

COMMUNITY HEROES AND PROFESSIONAL STARS TO BE RECOGNISED AT FIRST NATWEST CRICKET AWARDS LIVE ON SKY



Dear All,

We are delighted to announce that the NatWest Outstanding Service to Cricket Awards (OSCAs) will take a new format for 2020 with community heroes and professional stars to be recognised alongside each other at the first NatWest Cricket Awards. The awards will be held live on Saturday 3 October during Vitality T20 Blast Finals Day and will honour volunteers through to professional stars.

The ECB, Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) and NatWest have come together to create the first-ever NatWest Cricket Awards hosted by Sky. The event will combine the much-anticipated annual NatWest PCA Awards and NatWest Outstanding Service to Cricket Awards (OSCAs) into one exciting show, with awards interspersed amongst the Finals Day coverage.

Cricket's biggest stars and club cricket heroes alike will be given the same platform as we celebrate their achievements in an extraordinary year that saw the game rally together to deliver a compelling season of international, domestic and recreational cricket against the odds. The Awards will reflect on the year's highlights and challenges overcome, celebrate achievements on and off the pitch, and honour the cricket volunteers who have supported their communities during the most trying of circumstances.

Award Details

10 Awards will be presented to professional players, honouring players across international, domestic, men's and women's cricket. The three headline awards will be voted for by current professional cricketers: the NatWest PCA Men's Player of the Year, the PCA Young Player of the Year and the NatWest PCA Women's Player of the Year.

Three community awards will be awarded - #Raisethebat; Connecting Communities; and Proactive Leadership – in which volunteers will be recognised for the significant contribution they have made to cricket across England and Wales over the past year.

The nominees include inspirational volunteers like Kanan Thiyagarajah who used his club, Barking CC, as a hub to collect for local food banks and Miles Horner from Macclesfield CC who started his own podcast to keep club members entertained during lockdown and to extend the club's reach in the community. Others, like Jane Reeson, not only worked hard to get cricket safely back up and running in their communities but also volunteered throughout the pandemic to support the vulnerable.

Nick Pryde, ECB Director of Participation and Growth

"Cricket wouldn't be cricket without the amazing work of volunteers up and down the country. That's never been truer than in 2020 when we saw club volunteers come together to support their communities during lockdown and to help ensure the safe return of cricket. Their passion and drive to inspire the next generation of players are qualities that we, at the ECB, are so proud to honour via the NatWest Cricket Awards. It's exciting that for the first time ever we can give them a platform alongside the professional stars live on Sky Sports, thanks to the help of our brilliant broadcast partner."

England & Wales Cricket Board, Lord's Cricket Ground, London, NW8 8QZ