**Newport Cricket Club U15’s Retain Gwent MBS Shield For 4th Consecutive Year**

Chepstow Cricket Club came to the rescue by hosting the Gwent Cricket Finals at short notice, after heavy rain forced the Finals Day to be cancelled at Newbridge. In the first of the Gwent Finals Newport U15’s beat hosts Chepstow to retain the U15 Gwent Shield.

Having been put into bat on a very wet wicket, Chepstow made a good start reaching 30 for the loss of 1 wicket in just 7 overs. However, the loss of opening batsman Ben Tindall for 21, sparked a collapse, with Chepstow slipping to 49-5 off 15 overs. Ben Rose 3 wickets for 14 runs and Nicole Reid 2 wickets for 14 runs, scuppering any chance Chepstow had of making a big score. B. Evans with a useful 12 not out at the end of the innings enabled Chepstow to reach 68-6 from their allotted 20 overs.

In reply Newport lost an early wicket when Robbie Clarke was out for 2 in the first over, but a good partnership between Ryan Ward and Callum Stewart put Newport in the driving seat at 39-1 off 10 overs. However, runs were proving difficult to come by and four wickets fell for just 8 runs to gave Chepstow a glimmer of hope, with off spinner Lewis Jones 3 wickets for 9 runs, putting Newport under pressure. However, with wickets falling around him, Welsh U15 player Ryan Ward played a Captains innings, maintaining his composure to score an excellent 43 not out to guide Newport to a 4 wicket victory at 71-6.

Ward received the Man of the Match Award from Glamorgan CCC’s Huw Waters, with Newport winning the Trophy for a fourth consecutive year.

**Team**

Ryan Ward (Capt.), Robbie Clarke, Callum Stewart, Ben Rose, Rose Evans, Georgia Parfitt, Nicole Reid, Tom Evans, Krishnan Hariharan, Will Smale, Mohamed Aqdas, Tom Lynbeck, Joe Rabaoitti,