

**Newport RUFC Under 16 Match report
Sunday 30th November 2008**

North Midlands Cup Tie

Newport U 16 15 - 50 Hereford U 16

The score line does not do justice to a thrilling North Midlands Cup tie, which ebbed and flowed throughout. Despite conceding eight tries to Hereford, who have a marvellous record in the competition and a side that have won it at younger age groups, a young, makeshift Newport side showed great spirit, determination & above all skill in countering all that the visitors could throw at them.

A long injury list and unavailability left Newport having to rely on some support from their under 15s and it was the efforts of Sam, Dan and Tom that deserve the greatest credit. However, the whole side fought superbly throughout and in their new shirts, sponsored by Bystronic Glass, represented the club with distinction.

Hereford dominated from the off, as the Newport side tried to get organised and get used to one another's play. Four missed tackles meant four unanswered tries and a rout looked on the cards. However, it was Newport that dominated the closing stages of the first half.

Skipper Tom Saunders, was outstanding throughout and always a threat. Following a surging drive by the Newport pack, a loose pass was collected by Saunders and he showed strength & pace to dive over in the corner. Not content with the try, he converted it from the touchline.

This score raised the belief amongst the home side and a strong counter attacking run from George Taylor, was picked up by the forwards and under intense pressure, Hereford gave away a penalty under the posts. Saunders gratefully accepted the three points and Newport trailed 10 – 26 at half time.

Hereford responded well to their coach's half time talk and put together four phases of play to create an overlap out wide for their fifth try and their sixth followed soon after, with their speedy left winger scoring an excellent individual try.

Undaunted by this set back, Newport came forward again and the pack took the battle to Hereford, with Huw Davenport and Kieran Porter to the fore. Hereford were always under pressure and Tom Saunders pounced on a loose pass to intercept and out pace the defence again.

As Newport tired, Hereford picked up two late tries that meant the score line flattered them and didn't do justice to the efforts of the Newport side. The Newport side left the field with their heads held high and to ringing applause from their supporters.