



Ben Duckett in action for England. Photo: Getty Images

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Ben Duckett and Sophie Devine head to Edgbaston in The Hundred Draft

- Duckett and Sophie Devine are Birmingham Phoenix's first picks in the men's and women's competitions
- Duckett was selected in round one as the Phoenix's top pick
- Phoenix utilise Right To Match to bring back New Zealand all-rounder Devine
- In the men's competition 30 players drafted, 34 players drafted in the women's competition.
- For more information and to sign up for priority ticket access visit thehundred.com

England Men's batter Ben Duckett and New Zealand Women's all-rounder Sophie Devine are two of the big-name selections at The Hundred Draft, powered by Sage.

The pair were Birmingham Phoenix's first-round picks of the competition, with Jamie Smith, Miles Hammond, Hannah Baker, Eve Jones, and Katie Levick joining them at Edgbaston.

Duckett, previously with Welsh Fire, will add more firepower to a top-order that already includes England Men's duo Moeen Ali and Liam Livingstone. Will Smeed, who hit the first-ever hundred in The Hundred last year, also returns.

Ben Duckett, said: "I'm delighted to be joining Birmingham Phoenix as we've had plenty of conversations over the past few months and just never know how the picks will fall during the draft. For me, it's a fresh start with a great team and a great ground to play at. I've spent a bit of time with Mo [Moeen Ali] this winter and he's a great captain who I love playing with. Looking at the squad I feel we have a good balance, complemented by some explosive batters, so I can't wait to call Edgbaston and its fantastic atmosphere home this summer."

Sophie Devine said: "I'm excited to be back in The Hundred as I had such a great time with the Phoenix last year. Edgbaston is one of the best grounds to play cricket at and the atmosphere and support we receive there is second to none. The squad we're putting together looks incredibly strong and I can't wait to fly over to Birmingham this summer and play for the Phoenix."

The Hundred Draft saw 64 spots filled across the men's and women's competition, with the eight teams taking it in turns to select players – the order for selections is based on last year's finishing positions.

Among the stars signed by other teams were Pakistan duo Shaheen Afridi and Haris Rauf, who are heading to Welsh Fire along with England Women's batter Sophia Dunkley. England bowlers Kate Cross and Reece Topley joined Northern Superchargers, and South Africa batter Laura Wolvaardt moves to Manchester Originals. ⚡ Batter Tom Abell was first choice in the men's draft, being picked up by Mike Hussey's Welsh Fire.

The open market process will see the remaining 56 places filled in the women's competition, while 16 spots remain up for grabs in the men's competition by virtue of The Vitality Wildcard Draft, which will be held in the week commencing 3 July.

Across the men's and women's competitions, the following players were signed:

Women

Sophie Devine, Hannah Baker, Eve Jones, Katie Levick

Men

Ben Duckett, Jamie Smith, Miles Hammond,

The third year of The Hundred will start with a double-header at Trent Bridge on Tuesday 1 August – the first of 34 matchdays 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.

Tickets are now exclusively on sale for anyone who has previously bought tickets for The Hundred until 28 March. Those yet to attend can sign up in advance at thehundred.com to get 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.🏏🏏🏏

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 or follow The Hundred, and the eight teams, on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and YouTube.✕

To view all the players picked in The Hundred Draft, powered by Sage, please visit www.thehundred.com/draft.

ENDS✕

Notes to Editors✕

About Sage:

The Hundred Draft is powered by Sage. Sage supports insights and key decision-making moments in The Hundred. As Official Insights Partner, Sage brings fans closer to The Hundred's big decisions, powering the Decision Review System (DRS) in broadcast and on the cricket grounds' big screens, together with sponsoring the umpires' kit during the competition. Across The Hundred Draft, coaches used data, analysis, and insights to help them make the crucial decisions needed to build their squads in both the men's and women's competitions. Sage aims to bring fans closer to the action as part of this exciting start to The Hundred.

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 teams 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 fixtures:

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



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