bargain-hunt-auctioneer-charles-hanson-cleared-of-coercive-control-and-assault-allegations-related-to-his-wife-13318790> - Charles Hanson, known for his role on 'Bargain Hunt', faced charges of assault and controlling or coercive behaviour following a domestic incident in June 2023. The charges included two counts of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and two counts of assault by beating. After a trial, Hanson was found not guilty on all counts, with the jury deliberating for approximately four and a half hours before returning their verdicts.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/12/21/bargain-hunt-charles-hanson-charged/> - Charles Hanson, a regular on the BBC's 'Bargain Hunt', was charged with assault following a domestic incident. The 45-year-old auctioneer faced seven offences, including two counts of assault causing actual bodily harm and one of controlling and coercive behaviour. Derbyshire Police were called to reports of a domestic incident in June 2023, leading to Hanson's arrest and subsequent charges in December 2023.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/bargain-hunt-auctioneer-charles-hanson-court-assault-charges-plea-b1131407.html> - Charles Hanson, the auctioneer from 'Bargain Hunt', appeared in court in January 2024 to face charges of assault and coercive behaviour against his wife. The 45-year-old denied all charges, which included assault occasioning actual bodily harm and engaging in controlling or coercive behaviour. The case attracted significant media attention, with Hanson maintaining his innocence throughout the legal proceedings.
7. <https://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/1847854/bargain-hunt-charles-hanson-assault-charge> - Charles Hanson, a star of the BBC's 'Bargain Hunt', was charged with seven alleged offences following a police investigation into domestic abuse allegations. The 45-year-old auctioneer denied all charges, including assault and coercive behaviour. Reports indicated that Hanson had moved out of his family home in Derbyshire after the allegations surfaced, and he was scheduled to appear in court in January 2024.