

“Chance to Compete”

The U13s were given an unexpected opportunity to compete in the 2012 regional finals of this new Eight-a-side national cricket competition. The competition is part of the Cricket Foundation’s ‘Chance to Shine’ initiative to bring back competitive cricket as a mainstream sport in state schools up and down the UK and to encourage the involvement of clubs in the education of young boys and girls via the sport of cricket.



**U13 Squad - ‘Chance to Compete’ Southwest Winners 2012
with Charlotte Edwards, Captain of England Ladies’ Cricket Team**

Ben Davis Matthew Munden Haydn Lavender Javed Fadra Harry Cook Kieran Richards Henry Peach Tom Green Joel Price Sam Tickle

Thanks to the dedication of the grounds man at Weston-super-Mare CC, and the first sunny dry day for ages, the southwest regional heats went ahead as scheduled. Playing the representative regional winners of Wales, Somerset, Cornwall, Wiltshire & Devon, and watched and officiated by England women cricketers Charlotte Edwards and Caroline Atkins, Kieran Richards ably led his side through the pool stages and into the final.

The competition requires all fielders to bowl at least one of the eight overs constituting an innings; batsmen must retire at 20 but can return after the others in the side have batted. This feature was effectively used by Kieran in the final.

We batted first and posted a useful but not very large total of 66 runs. In spite of a great first over by Matt Munden – only going for 4 runs - our opponents opening pair still managed to smash their way to 48 by the end of the fourth over. Having to then retire



and with Kieran taking an excellent boundary catch to dismiss their big-hitting number 3 bat, there remained only batsmen who could be classed as pushers of singles and not stroke makers. Kieran quickly closed his six fielders in to cut off their run supply; vital dot balls were secured; the pressure and excitement mounted!

The final over – just five required. Matt Munden to bowl. Panic, a run out and only 2 runs conceded. We'd done it! Charlotte Edwards congratulated the team, remarking how cool and controlled they were in the field to keep their form and maintain pressure to secure the win. Very professional she commented.

Now representing the southwest we have to play the winners of the southeast play-offs – Sandown Academy School from the Isle of Wight. The winners to go to the national finals on 14th September to play the North, Midlands and London/East regional champions at Moseley CC in Birmingham, where they will also receive coaching from Charlotte Edwards and some of the England women cricket team. We wish Kieran and his squad every success.



Post script – Due to a waterlogged ground at Falkland CC where we were due to play Sandown, the play-off match has been cancelled and the organisers (no doubt with one eye fixed on the weather) were unable (or unwilling?) to rearrange the date and venue before the school summer holidays. Their decision was to settle this important match by drawing lots. Most unsatisfactory – and disappointing for such a prestigious competition in its inaugural year. Lady Luck however favoured us in the toss of the coin – Sir Thomas Rich's will represent the south of England in the Chance to Shine Finals in September. Hopefully the rain will have stopped by then!

Good Luck to the boys!

