**Newport Cricket Club Win Race To Become First Club In Wales To Receive Accreditation**

Newport Cricket Club has become the first club in Wales to achieve Accreditation, meeting stringent benchmark standards of coaching, facilities, organisation and safety. The new award for excellence was presented to the club by the CBW Chairman Huw Davies, along with CBW Director of Cricket, Mark Frost, at a special celebration with the club to officially open their new £70 000 four lane outdoor net facility.

The Club is now officially one of eight planned centres of Cricket Excellence in Wales, with both top class Indoor and Outdoor net and playing facilities.

Glamorgan coach John Derrick, once in charge of the Indoor Cricket School at Ebbw Vale, and one of many distinguished past and present county cricketers present said, *'It is a fantastic facility and in terms of variety, one of the best in Wales. The surfaces of the nets are such that two remain constant whatever the weather conditions, while two change with the conditions, giving players experience of almost any pitch they might play on. The Gwent Coaching Association is one of the best and Dave and Mike Knight (the head coaches), do a great job at Newport. Players from East Wales are beginning to dominate the Glamorgan County Championship scene at present and such a facility will undoubtedly ensure many more come through.*'

Glamorgan's England Academy wicket keeper, Mark Wallace said, *'Facilities like the one at Newport are important in terms of teaching players the right techniques and getting them to enjoy playing cricket*.'

Cricket Board of Wales Regional Development Officer, Steve Watkins said, *'The facility will not only benefit Newport but all the Gwent Regional squads as well. The Newport Club has to be congratulated on working hard over the years to get to a level of facilities second to none in Wales’*.

CBW Chairman, Huw Davies, who presented the Accreditation Certificate to the club said, *'Newport have set the standard. It's no surprise to me for as long as I can remember Newport has always been a big status club. They have shown the vision to help safeguard the future of cricket in Wales'.*