

THE GAME WITHIN THE GAME



# YOUR EXPERT BBL 09 BETTING PREVIEW

 **betfair** | **THE HUB**

Gamble Responsibly.

# WHAT'S IN THIS BETTING GUIDE?

Betfair have teamed up with the Analysts, pro cricket punters who bet on cricket all year round, to create an in-depth eBook for the BBL 09 Tournament.

Last year was incredibly profitable for the Analysts, tipping the Renegades at \$7.40 and successfully laying the Heat in the outright markets. This year, they've given their expert thoughts, analysis and best bets for the tournament.

BBL 08 saw an incredible finish to the tournament with the Stars losing after trading at \$1.04 during the game. This year, BBL 09 promises to have even more trading opportunities with the talent level across all teams at an all-time high.

## **Inside this BBL 09 Season eBook, you'll find:**

- A preview for every single team
- Outright tips for the tournament
- Trading advice on bowlers to target and batsmen to look out for
- How the International Summer will affect each team

Please enjoy our BBL 09 eBook.

\*All odds correct as of 15:00 09/12/19



# BRISBANE HEAT



**In:** AB de Villiers (South Africa), Zahir Khan (Afghanistan), Tom Banton (England), Ben Laughlin (Strikers), Cameron Gannon (returning)

**Out:** Brendon McCullum (retired), Brendan Doggett (likely Thunder), Alex Ross (Thunder)

The Heat have made the biggest splashes in the player market this season, securing the services of mercurial top-order batsman AB de Villiers for the back end of the tournament, with highly-rated English opener Tom Banton to fill in at the start of the competition.

In the bowling department the Heat's most miserly bowler from last season Mujeeb Ur Rahman returns and he'll split duties with countryman Zahir Khan. But perhaps Brisbane's most astute signing is a local one with the BBL's all-time top wicket-taker Ben Laughlin returning to his native Queensland in what is a major boost for the Heat's indigent bowling stocks.

Otherwise there are largely familiar faces for Brisbane with talisman Chris Lynn joined by talented youngster Mark Bryant at the top of the order, while the departure of Alex Ross and absence of Joe Burns and Marnus Labuschagne via international duty should provide some opportunities for destructive left-hander Sam Heazlett who has flourished in the 50-over format.

The major problem for the Heat in recent seasons has been their attack which they have largely addressed, though much will depend on how many games they can get out of spearhead James Pattinson. There will also be some question marks surrounding how Laughlin adjusts to the pacier conditions at the Gabba which don't tend to suit his style, yet he remains a clear upgrade on the alternatives, save for crafty left-arm seamer Josh Lalor who has broadened his experience in this year's Caribbean Premier League.

One area where Brisbane are a bit short is all-rounders with Ben Cutting completing less than three overs on average with the ball last season and 21-year-old Jack Prestwidge the only viable alternative which suggests their line-up lacks flexibility.

The Heat have made the finals in just one of the past six seasons and whilst their improved attack means I'm not as keen to oppose them as I have been in previous years, I'm not sure they deserve to be so high in the market so I'll be leaving them through to the 'keeper for now.



# MELBOURNE STARS

**In:** Dale Steyn (South Africa), Hilton Cartwright (Scorchers), Nathan Coulter-Nile (Scorchers), Clint Hinchliffe (Scorchers)

**Out:** Dwayne Bravo (retired), Jackson Bird (Sixers), Liam Plunkett (England), Scott Boland (Hurricanes), Michael Beer, Liam Bowe, Travis Dean, Evan Gulbis

The Stars will still be wondering how they managed to squander the BBL 08 title, somehow failing to make the remaining 57 runs from 48 balls required with all ten wickets in hand against the Renegades in last season's finale at Docklands.

Nevertheless it was a successful season for the Stars, who snuck into the top four despite a negative net run rate and came agonisingly close to securing their first trophy. Melbourne's fortunes changed when they made the decision to elevate Marcus Stoinis to the top of the order and the muscular all-rounder will be hoping for another fruitful season after falling out of favour with national selectors.

Speaking of national selection the Stars have the likes of Peter Handscomb, Glenn Maxwell, Adam Zampa and new signing Nathan Coulter-Nile who could all be selected for Australia's ODI tour to India, however the good news is that these players should only miss five of the 14 regular season matches if picked.

With Stoinis, Handscomb and Maxwell joined by veteran Ben Dunk and in-form left-hander Nic Maddinson the Stars are the only side in the competition who have declined to acquire an overseas batsman, instead securing the return of prolific Nepalese leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane, while South African warhorse Dale Steyn and promising England quick Pat Brown will play half a season each.

Swing bowler Daniel Worrall and left-arm seamer Jackson Coleman are likely to vie for the final pace bowling spot, following the loss of Jackson Bird and Scott Boland, while Stoinis is expected to provide plenty of overs after finishing as the Stars second-top wicket-taker in BBL 08.

In fact, Stoinis' bowling load is only likely to increase following with the exit of West Indian all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, however they will also be hoping that new signing Hilton Cartwright may benefit from a change of scenery.

The two red flags against the Stars is that they are light on depth and have an abominable record in finals with just two wins in nine playoff fixtures, however there's no questioning their quality so I will be backing them up front and then looking to lay off around the time of national commitments.



# MELBOURNE RENEGADES

**In:** Shaun Marsh (Scorchers), Usman Shinwari (re-signed, five games), Faheem Ashraf (Pakistan)

**Out:** Cameron White (Strikers), Chris Tremain (Thunder), Tim Ludeman, Andrew Fekete, Kelvin Smith, Mitchell Perry

The defending champions haven't stood still in their pursuit of back-to-back titles, going out and picking up prolific veteran Shaun Marsh who is unlikely to feature in national colours this season, while former skipper Cameron White has been shown the door after an underwhelming campaign in which he was dropped.

Australian T20I captain Aaron Finch will lead from the front and a favourable schedule means he should only miss four matches due to international duty, while after being left out of the test side Marcus Harris is likely to be available for the entire tournament.

The presence of enterprising 'keeper-batsman Sam Harper means there is plenty of competition for places in the top-order, with veterans Tom Cooper and Dan Christian set to continue further down the line-up.

In BBL 08 the Renegades made use of a host of all-round options that they can again call upon such as Christian, Jack Wildermuth, Will Sutherland, Beau Webster and Afghan veteran Mohammad Nabi who returns for his third season in the BBL, though a late arrival will see Pakistani dangerman Faheem Ashraf fill in for the first half of the competition.

Similarly wily English death specialist Harry Gurney will miss the opening five fixtures, with another Pakistani in Usman Shinwari to resume his love affair with Docklands at the start of the season.

BBL 08 top wicket-taker Kane Richardson and experienced leg-spinner Cameron Boyce are the local mainstays of the bowling attack with veterans Joe Mennie and Jon Holland in reserve, while overall the depth looks good with talented youngsters such as Mackenzie Harvey and Jake Fraser-McGuirk waiting in the wings.

The Renegades finished second last season before storming to the title and I see no reason why they can't do it again.

Granted it's unlikely that Richardson will enjoy such a fruitful season and they have also had a change in coach, but Marsh is a decent upgrade on White and with Finch and Harris set to play more games and the younger players only likely to improve I've marked the reigning champions as tournament favourites and will be backing them to become the first team since the Perth Scorchers to make it two titles on the trot.



# ADELAIDE STRIKERS

**In:** Cameron White (Renegades), Phil Salt (England), Harry Conway

**Out:** Colin Ingram (South Africa), Ben Laughlin (Heat), David Grant, Michael Cormack, Josh Pongelle

After coming out on top in BBL 07 the Adelaide Strikers endured a disappointing campaign last season, finishing seventh after only once stringing together back-to-back wins. In order to find the consistency that was the hallmark of their title season, as well as BBL 04 and BBL 05 when they finished top of the table, they have recruited the reliable Cameron White to hold up the top-order which too often fell apart last summer.

Seasoned South African Colin Ingram decided not to return to the BBL so has been replaced by dynamic English opener Phil Salt which will allow Alex Carey to slip down to number four and while Carey will miss some matches due to his international duty his availability should dovetail nicely with that of Travis Head.

More will be expected of talented opener Jake Weatherald this season but problems remain for the Strikers in the middle to lower-order with the ever-reliable Jonathan Wells repeatedly left to fend for himself thanks to the shortcomings of Jake Lehmann, Matt Short and Harry Nielsen.

However the biggest concern I have over Adelaide is their bowling attack with proven wicket-taker Ben Laughlin not suitably replaced. Peter Siddle regressed last season and Billy Stanlake proved alarmingly expensive.

Of course the Strikers do boast one of the most potent T20 bowlers in the world in leg-spinner Rashid Khan, but the Afghan national captain cannot be expected to do it all himself and a lack of quality alongside will allow teams to play him out and attack elsewhere unless unheralded types such as Wes Agar, Harry Conway, Nick Winter and Liam O'Connor suddenly find their feet in this format.

For mine Adelaide have not adequately addressed the issues they faced 12 months ago with White looking a spent force, the middle order lacking power and the bowling attack looking a touch stale outside of Rashid so I'll be taking on the 2017/18 champions.

Additionally for those trading Strikers' matches look to oppose their middle order in the final overs and try to find opportunities to back the opposition when Rashid is not bowling.



# HOBART HURRICANES

**In:** Scott Boland (Stars), David Miller (South Africa), Nathan Ellis

**Out:** Johan Botha (retired), Tymal Mills (unsigned), Tim Paine, Lawrence Neil-Smith

The Hurricanes may not have claimed the trophy last season but their sudden exit in the semi-finals after winning ten of their 14 group matches has resulted in a change of format for BBL 09 with the top two on the ladder now getting a second chance.

Unfortunately for Hobart I'm not convinced the change will be all that relevant for them as at least two of their most influential contributors in recent seasons will be largely or wholly absent.

Firstly spearhead and top wicket-taker for the past two seasons Jofra Archer will miss the entire tournament due to England representation, while Australian test duty will rob the Purple Army of opener Matthew Wade for the first part of the tournament and he could miss the lion's share if he can force his way into the ODI set-up.

Fellow top-order batsmen Darcy Short and Ben McDermott will also have designs on making Australia's ODI tour of India which would prove disastrous for the Hurricanes given that Wade, Short and McDermott have accounted for 64% of Hobart's runs over the past two seasons.

Outside of them the Hurricanes have recruited South African powerhouse David Millar to support national selector in-waiting George Bailey in the middle-order, while fringe contributors such as Caleb Jewell and Simon Milenko will be expected to step forward.

Although they will be without Archer there is more optimism around Hobart's bowling attack with the overseas slot going to deceptive Afghan leg-spinner Qais Ahmed who impressed in limited opportunities last season, while the experience and variety of James Faulkner and Scott Boland synchs nicely with the youth and raw pace of Riley Meredith, David Moody and Aaron Summers.

I don't think Hurricanes' fans can expect such a lofty finishing position this time around, however the market has already adjusted for some regression and with so much uncertainty surrounding player availability I'm going to sit tight on Hobart for the minute.



# PERTH SCORCHERS

**In:** Chris Jordan (England), Liam Livingstone (England), Fawad Ahmed (Thunder), Kurtis Patterson (Thunder)

**Out:** Usman Qadir (Pakistan), David Willey (England), Hilton Cartwright (Stars), Nathan Coulter-Nile (Stars), Michael Klinger (retired), Shaun Marsh (Renegades), Clint Hinchcliffe (Stars), Will Bosisto, Liam Guthrie, Sean Terry

After finishing no worse than third in the first seven editions of the BBL, the league's most successful franchise came crashing back down to the earth last summer with just four wins, finishing dead last by a comfortable margin.

On the surface things look increasingly difficult for the Scorchers with pacemen Jason Behrendorff and Andrew Tye both set to miss the entire tournament through injury, while fellow quick Nathan Coulter-Nile has been snapped up by the Stars, robbing them of 40 of the 70 wickets that they claimed last season. Furthermore, Perth have lost two of the BBL's top ten all-time run-scorers in Michael Klinger and Shaun Marsh, while key personnel such as Ashton Turner, Mitchell Marsh, Ashton Agar and Jhye Richardson could all miss a handful of games if selected in Australia's ODI squad.

Now for the good news, Perth have significantly upgraded both overseas options with powerful English all-rounder Liam Livingstone replacing misfiring countryman David Willey, while experienced paceman Chris Jordan comes in for unwanted leg-spinner Usman Qadir.

Additionally, although they are missing the bulk of their attack from last season, the Scorchers still boast a strong line-up with the ball including Richardson, Jordan and Agar as well as newly recruited leggie Fawad Ahmed and specialist death bowler Matthew Kelly who earned a call-up to IPL side Kolkata Knight Riders.

The three-time champions will also be hopeful that talented all-rounder Cameron Green will be available to bowl again following a back injury and that left-arm quick Joel Paris can get back to his best after making his international debut four years ago.

Concerns remain over the top order with youngster Josh Inglis unproven and new acquisition Kurtis Patterson not suited to T20 cricket, leaving a lot of pressure on Livingstone, Cameron Bancroft and the ODI aspirants in the middle-order.

If they can keep their best team on the park then the Scorchers are capable of springing a surprise but if further injuries and national representation take hold then a repeat of last season is not out of the question and as such I can't be with them at this price.





# SYDNEY SIXERS



**In:** Jackson Bird (Stars), Steve Smith (Australia)

**Out:** Joe Denly (England), Greg West, Oliver Davies, Ben Manenti

The Sydney Sixers have made a habit of slow starts and strong finishes, winning five of their last six group games in BBL 08 to storm into third spot before a heart-breaking final over defeat in the semi-finals against eventual champions Melbourne Renegades.

This season the Sixers have retained a relatively settled squad with no major departures with the exception of English opener Joe Denly, though he was comfortably out-performed by countryman James Vince who suits up again in magenta.

Another player from the old dart looms as a key figure with all-rounder Tom Curran a pivotal contributor with both bat and ball, particularly at the end of each innings. The Sixers' top order has a familiar feel with the reliable Daniel Hughes paired up top with excitement machine Josh Philippe, followed by Vince and the experience of captain Moises Henriques.

There will be extra incentive for the Magenta Men to be in the mix this year as they will also gain the services of Steve Smith for the final two group games plus any finals in what could prove a huge boost. Smith's inclusion may result in the skipper dropping down to support Jordan Silk in the middle-order where the Sixers have been a bit thin after Jack Edwards flattered to deceive with Jason Avendano another option in the number six spot.

Again Sydney's bowling attack largely resembles that of last season with Curran supported by the prolific but expensive Sean Abbott, left-arm swing bowler Ben Dwarshuis and cagey spinner Steve O'Keefe. The addition of Jackson Bird does bolster the pace stocks, while the Sixers will be hopeful that in the right conditions promising leg-spinner Lloyd Pope can provide some punch.

Much like the Renegades it wouldn't be unreasonable to assert that the Sixers look much the same, if not stronger, than last year and so after finishing third they might look a bit big to the naked eye but unlike the Renegades the Sixers aren't overflowing in depth and they are also short of genuine match-winners with a heavy reliance on their pair of Poms.

So although I wouldn't want to be taking on the Magenta Men at this price, too much needs to go right for them to be lifting the trophy.



# SYDNEY THUNDER

**In:** Alex Hales (England), Chris Morris (South Africa), Alex Ross (Heat), Chris Tremain (Renegades), Oliver Davies, Tanveer Sangha

**Out:** Jos Buttler (England), Joe Root (England), Chris Jordan (England), Fawad Ahmed (Scorchers), Pat Cummins (Australia), Shane Watson (retired), Kurtis Patterson (Scorchers), Ryan Gibson, Liam Hatcher, Sam Rainbird, Anton Devcich, Baxter Holt

The perennial strugglers of the BBL, the Thunder have made the playoffs just once when they were champions in BBL 05 and they find themselves again towards the bottom of the market for the upcoming season. However, there is plenty of reason for optimism in Western Sydney and firstly it's worth applying the right context to last year's sixth-placed finish which in all likelihood should have been fourth had the lights not gone out at the Gabba when they were in an almost impregnable position against the Heat.

They may have lost former captain Shane Watson to retirement and English opener Jos Buttler to national duty, however Buttler's compatriot Alex Hales is an able replacement with BBL experience, whilst Usman Khawaja's international pain is the Thunder's gain with the classy left-hander averaging a phenomenal 49.60 in this competition.

New skipper Callum Ferguson enjoyed a sensational BBL 08, whilst the middle-order is further boosted by the arrival of the inventive Alex Ross from the Heat, although the Thunder will still need to lean on their younger batsmen such as Jason Sangha, Matthew Gilkes and Jay Lenton.

The biggest struggle for Sydney will be overcoming the loss of leg-spinner Fawad Ahmed who was particularly effective at Spotless Stadium, however they already have an established tweaker on the verge of national selection in Chris Green, while cunning leggie Jonathan Cook also showed some promise last season.

The pace attack will rely on the change-ups provided by Daniel Sams and Gurinder Sandhu in conjunction with new blood in the form of towering seamer Chris Tremain, express quick Brendan Doggett and South African bowling all-rounder Chris Morris who should provide crucial vigour with both bat and ball. Morris will be tasked with taking over the role that Chris Jordan performed last year for the Thunder, while left-arm quick Sam Rainbird has not been retained.

Whilst there are some concerns over the Thunder's attack, particularly without Fawad, they tick plenty of boxes with proven match-winners in the top-order and an adaptable line-up that looks well suited to their home ground so I have them as a smokey for the title and would be surprised if they didn't at least feature in the playoffs.

# BETTING STRATEGY

- ▲▼ Back-to-Lay Melbourne Stars at 6.00 or better for 1 unit (trade out at 4.25 or bigger).
- ▲ Back Melbourne Renegades at 6.60 or better for 2 units.
- ▼ Lay Adelaide Strikers at 7.60 or better for 1 unit.
- ▲ Back Sydney Thunder at 10.00 or bigger for 1 unit.
- ▲ Back Sydney Thunder Top 5 at 2.00 or bigger for 2 units.

# CONCLUSION

If this BBL 09 eBook hasn't satisfied you enough, make sure you check out the [Betfair Hub](#) each week for more cricket content.

This season, our Analysts will have expert previews and best bets for [every single game of BBL 09](#). You'll find updated trends for each team and each ground with bets on all markets including run totals, most sixes and match odds.

Along with tips from our pro cricket punters, our [Data Scientists have also improved their cricket model](#) which we introduced last season.

During the BBL, [make sure you try Third-Party Tools](#) which are designed to improve your betting on the Exchange. We recommend Geekstoy for Cricket but fully encourage you to try out Bet Angel and Gruss to find the one that suits your betting.

With rated prices and outputs for every game of the season, you'll have daily projections on the Betfair Hub to compare against the Betfair Exchange.

Enjoy BBL 09 and Gamble Responsibly.