

## **The Sowden Trophy**

The Sowden Trophy, a familiar artefact to those connected with Bridgeholme Cricket Club, has an interesting history.

The trophy was originally presented to the Hebden Bridge and District League in 1952 by Mrs Percival Sowden, wife of the founder of Bridgeholme Cricket Club. The trophy was for the winners of Division 2, and its first recipient was John Martin, the Bridgeholme captain.

The Sowden Trophy was awarded only three times. By 1955 the Hebden Bridge League had contracted to one division and on 30 December 1957 it ceased to exist.

The league's trophies were held in the offices of Hebden Bridge District Council for almost 14 years for safe-keeping in case the league re-formed.

By 1971 it was clear this would not happen and the Hebden Bridge and District Cricket League committee met for the final time to distribute their assets. These included the Sowden Trophy, which was offered back to the providers and first winners, Bridgeholme.

The 53 year old trophy continues to see good service and is awarded to Bridgeholme Cricket Club's player of the year.