

# Ervine clears way for Finals Day bid

**AFTER five years of Twenty20 hurt, Hampshire will attempt to reach their first Finals Day next month.**

Outstanding all-round performances from Sean Ervine and Dimi Mascarenhas secured a six-wicket win, with five balls to spare, in the Hawks' last South Division game of the season, against Essex at Chelmsford yesterday.

Hampshire are now away to Northants in the Twenty20 quarter-finals next month.

And, just as importantly, they are assured of a place in the first division of next season's inaugural Pro20 competition.

Until yesterday afternoon, Hampshire had never won a Twenty20 game at Chelmsford.

But Mascarenhas's men were always in control against an Essex side without Alastair Cook, Ravi Bopara and Danish Kaneria.

Mascarenhas (2-14) and Ervine (3-26) excelled with the ball as Essex were restricted to 149-6 after winning the toss.

Then Hampshire's magnificent duo put on 66 in seven overs.

Hampshire were relieved to be facing an Essex attack without Kaneria, who departed for Sri Lanka with Pakistan's Test squad the day before.

Ervine (37 not out from 22 balls) and Mascarenhas (27 not out from 17 balls) capitalised after coming together when Hampshire slipped to 87-4 in the 13th over.

Jimmy Adams (17) was caught at mid-wicket in the fourth over of the Hampshire reply but Michael Carberry responded by twice depositing David Masters over mid-wicket for six.

After Michael Lumb (26) slog swept slow left armer Grant Flower's third ball to long leg, Chelmsford was greeted with the bizarre sight of Imran Tahir strolling to the middle.

Carberry (39) looked as

surprised as anyone. He soon holed out to deep mid-wicket – and Tahir (2) drove Flower's next ball straight to long off.

Mascarenhas and Ervine then blitzed five sixes between them.

Captain Mascarenhas was dropped on seven by Jamie Middlebrook, who let the ball slip through his fingers on the long-leg boundary for the first of the Hampshire captain's two maximums.

Ervine pulled Napier for the biggest hit of the day

over mid-wicket and drove his former Zimbabwe teammate Grant Flower emphatically on to the upper deck of the main stand.

Mascarenhas drilled Phillips for his second maximum and Ervine finished the chase by smashing a Napier full toss for his third six, over long on.

Without England's Cook and Bopara, Essex had been grateful for Napier's return to form and a late blitz from Holland's Ryan ten Doeschate, whose 22-

ball 43 gave the partisan home fans hope after a typically miserly opening spell from Mascarenhas.

The Hampshire captain frustrated Varun Chopra (1) into skying to long on, where Ervine held on, and Mark Pettini (8) was out in similar fashion.

Napier, an unused member of England's World Twenty20 squad, had been in appalling form for his county in the shortest format.

He went into yesterday's game having scored just 12 runs in five Twenty20 innings, but produced a 33-ball 47 when his side needed him most.

Napier went past his Twenty20 aggregate for the season when he pulled

Tremlett over mid-wicket for the first of his three sixes.

But Ervine also stemmed the flow of runs.

Former Kent left-hander Matt Walker (7), so often a thorn in Hampshire's side, skied Ervine's first delivery straight to Tremlett at long on.

Essex limped to 46-3 after their first ten overs, which included just three boundaries.

If Napier had not produced the second highest Twenty20 score of his career they would have been in real trouble. Having been signed by the IPL's Mumbai Indians and picked by England on the strength of his unbeaten 152 from just 58 balls against Sussex last year, he was a due a big score.

He launched Ervine for six over wide long on and his third six, against Tahir over mid-wicket, took him to his second highest Twenty20 total.

Then Ervine took two big wickets in his final over, the 15th.

Flower (9) was caught at short extra and it sounded like all of Chelmsford sighed when Napier was pouched by a diving Tahir at short fine leg.

But Ten Doeschate and James Foster smashed 60 runs in five overs during a violent sixth-wicket stand.

Ten Doeschate drilled Cork for a flat six over extra cover before destroying Tremlett's bowling in the penultimate over, which cost a crushing 25 runs.

The Dutchman hit Tremlett for a straight six, three fours and a single before Foster completed the over with his only maximum, over long off.

But an excellent final over from Cork, which ended with the dismissal of Ten Doeschate, kept Hampshire firmly in control.



● Bowler Ervine – took three wickets



● Batsman Ervine – scored a hard-hitting 39 not out.

## Sean: Now we can win it!

**MAN-of-the-match Sean Ervine believes Hampshire can win the Twenty20 Cup for the first time.**

**All-rounder Ervine took 3-26 before blitzing an unbeaten 39 from just 22 balls as Hampshire beat Essex to secure a Twenty20 quarter-final at Northants next month.**

**He said: "Since the Twenty20 competition began we haven't performed as well as we can."**

**"It's about time that changed."**

**"But we're playing some good stuff, we've got a good blend in the team, and all of**

**the boys are doing their bit. "If we can play like this, I see no reason why we can't be a real threat in this competition."**

**"Our bowling was exceptional – especially early on. We lost a bit of momentum towards the end of their innings but the wicket was fairly flat and the spinners weren't turning it too much so we always knew we were in with a shout."**

**"We had a good start with the bat. Lumb and Carbs put on a good partnership and it was just left to myself and Dimi to finish things off." Ervine's efforts helped**

**Hampshire end a dismal run of nine years without a limited-overs win at Chelmsford.**

**The Zimbabwean also took two good early catches to silence his hecklers.**

**"I was getting a bit of stick from behind me, I could hear the Essex crowd urging me to drop it, but we knew we wanted to set a good tone from the start and that helped," he continued.**

**"We managed to stay on top of them until the late overs and that played a big part."**

**"It came out of the middle for me on this occasion so I was very pleased."**

### TWENTY20 SCORES

#### YESTERDAY

##### Twenty20 South

##### Chelmsford

##### Essex Won Toss

##### Essex Innings

M L Pettini c Ervine b Mascarenhas ..... 8  
 V Chopra c Ervine b Mascarenhas ..... 1  
 G R Napier c Imran Tahir b Ervine ..... 47  
 M J Walker c Tremlett b Ervine ..... 7  
 G W Flower c Benham b Ervine ..... 9  
 J S Foster not out ..... 23  
 R N ten Doeschate c Benham b Cork ..... 43  
 Extras b1 lb4 w4 nb2 ..... 11  
**Total 6 wks (20 overs) ..... 149**

Fall: 1-11 2-15 3-39 4-73 5-89 6-149

Did Not Bat: T J Phillips, J D Middlebrook, D D Masters, C J C Wright.

Bowling: Cork 4-0-31-1, Mascarenhas 4-0-14-2, Tremlett 4-0-40-0, Ervine 4-0-26-3, Imran Tahir 4-0-33-0.

##### Hampshire Innings

M J Lumb c Napier b G W Flower ..... 26  
 J H K Adams c Phillips b Napier ..... 17  
 M A Carberry c Phillips b G W Flower ..... 39  
 Imran Tahir c Chopra b G W Flower ..... 2  
 S M Ervine not out ..... 39  
 A D Mascarenhas not out ..... 27  
 Extras lb1 w2 ..... 3  
**Total 4 wks (19.1 overs) ..... 153**

Fall: 1-29 2-81 3-87 4-87

Did Not Bat: C C Benham, L A Dawson, N Pothas, D G Cork, C T Tremlett.

Bowling: Masters 4-0-38-0, Napier 3.1-0-34-1, Wright 3-0-18-0, Middlebrook 2-0-12-0, G W Flower 4-0-25-3, Phillips 3-0-25-0

Hampshire won by 6 wickets

Beckenham: Kent 184-7 (M van Jaarsveld 64, M N W Sprigel 4-33) v Surrey 168-9 (R McLaren 4-37).

Kent beat Surrey by 16 runs

Lord's: Middlesex 127-8 v Sussex 130-4.

Sussex beat Middlesex by 6 wks

	P	W	L	N/R	R/R	Pts
Kent	10	7	2	1	0.64	15
Sussex	10	7	3	0	0.32	14
Hampshire	10	6	4	0	0.85	12
Essex	10	5	4	1	0.15	11
Surrey	10	2	8	0	-0.66	4
Middlesex	10	2	8	0	-1.19	4

Twenty20 Cup Midlands/West/Wales Division  
 Bristol: Gloucestershire 148-7 (D O Brown 56) v Glamorgan 151-4 (B J Wright 55 no).

Glamorgan beat Gloucestershire by 6 wks

Northampton: Worcestershire 109-9 (A J Hall 4-19) v Northamptonshire 110-3 (S D Peters 61 no).

Northamptonshire beat Worcestershire by 7 wks

Edgbaston: Warwickshire 193-6 (J O Troughton 62, R Clarke 51 no) v Somerset 192-7.

Warwickshire beat Somerset by 1 runs

	P	W	L	R/R	Pts
*Northamptonshire	10	7	2	0.49	15
Warwickshire	10	7	3	0.23	14
*Somerset	10	6	3	0.41	12
Worcestershire	10	5	5	0.58	10
Gloucestershire	10	2	8	-0.66	4
Glamorgan	10	2	8	-1.03	4

\* Includes no result

##### Twenty20 Cup North Division

Grace Road: Leicestershire 133-8 (H H Dippenaar 63) v Durham 137-4.

Durham beat Leicestershire by 6 wks

Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire 173-7 (D J Hussey 55) v Lancashire 175-1 (S J Croft 83 no, V V S Laxman 78 no).

Lancashire beat Nottinghamshire by 9 wks

Headingley Carnegie: Derbyshire 164-5 v Yorkshire 127 (J Needham 4-21).

Derbyshire beat Yorkshire by 37 runs

	P	W	L	R/R	Pts
*Lancashire	10	8	1	1.12	17
*Durham	10	5	4	0.15	11
Leicestershire	10	5	5	-0.04	10
Nottinghamshire	10	4	6	-0.008	8
Yorkshire	10	4	6	-0.47	8
Derbyshire	10	3	7	-0.61	6

\* Includes no result

Twenty20 Cup quarter-final draw: Kent v Durham, Lancashire v Somerset.

Northamptonshire v Hampshire, Sussex v Warwickshire. Matches to be played July 27, 28 and 29.

TOMORROW

LV County Championship Division One

Riverside: Durham v Worcestershire.

Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire.

Taunton: Somerset v Yorkshire.

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bw	Pts
Durham	6	3	0	3	22	18	94.0
Nottinghamshire	5	3	0	2	18	14	82.0
Somerset	6	2	1	3	13	17	70.0
Hampshire	6	2	2	2	14	16	63.0
Lancashire	6	2	2	2	8	18	62.0
Sussex	6	1	2	3	15	17	58.0
Yorkshire	6	0	1	5	18	16	54.0
Warwickshire	5	0	1	4	22	8	46.0
Worcestershire	6	0	4	2	15	13	36.0

LV County Championship Division Two

Derby: Derbyshire v Leicestershire.

Beckenham: Kent v Gloucestershire.

Lord's: Middlesex v Surrey.

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bw	Pts
Gloucestershire	6	3	1	2	17	17	84.0
Surrey	6	1	1	4	15	17	62.0
Essex	6	2	2	2	7	18	61.0
Kent	5	2	1	2	10	14	60.0
Glamorgan	6	0	1	5	21	16	57.0
Derbyshire	5	1	0	4	14	12	56.0
Northants	6	1	2	3	13	17	56.0
Middlesex	5	0	1	4	17	13	46.0
Leicestershire	5	0	1	4	7	10	33.0

Wednesday

Other Match

Edgbaston: Warwickshire v England.