**James and Clayden Score Centuries in Unbroken Opening Partnership of 303**

Newport Cricket Club opening batsmen, Carwyn James and Michael Clayden both scored unbeaten centuries, as the club’s record books were rewritten when they starred in a match winning, unbroken opening partnership of 303 runs against Croesyceiliog at Spytty Park, in the South Wales Premier League.

Newport, having been put into bat by Croesyceiliog, were quick to take the initiative with openers James and Clayden soon in complete control. After 20 overs the Newport score was 106-0 and a big total looked a distinct possibility. The Croesyceiliog bowlers began to wilt in the hot afternoon sun, but James and Clayden continued to play freely, scoring runs all around the ground. Carwyn James scoring his fifty off just 55 balls, and Michael Clayden soon following scoring his fifty off 61 balls.

The 200 run partnership was made off 40 overs, and then followed a ‘batting master class’ as both batsmen cut loose. Carwyn James was first to his century, and it was not long before Clayden followed suit. The Croesyceiliog attack had no answer, as the pair showing batting maturity beyond their years, picking up runs off virtually every ball.

Once he had scored his century James despatched the bowling to all parts of the ground, while Clayden was content to take the many singles and 2’s on offer. The final hundred runs being scored off just 10 overs. The final Newport total of 303 – 0 in 50 overs, breaking the Newport opening partnership scoring record, with Carwyn James on 158 not out and Michael Clayden finishing on 126 not out.

At the interval Croesyceiliog looked a beaten side, as they faced their daunting task. Matters deteriorated further as Newport’s opening bowling attack of Matt Dennehy and Michael Clayden claimed two wickets apiece as Croesyceiiog top batsmen, Tommala, Bailion, Butt and Baloach were all back in the pavilion with the score on just 22-4. Dennehy bowling an excellent spell taking 2-25 off 10 overs. Nathan Millichip and Lawrence Cronk were brought into the attack and both met with immediate success, Millichip 2-23 claiming the prize wicket of Ahmed Khan for 26, while Cronk picked up two further wickets as Croesyceiliog slumped to 71-8. Cronk’s spin and guile giving him excellent figures of 2-23 off 10 overs, which included 5 maidens. Fellow spin bowlers Jason Grubb 1-35 off 10 overs, and Gary Wood also picked up late wickets as Croesyceiliog fell to a paltry 132 all out, leaving Newport winners by a massive 171 runs. Newport collected the maximum 22 points, while Croesyceiliog claimed just 1 point. Michael Clayden completing an excellent all round match claiming 2-23 off 10 overs.