

# The Hundred: Rashid top pick, Gayle left out

ENGLAND AND Wales Cricket Board (ECB) makes an audacious dive into the unknown with The Hundred — a diet version of the ubiquitous T20 format — that begins in the summer of 2020 and comprises eight teams competing against each other across seven cities in England. The tournament that hopes to make cricket accessible for the whole family, has attracted a bevy of high-profile names. However, behind the razzmatazz of Sunday's big-ticket draft in London, came the shocking news of Chris Gayle's omission. The 40-year-old West Indies opener, who entered the draft at the highest price of £125,000, went unpicked. Veteran Sri Lankan pacer Lasith Malinga and South Africa's bowling linchpin Kagiso Rabada were also snubbed. Here's a look at everything you need to know about England's ambitious 100-ball project.



Chris Gayle had entered the draft at the highest price of £125,000.

## How does The Hundred work?

The match will have a total of 200 legal deliveries with 100 deliveries per innings. ■ Each over will consist of 10 deliveries. ■ Each team will bat for 100 deliveries with a change of bowling ends taking place after every 10 deliveries. ■ Bowlers will bowl either five or 10 consecutive deliveries but no more than 20 per match.

## Time-out

Each fielding side gets the chance to call for a strategic timeout for upto 150 seconds. During the timeout, a coach can walk out to the middle and discuss strategies with his players.

## Powerplay

A 25-ball powerplay will start each team's innings, during which only two fielders will be allowed outside the 30-yard circle.

## What are the names of the teams?

They are: Trent Rockets (Trent Bridge), Southern Brave (The Ageas Bowl), Northern Superchargers (Emerald Headingley), Welsh Fire (Sophia Gardens), Oval Invincibles (The Kia Oval), Manchester Originals (Emirates Old Trafford), London Spirit (Lord's) and Birmingham Phoenix (Edgbaston).

## What's the need for this format?

With matches lasting less than three hours, The Hundred is aimed at making the game more accessible to a wider audience, namely the mothers and kids. Also, with the advent of more popular T20 leagues across the globe such as the Indian Premier League, the ECB wanted to create its own prototype, one that's unique and stood out from the rest.

## What are the immediate challenges?

The format must have the box-office players to rival IPL and silence critics who fear that the game's future will get compromised.

## How does the draft work?

The Hundred draft, unlike the IPL is not an auction. Each of the eight teams will have two picks from seven rounds. Trent Rockets will make the first pick in

the opening round. The order is then reversed from the second round. The draft will end with each team selecting 14 players plus their England player. They have 100 seconds to make their choice in each round.

## How much can teams splurge?

They will have a cap of £990,000 on salaries for their 15-member squad. Out of this amount, £30,000 will be reserved till June 2020, when each team gets to select their 'wild card' entry — a talented domestic player, who has performed admirably in the local T20 Vitality Blast.

## How many players are in the draft?

There are 570 players registered in Sunday's draft, and each team is permitted to pick three overseas players.

## What happened on Sunday?

Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan became the first overseas player picked for the inaugural 'The Hundred' competition next year, but T20 stalwarts Chris Gayle and Lasith Malinga were among notable omissions in Sunday's draft. Rashid, the No. 1 T20 bowler, was picked up by Trent Rockets for the top price of £125,000. Australians were the most sought after at the proceedings, with Steve Smith and Mitchell Starc being recruited by the Welsh Fire for £125,000 each.

## Why are teams scrambling for Australians?

That's because the draft looks at international commitments of players for this tournament that runs between July-August 2020. The Australians are free during this month-long window, which explains why they are on top of every team's wish-list. With 53 players, Australia tops the list of overseas entrants, followed by Pakistan with 35. England's Test players will be eligible for the first 10 days of this tournament, as they will be busy playing a bilateral series against Pakistan under the aegis of the World Test championship during that time.

## Why are there no Indians in this draft?

There are no Indians in this draft because the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) does not allow their players to participate in such overseas domestic franchise events. **ENS**

I really like the fact that the teams are planning for the future a lot. You look at our side you've got a lot of guys that are in their young 20s. It's fantastic to see all the coaches and staff look at it in that way rather than just be here and now. You look at Saqib and Parkinson they could be Manchester Originals players for the next 10 years."

JOS BUTTLER, ENGLAND TEST PLAYER WHO WAS ALLOCATED TO MANCHESTER ORIGINALS

# Show me the money: Shakib & Co

Bangladesh players go on strike ahead of India tour, calling for better remuneration and facilities



The boycott was announced by top players such as Test and T20 captain Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah, Mushfiquir Rahim and Tamim Iqbal.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DHAKA, OCTOBER 21

BANGLADESH'S UPCOMING tour of India was on Monday thrown into jeopardy after their national team players refused to participate in any cricketing activity until their demands, including a hike in salary, are met.

The boycott plan was announced by the country's top players such as Test and T20 captain Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah and Mushfiquir Rahim at a press conference here. Nearly 50 players are part of the protest.

A boycott of any cricket activity for the foreseeable future will have an immediate impact on the National Cricket League, currently in progress. The action could also jeopardise the training camp for next month's tour of India and possibly the tour itself.

During the tour starting November 3, Bangladesh are scheduled to play three T20 Internationals and two Test matches as part of the World Championship.

"We have to respect the local coaches, physios, trainers and groundsman. They get really a little amount of salary at the end of the month," senior opener Tamim Iqbal said on behalf of the players at the press conference. The camp was supposed to start this week with the team's spin consultant Daniel Vettori in attendance. India responded with a guarded statement, calling Bangladesh's internal matter.

"The BCCI will wait and watch the developments closely. This is an internal matter of the Bangladesh Cricket Board and until and unless we hear from them, there is no need for us to make any comments," a senior BCCI functionary told PTI.

However, many in the Indian Cricket Board feel that President-elect Sourav Ganguly's cordial relations with both players and officials in Bangladesh cricket might help in salvaging the situation.

"There is a Test match in Kolkata which will certainly generate a lot of interest among the Bangladesh fans keeping the local connect in mind. A lot of fans are expected to travel from Dhaka and it's surrounding towns to watch the match, a first in Kolkata. I believe that they will pay heed to our president's request if the situation demands," another BCCI official said.

Sources in the BCB believe that the tour is remains on course as Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to attending the second Test at the Eden Gardens

# What are the players demanding?

A TEST against India at the iconic Eden Gardens would have been a cherished dream for Bangladesh cricketers, that too with the country's Prime Minister among the watchers at the stadium.

But that now seems in jeopardy with their top cricketers, including first-class players, going on strike demanding better remuneration and facilities and streamlining of the domestic structure.

The average Bangladesh cricketer has never been among the most-highly paid in the world, and the players argue that the manner in which the game is run in the country limits their earning potential.

Eleven of the big stars of Bangladesh cricket — including Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiquir Rahim, Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah — put forth a list of 11 demands and declared that they will not return to action till these are met.

■ The players are dissatisfied by the working of the Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh, as they feel it has done nothing for their benefit. Hence, they want its president and secretary to step down and their successors elected by players themselves through voting ■ Players should be allowed to choose their teams and negotiate salaries with Dhaka Premier League teams, as was the case earlier.

■ The Bangladesh Premier League teams are now operated by the cricket board itself. It is demanded that it returns to its earlier franchise-based model with lo-

cal players allowed to set their own base prices.

■ Remuneration in first-class cricket be hiked to one lakh takas per match (approximately Rs 83,700) — almost a three-fold increase from the present level - and an improvement in their allowances and other facilities.

■ Number of centrally-contracted players should be increased to 30, and also their retainers.

■ Salaries of groundsman, local coaches, umpires, physios and trainers should be increased.

■ There is just one one-day and one T20 tournament in the domestic set-up. One more of each should be started.

■ A proper calendar for the domestic season should be finalised in advance.

■ Pending payments to the players in the Dhaka Premier League must be cleared.

■ The BCB allows its players to feature in only two franchise leagues around the world. That cap must be lifted.

■ Improving the feeder system of players so that domestic cricket gets more competitive and the game gets more widespread.

■ Though the players have come together citing unsatisfactory administration on BCB's part, most of the points raised by them directly relate to their income.

■ Insistence of playing in more foreign

T20 leagues, more domestic limited-overs tournaments and central contracts betray that players are not satisfied with how much they earn at the present.

■ That the players want more say in who they play for in the domestic tournaments, and for how much, shows that players are aware of their star value in the country and are eager to leverage it.

■ There is great passion for cricket in Bangladesh, but whether there are the financial resources to meet the players' demands is debatable.

## BCB caught off-guard

Though a development of this kind couldn't have taken place all of a sudden, the Bangladesh Cricket Board claimed it had yet to receive a formal intimation of the players' strike.

"We have come to know about this through the media. This has not been formally communicated to us. Obviously, the players are very important for us. We will talk to them about these issues. A decision in this regard will be taken at a board meeting in due course," BCB chief executive officer Nizamuddin Chaudhary said.

"Various demands come to us at different times, and we try to meet them. Today, this issue has come up and we'll definitely discuss it at the board meeting and take a decision."

**ENS**

from November 22. In case Bangladesh forfeits, the ICC will award the Test series to India who will get 120 points.

## PM Hasina to ring Eden Bell

Kolkata: Sourav Ganguly has decided to felicitate the members of the Bangladesh squad that played their country's first-ever Test match against India in 2000, a game where the BCCI president-elect made his debut as Test captain.

The match that was held at Dhaka's Bangabandhu Stadium in November 2000, was start of a new era in Indian cricket with Ganguly taking charge of the Test team, hav-

ing already led the team in the ODIs.

India won that match by nine wickets against Naimur Rahman Durjoy's team. The team had prominent players like future Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar, left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique, pacer Hasibul Hossain Shanto, Akram Khan, Aminul Islam Bulbul. The felicitation will happen during India's World Test Championship match against Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens from November 22-26.

"We will invite all the players of that first Test match that Bangladesh played, it was against India. I will write to the Bangladesh Cricket Board and personally as BCCI presi-

dent to the players of that Indian team. We will do a small felicitation ceremony at the end of the first day's play," Ganguly told reporters at the Eden Gardens.

He also informed that Bangladesh PM Hasina will be in attendance on the first day of the match and ring the Eden Gardens' giant bell to signal the start.

"The Bangladesh PM will be arriving on November 22. If all goes well, she will ring the bell (to signal the start) of the Test," Ganguly said.

The BCCI president-elect also said that he will personally invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi to watch the proceedings.

# England's Kamikaze Kids set sights on All Blacks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
OCTOBER 21

THE HEROES of England's Rugby World Cup quarterfinal thrashing of Australia were what coach Eddie Jones calls Kamikaze Kids — Tom Curry and Sam Underhill. The two openside flankers harried the Wallabies (outplaying the originals, Wallabies Michael Hooper and David Pocock) and are expected to duel now with All Blacks flankers Sam Kane and Ardie Savea, which will be the battle flying into the first ruck of the England-New Zealand semi-final this coming weekend.

Stuff.co.nz says, "England coach Jones is expected to start specialist fetchers Tom Curry and Sam Underhill, who he has dubbed the Kamikaze Kids, against the All Blacks and no doubt hopes they can pilfer mouthwatering turnover ball, as well as tackle anything that twitches in a black jersey at Yokohama Stadium."

Curry and Underhill are the biggest exponents of the trend of starting specialist opensiders on either side of the scrum. It's how the game has evolved - the three loose forwards all carry out not too dissimilar versatile roles. Between them, Curry and Underhill made 36 tackles against Australia. "Teams are so structured and probably the best chance to attack from unstructured is turnover ball," stuff writes, so the pin-up stars of the English pack have been the two flankers forcing changes in possession.

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## How the names stuck

"Dynamic duo Sam Underhill and Tom



Tom Curry won the player of the match award in England's QF win over Australia.

Curry give England comic-book gusto" read Guardian's header. "Eddie Jones calls them his Kamikaze Kids, which fits — because the way Tom and Sam play is right out of a comic book. You could picture it in Roy Lichtenstein prints. Pop! Pow! Whaam! Boom!" it reads.

There's an ode to the tackles: one that Underhill put in on the strapping No. 8, Isi Naisarani, which reversed the entire flow of the Australia game. Naisaranini is almost two metres tall and 18-stone heavy, he caught the ball and came charging right back at Underhill, who caught him flush in the gut, forced him back, lifted him off his feet and

dumped him down in a heap.

"It was a ruinous tackle, the sort of blow that staggers an entire team backwards," Guardian wrote. Combining, Curry and Underhill's best moment came when they teamed up on Reece Hodge as he came thundering in off his wing. Whack, Curry cut him down, and, smack, Underhill pounced and stole the ball off him.

When Marika Koroibete came charging hard for the gap in front of Curry, the latter came flying in from the side and knocked Koroibete off his feet and into next week. A second try-saving tackle in 20 seconds.

## Who are openside flankers?

THE NO. 7 position in rugby flanking the pack, these are wing forwards of the scrum (blindsides near the touch-line, openside further inside the field). The openside flanker standing as the first link to the running backs will be one of the most physical, craftiest, fittest and downright tough players capable of attacking and defending against men much larger and much quicker than them. Crunching tacklers, greedy of breakdown work, fighting for balls in rucks and mauls and ball-carrying ability that forwards aren't known for, openside flankers take on the bigs, and earn turnovers. What's in vogue with the big teams now is tossing the ball to two openside flankers. **ENS**

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## Who are the Kamikaze Kids?

They have a combined 28 caps between them and a combined age of 44. Australia's coach Michael Cheika pioneered the move of double opensiders at the 2015 World Cup

while evicting England from their home Cup. Eddie Jones this August looked willing to risk it all on a couple of young bucks; Curry and Underhill, the tackling titans, no slouches at the breakdown, fledgling flankers with youth and enthusiasm on their side who will hit rucks all day long.

Curry would say, "It is a physical position and one that is not the most glamorous. It is pretty gritty and you have to enjoy that the guy scoring out wide is usually because someone has done something in the middle that is fairly dull to watch but creates special moments in the game."

Rugby's i-newsletter writes, "Another side to the 'kamikaze kids' is their emergence as an engagingly odd couple when it comes to the social side of the squad. Curry is 21 and Underhill 23.

Curry, according to Underhill, is an occasional sleep-walker, whose nocturnal movements upset England's fly-half George Ford during pre-World Cup training camps in Surrey. "He had one night with George before he had to be moved because he was sleep-walking so much and just being a nuisance," Underhill said. "How far did he get? I think he was in front of a TV trying to knock it over."

Bath's Underhill is a student of politics and economics whose idea of a good time in the team hotel is completing a 1,000-piece jigsaw. Curry of Sale Sharks is, apparently, a hunter who never stops speaking in daylight hours, or snoring when night falls. Curry is quoted saying, "We are probably too electric [as company] — people can't handle it. He [Underhill] is very relaxed and chilled, I am a bit less relaxed and chilled. Apart from that, we are both pretty weird."

# After Hazare ouster, Mumbai wants 'unfair' rule removed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

MUMBAI RANJII team will ask the state cricket association to discuss with the BCCI the "unfair" rules that cut short their Vijay Hazare campaign despite dominating the quarterfinal against Chhattisgarh.

Chhattisgarh were declared winner in the quarterfinal on the basis of more number of victories than Mumbai during the league phase as the match could not be completed due to rain in Bengaluru. Chhattisgarh had won five out of their eight games in Group A while Mumbai had managed four victories. A member of the Mumbai support staff expressed displeasure over the current rules. "Yes definitely we will make a demand. This was unfair," a team member said.

"How should the performance in the league stage matter in the knock-out stages. Every day is a new day. Else, a good team goes out in this fashion," the member said, adding "else this thing would continue."

After Mumbai bowlers restricted Chhattisgarh to 190 for six in 45.4 overs, they were set a revised target of 195 from 35 overs. Mumbai were going all guns blazing at 95 for no loss in 11.3 overs with young Yashasvi Jaiswal batting on 60 and Aditya Tare on 31. However, the skies opened up and the match was abandoned, ending Mumbai's topsy-turvy campaign.