

Sports Report
NEWPORT RUGBY CLUB

North Midlands Plate Competition

Newport Under 14 24 – 19 Whitchurch Under 14

Both these sides have progressed to the semi-final of the North Midlands Plate competition, but find themselves in opposite sides of the draw. This game was used to give all squad members match practice and the Newport lads all impressed and made strong claims for selection.

With so many substitutions on both sides the game didn't flow, but Newport adapted best to the changes and were worthy winners by four tries to three.

It was Whitchurch's backs that started the scoring, with centre George Cope diving to score under the posts. As supporters of the side have become used to, this woke Newport up and weak tackling saw Velcho Alexandrov level the scores, soon after.

Once again Whitchurch hit back at Newport, but from deep in the Newport 22, the ball was moved wide to Nathan Potter, who showed speed and strength to take the ball up into the Whitchurch half, before popping the ball to speedster Ben Hinks on the wing to let him score in the corner.

After half time, Carter Champion-Westwood demonstrated his own strength and pace, bursting through on an inside ball from Zach Stamp. He outpaced the defence from his own 10 metre line to touch down under the posts. Jonno Wilson kicked his second conversion.

The Newport forwards were now dominating the visitors pack, driving huge holes in the defence. From one such bullocking run, Jonno Wilson added to his conversion to stretch out and touchdown.

This gave Newport a comfortable 24 to 7 lead and the opportunity was there to run away with the game. Unfortunately bad habits crept in and individuals became too greedy, taking contact instead of moving it into space. This gave Whitchurch the chance to steal ball from the contact area and counter-attack.

They scored two late tries to bring them within five points of Newport, but on balance it was Newport's better tackling that saw them through.

They can still play better and will have to raise their game ready for the visit of Telford in the semi-final of the North Midlands Plate on March 4th. A trip to the final in Droitwich awaits the winners and Newport will train hard next week in readiness.