**Ben Hope-Bell Leads Newport CC U11’s To Cup Final Win**

Newport Cricket Club U11’s followed their U13 & U15 counterparts, by completing a Triple Cup Final success against Chepstow in the U11 MBS Shield Final against hosts Chepstow, by a convincing 10 wicket margin.

Newport won the toss and put Chepstow into bat, a decision that was soon justified as Newport opening bowler Muaaz Shahid, struck a hammer blow by clean bowling the Chepstow opener Ben Kallaway for 4, with just 6 runs on the board. Spin bowler Amy Harris was proving difficult to get away at the other end and the Chepstow frustrations grew further as she claimed 2 quick wickets as Chepstow fell to 12-3 off 6 overs.

Josh Truckle (14) tried to hold the Chepstow innings together, but back up bowlers Luke Lezar and Ben Hope-Bell were determined not to let the Chepstow batsmen off the hook. A partial recovery at 39-3 quickly became a collapse at 39-6 off 14 overs, as Lezar claimed the 4th wicket of Truckle, well caught by Sam Protheroe, with Hope-Bell soon collecting 2 more wickets himself. The Chepstow innings was in tatters and a run out with a direct hit by Muaaz Hussain and a further wicket for Ross Mohring added further woes. At the completion of the 20 overs Chepstow finished on 60-8. All the Newport bowlers bowled well with the wickets shared between Amy Harris 2-4, Hussain Shahid 1-10, Luke Lezar 1-17, Ben Hope-Bell 2-5, and Ross Mohring 1-5.

Newport openers Ben Hope-Bell and Harry Hughes began cautiously but sensibly, taking no chances and after 10 overs with the score on 27-0, it seemed a tight finish was in prospect. However, Hope-Bell had other ideas! In just 4 overs, he completely took the game out of Chepstow’s reach, playing an array of beautiful shots all around the ground to dominate the bowling, hitting 7 fours in an unbeaten 43 (48 balls). Hughes (13no) at the other end played a great supporting role, but could only watch in admiration as Hope-Bell hit the winning runs in 13.3 overs to see Newport home by 10 wickets.

Hope-Bell the Newport captain, was named the MBS Man of the Match and received the Trophy from Glamorgan CCC’s Huw Waters.

**Team**

Ben Hope-Bell (Capt.), Harry Hughes, Muaaz Shahid, Luke Lezar, Lewis Probert, Sam Protheroe, Amy Harris, Ross Mohring, Ben Purnell, Matt Stewart, Dan Davis, Darshan Selva,