

**Sports Report**  
**NEWPORT RUGBY CLUB**

**North Midlands Plate Competition**

**Newport Under 14      56 – 5      Ledbury Under 14**

Newport under-14 rugby team booked their place in the last eight teams of the North Midlands Plate competition, with an emphatic ten try win over the visitors from Herefordshire.

As pleasing for the coaches as the result, was the style of win and their first half performance. Newport's pack dominated possession and drove the ball forward in impressive charges that left Ledbury overwhelmed. The ball was then used superbly by the backs with great speed and pace.

The first five minutes were straight from the text book and led to Velcho Alexandrov running half the length of the field to score under the posts. However, the boys then relaxed and gave away a soft try, with the Ledbury forwards driving over in the corner.

Slightly abashed at their lack of concentration, normal service was quickly resumed as Newport ran in four more first half tries.

With the game well won, instead of keeping the ball moving into space and playing simple rugby, some individuals became too greedy and took the ball into contact. This gave the visitors a chance to slow the game down and so avoid the game being ended short of full time.

However, despite these errors, Newport ran in five second half tries to run out comfortable winners. Tries were shared equally between forwards and backs, through Velcho Alexandrov (2), Kieran Porter (2), Rob Mayer (2), Zach Stamp, George Taylor, Chris Massey and Jonno Wilson. Jonno also kicked three conversions in very windy conditions, to complete the scoring.

An excellent all round display by the team, but one that could and should have been better. As they progress in the competition, they will need to improve their decision making and keep their shape.