



Feb 23, 2021 16:00 GMT

CRICKETING SUPERSTARS JOIN THE HUNDRED

MORE of the best players in world cricket have been signed up to play in The Hundred, the new fast-paced family-friendly 100-ball cricket competition which launches this summer.

Thirty five men's players have been revealed after being chosen out of more than 500 overseas and English players vying for a place in the competition. Alongside this, a further eight English and eight Australian star women's players have also been announced:

- Nicholas Pooran, Kieron Pollard, David Warner, Kagiso Rabada and Tom Abell are the top five men's picks in The Hundred Draft to fill the remaining 35 spaces in the Men's squads.
- Manchester Originals were the busiest team, signing 10 players.
 As well as Pooran and Rabada, they also drafted Harry Gurney,
 Jamie Overton and Shadab Khan amongst others.
- Other England stars signed up include Ravi Bopara going to London Spirit, Olly Stone joining Northern Superchargers, and Saqib Mahmood being picked up by Oval Invincibles.
- The eight teams have now filled all but one place in their Men's squads – they each have one Vitality Wildcard pick each to fill the final slot in June.
- Men's competition features three of world's top five male international T20 batters and four of top five male bowlers.
- Players are being signed on an individual basis by the eight teams in the women's competition, with no equivalent Draft event. Teams will continue to fill their squads over the coming months.
- World's top female T20 bowler Sophie Ecclestone and leading female T20 batter Beth Mooney are among the latest women's star signings. Women's competition currently features three of world's top five female international T20 batters and bowlers.
- The women's competition will headline the start of The Hundred with Oval Invincibles taking on Manchester Originals in a standalone women's match, live on Sky and BBC on July 21, a day before the men's teams meet.

The Hundred will combine fast-paced cricket featuring world-class players with entertainment off the pitch making it a great day out for families.

The Hundred Draft featured 252 overseas players and 254 domestic players vying for the remaining places in the men's teams.

Men's Draft picks were (number in brackets indicates order of pick):

Toam	Players picked in Draft
Team	Players picked in Drait

Manchester Originals	Nicholas Pooran (1) Kagiso Rabada (4) Harry Gurney (6) Jamie Overton (11) Shadab Khan (18) Tom Lammonby (20) Steven Finn (24) Colin Ackermann (28) Richard Gleeson (30) Tom Hartley (35)
Welsh Fire	Kieron Pollard (2) Jhye Richardson (7) Jake Ball (10) Ian Cockbain (13) Josh Cobb (21) Matthew Critchley (31) David Lloyd (34)
Southern Brave	David Warner (3) Danny Briggs (15)
Birmingham Phoenix	Tom Abell (5) Daniel Bell-Drummond (23) Miles Hammond (29)
London Spirit	Ravi Bopara (8) Chris Wood (19)
Oval Invincibles	Saqib Mahmood (9) Colin Ingram (12) Brandon Glover (25) Jordan Clark (27)
Northern Superchargers	Olly Stone (14) Matthew Potts (17) Matthew Fisher (22) Harry Brook (26) Callum Parkinson (32)
Trent Rockets	Timm Van Der Gugten (16) Samit Patel (33)

In the women's competition Australians Beth Mooney, Meg Lanning and Alyssa Healy – three of the world's top six female batters in international T20s – and England's Sophie Ecclestone and Sarah Glenn – first and ninth in the world bowling rankings respectively – have been unveiled as well.

Players are being signed on an individual basis by the eight teams in the

women's competition, with no equivalent Draft event. Teams will continue to fill their squads over the coming months. Today's announced signings were:

Team	New Signings
Birmingham Phoenix	George Elwiss
London Spirit	Tammy Beaumont
Manchester Originals	Sophie Ecclestone
Northern Superchargers	Nicola Carey (Australia) Alice Davidson-Richards Alyssa Healy (Australia)
Oval Invincibles	Rachael Haynes (Australia) Mady Villiers
Southern Brave	Sophia Dunkley
Trent Rockets	Sarah Glenn Sophie Molineux (Australia) Annabel Sutherland (Australia)
Welsh Fire	Jess Jonassen (Australia) Meg Lanning (Australia) Beth Mooney (Australia) Bryony Smith

The fixtures for The Hundred were published earlier today and in a sporting first, the competition will launch with a women's fixture as the headline act. Oval Invincibles will take on Manchester Originals at the Kia Oval on Wednesday 21 July in a match televised live on Sky and BBC – with the men's sides following suit the next day.

After those first two games, men's and women's sides will both play at the same venue on the same date, with tickets allowing fans to watch both matches. All men's and women's games will be broadcast live on Sky. The Hundred will also be covered extensively across the BBC, including live television coverage of 10 men's games and up to eight live women's matches, including The Hundred Final for both the women's and men's competitions, which will take place at Lord's on 21 August.

Men's number two pick Kieron Pollard, who will play for Welsh Fire, said: "I can't wait to come and play in The Hundred, it's an exciting new cricket

competition and I'm really pleased to be part of it. There were so many top players who entered The Draft and I was really happy to be the second pick. With Jhye [Richardson] joining as well, I think this Welsh Fire team has got some serious firepower in both bowling and batting line-ups, so I believe we can put on a real show."

Simon Katich, Manchester Originals men's team HeadCoach, said: "We are really pleased with the players we picked up in The Draft. Pooran, Rabada and Shadab Khan are world class overseas players to bring in alongside a balance of young, local guys and some more senior players. We know that we were the team with most slots to fill going into The Draft, and I feel like it's paid off and we've put together a well balanced squad that will do Manchester proud."

Sophie Ecclestone, confirmed today as playing for Manchester Originals, said: "The thought of making history and potentially bowling the first ball of The Hundred is really exciting. It is fantastic news that the competition is launching with a women's match and we can't wait to get The Hundred off to the best possible start."

Australia's Meg Lanning, who will play for Welsh Fire, said "I'm really excited to be playing in The Hundred and to be leading Welsh Fire. We've got a strong Aussie contingent with myself, Jess (Jonassen) and Beth (Mooney) involved, alongside a host of up and coming domestic players. With Matthew Mott at the helm, we can't wait to get going."

For the latest news and priority access to tickets visit <u>thehundred.com</u>

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Full team squads can be viewed at thehundred.com

About The Hundred

The Hundred is a brand new sports competition launching this summer. It fuses blockbuster entertainment with world-class cricket, inviting everyone to fall in love with the game at its intense, electrifying and incredible best.

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

The Hundred will feature eight brand new 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 will feature some of the best international and domestic cricketers from around the world, including England Men's & Women's World Cup winners.

Games will be broadcasted live on Sky Sports and BBC throughout the competition – so whether in ground or watching from home – you'll be right amongst all the action.

Join us for the latest news and priority access to tickets by signing up at thehundred.com

Tickets

Tickets to the 2021 edition of The Hundred will be available to buy during four sales windows in the lead up to the competition this summer.

County Members will have first chance to get tickets, followed by people who bought tickets for the 2020 competition. Eligible members will be contacted directly by their county, and 2020 buyers will be contacted directly by The Hundred with more detail on these opportunities.

The Priority Window will then open to all those signed up to The Hundred, from 7th – 18th April – anyone not yet signed up can do so at www.thehundred.com to get access to this window. The General Sale will start from 21st April and is open to anyone to buy tickets.

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