

Howzat? Cricket and curry do mix

By **HENRYK ZIENTEK** Examiner Reporter

CURRY and cricket were on the menu at the launch of a special exhibition today.

The Aakash Restaurant in Cleckheaton hosted the event to celebrate the contribution of Asian cricketers to local sports history.

The restaurant has joined forces with the Kirklees Cricket Heritage Project, based at Huddersfield University, to stage the exhibition, *Shabash! Asian Cricket and Cricketers in Kirklees*, which will run during the summer.

The exhibition traces the story of cricket through the eyes of the local Asian community.

Post-war immigrants in Kirklees set up their first cricket club in 1962, Batley Muslims CC.

Since then, generations of family members have played a major role in promoting the game in the area.

Solly Adam, who starred for Batley Muslims in the 1960s

and went on to win trophies in the Bradford League, now runs a thriving cricket goods business in Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Mount CC, based at Mount Pleasant, Batley, is just one of several modern-day clubs providing a focal point for the local ethnic community, running several junior and senior teams and having several qualified coaches.

Dr Peter Davies, leader of the Cricket Heritage Project, said the restaurant was the perfect setting for the exhibition.

He said: "We want restaurant visitors to learn about the fascinating cricketing and cultural history of the area."

Aakash spokesman Keith Joplin said: "It's the ultimate partnership, between a restaurant renowned for its Asian specialities and a pioneering project that wants to make local people aware of cricket's rich heritage in this part of the world."

The project is being paid for by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

For further details visit www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk



■ **GREAT MIX:**
Dr Peter Davies