



Tammy Beaumont with her Welsh Fire teammates. Photo: ECB/Getty Images

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## Beaumont, Pope, Payne and Matthews retained by Welsh Fire on Deadline Day

- Tammy Beaumont, Ollie Pope, David Payne and Hayley Matthews will all be back at Sophia Gardens in 2023
- The Hundred Draft powered by Sage to be televised live on Sky Sports on Thursday 23 March
- Draft in the women's competition to be held for the first time
- Two Vitality Wildcard picks in the men's competition
- For more information and to sign up for priority ticket access visit [thehundred.com](https://thehundred.com)

Welsh Fire have today confirmed the men's and women's stars they have re-signed to return to Sophia Gardens this summer for the third year of The Hundred.

Among the stars confirmed to be returning on Deadline Day, West Indies captain and all-rounder Hayley Matthews and Gloucestershire and England bowler David Payne will both be back for their third season with Welsh Fire.

England batter Tammy Beaumont will return to captain for her second season in Wales and she'll once again be joined by talented Australian all-rounder Annabel Sutherland.

George Scrimshaw, last year's Vitality Wildcard pick for the men's team, has also been retained for the upcoming season, along with England and Surrey star Ollie Pope and Nottinghamshire batter Joe Clarke. Jonny Bairstow is also back at Sophia Gardens as his team's England Men Centrally Contracted player.

Rashid Khan, Jos Buttler, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Smriti Mandhana and Glenn Maxwell are among the list of players who have been retained by other teams in The Hundred.

Across both competitions, 114 players have been retained in total, meaning 134 spots remain to be filled at The Hundred Draft powered by Sage, and across the open market process in the women's competition.

Teams in the men's competition are able to retain 10 players, and women's teams can retain four of their players. Six men's sides have retained all 10, while Welsh Fire – under the new leadership of Australian great Mike Hussey – will have eight places to fill at The Draft, at which they'll have the first pick.

The women's competition will be hosting a draft for the first time, with Tammy Beaumont's Welsh Fire the first side to pick. The likes of England stars Sophia Dunkley, Danni Wyatt and Kate Cross, as well as a host of international players, will be up for grabs. The final list for The Hundred Draft powered by Sage is due to be confirmed on 28 February.

The Hundred will kick off its third year at Trent Bridge on Tuesday 1 August

with a Trent Rockets v Southern Brave double-header – the first of 68 games that promise high-octane men’s and women’s sporting action, live music, and a host of family-friendly entertainment

More than half a million people attended games during The Hundred’s second year in 2022, including a record-breaking 271,000 watching live women’s fixtures across the competition and more families buying tickets than in 2021.

There will be an initial, exclusive window to purchase tickets from 15-28 March for anyone who has previously bought tickets for The Hundred. Those yet to attend can sign up in advance at [thehundred.com](https://thehundred.com) for priority ticket access from 5–18 April. Tickets will then go on general sale on Thursday 20 April. Tickets this year remain great value in line with 2022 pricing, with prices set at £5 for juniors aged 6-15, free for children five and under, and adults starting from £10.📧 📧

**England Women’s opener and Welsh Fire captain Tammy Beaumont, said:** "I’m so excited to be back as captain of Welsh Fire for The Hundred. The energy and support from the Welsh fans last year was amazing, and I can’t wait to experience it again. It’s such an exciting time for us with the women’s draft just around the corner. We’re on the lookout for some seriously talented players to join our team, and I can’t wait to see who we can bring on board to help us compete this August."

**Gloucestershire and England Men’s bowler David Payne said:** "I’m delighted to be retained by Welsh Fire for 2023 for my third season in Cardiff. The last two campaigns obviously haven’t been easy, but I’m excited about starting fresh in 2023. It’ll be great to see a few familiar faces from our retentions, but I’m also looking forward to seeing how we can build our squad during the draft in March. We need to get off to a good start so we need to make sure we have the right mix of talent and experience to take us to the next level."

Over 14.1 million people tuned in to watch The Hundred action in 2022 and games will again be broadcast live on Sky Sports and BBC broadcast and digital channels throughout the competition.📧📧

To stay up to date with the latest news, buy tickets or to sign up for priority access, visit [thehundred.com](https://thehundred.com) or follow The Hundred, and the eight teams, on Instagram, TikTok and YouTube.📧

## ENDS

### Notes to Editors

#### **About The Hundred:**

The Hundred is an action-packed, unmissable cricket competition that fuses world-class cricket with blockbuster entertainment.

Combining a short, fast format of cricket, with each game lasting less than three hours, and incredible entertainment beyond the sport, The Hundred is making cricket more accessible and reaching a broader audience. It's simple: 100 balls per team, most runs wins, so every ball counts.

The Hundred features eight teams from seven cities, with men's and women's competitions taking place side by side: Welsh Fire (Cardiff), Southern Brave (Southampton), Northern Superchargers (Leeds), London Spirit, Trent Rockets (Nottingham), Oval Invincibles (London), Manchester Originals and Birmingham Phoenix. Each team features some of the best international and domestic cricketers from around the world, including England Men's & Women's World Cup winners.

#### **Highlight statistics from The Hundred 2022:**

- More than 500,000 people attended games across the course of the competition
- The Hundred continued to take cricket to new audiences with more women (28%), children (22%) and families (41%) attending than in the first year
- 2022 once again set a new global record for total attendance at a women's cricket competition, with 271,000 people attending
- All eight venues broke their previous best for domestic women's attendances
- Of the Sky and BBC TV coverage, 42% hadn't watched any other ECB cricket in 2022 prior to The Hundred, resulting in 5.9m new viewers
- Women (31%) and children (14%) made up a significant share of the TV audience

## About The Hundred Draft powered by Sage:

For more information about The Hundred Draft powered by Sage, follow [this link](#).

## About The Hundred fixtures:

For all fixtures in The Hundred, follow [this link](#).

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