

'Women's Cricket Comes to Newport in 1890'

A fully functioning Girls Cricket section at Newport Cricket Club was formed in 2009 and the rapid rise of Girl's Cricket was phenomenal. In the winter of 2012, it was announced by Head Coach, Mike Knight that Newport would form a new Newport Women's Cricket Club for the 2013 season. The team would be captained by Wales Captain, Claire Thomas and no longer would the club's leading Girl players have to leave the club to play senior women's cricket.

2013 was one of the greatest years in the Club's history and a wonderful year for Newport Cricket Club's Women and Girls Cricketers, with the Club's teams reaching all 3 ECB Women & Girls UK Finals, winning two of them. Newport's Women's team and the Newport U13 Girl's teams being crowned UK Champions and the U15 Girls being UK Runners Up. The magnificent achievements will live long in the memories of Newport Cricket Club folklore.

It was a far cry from 1890, when the first Women's Cricket match was played in Newport

Women's Cricket Comes to Newport (June 1890) <http://www.newportpast.com/nfs/y90t99/chapter8.htm>

The arrival in June of the lady cricketers of England provoked some amusement in Newport. They played an exhibition match at the Athletic Club. The contingent consisted of thirty young ladies from whose number two teams were chosen for the match. The "Reds" were captained by Miss Westbrook described as the W.G. Grace of the team (a very pretty bat) and the "Blues" were led by Miss Daisy Stanley.

The dress of the group caused quite a stir amongst the Newport ladies who attended the match. It consisted of white flannel skirts reaching half way between knee and ankle and almost touching the high white cricketing boots. Loose sailor bodices also of white flannel opening at the throat with a broad collar falling behind. Around the skirts were three lines of



trimming, either red or blue, according to the team, with large sashes to match and a rosette in the white cricketing cap. The skirts were full and weighted around the bottom with shot. The stockings matched the trimmings in colour as did the long sleeves of the Jerseys, worn under their sailor shirts, the sleeves of which were very full and came down to the elbow. To prevent injury from a blow on the breast, a sort of armour of steel plates, leather and wadding was worn.

At 2 p.m. the match started and the "Blues" took the field and were warmly applauded. Their manners and bearing left nothing to be desired and whilst the match was in progress they regarded the business in hand as serious. During the afternoon the 4th Battalion of the South Wales Borderers rendered a selection of music. The all-round play of both teams was remarkably good, eliciting repeated applause, the "Reds" scored 36 and the "Blues" 125.

Chapter 2

2009

The Formation of Newport Girls Cricket Club



As part of the Club's 175th Anniversary in 2009, a major target was set to establish a Girl's Cricket section

Newport Girls Cricket Club

'The Formation of Newport Girls Cricket Club'

How it all began – 175th Anniversary

Newport Cricket Club had supported girl cricketers previously, albeit a small number playing in boys teams. Naomi Williams Wadley and Ffion Wynne being the major girl players, with both being selected in Cricket Board of Wales Girl's Cricket teams in 2008.



Naomi Williams-Wadley (Wales U15 Girls) & Ffion Wynne (Wales U13 Girls)

Several attempts had been made in the early 2000's to develop a Girl's Cricket section at the club, but even though the Boys section was flourishing, all efforts to develop a Girl's Cricket section had failed miserably. However, in 2009 as part of the Club's 175th Anniversary, a major target was set to establish a Girl's Cricket section. It proved to be one of the most satisfying and rewarding initiatives that the Junior section, under the guidance of Mike & Dave Knight had ever made.

2009 – The Formation of Newport Girls Cricket Club

Following a major awareness raising campaign, the Summer of 2009 saw the first of a small group of enthusiastic girls attending the club's Girls Cricket Nights. Initially, this involved only 7/8 girls – some sisters of boys already playing at the club (Elsia Taylor-Wood, Amy Harris & Grace Cook), 3 very talented girls from Marshfield Junior School (Izzy Berry, Laura Dixon, & Sian Carrel), who had played in the Newport Junior Schools Kwik Cricket Tournament held at the club, plus 1 /2 others who attended (Rose Evans).

It was the link with Marshfield Junior School, which proved to be the catalyst for the development of Newport Girls Cricket Club. Word was spreading fast in Marshfield, about how much the girls enjoyed playing cricket and a large number of talented sports girls from the village joined Newport Girls Cricket Club, laying the foundations of what would become a fully functioning girls Cricket section at Newport Cricket Club.

Summer 2009

The First Girls 'Match'

The girls had attended Tuesday evening coaching sessions for several weeks, before a first 'proper' match was arranged. The game took the format of a 'pairs' competition with 8 girls taking part. The girls enjoyed a fantastic evening and were presented with certificates (below) for taking part.

From this starting point, numbers began to grow, mainly through friends of the girls already attending. The Marshfield link was growing, and with it the foundations of Newport Girls Cricket Club were being established.



Mike meets the Girl's Parents

During the presentation, Head Coach Mike Knight outlined the plans for developing Girl's Cricket to the parents.



Proud parents look on, as the Girls receive their certificates

Chapter 3

2010

A Successful First Season



**Izzy Berry, the first Captain of the Newport Girl's Team as the
c2s Match Mascot for the England v Australia ODI
at SWALEC in 2010**

A Successful First Season - Winter Coaching 2009 - 2010

It was now clear that Girl's Cricket at the club had a future and it was decided to hold Girls only Cricket Coaching sessions indoor in the Tennis Centre (NISV) throughout the Winter.

Numbers are increasing and we were able to field two Girl's teams to play Indoor matches. The younger girls played against the club's U/9 Boys team, with the older girls playing a match against Lisvane Girls - the Girls won their first ever match.

The Younger Girl's Team U11's - 1st Match v The U7-U9 Boys (Indoor) – Winter 2010



The Older Girl's Team U12's, played Lisvane Girl's U13 Team



Izzy Berry was the first Newport Girl's Captain (back 3rd right) and would be a major player in the development of Newport Girls Cricket Club

Newport Junior Schools – Girl's Cricket Festival



Newport Girl's Cricket Club was beginning to take shape, with a group of 15-20 girls attending coaching sessions regularly. The club organised a Newport Junior Schools Girl's Cricket Festival held in the Velodrome at NISV, to promote greater awareness of Girls Cricket.