

THE SAGE – Summer 2012

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 23 : SHAMBOLIC FIRSTS / PINK BLUR RETIRES.....FOR GOOD

T'trouble with t'youth o'today is thay lack t'ard edge o'grindin' t'boogers int'ground whatever t'situation. T'creekit was unforgivin' in me day and if thou 'ast a spare 'our or so 'ave a talk t'El Presidente about t'attitude he and his fellow broon envelope booy's 'ad at Delph. Nor one knows what goes on inside t'brain o'Wadey but t'party atmosphere began from t'first ball with Master Chef and Fatboyslim openin' t'booling with TEI tryin' to keep wicket. This was followed by Danny W, 007 and t'son and Gaz Youngy all tryin' t'propel t'ball t'other end with t'inevitable result o'mayhem as Robinsons reached 151-3 , Fatboyslim 3-30. T'skipper decided t'bring himself on and normality resumed as he took 5-18 as Robbos collapsed to 187 all oot. Cue reversal o'battin' order and all oot f'95. T'openin' pair o' son of 007 (19) and t'Man from M&S (13) put on 35 and were t'only two t'reach dooble figures as t'rest 'ere a disgrace and a bunch o'cowboys.

T'seconds fieldin' display at Greenmount summarized t'shockin' season as misfields and missed catches resulted in t'Mount reachin' 272-5. T'skipper also 'ad t'contend with t'Cabbage Patch Kid who couldn't field on one o'boundary edges as he said he 'ad a sheep phobia. Nor one 'as found oot as yet as t'what occurred in his younger days but some suspect it's something he did in Wales mistakin' a ram f'a ewe. At 85-4 with Brum takin' two and one dismissed 'absent on t'run from coppers' , t'situation looked fine. At 238-5 t'match was lost. T'only one t'hold onto catches 'twas t'wily veteran t'Pink Blur who snaffled a brace off Marcus. T'ruttet 'ard pitch took a toll on t'Blur as AB got vicious bounce and pummelled t'Blur chest with one flyin' o't'head f'four byes. There was no respite at t'other end as Marcus got one t'climb and a top edge lodge t'Blur grill and smacked int'eye. AB dropped a skyer on t'boundary claimin' he 'ad run too fast t'ball and overshot it. Marcus couldn't hold ont'a coot and booled, t'Cabbage Patch Kid claimed sun in eyes and Doddy dropped a difficult one as their number 5 scored a ton. In reply t'Cabbage Patch Kid hit a breezy 39 and Doddy a Reddersque 7 as they put on 59 for first wicket. A coolapse ensued t'72-5 and enter t'Blur.T'Cabbage Patch Kid 'ad worked oot that if t'Blur got less than 14 he'd win t'battin' award and so proceeded t'appeal from t'boundary edge every time t'ball hit t'Blur's pads.With his score on 7 t'Blur missed a full toss,t'Cabbage Patch Kid scream howzat f'boundary and t'umpire did his biddin'. At 102-6 enter t'skipper and he embarked on a thrashin' session. With Brum playing beautifully at t'other end the pair put on 72 t'bring some respectability t'score before Marcus snicked one on 32. Brum went on t'hit a maiden 50 and t'highlight o't'innings was a big six which was headin' straight for Julie's car . Her long time admirer t'Cabbage Patch Kid was too slow t'react but Zorro glided serenely across t'gravel t'hold a beauty just in front o'her bonnet. It was left t'Dangerous Dave and young Ben Birty to deny t'Mount five pois an't'innings finished on 183-9.

T'party theme continued on t'Saturday night and a good do resulted in excellent takings. Only those there were aware o'Wadey's shannagins but whatever t'ere t'wife 'ad offered an apology on facebook t'next day.

c T'Sage 15/9/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 22 : FIRSTS FLOP / SECONDS RELEGATED

T'Millers flopped badly against t'Catholic Club on what was supposed t'be a day o'celebration. T'day began with t'local rag takin' t'team picture. Bostik brought down t'league trophy and El Presidente and t'Treasurer got on t'shoot as did Mr.Thistle but t'Chairman arrived too late with his recently pressed suit. Fortunately Shaky was away as no doobt he wud've wangled his way on. T'boys wanted a tough game but weren't at t'races as Catholic hit 190. T'Fireman took anoother five for and t'skipper and t'Kiwi two apiece. Son o'007, t'second best keeper in t'club, managed three victims. In reply, t'Master Chef's miserable season continued as he was coot behind for 3 and t'constant lack o'consistency in t'battin' when under pressure came t'fore agin as no decent partnerships were put together.Fatboyslim managed 23 and son o'007 top scored with 34 as t'boys scraped together 115. T'champers flowed afterwards and there was a rumour t'Chairman bought t'team a lager each but Holty ain't seen any o'Chairman's brass as yet. El Presidente brought doon a decent bottle o'champers which Holty delegated for officials oonly.Bostik ensured he 'ad a glass but t'quintessential ambience 'twas destroyed when Miss Fawceps and friend Miss Daisy ignored t'glass and just wrapped t'lips aroond t'bottle and swigged.

On t'Sunday, t'seconds continued their dreadful fieldin' display and dropped five oot o' eleven chances, most o'em off t'Swinton Moorside skipper, who went on t'get 81 oot o'a total o'145. T'team were indebted t'AB who took 7-39, a season best, and t'Danny W who picked up two. With t'anchorman o'class t'Pink Blur unavailable, only Phil Party 34 shoed any grit and determination. Despite t'battin' being reinforced with t'Kiwi and 007, both failed miserably and 'avin' got t'72-4 t'lack o'battin' skills showed as t'team crumbled t'100 all oot and relegation a certainty.

T'Secretary noted that t'teams 'adn't been selected for next weekend and received a text from t'first team skipper listin' t'team and endin' with t'infamous 'Thank you nob ed'. T'club was deserted by 9ish and Redders was carassin' t'remainin' sarnies which he was takin' home f'supper. Holty and t'Pink Blur were engaged in a long medical conversation, as they swapped tales o'hernias and kidney stones and ended with t'philosophical question o'which was why does ones appendage shivel t'nowt when t'doctor asks you t'take doon yer kegs. No conclusion was reached but both thought Miss Fawceps might be t'one t'give t'definitive answer. c T'Sage 5/9/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 21 : 1sts CHAMPIONS/ 2NDS DEFEATED BY RAIN

T'Millers won t'league title as their nearest rivals were washed out. An unsatisfactory situation as t'boys wanted a tough game next Saturday against t'Catholic Club.

T'seconds reinforced their batting and were confident against t'league leaders who turned up with ten. Following Youngy's inspirational team talk, t'veteran Kiwi then abused t'Pink Blur about being a shite keeper and how he cudn't pick his faster ball (!) and take stumpings off him. T'Blur kept his dignity as he cudn't guarantee t'remove t'remaining Kiwi tooth in just one blow. Youngy won t'toss and inserted t'Roe Greeners. As soon as t'boys were out in t'middle t'rain came. T'match was reduced to 35/35 and t'Greeners blasted away. T'veteran Kiwi was smacked for 21 in his first two overs and t' comments went around that, as usual, t'first teamers 'ad nor idea how t'play second team cricket. 31-0 off four overs was then halted by Brum who booled some jaffas and took 4-15. T'Kiwi finally put some efoort in and grabbed two wickets, t'first 'twas booled as he actually managed t'move t'ball for first time and t'second was stumped (!) by t'Pink Blur. T'Greeners took t'remaining 31 overs t'score 46 and eventually t'skipper 'ad a wicket with a magnificent runnin' boundary catch from Flourman Phil. T'boos were stunned as his type o'catch is not normally taken by t'Millers and 007 cud learn a thing or two from t'Flourman. T'Kiwi finished with 2-31 and AB 1-15 as t'Greeners finished on 76-8. 007 and Gaz were padded up but every time t'square was cleaned up t'rain came until a complete wash out ended matter at 7pm. Controversy in t'bar afterwards as Doddy maintained uncompleted matches don't count in t'fantasy league.....I suspect he'll receive a clandestine visit from Brum and his mates.....I feel a Bank Holiday Bedtime Story comin' on

CHILDREN'S BEDTIME STORY...NO. 4 ADVENTURES OF MR.WOBBLY'S WALLET & MR.BLUEDYKE'S FRIEND MR. BUDWEISER

Once upon a time not very far from here, was a hectare of land called Pleasure Island. Now Pleasure Island was a meeting place for many of the dysfunctional people in the area. One very rainy day Mr.Monologue, who ran the refreshment cafe, was in a very jubilant mood as he had shipped Mrs.Monologue and the Monologue minors off to Majorca. This meant he would spend many pleasurable hours talking to himself and his dog without anyone getting bored. or so he thought. The Stoneclough Doggy Day Care Centre reports that someone named Charlie has repeatedly requested that he wants permanent residence as he needs his sleep following incessant talking he's had to endure. Charlie states he's suffering from sleep deprivation as he's constantly woken up by Mr.Monologue arriving home pissed in the early hours of the morning.

As the rain poured down various friends of Mr.Monologue came to visit him in the refreshment cafe. There was Mr.Spanner the Mechanic, Mr.Mustard the Carpet Cleaner and Mr.Appleass the Scouser who 'ad t'consume strong refreshment in t'knowledge 'is team's season was already over.They were then joined by Mr.Wobbly the Storeman and Mrs.Wobbly the Suffragette. After a

while Mrs.Wobbly said she was hungry so they decided to order a Chinese. With every item Mrs.Wobbly listed Mr Wobbly grew paler and paler as Mrs.Wobbly eventually ordered a banquet size menu. "Who's going to pay for all that?" asked Mr.Wobbly. "You are " replied Mrs.Wobbly. "I'm not"...and then children, a few naughty words were said to which Mrs Wobbly replied with some much naughtier naughty words. So children, who won the argument? A few hours later Mr.Wobbly returned, a beaten man, as he'd lost the argument....again. He'd had to find the key to open the padlock to his wallet which also housed the National Collection of Butterflies and Moths. He gained little comfort from a buoyant Mr.Monologue, on top of which, he had to open the wallet for an unheard of second time in a day to purchase some strong refreshment.

Now children, it's time to tell you about the evils of strong refreshment. Earlier in the week Mr Bluedyke the builder,plasterer,electrician,plumber,fencer,patio layer,tiler and his new additional job as goose shit collector, had visited the refreshment cafe. It was Mr.Bluedyke's birthday and he was sad as he'd not had his jelly and ice cream nor a birthday cake. The normally placid Mr.Bluedyke decided to forgo the normal light refreshment and linked up with his American friend Mr.Budweiser. Various people came and went and as the number of Mr.Budweisers multiplied so did Mr.Bluedyke's voice. Ten bottles later Mr.Bluedyke and Mr.Monologue engaged in a delightful conversation, the decibel level reaching jumbo jet proportions. Mr.Whale the Sailor weighed in and gently inferred that unless Mr.Bluedyke quieten down he would be dealt with with one of his many military manoeuvres.. This seemed to calm Mr.Bluedyke and they all lived happily ever after. The End.

c T'Sage 28/8/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 20 : SKIPPER AND FATHER IN LAW SEE MILLERS HOME

T'Millers did t'dooble o'last year's champions t'Lakesiders and now just need a minimum o'un pois against t'Catholic Club t'secure title. All five boolers took two wickets a piece as t'Lakesiders were booed oot for 138, includin' Danny W whom Wadey actually remembered was a booler. Son o'007, fantasy ranked as only second best keeper in t'club, managed t'cling on t'three chances but dropped a couple as Phil Party told him he was only keepin' his place warm for next season. Casanova 'ad a 'mare in t'field droppin' catch and twas a big girl's blouse in jumpin' oot o'way o'bool. In reply t'booy's only took 21 oovers t'reach t'total but 'twas no plain sailin'. Master Chef and Gaz Youngy got 'em off t'solid start but went for 16 and 25 respectively. 007 'twas lbw for 14 and t'TEI put 'imself in major contention for t'duck trophy with t'third o't'season. At 60-4 t'game was finely balanced but t'skipper with 55 and t'veteran Kiwi 18 noot oot put on 70 f'fifth wicket when Wadey was coot with t'score on 130. Son o'007 with 6 noot oot took t'total t'141.

T'Sunday saw t'second annual Fun Day expertly organised by Lady J-B. T'weather relented enough f'decent crowd t'attend. Wadey was no sooner thro' t'gates when t'police greeted him with 'Welcome number 763523906969'. T'lovely Donna and Lynne expertly manhandled their baps at t'barbie, Redders 'ad his longest innings o't'season in t'cage and t'Pimhole Animal Sanctuary came with four and managed t'leave with four before Zorro 'ad time t'put t'pig on t'barbie. T'end o'day water slide proved very attractive t'youngsters but t'Secretary 'ad t'cool off in t'club when t'more mature ladies took part in what became a wet t-shirt extravaganza. Doddy ended with ear plugs 'aving spent whole afternoon servin' an' listenin' t'Holty's one man show. Miss Fawceps entertained t'boys with her one woman show and t'Wadey v Casanova sprint match saw Wadey dive home well ahead o'Casanova who just managed second place ahead o't'duck mascot. Dwayne, resisting t'temptation o'wearing t'black arm band, spent most o'afternoon complaining about t'ambiguity o't'Olympic quiz but got short shrift from t'compilers Duckworth Chairman and Lewis Secretary. However, t'disciplinary committee will 'ave t'meet on Tuesday t' decide on t'punishment for Mrs Shaky's defacin' o't'Secretary's notices and t'Kiwi's choice o'shorts. c T'Sage 20/8/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 19 : T'SAGE'S ELPM CHILDREN'S BEDTIME
STORY...NUMBER 3 MR.MONOLOGUE'S NEW TOY

Once upon a time not very far from here, was a hectare of land called Pleasure Island. Now Pleasure Island was a meeting place for many of the dysfunctional people in the area. The money man for Pleasure Island was Mr.Monologue who also ran the refreshment cafe, which was frequented by many of his friends including Mr.Thistle the gardener, Mr.Whale the sailor, Mr.Spanner the mechanic, Mr.Wobbly the storeman, Mr.Dickinson the Sun Tan Shop owner and Mr Bluedyke the builder.plasterer,electrician,plumber,fencer,patio layer,tiler and his new additional job as goose shit collector.Mr.Monologue occasionally worked with electricians but his favourite job was playing with his two feet square calculator. Mr.Monologue just loved punching out numbers and spent many a happy hour adding up numbers, working out percentage profit and trying to find those missing pesky pennies who made Mr.Monologue's life a misery. One day Mr.Monologue received a present from his friends, an electric till without an information booklet. Mr.Monologue was not too worried as he usually spent many a Saturday afternoon giving money to his ponies and he saw this as an extension of his hobby. So Mr.Monologue spent many hours trying to find out how the till worked and what the many pretty buttons were for. Unfortunately he couldn't find a button to rectify an input error. Mr Doddy the bus driver said he knew how it worked but reams of paper later he hadn't made any progress. One day Mr.Blurr the run maker came to visit Mr Monologue and bought refreshments from his cafe for £1.80. Mr.Monologue told Mr.Blurr he could use the till as he was still scouring the Racing Post for that elusive winner. Mr.Blurr pressed the 1 button, then the 8 button and then the 0 button but to his surprise the total printed out £180. Mr.Monologue was not a very happy man and steam appeared to emanate from his ears. He said some very naughty words which upset Mr.Blurr, as Mr.Monologue thought Mr.Blurr was getting his revenge for the escapade with the notice boards in the merry month of May. Mr.Monologue asked his friend Mr.Whale if he would countersign the till roll besides the £180. Mr.Whale wrote some very naughty words on the paper, which also upset Mr.Blurr. Mr.Blurr appeared to be going through an upset phase as Mr.Psycho the path maker had also upset him by also using very naughty words in his text messages to Mr.Blurr. Mr.Blurr went to see Miss.Fawcetts the nurse who made him better. As you start to go to bed at night just spare a kind thought for Mr.Monologue who will be still pressing his calculator buttons and checking his till roll way into the night. The End.

c T'Sage 17/8/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 18 : FIRSTS FARCE/ 2NDS HEROIC EFFORT

'Tis been a shite week for t'Secretary as half t'seconds decided they were unavailable includin' t'captain on his hols, and he 'ad been givin' t'pleasure of captainin' t'seconds. Having found eleven carcasses he then 'ad three separate texts, each text endin' with 'nob end' from Wadey informin' him of 1sts dropping oot. Despite numerous calls only ten managed t'take t'field against Westoughton and three of 'em 'adn't played this season. Meanwhile, t'firsts turned up at WLM only t'find seven players. WLM batted and reached 33-2 before t'wheels fell off and they were dismissed for 36 with Brum takin' 3-21 and TEI 2-13. Danny W got t'last man run oot. It took t'Millers ten overs t'knock off t'runs mainly due t'Gaz Youngy 'avin' a net for a gritty 8 not out. With t'score on 15 t'Master Chef smacked t'ball t'only fielder in front o'square and trooped back for 11. Fatboyslim, at last contributing t'fantasy league, hit 13 noot oot for a nine wickets win. Seven pois required f'title.

T'seconds won t'toss and batted. T'Pink Blur led from t'front with a majestic innings of 55. He and Phil Party put on 34 for t'first wicket, but Phil Party struggled with t'lack o'pace on t'ball and missed a full toss and was lbw. T'Cabbage Patch Kid came in a gradually got into his stride but with t'score 72-1 he bottom ended a shot aand was coot on t'boundary f'21. 'Twas downhill from then on with only a swashbuckling 10 from Redders and 11 noot oot from t'Vicar makin' any real contribution t'score as t'team were all oot f'124. Despite one very short boundary, t'Pink Blur's tactical genius kept t'Millers in t'game. T'Cabbage Patch Kid took two victims, one an impressive coot and booled, and Redders ploughed thro' a dozen oovers for 1-33. T'Vicar replaced t'CPK and and bought a wicket with his 20mph flighted filth but with t'score on 108-3 t'game looked up. Enter young Ben Birty, who's reformed action resulted in his offers now turning, scythed thro' t'battin' with 4-8 as Westoughton collapsed t'120-8. Unfortunately t'final two wickets eluded 'em and they lost by two wickets.

Last displayed fantasy table as Kev is keeping remaining 3 weeks under wraps

Top 3 and last place Fantasy Teams after August 11th (last one to be displayed)

1. Pink Blur's Bashibazouks.....Pink Blur...3977.....
 2. LJB Babes.....Lady J-B.....3736
 3. Bradley Fold 69ers...P.Hewart.....3552
- last . T'Sage's Sh'ite XI.....T'Sage.....380

This week's biggest risers
Chairman's Use B'stards .up 8
Pete Berry's Blasters up 6
AB's Warchester City Wolves up 5

this week's biggest downers
Young Zorro's transformers down 5
Holty's Tin Soldiers down 4
Martin's Thommo XI down 4

c T'Sage 13/8/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 17 : T'SAGE'S ELPM CHILDREN'S BEDTIME
STORY...NUMBER 2

Once upon a time not very far from here, was a hectare of land called Pleasure Island. Now Pleasure Island was run by Mr.Spanner the mechanic. Mr.Spanner was regularly visited by many friends including Mr.Thistle the gardener, Mr.Monologue the town crier, Mr.Whale the veteran sailor and Mr.Mustard the carpet cleaner. Now Mr.Spanner was a very old man but he was very wise in all things to do with machines. Mr.Spanner was very proud of his various mowing machines which cut the large area of grass at Pleasure Island. Many of these mowers were so old that Mr.Spanner had spent many hours tinkering away repairing and oiling the mowers and acquiring many free parts. As Mr.Spanner was getting old he decided that he needed a helper, so he asked his friend Mr.Dickinson the Sun Tan Shop seller to help him. Many hours of fun and laughter were had as Mr.Spanner taught his apprentice all the tricks of the trade including how to fettle the roller. As time went by Mr.Spanner let Mr.Dickinson do more and more work and soon the situation arrived when Mr.Dickinson also needed a helper. So along came Mr Bluedyke the builder.plasterer,electrician,plumber,fencer,patio layer and tiler to act as the new apprentice. Unbeknown to Mr.Dickinson, Mr.Bluedyke had once attended the Leechy School of Mechanics. As time went on Mr.Bluedyke was given the job of mowing the grass. One day he mowerd the grass for a long time but it didn't seem to get any shorter. Mr.Dickinson had to tell him to lower the blades which would then cut the grass. Sometime later, Mr.Monologue came for a visit but Mr.Spanner and Mr.Dickinson were no where to be seen. Only Mr.Bluedyke was there who was in a distressed state. "What's the problem?" asked Mr.Monologue. "I've broken the mowers" said Mr Bluedyke holding a choke and various nuts, bolts and screws in his hand.. "Oh dear" said Mr.Monologue "Mr.Spanner will be very upset when he hears about this" Mr.Bluedyke was very sad and didn't shave for three weeks. Mr.Spanner was sent for as Mr.Dickinson had gone on holiday. Mr.Spanner was a very cross man said some very naughty words but quickly managed to find the problem. He found a free part and fitted it and Mr.Bluedyke was a very happy man and they all lived happily ever after....until the next time. The End. c T'Sage 7/8/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 16 : 1STS LEAD BY 13, 2NDS DISMAL AGAIN

T'Secretary returned from his week in Taunton t'torrent o'abuse 'cause website hadn't been updated. "T'baaastards can **** 'emselves" he was heard t'say in a rare moment of indifference. So what's been 'appenin' in t'week orf. Well, it appears t'Man from M&S's five for against t'Blackley lads has been rewarded by Mrs M&S with a trip t'Pleasure Island. Fatboyslim is close t'gettin' lynched as his performance since t'transfer window closed 'as been appallin' .T'toothless Kiwi 'as started producing some match winnin' performances with t'bat whilst his cabbage patch son 'as done t'opposite in t'seconds. Dangerous Dave 'as made a come back but t'bruising cause by a tumble in completing a second run from a sumptuous drive might put 'im on t'injury list for anoother year. Doddy continues t'drop dollies, Casanova still hasn't 'ad a bat for ages, Zorro troughed t'cakes at Thornham whilst recouperating,TEI's shot selection continues t'be a shocker and Redders 'ad anoother menopausal moan.....so nowt's changed at Croft Lane.

T'firsts encountered a weak Totts team on Saturday. T'Man from M&S with two wickets and young Brum with one, reduced 'em t'18-3. A recovery occurred and at 71-4 their innings looked promisin'. T'Kiwi managed t'rare feat o'beatin' t'bat which caused a landslide as he and Wadey rampaged thro' t'lower order taking 6-6 as Totts were dismissed for 77, as Casanova finished t'innings with a run out. Wadey 4-26 and Kiwi 2-14. T'mental attitude o't'top order needs serious psychological surgery as t'boys underestimated t'veteran Meehan who reduced 'em t'29-5. 007 went for 1, Fatboyslim 6, TEI 4, Wadey duck and Gaz Youngy 16 so thou canst see with this lot that even a life time's work by a quack would nar scratch t'surface o'these boogers. Fortunately son of 007 chose this moment t'show us he 'as some battin' skills and guided by t'veteran Kiwi, their fifty partnership saw t'team home t'79-5. Son of 007 finished with an impressive 35no and t'Kiwi a gritty 8 no.

T'seconds won t'toss and inserted Thornham on a plasticine pitch.Thornham collapsed from 49-1 t'68-5 as t'chances offered were snaffled by t'Pink Blur twice and Marcus and Birty one each. Unfortunately that was t'last time t'Millers were in t'game as Thornham smacked 205-9 off their 45 overs. Brum took a season's best o'4-36, and AB and Marcus 'ad 2 wickets apiece. Doddy and t'son o'Kiwi were back in t'hutch with score on 4. T'Pink Blur made 18 before being booled but wickets fell t'shockin' shots and only a late thrash by Marcus with 18 noot oot enabled t'score t'reach 79 before Dangerous was totally confused by a flight filth lob ball and was booled.

Top 3 and last place Fantasy Teams after August 5th

1. Pink Blur's Bashibazouks.....Pink Blur...3764.....2. LJB Babes.....Lady J-B.....35533. Scrumpy Doo Dahs....D.Pearson.....3274

last . T'Sage's Sh'ite XI.....T'Sage.....344

c T'Sage 7/8/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 15 : 2nds SLUMP TO SEMI LOSS

T'seconds lost t'cup semi final by 6 wickets. T'Millers won t'toss and batted on a track which kept low. Sherlock was t'first t'go coot b'hind off a youngster barely oot o'nappies. T'Pink Blur was triggered which even square leg Bostik was seen t'shake t'head. AB finally produced a score o'43 which doobled 'is season total but played one expansive shot too many. Andy Greenwood (21) finally put an innings together and hit two sixes and Brum (25) played his best innings yet crowned by a sumptuous cover drive. Marcus thrashed as usual but t'lower order contributed little other than two o'them being run oot. T'Millers finished on a score o'170. A jaffa o'inswinger from Danny W and a superb leg cutter from Brum to which t'Pink Blur'ad t'bails off in a flash saw Farnworth 6-2. That was really it as a hundred partnership ensued and Bohannon 78 not oot gave one chance which went thro' Wilko's mitts. Redders tipped anoother chance around t'corner and it took an inswinging jaffa from AB to account for Bradley on 49. Marcus 0-28 and Sherlock 2-0-23-0 'ad a 'mare and Redders meandered in for six oovers. He took a wicket as t'Pink Blur snaffled a feathered edge but 'tis time t'retire when one droops a dolly o' your own booling' and Farnworth coasted home with eight oovers t'spare.

T'wed'in o'TD and Lady J proved eventful at t'evenin' do. Fatboyslim took t'opportunity t'ebay his wares by strippin' off down t'kegs durin' a tame ELPM variation o't'fully dressed Monty. Mrs Shakey was resplendent in her low cut bridesmaid dress and Vicky was annother who somehow found her only dress in t'back o'closet. Casanova 'ad his latest acquisition on t'arm and t'Chairman 'ad 'ad a haircut and looked dapper in his suit until t'aura was broken by his need t'nick t'sweets o'mini Man from M&S. T'lovely Donna was absent as she 'ad t'endure t'yearly Cornwall trip and listen t'24/7 monologue from Holty. T'club gave 'im plenty o'ammunition on his return as he spouted forth on t'inability o'those present durin' his break t' replenish t'crisps and a barrel o'lager. Such was t'earache that Sherlock left his keys in t'car only t'find Danny W in it, embarking on a series o'handbrake turns and 'aving rummaged around found Sherlock's choice o'music was Busted.

No fantasy tables as yet

c T'Sage 23/7/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 14 : WADEY STARS IN MILLERS WIN, ZORRO JINRICKSHAED

T'firsts were soon in trouble as Youngy G was out f'eight and TEI a duck t'take his total t'two and t'booy is well on th'way t'anoother end o'season trophy. T'Master Chef and Wadey added 106 until t'Chef was lbw f'41, and t'booger 's already scored nearly as many runs in last two innings as he did in t'pre fantasy transfer window. 007 scored 16, Casanova 17 and Sherlock 22 all contributed t'add t'skipper's 68. A tootal o'214-7 was a good score. T'Ladyboos smacked from t'start and 'ad 50 on t'oard o'six overs. T'Man from M&S was severely thrashed 6-0-47-0 but t'Fireman came t'rescue with 3 wickets, t'third was t'key one o'Saqib booled f'37. T'score 50-3, slumped t'97-7 as t'Fireman 5-46 aided by a solitary wicket from TEI and a controversial Wadey run out, saw t'game as good as won. T'number 9 came in and hit 44 but with t'Kiwi makin' no impact agaaaain, t'skipper brought himself on and snaffled 3-3 to end t'game with t'Ladyboos on 158. With Totts match v Catholic Club 'twas abandoned so t'boos go int' their weekend off eight points clear.

T'seconds 'ad a league free weekend but played a friendly v Radcliffe on t'Sunday. Such was t'class o'battin' that t'Millers were out for 80, with only a rare appearance from Lowie made any impact with a 20 odd. Radcliffe cruised t'victory but then t'boos played a 20/20 and won. Thou knows it seems unlikely, but 'twas true, but it came at a cost. Zorro popped a knee and lay maroooooned amongst a sea o'green. Eventually, after an exhausting warm up session, six o't'lads lifted 'im off t'field o'play and dumped 'im unceremoniously on t'bench. Zorro glorious season as an allroonder 'twas oover.

T'Friday o'this week sees a very pale TD wed t'property magnate Lady J. T'coolour o'TD is a concern as t'boos are runnin' a book on whether 'tis rust, lack o'sunshine or what awaits t'poor booger.

T'Sky boos 'ave informed us that they've 'ad t'cancel t'speed gun visit t'Millers on Augoost 7th as t'blooody footy AM comin' back early t'replace Cricket AM. This is a godsend f't'Chairman, who in one o'his rare moments o'inebriation challedged t'Kiwi t'bool off, statin' schhhhhcould bool a faster bool. T'Kiwi upped t'ante and introduceed a ten pooond bet which t'Chairman schhhhh'agreed too.

What is constant though is t'top o't'fantasy league. Can anyone catch what is t'mastermind o't'Pink Blur? Youngy's Turnip CC rises and falls o't'success or failure o'Wadey and moves int' third place ousting Dwayne's Scrumpy Doo-Dahs. T'Treasurer continues t'b' in a malaise regardin' his four teams but if thou pick's t'toothless Kiwi as your all rounder in all four, what does thou expect.

Top 3 and last place Fantasy Teams after July 14th

1. Pink Blur's Bashibazouks.....	Pink Blur...3306
2. LJB Babes.....	Lady J-B.....3219
3. 3. Turnip CC.....	Gaz Young2909
last . T'Sage's Sh'ite XI	T'Sage.....306

this week's biggest risers

Master Chef's Wigan up 9

Jenny's Girl Power up 8

this week's biggest downers

Mrs Zorro's The Y Nots down 5

El Presidente's Invincibles/Casanova's
ELMP Football team/M.Berry's Shell's
Stumps/ Tel's Tornadoes and Doddy's
Norfolk'n'Chance 2nd XI all down 4

Doddy's Norfolk'n'Chance up 6

c T'Sage 15/7/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 13 : 1st WIN/ 2nds HAMMERED

T'firsts were soon amongst t'wickets as t'Valers were reduced t'58-6 as t'Man from M&S 3-40 and t'prodical Fireman 2-24 scythed thro' t'top order. T'skipper then brought on t'old timer Kiwi whose experience amounted f'nowt as 33 were taken off his three overs as t'recovery ensued. Wadey then broot 'imself on and took 4-20 as t'Valers coollapsed from 108-6 t'133 all oot. In reply, Master Chef (£4m and discarded by many in t'transfer window) suddenly decided t'confound form and hit 46 and along with Gaz Young 15, put on 57 for t'first wicket. Fatboyslim (£3.5m and in form and transferred to many teams) pathetically scratched a couple o'singles and was then booled. It took t'experience of 007 with 33 noot oot t'guide t'team thro' to 134-5 after seeing t'Kiwi 15 and Wadey 5 slope back t'hutch.

If there was ever a worse 2nd team t'besmirch t'hallowed Croft Lane turf, then Sunday's mob came exceedingly close. Soo appallin' was t'fieldin' that t'Chairman annoounced he was makin' a come back, despite his numerous life threatenin' orthopaedical injuries. Some dozen catches were dropped in a pantomime performance. El Presidente coodn't recall a match, since t'Boer War, thaat was such an embarrassment. Very few escaped t'tongue lashin' o't'Patio Panel but Danny W and Marcus held three gud'uns. Farnworth were inserted and amaassed 201 with Marcus 3-56 and two apiece f'Brum and Sherlock. In reply, t'Millers put up little resistance and were like lemmings orf a cliff as three run outs aided their capitulation t' 47 all oot with Marcus top score o'13.

Despite heavy business in t'transfer window, little movement occurred in t'table..My sources inform me t'Pink Blur has already sent disparaging and abusive texts t'Master Chef,whom he dropped, and t'Fatboyslim whom he signed. Thou knows many will echo his sentiments.

c T'Sage 10/7/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 12 : 1sts TIMED OUT/JECKELL & HYDE 2nds

T'firsts were defeated by t'weather in their game against t'Macedonians who 'ad noo intention o'makin' a game o'it. T'opposition won t'toss and just batted on thro' numerous rain breaks t'reach 196-7 before declaring in last oover. T'Man from M&S got 4-62 and TEI 2-39. 'Twas 6.30pm when t'boos came oout t'bat and t' weak Macedonian attack was soon flayed as t'cavalier cowboys were sent in t'thrutch and smack as many as they could in what turned out t'be a maximum o'23 oovers. Wadey 10 and Sherlock 19 got 'em off t'a good start. TEI got a duck claimin' t'ball was delivered sooo high he missed it comin' oout o't'mirky clouds. 'Twas left t'bruvvers Greaves to continue t'onslaught but with score on 80-3 and last 10 oovers due, t'game was abandoned with Carl on 29 and Fatbooslim 19.

T'seconds hit t'high and t'low in their doouble header. T'Macedonians were fired out for 40 but I feel it my duty t'report t'filth that pertained t'Millers' boolin' and catchin'. T'opener smacked a full blooded pull that Redders, in a moment o'self presevation, held onto, which saved some serious damage t'scrawny boody. Danny Willett took 4-13 and would 'ave 'ad a five for and more importantly a jug, 'ad it not been for t'dolly dropped by young Benji, who, eventually got some serious abuse from t'Patio Panel. AB's return saw him take 4-5 and any team that lets Redders have figures o' 4-0-6-2 deserves t'lose. T'usual Redders variation 't'filth ball' got a wicket as AB 's carcass managed t'make up t'ground behind t'keeper t'take a good'un. Wilko and Zorro scythed and went and it was left t'Doddy to anchor t'boos with 27 noot oout. However, disciplinary action will 'ave t'ensue as t'booy refused t'run a winnin' leg bye so that he could smack a four t'improve his fantasy score. On t'Sunday, roles reversed as t'Millers were Sweenied, with four oout first five lbw. A pathetic score o'47 was eventually made which Roe Green 'ad nor trooble knockin' off for t'loss o'two wickets.

Now it's at this time some o't'second teamers will be wondering why I 'aven't castigated t'Pink Blur for his duck and two missed chances. T'Blur was oobviously depressed by t'news that he was t'target o'heavy transfers int' many o't'teams followin' his current position as top keeper, but t'straw that broke t'camel's back was when he found t'Chairman 'ad transferred him t'his Useless B'stards team.

With t'transfer window closed, T'Pink Blur still sits astride t'top of t'Fantasy League with Lady J-B sidlin' up as t'gap closes. T'Blur 'as gone on record by sayin' t'key t'successful FL selection is t'disregard all T'Millers batsmen as they're shite.

c T'Sage 10/7/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 11 : STUNNING SHERLOCK, B*****D BRUM

T'firsts remained top o'league as t'match at Robbos 'twas called off. Wadey, in his usual caring way, ignored those still travellin' and made them turn up t'ground only for them t'find no one there.

T'seconds finally came up against a genuine 3rd XI in t'cup and spanked them. T'boos from Greenmount t'were soon in trooble at 4-3 with Brum takin' two wickets and Redders, gettin' slooower and wiiiiiiider i't'run up, had t'dangerous skipper snaffled by t'Pink Blur for a duck. Greenmount recovered only 'cos o'dubious decisions as t'Pink Blur gave a wicket keepin' masterclass and t'speed o't'gloves proved too much for t'confused ump. Greenmount collapsed again to 94-6 as Marcus wheeled away with two wickets with t'aid o'Pink Blur and two from AB, on his return from yet anoother injury. Anoother recovery took Greenmount to 140-6 before Sherlock mopped up t'tail with 3-21 as they succumbed to 147. Sherlock, in his new role as pinch hitter, smacked two sixes in t'second oover and he and Doddy put on a rapid 37 before Doddy topped edged for 15 and was systematically abused by t'spotted youth o'a keeper who mocked his ability t'hit a ball. Sherlock continued on his merry way, as t'Pink Blur used all his experience t'guide t'son o'toothless Kiwi, thro' t'a fifty and onwards. Having put a partnership o'88 together, Sherlock played one expansive shot too many and 'twas stumped for 86 with t'score on 127. T'youthful Brum came in and was soon boomin' out t'cover drives but with t'score on 140-2 he ran out t'Pink Blur. Now this 'twas heinous crime but t'make matters words his partin' words t'Blur was t'effect that he didn't want him top o'Fantasy League aagain. Such yobbish behaviour towards a livin' legend had t'be punished and so it was next ball when he was coot behind. AB(1) holed oout goin' for glory as did Zorro who came and went for a duck and t'Millers 'ad slumped t'147-6. Wilko creamed t'winning drive for t'single which gave t'Pink Blur an extra 11 fantasy pooints and t'remain top.

TEI was givin' us his sickly grin on Cricket AM last Saturday, and many a member hurled abuse at t'telly as he missed more than he hit in t'60 seconds team boolathon. Some commented 'twas only time they'd seen t'bum fluff shaved off t'expose his cherub like face.

c T'Sage 27/6/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 10 : 2NDS PUT T'SWORD/FATBOYSLIM MUCH agGRIEVED:

T'weather put paid t'both games o't'Saturday but t'chase t'ace card school 'twas in full flow. T'seconds took a stronger booting attack t'Westhoughton on t'Sunday and got pummelled for 274-3. In reply t'Millers made a creditable 186-9 with openers Doddy 22 and Sherlock givin' a base. Sherlock went on t'smack a jug evasion 48 with his new plank. Young Wilko (£500,000) had anoother good knock o'26 noot oout and with Redders 5 noot oout denied Westhoughton un pois.

T'Man from M&S is tryin' t'come t'terms with his new claimed fame as his screwed up face 'twas plastered in t'Radcliffe Times. This obviously upset Fatboyslim who questioned t'Secretary why he hadn't appeared in t'RT for his knock o'194. T'secretary replied that he was too ugly to appear in such a cultured rag.

T'seconds match made little impact o't'fantasy league as t'top 6 and bottom 7 remained t'same.

c T'Sage 11/6/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 9 : TOOTHLESS GRANDAD ROLLS BACK T'YEARS, 2NDS LOSE WITH THREADBARE ATTACK

T'premadonna's returned t'team after 'avin' Sunday off and t'Millers 'ad a comprehensive win at Totts. T'firsts policy of goin' int'game with eight pace boolers and only using five appears t'be workin' as they sit o'top o'league. T'Master Chef anchored t'first part o't'innings with a gritty 32 as t'booy reached t'hundred mark with five wickets down. Fatboyslim and T'EI resumed normal services with low scores as did 007 and t'son. 'Twas left t'son in law and father in law t' repair t'innings as they put on a ton partnership. Wadey hit 78 and t'Kiwi 56 noot oot, t'first time he's really boothered t'fantasy league organiser. Casanova, having had deep discussions with his cricket guru, put t'advice int'practise and made 18 noot oot in a final score o'243-6. T'Man from M&S climbed int'top order with 3-39 and T'EI mopped up t'lower order with 4-45 as TSJ were dismissed for 151

T'seconds batting continued t'improve as they reached 172-7. Sherlock hit 44 with his plank which should 'ave been consigned t'bin after t'game, but will no doubt will b'kept t'remind him o't'few fifties he's ever hit. He put on 60 for third wicket with Gaz Young who scored 35. T'team reached 110-7 with with seven overs left. T'skipper Marcus then embarked on a swashbuckling innings o'43 noot oot as he and Wilko 15 noot out put on 62 at nine an oover. T'weak booling attack was laid waste as Thornham went at six an oover as toooo many shite balls were dispatched t'boundary. T'skipper took 4-58 and Gaz Young 2-40 with Redders chipping in with a wicket and thus gained un pois. A key moment came when t'Pink Blur fluffed an easy stumping and t'batter went on t'guide t'team through t'174-7.

Off t'field Mrs Zorro produced a future scorer and t'booy from t'seconds generously offered Zorro a DIY vasectomy using t'two bricks procedure. Mr. Thistle has not be seen and is presumed t'be recuperating in Fairyland. Mr. Monologue continues t'talk incessant shite and Redders appears to have mowed his 'ead as well as t'outfield.

c T'Sage 3/6/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 8 : T'SAGE'S ELPM CHILDREN'S BEDTIME STORY

Once upon a time there lived a gardener called Mr.Thistle. Mr.Thistle worked very hard at keeping all t'flower beds neat and tidy. One summer Sunday afternoon Mr.Thistle met his friend Mr.Bell, a bottle maker, for an afternoon's foray in t'garden t'show him the work he had done. Mr.Thistle 'twas very enthusiastic about his work and Mr.Bell was soon drained by all Mr.Thistle's endeavours. Mr.Thistle became very tired and laid down by t'metal shed for a summer snooze. Whilst asleep some young boys came upon 'im and wanted t'ask him how he got his flower beds so neat and tidy. T'boys couldn't wake Mr.Thistle so they thoughtfully used t'hosepipe t'try t'wake Mr.Thistle. Mr.Thistle was so tired he didn't wake up and t'young boys were afraid and called t'ambulance. T'nice Mr.Monologue came along and put t'young boys minds at rest. He looked down at his friend Mr.Thistle and worked his magic and Mr.Thistle woke up with t'immortal words 'Mr.Monologue I'm pissed'. Mr.Monologue was sooo surprised that he took some time to recover from t'narrative. 'So unlike you Mr.Thistle' said Mr.Monologue who then spent t'next 15 minutes trying t'prevent t'ambulance arriving. T'nice Mr.Monologue gave t'young boys some refreshment and they went off happily with a smile on their faces. Mr.Monologue guided Mr.Thistle to his home and handed him over to Mrs Thistle and they all lived happily ever after. The End.

c T'Sage 29/5/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 7 : FATBOYSLIM in MASSACRE, ZORRO FLATTENS FAILSWORTH FURNITURE

Apologies t'me readers fo' noot commentin' last week but t'pressure o' a heavy retirement schedule meant something 'ad t'give. T'firsts t'were much surprised when bottom club WLM (nil pois) turned up w'ten, won toss and elected t'field. T'openers were soon in t'hutch and that led t'turn o'flat track bullies t'appease their fantasy supporters who were regretting a waste of £8.5m. Fatboyslim (£3.5m) and t'England International (£5m) thrashed their way to a 205 3rd wicket partnership, before TEI was coot and booled for 93. Wadey (£5m) then accompanied Fatboyslim t'a 4th wicket partnership o'156 before Wadey was run out f'46 tryin' t'give Fatboyslim t'strike. With his score on a magnificent 194 t'boy tried t'hit a six off t'last ball o'innings and was booled. WLM lost wickets a'regular intervals and were booled oout for 196. TEI slipped in a 3-10 a there were two wickets a piece from t'Kiwi and t'Man from M&S.

Half t'first team decided they were unavailable f'cup match on t'Sunday against RCC. A weak battin' line up succumbed for 129 with noo one scoring 20+. RCC knocked them off for 5 with t'Man from M&S pickin' up 3-20.

Who'd a thort that most o'me Shi'te Fantasy XI would actually be sittin' in t'Failsworth changin' room on a Sunday afternoon!. T'skipper lost t'toss and thus began t'task o'findin' enough boolers from a team with oonly one regular. T'skipper (£4m) manful spun his leggie's for 22.2 overs takin' 6-94. At t'other end, Zorro (£1.5m) came up trumps with 3-47. T'innings ended with Dave Thoomo snaffling a catch at silly mid on as Failsworth were dismissed for 227. It only reet t'mention in dispatches, t'first drinks break at which Zorro sort out a plastic chair which could nay take t'strain and Zorro ended up on t'arse on t'patio. Zorro opened t'innings with t'usual swashbuckling swipes but was coot for 23. Aaron Wilko (£500,000) scored an adventurous 23 and Ben Birty (£2m) showed maturity in his battin' with a 26 noot oot, includin' a four off t'last oover t'secure tpoint for a score o'173-7. T'innings was anchored by t'Pink Blur (£1m), who 'as disappeared, presumed dead, having batted for 44 overs for 58 and being in t'field, for a total of 89 oot o' 90 overs under t'helmet in t'blazin' sun.
RIP

T'fantasy table 'as taken a big shift this week with t'first efforts on t'Saturday.

c T'Sage 28/5/12

MER SAGE: PART 6 : 1sts COLLAPSE TO LOSE/SCOTTY SCOFFS PUD IN MOURNING

Nor soon as t'Secretary gets a back page article in t'Radcliffe Times on t'boys' fine start t'season than t'boogers flaky battin' collapses t'lose by 4 runs t'Blackley boys. T'boolin' attack once again came up trumps as Blackley were booled out for 110. T'skipper Wadey (£5m) took 5-18 with t'Fireman (£4m) 2-33 and t'others chipped in. T'Millers soon lost son o'007 (£3m) for a duck and t'England International for 5, whose dreadful start t'season indicates t'£5m price tag 'tis too much o'a'weight on t'boy's shoulders. Joe (£4m) 21 and Wadey 38, took t'score t'85-2 when t'proverbal wheels fell off. T'middle an' lower order failed t'fire and succumbed t'wiles of Mr Adam 11-5-6-5 as they clattered t'106 all out with AB (£3.5m) undefeated on 7. Meanwhile, t'pigs' bladder boys 'ad an exciting Sunday afternoon, but for Scotty t'inevitable relegation of Bolton was more than compensated for with a big steak and kiddie pud and chips followed by lashing o'jelly an' ice cream at his mums.

In t'Fantasy table, only those who 'ad selected Wadey made any progress. T'wily Pink Blur rises t'top o't'pile.

c T'Sage 13/5/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 5 : 1sts DOUBLE WIN/007 LICENSED TO DROP DOLLIES

T'firsts maintained t'winnin' start t'season with a win against t'Ashy Ladyboos. T'boolin' 'as been excellent this season and t'Man from M&S (£5m) was at it agaain wi'a'five for. Skipper Wadey (£5m) booled a good spell o'2-11 off 11 oovers on his return from yet anoother spell o't'side lines. Danny Willo (£3.5) and t'Kiwi (£4.5m) and Joe (£4m) picked up a wicket apiece t'keep their fantasy selectors with a crumb o'comfort. With 75 f'victory t'top order again failed t'function with oonly Fatbooslim (£3.5m) contributing with 25 oout o'45-5. It 'twas left t'grandad and son-in-law t'see t'lads home as Wadey hit a breezy 21 noot out and t'Kiwi 8 noot out. T'highlite o't'game was t'farcical cameos from t'Colonel (£1m). Havin' pulled both groin muscles whilst cantering t'boundary, t'skipper plonked 'im at slip only f't'ball t'thack into his shin which felled t'poor fella. T'first round o't'cup saw t'boos visit Totts. T'top order wobbled again as only Fatbooslim (£3.5m) and t'England International (£5m) with 30 apiece oout o'73-5 off 29 oovers made any progress. Son o'007 (£3m) at last produced t'goods and he was joined by Casanova Carl (£1.5m) still smartin' from t'conversation he'd 'ad with t'Secretary who 'ad toold him he wasn't a first teamer t'nite before. He destroyed t'Totts booling with 64 noot oout and gained 94 fantasy pooints t'his surprised selectors. Together t'boos put on 108 with t'son o'007 booled off t'last ball for 39. Totts were never in t'hunt as Wadey 3-13 and two wickets a piece for t'England International and t'Man from M&S o'but wrapped up t'innings. A rare trundle from Fatbooslim ended t'game with Totts on 91.

T'seconds suffered their second 9 wickets loss o't'season t'Elton. T'first 'alf went well as t'team batted oout their 45 oovers for 156-6. T'innings was anchored by t'debutant 007 (£0m) who looked a batman, which as thou knows ist a rarity in this team. Only AB (£3.5m) failed t'reach double figures in t'top six. There was a potential jug evasion moment as 007 succumbed t'sniper fire on 42 as he collapsed on t'groond. With t'aide o'Brummy boy (£2m) t'act as a runner, he continued with a British stiff upper lip thro' t'pain barrier to hit 69 noot oout. As a sideline, 'twas t'longest time Brummy boy 'ad ever held a bat in t'middle. AB gained a dodgy lbw and then couldn't get low enough t'snaffle a sharp chance off t'number 3 who went on t'score a ton. Now he would nar got t'ton 'ad 007, covertly hidden in t'slips, not dropped a dolly and then, repeated t'action off t'other batter. 'Tis a cruel game.

Top 3 and last place Fantasy Teams after May 5/6

1. Bradley Fold 69'ersT'Man from M&S.....1057
 2. Scrumpy Doo-Dah.....Dwayne.....998
 3. Pink Blur's Bashibazouks.....Pink Blur.....974
- last . T'Sage's Sh'ite XI.....T'Sage.....43

c T'Sage 6/5/12

SUMMER SAGE: PART 4: FIREMAN'S BOX NIBBLED/BLUR'S SCHOLESIAN RETURN

An example o'tmethodical preparation that t'Millers put int'pre-season work was displayed by t'Fireman this week. His first outing o't'season began with a last minute expedition t'loft t'retrieve his kit bag, only t'find t'ouse moose 'ad nibbled away during t'winter thro'his gloves, pads and imparted teeth marks o't't'box. T'visit t'puddin' o'a'pitch saw t'Valers dismissed for 50 as t'Fireman (£4m) 5-24 and t'Man from M&S (£5m) 4-25 destroyed t'lineup. In reply, t'Millers gamble o'openin' with t'alleged all rounder Danny Willo (£3.5m) was a disaster as he made 2. T'team slumped t'34-6 and only number 3 Gaz Youngy (£2.5m) 15 noot oot gritted it oot as t'top order Jesses came and went. T'son of 007 (£3m) 8 managed t'stay awhile and nearly saw them hoome but was caaught. T'highlite o'innings was t'Colonel's (£1m and raadically overpriced) run oot withoout facing a ball and it was left t'young Carl (£1.5m) t'pick up ten fantasy pooints for a typical Greavesian red inker. With two wins and t'skipper's ban over, t'actin' skipper Fatboyslim decided t'drop t'skipper t'12th man on t'basis he wasn't changin' a winnin' team. This was soon changed when Wadey threatened to manually removed some o'Gav's body parts.

Skipper Marcus (£4m), an old 'ead on young shoulders, pulled a masterstroke in persuading t'Pink Blur (£1m and t'bargain o't'competition) t'come oout o'retirement t'solidify t'top order and snaffle t'victims. T'Chairman (£0m and no chance of being worth anything) demanded t'fantasy competition be disbanded as he wasn't in t'know and hadn't picked 'im. El Presidente had and a casually slipped broon envelope in t'Blur's boot was a welcome boost t'his retirement pension. Doddy (£2m) 28 and t'Pink Blur 24, put on a careful 55 oopening partnership before a pearoller did t'Blur. Danny Scott (£1m and there's mooare chance o'Bolton avoidin' relegation than DS scorin' runs), was booled for 6. AB (£3.5m) hit 19 and Zorro (£1.5m) 20 includin' three sixes. Marcus smacked 14 and in his new celebrity status role as an all rounder t'£1.5m Redders hit a cavalieer 14 includin' two fours in one oover. His best shot was left for tea time bar as he demonstarted t'Holty a flashing cut. T'team actually managed t'bat 45 oovers t'reach 156-9. In reply, t'young guns from Farnworth were soon in trouble as t'Pink Blur caught t'opener only for Doddy t'secure a skyer and young Benji (£1.5m) t'return t'pigeon catchin' best with a spectacular left handed diving catch. T'old stumped Blur booled Marcus resumed again as two were snaffled includin' a smart legside one. AB held a stunner at slip and Dwayne (£1.5m) caught a dolly and sprinted off t'bride on t'boundary for what looked like a quick peck but in fact a crafty Capstan was t'reason. Marcus 5-7 'ad t'figures demolished by t'Farnworth skipper who smacked three sixes in 'is last over. It was left t'Sherlock t'take t'last two wickets as Farnworth were oot for 78.

T'club is investin' in an red electric wheelchair for t'Chairman, who suffered anoother broken boon injury following 'is alcoholic intake t'previous Saturday. Lady J-B is already seeking sponsorship for t'mobile cammode. T'Secretary wood leek t'inform Matty, Joe and Lee that their disciplinary is this Saturday as one o't'boogers wrote an obscene comment on his car. T'only positive aspect was

that t'boys managed t'spell t'four letter word correctly, t'highlite o'a Radcliffe education.

Top 3 and last place Fantasy Teams after April 28/29

1. Bradley Fold 69'ersT'Man from M&S.....618

2. Transformers.....J.Dwyer.....567

3. Pink Blur's Bashibazouks.....Pink Blur.....544

last . T'Sage's Sh'ite XI.....T'Sage.....43...that booger Redders
got over 'alf of t'points

c T'Sage 29/4/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 3 : FIRSTS CRUISE/FRANNY EMERGES/CHAIRMAN CONCERN

Normality resumed as Bostik sauntered in t'umpire t'first home match o'season. Wadey behaved 'imself acting as first team manager durin' his suspension, but t'big test o'whether he can keep t'job shut will come next week at t'Valers. T'firsts continued where they left off from last year with a comprehensive win against Failsworth Macedonia. Early season 'tis a gud time t'play t'boys from Failsworth as 'alf t'team t'were kicking t'pig's bladder around. T'man from M&S (£5m) scythed thro' top order with 4-33 (just a note t'Mrs M&S 'tis a positive comment aboot hubby) and t'rest were mopped up by t'England International (£5m) 3-5 and t'toothless Kiwi (£4.5m) 2-12 for 68. Youngy G (£2.5m) was an early casualty but Joe (£4m) 35 noot oot and t'acting skipper Fatboy Slim (£3.5m), senses highly tuned t'possibility orf a red inker and gud fantasy points, as he's t'only one t'pick himself, sniffed oot an undefeated 25. T'match 'twas ended with t'first ball o't'seventeenth over as Joe hit a rare six, which probably accoonts for t'winter poundage accrued. I include t'fantasy price o'each player t'highlight t'extra interest t'competition has caused at t'club. Even El Presidente (£10m in 'is 'amateur' days) tried t'pick his team but gave up when toold he cudn't use t'brown envelopes. I've been scourin' t'depths o'm'settee t'find some coins t'enter meself. I'm not one for wastin' me money and I noticed a prize for t'worst team, which I'm targetting with my Sh'ite XI. Problem I've 'ad is not t'cost o't'team but who t'leave oot.

Thoust knaws from t'Radcliffe Times t'Chairman (£0m and still dreamin' o't' Lazerus phenomenon) was in a very belligerent mood when asked for comment on team's chances for t'season. It appears t'Chairman claims he can't remember t'conversation and finally succumbed t'verbal barrage from t'Treasurer, by pleadin' 'pissed at the time'. T'Chairman's wife's drinking group supped all t'wine so Holty produced two old bootles o'Blush. T'first bootle was corked and t'second was rejected as unpalatable even from a 'ardened drinker as t'Chairman's wife. T'was red rag t'bull as Chairman downed a glass which somehow led t'drinking contest with t'Colonel (£1m) which finished t'boottle. Sometime durin' t'escapade t'Latvian Luvver (£3m) appeared from his winter's hibernation and resumed normal drinkin' routine.

T'first social event, organised by L.J-B raised £500. A big thanks t'all who 'elped. T'raffle for t'Ravi Bopara bat 'as started, 50p a strip I'm toold. Seems rather risque fo'me.

c T'Sage 23/4/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 2 : SHAMBOLIC MAYHEM AT ELTON

T'soond o'leather o'thwillow 'twas replaaced with soond o'leather o'th'stumps as t'second team batting continues t'sink t'even lower depths than ever imagined. Encouraging signs for t'neweys signed on as son of 007 and Sherlock both made ducks, soo they'll fit in perfectly doon 'ere. Prior t'match both Youngys 'ad t'drop out which left a late call up for t'Kiwi. More about his contribution later. ELPM lost their first wicket in t'first over as Kevin strolled a single only t'find t'whippet o'youth, son o'007, 'alf way doon track for t'second. Acting skipper Redders 'ad obviously not toold t'youth about quick twos strategy in t'seconds. They came, they went. AB booled, Scotty still unable t'understand t'concept o'playing forward was lbw yet again, Zorro hacked for 1, Sherock booled for 0. T'Kiwi was t'only one t'reach double figures but he ignored t'skipper's advice ' Kiwi we've 38 overs left so bat sensibly'. Too much information for t'Kiwi t'digest and within a few balls slogged and was caught. A grand total o'38 was reached o'which extras contributed 8. AB and Brummy booled t'19.1 overs it took for Elton t'reach target. Brummy had t'hit stumps for his wicket as Dangerous shelled two dollies and Benji no longer a pigeon catcher, dropped t'other. T'top a glorious day Redders 'ad t'pleasure o'meeting his ex who was doin' t'teas. A rough day for t'supporters, Wadey 'ad come t'see t'two newys and t'Chairman only saw t'last twenty minutes. Phil arrived after t'debarcle and enquirin' from a local urchin t'match situation was greeted by t'cackle o'laughter and abuse as he gave t'match scores.

Meanwhile, back at base, t'Secretary arrived t'find Holty with t'drill i'th'and takin' doon some of his notice boards. It proved too much for our mild manner man who resorted t'tirade of ungentlemanly abuse. Holty then spent next two hours anally measuring t'perfect place t'hang up each picture. Each success was accompanied with t'words 'T'youth o't'day couldn't do these calculations I'm dooin' in my head'. Whatever thou dost, don't tell Holty t'pictures ain't straaight.

c T'Sage 15/4/12

2012 SUMMER SAGE: PART 1 : CLUB SIGN ON SHERLOCK AND 007 AND SON.

T'soond o'leather o'thwillow 'twas just about heard amidst t'usual agricultural language tha' comes with t'first nets o't'season as t'booy's resumed their usual greetings. Fourteen attended with t'usual pathetic excuses from t'others like just separated from t'wife or poncing around t'football field. Nothin' seems t'change as Zorro continued t'swipe everthing, Kiwi 'as fewer teeth, Dangerous still skips durin' his run up, Wadey's still unable t'string two words together withoot foul utterances and £1.5million Redders still thinks he can bool. Scotty arrived looking like a larger version o' Elvis Costello and as usual 'ad to leave early 'as mum cooking 'is tea...a cheesy carbonara. Fatboyslim, currently seeking psychiatric help as he's trying t'come t'terms with t'fact that he's not classed as a fantasy allrounder; tried t'impress t'skipper with his version of being a wicket keeper....it failed miserably. T'Secretary, as usual, greeted everyone with a courteous smile before extraditing cash from them. Dan 'Sherlock' Moriarty was signed on but was repeated flummoxed by Youngy's leggers. Gary Bond and son Jack appeared later on and t'Secretary signed 'em both on despite dad Gary being under t'false impression he was 'aving a sabbatical by spendin' t'summer gardening.

c T'Sage 9/4/12