

Farid's fine conference delivery

Pioneering cricketer is a VIP guest

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A PIONEERING Asian cricketer was the VIP guest at a special Huddersfield event.

Farid Karolia, one of the founding fathers of Batley's Mount CC, talked about Asian cricket and the development of his club when the fourth Pennine Cricket History Conference was held at the university at the weekend.

Mr Karolia helped establish Mount, based in the Mount Pleasant area, in 1975.

He and his friends went round the neighbourhood knocking on doors so they could raise enough money to buy bats, balls and pads.

In the three decades that followed Mount became the most successful Asian club in Kirklees, winning many trophies.

They now play in the Dales Council League and are planning to redevelop their Kirklees Council-owned ground at Hyrstlands Park, Batley Carr.

The club also featured in special Sky Sports and BBC TV documentaries last summer.

Conference organiser Dr Peter Davies said: "We had a really good turnout and everyone enjoyed the sessions."

"Guests learned about the heritage of cricket in Calderdale and Kirklees, as well as other parts of the UK."

The conference was staged in the university's Castle Hill Suite and was attended by cricket enthusiasts from across the North of England.

The annual Pennine Cricket History Conference is one of the many public outcomes of the £50,000 Cricket Heritage Project now running at the university.



■ **SUCCESS:** Prize-winning cricketer Farid Karolia (top and with trophy) and conference organiser Dr Peter Davies