

## **BRIDGE SERVANT CAPTURES COVETED CANDLESTICKS**

By Paul Rai

Andy Hill will have to make room in his trophy cabinet for the Lady Sykes Candlesticks.

Hill previously added the Moorhouse Trophy to his collection in October for being clubman of the year at ABCC. After collecting two awards in just three months, no-one could blame the man if he were to consider building a bigger cabinet!

Lady Sykes Candlesticks are awarded by the Drakes Huddersfield League to individuals for their lifetime service to cricket. Hill has become just the ninth player from the 'Bridge' to behold such an honour.



Nicknamed 'Specky', Hill can be described as a loyal devotee to Armitage Bridge. He has played for both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI during his career and topped the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI batting averages last season with a respectable 27.73. He has also reached the 100 mark with the willow on no less than seven occasions. His astonishing 139\* against Paddock is a knock that will not be easily forgotten.

The Lady Sykes Candlesticks have an interesting historical background. They were given to the league by the donor of the Sykes Cup, Sir Charles Sykes, in memory of his late wife, back in 1945.

Initially Candlesticks were presented to a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team player, who according to the original outline, 'do not necessarily have to be outstanding cricketers, but good club men, with the interests of the game at heart.' That was later amended in 1975 to 'two current cricketers, nominated by their respective clubs, who have given outstanding service to those clubs and the game in general.'

Andy Hill easily fills both the original and amended criteria. Born on 4 October 1961, he has been at the 'Bridge' since he was 13. If there is a role at Armitage Bridge, then Hill has filled it at some point in his career.

Currently, Hill occupies the dual role of chairman and treasurer, which would surely be enough to secure many others the accolade. However, Hill has much more even than that to offer. He is a former captain and previously contributed to the club via the job of subscription secretary. And that's not to forget his service on the field of play as well.

League president Bob Platt knows how much of an honour the prize is: 'the Candlesticks and the Stallard Cup are two of the biggest awards the league can bestow on players and officials in Huddersfield.'

One can safely say that this particular award is richly deserved and goes to a man who is a dedicated and devoted servant not only to Armitage Bridge, but also the game of cricket in general. Well done Andy Hill!