

Sports Report
NEWPORT RUGBY CLUB

North Midlands Plate Semi-Final

Newport Under 14 10 – 0 Telford Under 14

Newport Rugby Club's under 14 team deservedly booked their place in the final of the North Midlands Plate competition, by beating local rivals Telford in atrocious weather conditions.

Given the wind and rain, the skill levels shown by both sides were excellent, but Newport always had that bit extra in every aspect of the game. Newport's work rate and ferocious tackling meant that the far bigger Telford pack were unable to boss the contact areas and given better conditions, Newport's faster backs could have run in many more tries.

As it was, Newport had to settle for two first half tries from Kieran Porter and Chris Massey to give them the result they wanted. Porter's try came from a period of sustained pressure and from quick ball he was able to get outside the defence and dive over in the corner.

Newport's second try finished off another period of pressure, with the pack retaining ball well after a series of phases. When the ball was moved wide, the backs showed great handling and put speedster Chris Massey in space to score near the corner flag.

That same corner flag denied Massey a second try, as his leg hit the flag before he could ground the ball. In truth a third try would have been deserved and would have reflected more accurately Newport's domination.

As the rain continued to fall, tiredness became a factor and the second half was scrappier and more disjointed than the first. Despite having the slope, Telford never threatened the Newport try line and when Kieran Porter dived on a loose ball behind the Telford try line, everyone thought Newport had extended their lead further. However, the referee had been unsighted and so could not give the score.

The joy on the home side's faces at the end of the game was clear for all to see. Booking their place in the final is a just reward for the hard work and dedication that the whole squad has given this season. The whole side performed outstandingly and all can be proud of their efforts.

The final will be played at Droitwich Rugby Club on Sunday 22nd April.