

IPL 2021 Auction - As it happened!

INTRODUCTION

With an endeavour to return to normalcy after an annus horribilis, which still continues to cause rampage around the globe, another season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) dawns upon us. And as is the case with each season, this season too is kicked off with the player auction. Although this is a minor auction, with the next one intended to be a major auction, not to mention, an addition of the 9th team, teams will be not only be looking to fill in the gaps for this season, they will be looking to purchase players who they could (potentially) retain before the next auction, should retention (or something similar) be allowed the next year.

There were a few major surprises before the auction. To name a few, Sanju Samson was named the captain of Rajasthan Royals in place of the released Steve Smith. Glenn Maxwell was released by the Kings XI Punjab, who then went on to completely rebrand their franchisee while Lasith Malinga was released by Mumbai Indians. In some behind-the-scenes personnel changes, Kumar Sangakkara was appointed the team director of Rajasthan Royals, a move I am particularly excited about. Sanjay Bangar was appointed the batting consultant of Royal Challengers Bangalore. Dale Steyn and Mark Wood declared themselves unavailable for the auction and the season, while Parthiv Patel and Shane Watson are the notable retirements from the previous season

There were 3 transfers before the auction - Daniel Sams and Harshal Patel were transferred from Delhi Capitals to Royal Challengers Bangalore. Robin Uthappa was transferred to Chennai Super Kings from Rajasthan Royals. Each of the 3 transfers were all cash transfers.

Well, enough about all that. Let's proceed to the mini-auction and see what we have in store.

KARUN NAIR

Here we have, the first player up for grabs, Karun Nair - the player who, in his last appearance for India has scored a test triple century. Let's see if he finds a buyer this season. Ah, the first player out of the bag is also the first player to go unsold. Tough luck, Karun.

ALEX HALES

This is one player I am particularly excited about. Explosive opening batsmen who was in striking hot form in the recently concluded BBL. Alas! He goes unsold.

JASON ROY

Another explosive English opener. Will this one find a buyer!? Goes unsold, too.

STEVE SMITH

Ex-Rajasthan Royals captain, who was released in favour of Sanju Samson. Royal Challengers Bangalore open the bidding immediately. We have the 1st bid of the evening. The Delhi Capitals now join the bidding with a bid of 2.2 crores. Sold to Delhi Capitals for miserly 2.2 crores. Ah, how the times change!

EVIN LEWIS

No interest for the explosive Windies batsman.

AARON FINCH

Aaron Finch unsold at the moment.

HANUMA VIHARI

Goes unsold too. Only 1 player sold from batsmen set.

GLENN MAXWELL

Expect some big bucks for this player. Kolkata Knight Riders open the bidding for this Australian all-rounder. Rajasthan Royals join the party with a bid 2.2 crores. Royal Challengers Bangalore join the bidding party now. Gambhir on air highlights that it is a bit insensible for Kolkata Knight Riders to bid when their 4 overseas players are invariably set. Not unless they are looking at giving Maxwell a go ahead of Andre Russell or as a backup, Gambhir. Although I agree with him. It is with Royal Challengers Bangalore at 4.4 crores. Chennai Super Kings now make a bid for Glenn Maxwell. Both these teams can use some firepower in their

respective middle orders, not to mention his invaluable off-spinners on Indian pitches. Bidding has now eclipsed his previous price tag of 10.75 crores. Some players pull their hair out after being released and some people rejoice in the prospect of a higher pay check. I am sure Glenn Maxwell is the latter. A few phone calls and round-table discussions by the bidders. Sold eventually to Royal Challengers Bangalore for 14.25 crores and Maxwell will play under Virat Kohli.

KEDAR JADHAV

A waning star of yesteryear, don't expect teams fighting for this player. Unsurprisingly, goes unsold.

SHAKIB AL HASAN

Back after serving his ban for 1 year, this player should incite some interest by franchisees. Kolkata Knight Riders open the bidding just in time. Punjab Kings join the bidding just as he was about to be sold. Sometimes, I wonder if teams deliberately wait till the last moment to raise their paddles! Sold to Kolkata Knight Riders in the end, for 3.2 crores.

MOEEN ALI

He did give a good audition in the fag end of the 2nd Test match vs India at M A Chidambaram Stadium, maybe Chennai Super Kings will buy him? Punjab Kings open the bidding and Chennai Super Kings join in. The audition in Chennai seems to have done Moeen Ali a lot good as bidding for him reaches 7 crores. Sold to Chennai Super Kings for that price. Chennai Super Kings won't be making any more bids on foreign players for the day.

SHIVAM DUBE

Sunrisers Hyderabad make their first bid of the day as they open the bidding for Shivam Dube. Rajasthan Royals join in now. Some quick bidding ensues as the current bid reaches 3 crores in no time. All-Rounders are an indispensable asset in this format of the game. Delhi Capitals join the party now. Rajasthan Royals seem to have their heart set on him; sold to them for 4.4 crores.

CHRIS MORIS

Mumbai Indians make their first bid of this auction as they open the bidding at 75 lakh ₹. Chris Morris seems to be terribly under-priced. Royal Challengers Bangalore join the bidding now as the bid reaches 5 crores in the blink of an eye. Mumbai

Indians seem to have their heart set on him at the moment. What do Royal Challengers Bangalore need another all-rounder after Glenn Maxwell, that too for a hefty price of 9.75 crores! Just as I type that, Royal Challengers Bangalore exit the bidding and Rajasthan Royals join in. With Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer already in the ranks, let's not forget Jofra showed what he can do with the bat last season, I wonder what Rajasthan Royals needs another fast bowler who can bat, that too for a price higher than 12 crores. Punjab Kings join the party now with a bid of 13.5 crores. Never thought I would type this but Chris Morris is sold to Rajasthan Royals for 16.25 crores. The only defence Rajasthan Royals could have is a need for a 4th solid foreign player, although I think a genuine fast bowler like Coulter Nile, at a much lower price tag would have done them much better.

DAVID MALAN

World's no.1 T20I batsman, at the moment, will he find a buyer this season and make his IPL debut! Punjab Kings open the bidding. He will finally be a part of IPL after all this years. Sold to Punjab Kings for the opening bid.

GLENN PHILLIPS

We are now onto the capped wicket-keepers set. No bids for him, he goes unsold at the moment.

ALEX CAREY

Australia's limited-overs vice-captain. This player should bring some interests from franchisees, according to me. Well, color me surprised, he goes unsold.

SAM BILLINGS

No bids for him at 2 crores, he goes unsold at the moment.

KUSAL PERERA

Unsold.

ADAM MILNE

Now onto capped fast bowlers. Mumbai Indians open the bidding. Rajasthan Royals join the bidding now. Both these teams are in the market for a backup fast bowler. Rajasthan Royals exit the bidding as Sunrisers Hyderabad join in at 2.6 crores. Sold to Mumbai Indians for 3.2 crores.

MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN

Rajasthan Royals open the bidding and get him at base price.

JHYE RICHARDSON

Royal Challengers Bangalore open the bidding at 1.5 crores. Delhi Capitals join in now. I look away for a few moments the bid for Jhye Richardson has reached 4.4 crores. If anyone expects Jhye Richardson to go for anywhere above 7 crores, hats off to them. Bidding for him has now reached 13 crores. So Punjab Kings let go off Sheldon Cottrell who costed a mammoth 8.5 crores and now bid 14 crores for Jhye Richardson. They do get him for that price.

NATHAN COULTER NILE

Mumbai Indians open the bidding at 1.5 crores. Delhi Capitals join in. Remember Mumbai Indians released him for a salary of 8 crores. Should Mumbai Indians get him for anything below that, they'd be happy. Fortunately, no Akash Ambani to wave his paddle around like a hooligan. Mumbai Indians get him in the end for 5 crores, as professional fist bumps makes the round of the table sans Mr. Ambani.

SHELDON COTTRELL

No interest for the player who was sold for 8.5 crores during the last auction.

UMESH YADAV

Sold to Delhi Capitals for the base price of 1 crore.

ADIL RASHID

No team bids for him at 1.5 crores.

RAHUL SHARMA

Unsold.

MUJEEB UR RAHMAN

Unsold.

HARBHAJAN SINGH

No buyers for the Turbonator.

ISH SODHI

He was the bowling consultant for Rajasthan Royals last year, comes back into the pool this year and goes unsold.

PIYSUH CHAWLA

Mumbai Indians open the bidding for this experienced spin bowler. Delhi Capitals join the bidding. I wonder for what apparent reason would Delhi Capitals need another spinner, already having R Ashwin, Axar Patel and Amit Mishra in their ranks, with backups as well. Sold to Mumbai Indians for 2.4 crores.

QAIS AHMED

Unsold.

HIMANSHU RANA

Time for some uncapped players now. Will we have some new millionaires today?! Not this player as he goes unsold.

C. HARI NISHAANTH

Unsold.

SACHIN BABY

Royal Challengers Bangalore open the bidding for their former player. Sold to them for base price of 20 lakhs.

HIMMAT SINGH

Unsold.

RAJAT PARIHAR

Unsold.

RAHUL GAHLAUT

Unsold.

ATIT SHETH

Unsold.

RIPAL PATEL

Delhi Capitals open the bidding and buy him for the base price.

SHAHRUKH KHAN

Delhi Capitals open the bidding and Royal Challengers Bangalore join in. Punjab Kings join the bidding. Price tag crosses 5 crores for all-rounder from Tamil Nadu. Punjab Kings get him for 5.25 crores. Shahrukh Khan will play in a team co-owned by Preity Zinta.

AYUSH BADONI

Unsold.

VENKATESH IYER

Unsold.

K GOWTHAM

Kolkata Knight Riders open the bidding at 20 lakhs and Sunrisers Hyderabad join in. Chennai Super Kings bid for K Growtham now. Chennai Super Kings buy him at 9.25 crores. I must admit this is a hefty price tag to pay for K Gowtham.

VIVEK SINGH

Unsold.

VISHNU VINOD

Delhi Capitals open the bidding and get him at base price, after much deliberation from Royal Challengers Bangalore.

SHELDON JACKSON

Kolkata Knight Riders get him at base price.

KEDAR DEVDHAR

Unsold.

MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDEEN

Royal Challengers Bangalore open the bidding for this player who has no relation to ex-captain of India Mohammad Azharuddin, except that his elder brother decided to name him after the latter.

AVI BAROT

Unsold.

MUJTABA YOUSUF

Unsold.

ANKIT SINGH RAJPOOT

Unsold.

LUKMAN HUSSAIN MERIWALA

Delhi Capitals open the bidding and get him for the base price of 20 lakhs.

CHETAN SAKARIYA

Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals start the bidding for this left-arm fast bowler from Saurashtra. Guess Rajasthan Royals do have a type. Sold to Rajasthan Royals for 1.2 crores.

KULDEEP SEN

Unsold.

RILEY MEREDITH

Delhi Capitals open the bidding at 40 lakhs, Punjab Kings join in. Sold to Punjab Kings for 8 crores in the end, yet another surprise buy of this auction.

TUSHAR DESHPANDE

Unsold.

M SIDDHARTH

Time for some uncapped spin bowlers now. Sold to Delhi Capitals for base price.

KARANVEER SINGH

Unsold.

JAGADEESHA SUCHITH

Sunrisers Hyderabad and Punjab Kings show interest in this player. Sold to Sunrisers Hyderabad for 30 lakhs.

K.C. CARIAPPA

Rajasthan Royals open the bidding and get him for his base price of 20 lakhs. Rajasthan Royals now have as many as 5 leg break bowlers; they can open a shop just selling leg-break bowlers.

SANDEEP LAMICHHANE

Unsold.

MIDHUN SUDESAN

Unsold.

TEJAS BAROKA

Unsold.

ROVMAN POWELL

Back to capped batsman. Unsold.

SHAUN MARSH

Unsold.

COREY ANDERSON

Unsold.

DEVON CONWAY

Unsold.

DARREN BRAVO

Unsold.

RASSIE VAN DER DUSSEN

Unsold.

CHETESHWAR PUJARA

Chennai Super Kings open the bidding for India's test batting mainstay. Sold to Chennai Super Kings for the opening bid of 50 lakhs as there is a round of applause across the room - we all know what that is for.

MARTIN GUPTILL

Unsold.

PAWAN NEGI

Unsold.

KYLE JAMIESON

RCB, whose director of cricket operations Mike Hesson is a NewZealander himself, open the bidding for Kyle Jamieson. Delhi Capitals join the bidding. Punjab Kings join in now as the price tag crosses 10 crores. Sold eventually to RCB for 15 crores.

BEN CUTTING

Unsold.

TOM CURRAN

Delhi Capitals make the opening bid. Sunrisers Hyderabad join in and then exit with the bid at 5.25 crores. Sold to Delhi Capitals for that price.

GURKEERAT MANN SINGH

Unsold.

MARNUS LABUSCHAGNE

Unsold.

MOISES HENRIQUES

Royal Challengers Bangalore open the bidding. Punjab Kings join in now. He is one of the most successful captains in BBL history, also having recently won the BBL for Sydney Sixers. Sold to Punjab Kings for 4.2 crores.

VARUN AARON

Unsold.

OSHANE THOMAS

Unsold.

MOHIT SHARMA

Unsold.

BILLY STANLAKE

Unsold.

MITCHELL MCCLENEGHAN

Unsold.

JASON BEHRENDORFF

Unsold.

NAVEEN UL-HAQ

Unsold.

We have a short break here, after which we move onto the accelerated part of the auction.

JALAJ SAXENA

The first player as part of the accelerated phase of today's auction. Punjab Kings open and close the bidding.

KARAN SHARMA

Unsold.

UTKARSH SHARMA

Sold to PBKS for base price.

KL SHRIJITH

Unsold.

VAIBHAV ARORA

Sold to KKR for base price.

BEN DWARSHIUS

Unsold.

G PERIYASAMY

Unsold.

FABIAN ALLEN

Punjab Kings open the bidding and get him for the base price.

DANIEL CHRISTIAN

KKR open the bidding and RCB bid against them. Despite his age of 38, he was one of the star performers in the recent victorious campaign of Sydney Sixers in the BBL, after which he iterated that he wishes to play for Australia again. His performance throughout the season has certainly done wonders to his IPL stock as the bid for him crosses 4 crores. Sold eventually to RCB for 4.8 crores.

LIAM LIVINGSTONE

Sold to Rajasthan Royals for base price.

THISARA PERERA

Unsold.

BEN MCDERMOTT

Unsold.

MATTHEW WADE

Unsold.

SEAN ABBOTT

Unsold.

SIDDHESH LAD

Unsold.

TAJINDER DHILLON

Unsold.

PRERAK MANKAD

Unsold.

SUYASH PRABHUDESAI

RCB buy him for his base price of 20 lakhs.

K S BHARAT

RCB buy him for his base price of 20 lakhs.

JOSH INGLIS

Unsold.

M. HARISANKAR REDDY

CSK open and close the bidding by buying him for his base price of 20 lakhs.

SIMARJEET SINGH

Unsold.

KULDIP YADAV

RR buy him for his base price of 20 lakhs.

SCOTT KUGGELEIJN

JAMES NEESHAM

MI open the bidding and get him for his base price of 50 lakhs.

WAYNE PARNELL

Unsold.

REECE TOPLEY

Unsold.

CHRIS GREEN

Unsold.

ISURU UDANA

Unsold.

GEORGE LINDT

Unsold.

CHAITANYA BISHNOI

Unsold.

YUDHVIR CHARAK

MI buy him for his base price of 20 lakhs.

AJAY DEV GOUD

Unsold.

K. BHAGATH VARMA

CSK buy him for his base price of 20 lakhs.

JACK WILDERMUTH

Unsold.

HARSH TYAGI

Unsold.

GERALD COETZEE

Unsold.

TIM DAVID

Unsold.

MARCO JANSEN

MI open the bidding and buy him for the opening bid of 20 lakhs.

PRATYUSH SINGH

Unsold.

SAURABH KUMAR

Punjab Kings buy him for his base price of 20 lakhs.

KARUN NAIR

Back to unsold players. Karun Nair first up, and he finds a bidder in KKR this time. Sold to KKR for base price.

KEDAR JADHAV

SRH open the bidding this time around. Sold to SRH for base price.

SAM BILLINGS

DC buy him this time around for his base price of 2 crores.

MUJEEB UR RAHMAN

SRH open the bidding and snap him for 1.5 crores, his base price.

HARBHAJAN SINGH

KKR open the bidding and get him for his base price of 2 crores.

C. HARI NISHAANTH

CSK open the bidding straightaway and buy him for his base price of 20 lakhs.

VISHNU SOLANKI

Unsold.

VENKATESH IYER

Unsold.

COREY ANDERSON

Unsold.

RASSIE VAN DER DUSSEN

Unsold.

BEN CUTTING

KKR open the bidding but are told they don't have any slots left. My calculations say they do have 1 slot and that is rectified. Sold to them at base price of 75 lakhs.

PAWAN NEGI

Unsold.

GURKEERAT MANN SINGH

Unsold.

HANUMA VIHARI

Last 5 players for this year's auction. Unsold.

VENKATESH IYER

KKR bid for him and get him at base price.

PAWAN NEGI

KKR bid for him and get him at base price of 50 lakhs.

AKASH SINGH

Sold to RR for base price.

ARJUN TENDULKAR

Sold to MI for base price.