

THE SAGE – Summer 2013

2013 SUMMER SAGE 17 : WEATHER DESTROYS CHAMPIONSHIP ASPIRATIONS

T'weather all but dashed t'hopes o't'Millers o'retainin' their title. Wadey won t'toss and inserted t'Robbo boys in a 37/37 oovers match. Youngy snaffled a catch off t'Man from M&S but Robbo's reached 53-1 mainly due t'Man from M&S serving up half volleys. TEI kept it tight at one end which resulted in Sherlock droppin' a dolly at slip. T'introduction o't'spinner Carr turned t'innings in t'Millers' favour. He took 4-38 and TEI 15-7-22-2 with a skyer held by Wadey and slip catch by the £3m all roonder who was makin' a welcome return. After a number o'coomin' on and off f'rain and an early tea t'heavens oopened at 5.30pm and poured continuously.....match orf.

c T'Sage 18.8.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 16 : FATBOY SEES 1STS HOME/ 2NDS GO TOP

T' firsts picked up five pois against Blackley but not without t'usual flakey battin'. Blackley lost wickets at regular intervals in their score o'136. T'fireman 4-59 dealt with t'top order, TEI 2-33 t'middle and Simon Carr 3-20 with his offies dealt with t'tail. Somewhere along t'line Fatboyfat threw doon 'is filth and bought a wicket. On t'fieldin' front t'Kiwi 'ad a good day and coot a screamer which 'ad he misssd it wud've removed 'is one remainin' tooth. T'nightmare on t'boondary came from t'Colonel and if you've a spare hour or so, you can listen t'his range o'excuses. T'brittle battin' was evident agin as t'Millers slumped t'58-4. Fatboyfat stood firm and with t'help o't'vastly experienced Kiwi they rescued t'situation. 'Tis a sad reflection upon t'team that a quinquagenarian appears t'be t'key man at number 6 t'repeatedly rescue t'early order coollupse. Kiwi was eventually booled, with t'score on 120, tryin' t'cut one that seamed back f'22, but Fatboyfat saw t'team thro' with a magnificent 91 noot oot.

On t'Saturday t'three musketeers strode forth t'see t'Millers t'an eight wickets win agin Blackley. Rushy booled well once he'd served up his customary lollipop deliveries early doors, t'take 5-46. He was aided by t'Pink Blur, forced by t'evil lying toad Redders t'play two matches on trot, but t'old timer rolled back t'years with a masterclass behind t'stumps. Two catches off Rushy, a magnificent left handed catch off a Lowie leg side filth ball and a leg side stumping t'end innings. Lowie took 3-8 and Blackley were all oot 138. Lowie then drove t'perfection in his score of 70 noot oot and a cameo from Deano includin' a 444664 over off t'spinner, ensured an easy Millers victory. T'match agin Edgworth on t'Sunday saw t'team reinforced with Youngy and Kiwi but t'no avail. Shite boolin' saw Edgworth stroke five an over f'first 26 overs b'fore Deano was introduced and took 5-24 as t'Millers came back t'bool Edgworth oot for 191 in just oover 35 oovers. T'reply was slow as Lowie struggled with a 38 balls 6 and Sherlock hobbled singles in his 35 off 80 balls. Zorro displayed his novel reverse sweeps b'fore bein' fired oot for 22. T'Millers were never in t'hunt and slumped t'123-9 in 37th oover. In strode t'tight arsed Red Adare. Whilst Merv smacked a couple o'sixes and attacked, Redders defended stoutly. T'two o'them saw t'oovers oot t'reach 149 and a precious pois.

T'highlight o't'day was t'shockin' display o'fieldin' by El Presidente. A six was hit doon 'is throat, didn't ave t'move and he dropped a dolly. Those in t'know nodded and smiled knowingly that 'ad a broon envelope been involved, t'catch would 'ave been snaffled.

c T'Sage 14.8.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 15 : BRUM & RUSHY STAR IN WEEKEND WINS

T'Treasurer and t'Secretary as all three 'ad t'don t'whites. T'Chairman gave an excellent ten minutes talk t'seconds on t'contents o'his cricket bag which hadn't seen t'light o'day f'decade. Some o't'stuff he produced 'tis extinct nowadays.

T'firsts, havin' reached t'Calverley Cup final last Sunday with an eight wickets canter o't'Meths boys, got down t'league business. A rare lengthy openin' partnership o' 84 set t'stall oot b'fore Youngy was lbw f'40. T'Colonel got his usual duck and TEI failed agin, lbw f'4. Doddy embarked on jug evasion as he was booled f'49. Wadey 22 and Kiwi 21 produced little cameos but t'star shot o't'day came from t'Treasurer, havin' borrowed Wadey's box, was orgasmic with his cut shot f'2. He even 'ad t'audacity t'berate t'groundsman at end o'match f'not 'aving t'outer edge o't'field short enough so his shot would reach t'boundary. T'innings was 'twas bolstered by t'ever improvin' Brum. T'lad smacked three sixes, a five and three fours in a score o'39 noot oot as he guided t'team t'220-8, with t'best number 11 in t'league, 3rd in battin' averages, not needed. T'Man from M&S' desperate pleas t'move up t'order were sympathetically answered by t'skipper with a polite feck off. Ashton Ladyboos lost wickets at regular intervals as t'Fireman and t'Man from M&S took two apiece. Brum came on and got rid of Dunn f'66 and then cleaned up t'tail takin' 4-35 with t'score on 168.

T'second team mustered eight players and two invalids and were indebted t'Redders winning t'toss and battin'. On a difficult wicket made even more difficult by t'skipper's innings o' 5 off 51 balls takin' 16 overs t'Millers were 34-1 off 20 overs. Lowey then proceded t'walk a run and was run oot for 20. Wilko was booled next ball and t'situation cried oot f'a hero. After a dodgy start, Rushy started t'peppar t'boundary supported by 007. Rushy's innings o'67 was t'key t'whole match and guided t'team t'143-6 with two oovers b'fore t'last three were fired oot lbw..... 144 all oot. T'Ladyboos coasted t'35-1 and then t'wheels fell off. T'Pseudo Scouser picked up three, Rushy four and 007 licensed t'bool filth, finished off t'innings with 3-24 as t'Ladyboos were dismissed for 106. They were supported by excellent catching from Zorro and Lowey plus t'Pink Blur rolled back t'years with a stumping. Whilst everyone else appeared t'run on solid ground, t'two invalids, laced with painkillers, were like Bambi on ice. F'all those interested in t'Chairman's performance, his short innings (0 LBW) was relayed live back t'HQ and he fielded well but fell down every time he stopped t'ball.

Both skippers announced that they couldn't change a winnin' team t'which t'dynamic trio answered a LOUD FECK OFF. Nothin' as been seen or heard of t'trio as t'painkillers wear off but t'news 'as filtered through t'me that 'Pink Blur is unable t'climb t'stairs unaided and t'Chairman's Monday milk roond took twice as long t'complete.

c T'Sage 5.8.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 14 : HEWART FINALLY PERFORMS/2NDS LOSE TO KIDS

T'firsts beat ten men WLM by 152 runs. Sounds easy but nowt is easy f't'Millers. Battin' first t'flakey top order collapsed agin t'42-4. Cometh t'hour cometh t'Wadey. In lad's own words he stated he batted properly, well must be first time in his life. His 71 took t'score t'114 b'fore he was coot. T'toothless wonder, who 'ad resigned as 2nd team skipper, then took up t'cudgel and with his 45 guided t'team t'161-9. 'Aving already put together a match winnin' 10th wicket partnership in previous match v WLM, t'Fireman (30 no) and t'Man from M&S (31 no) were at it agin. They hit 64 and if t'proove a point, t'Man from M&S classically blocked t'final ball with t'score on 225-9. WLM 'ad no answer t'Man from M&S who took 7-29 as he scythed thro' t'battin' line up as t'Meths were oot for 73. Wot more does t'Man from M7S have t'do t'move up t'order as he currently stands 3rd in batting averages. Only t'Pink Blur has ever recognised t'lad's talent when as 1st team skipper he opened with 'im and he thrashed a 50, enough said.

T'seconds match lost some o'its excitement when no one dropped oot o't'team as t'Chairman was doon as 1st reserve. T'booy lost t'a bunch o'kids 'aving let 'em reach 206-7. Fatboyfat was a liability taking 0-50 and then struggling t'16 off 38 balls against 15 years olds. Lack of battin' technique and brain saw t'Millers squander a winnin' position. Sherlock 'ad about five lives in his 39 and was oot.....coot, Rushy got t'36 and then was..... coot and Zorro thrashed a quick 34 and was oot.....coot. At 202-8 with 12 balls left saw t'actin' skipper fail t'see side home. He was oot.....coot so 202-9 and then Robin of Greenwood, 'aving batted magnificently for his 37, just failed t'miss t'boundary fielder and was..... coot, 202 all oot. Third match with nil pois and a slide doon t'table is inevitable. From conversation overheard o't'boundary it would appear El Presidente and t'Pink Blur would 'ave 'ad noo trooble knockin' runs off, apparently t'key t'success was that they wud 'ave caressed t'ball along t'ground t'boundary.

c T'Sage 25.7.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 13 : RCC THRASHED/2NDS LOSE TO BOTTOM TEAM

T'firsts got their act together f'once but almost let it slip. T'Man from M&S and Brum took four wickets apiece to reduce t'Catholic boos t'61-8. T'theme o't'week appears t'be that t'last few wickets severly bolster t'innings. T'9th wicket took t'score t'129 before t'Millers were Tayabed. Father and son thrashed away t'see t'score t'172 with only 11 o't'score being actually run. Wadey took a spankin' and t'lad's engine looks like it's in need o'a severe overhaul. Years o'abuse 'as taken its toll. TEI also got a gud pastin' but managed t'pick up t'last two wickets. In reply, Doddy failed agin, but t'remainin' top five produced t'goods. Youngy 20, Fatboyfat with a solid 64 until he tried a shite shot. TEI blasted a quick 24 t'see t'score 134-4. Deano 31noot oot and Wadey 24 noot out got t'team home with 20 overs t'spare on 176-4. Fitness levels weren't tested as t'Millers only ran for 28 o't'runs.

T'seconds, top o't'league, lost t'bottom team.....it can only mean it's a Sunday game and Darcy 'aving reinforcements in t'name o't'Hopkinson bruvs. They opened up and hit 60 odd apiece in a stand o'142 oot o' 199-6 and then booled 39 oot o'43 overs and took all ten wickets. Only Rushy with 62 and Lowey with 20 showed much battin' nous. T'non Hopkinson boolers 'ad analysis o' 4-0-42-0! I 'ave t'mention in despatches Lowey boolin' feat o'4-21 and t'fact that Scotty and Wilko both coot one and Redders' shite one oover spell. Benji's catch and quickfire 19 noot oot take him t'top o'batting averages f't'first time in 'is life. However, when all said and done, t'best thing about t'match was t'score book.

c T'Sage 17.7.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 12 : BOTH TEAMS CRASH AS NON-STICK BOSTIK STARS

Same problem, different opposition. T'Millers toiled in t'sun t'ave Irlam 59-4 but t'Irlam opener showed t'Millers how t'bat with an innings o'67 which anchored t'team. T'fact Fatboyfat came on second change indicates t'depths t'team 'as plummeted to. What was even more farcial was that he booled two boogers and 'ad anoother lbw, what is t'world coomin' to. Brum picked up 3-31 and Wadey even managed a trundle 2-29. At 140-9 t'Millers appeared t'have done and gud job but t'last pair added 29 before t'Man from M&S picked up a rare wicket. 163 should 'ave been achieved but t'brittle top order collapsed agin t'13-3 before Fatboyfat (30) and t'Kiwi (20) led a mini revival but t'team collapsed agin t'69-6. Sherlock smote 26 and Colonel Mustard 18 before anoother collapse to 129-9. Brum 17 noot oot and t'Man from M&S took t'score t'within eight runs o'victory b'fore T'Man from M&S was coot f'11. T'Patio Panel's day o'lambastin' t'team was interrupted by Bostik, who entertained t'crowd t'his impression o'a dyin' swan with piles. At least t'lad was trying t'move t'side t'judge a run oot but t'soles o'his Poundstretcher shoes let 'im down as he tumbled backwards on t'arse. Sympathy was short lived and t'groundsman has complained aboot t'amoont o'work he needs t'do t'level t'crater.

T'clash o't'top two in Division 4 was a damp squib. T'Kiwi lost t'toss and that was that. At this stage I need t'inform my readers that I intend t'loan t'Kiwi Mr.Brearley's book 'T'Art o'Captaincy', as t'lad 'ad nor idea how t'set a field t'spinner nor how t'set a field t'lad throwin' t'bat. Brum's 3-43 and two wickets apiece f'Benji and Rushy, despite poor groond fieldin' 'ad Bury 111-8. T'McCaffery boy then changed t'match with a whirlwind 63 off 59 balls as Bury ended 158-9. T'sun 'ad obviously affected t'lads ability t'play t'defensive shot with a straight bat. 11-4 turned into 59 all oot with nine 't'alleged 'batsmen' all booled. T'only solution is t'change t'rule and allow runners f'those over 60. This would allow El Presidente, t'Pink Blur and t'Chairman t'play and show t'boogers how t'bat properly.

I'm 'earin' rumours down at Pleasure Island that Mr.Monologue continues t'take advantage o't'innocent Miss Fawceps. He keeps whistlin' t'Stones tune 'Paint it Black' and eulogising on t'snooker skill o'pottin' a long black.

c T'Sage 8.7.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 11 : JONTY KIWI STARTS ROT/ RUSHY DOES THE BUSINESS

T'Millers tuk a weakened team t'Valers and duly got thrashed. On a track that 'ad little boonce or movement t'Valers smacked t'boolin' t'all parts o'field f'their 212-8. Only t'Fireman's pace 'ad any effect and he took 6-78. In reply, t'shambolic battin' continued as t'Millers crashed t'115 all oot. T'Kiwi dug in and top scored with 27 and a late order cameo from Brum (23) was all that t'Millers 'ad to cheer about. On t'Sunday, t'same two teams clashed at Croft Lane in t'cup. Both teams 'ad changes with t'Millers coomin' oot on top. Both innings started with t'opener bein' booled with a no ball. T'Millers won t'toss an' batted. Fatboyfat anchored t'innings with a gritty 38 off 88 balls as t'Millers openers went early. Wadey attacked with 34 in 18 balls until he found a portly old gent at cover who rolled over and coot 'im. Fortunately t'lower order all chipped in with dooble figures and creditable 154 was reached. T'Valers lost wickets at regular intervals and Kiwi from square leg, f'first time in his life, hit one stump t'runout t'dangerous Aslam. TEI's spell of 4-24 effectively ensured t'win but some gud catches aided t'Millers as they squeezed t'Valers. T'match ended in a farcical run oot by Doddy who over ran t'ball, stood still posin' and only reacted t'team's shouts as t'Valers batsmen were dilly dallyin' in middle o't'pitch. Valers 121 all oot.

At 10am on Saturday mornin' t'seconds 'ad 9 men as more players 'ad t'reinforce t'firsts, who drop oot like flies these days. Two carcasses were eventually foond and Redders 'ad aged ten years. Edgworth were inserted and got off t'good start but Pseudo Scousers kept pickin' up wickets (4-58) and Edgworth 'ad no answer t'introduction o'Rushy whose 4-20 pegged 'em t'164-9. Some decent catches were taken and even Zorro 'ad two at slip. Graham 'Goran Ivanisevic' Jepp 'ad an encouragin' debut and generated some pace, plus he was a rarity f't'Millers in that he was an athlete in t'field and could also catch. In reply t'openers went early, Zorro hit a quick fire 20 but t'team were rockin' on 47-4. T'vast experience o'Rushy (48) and Merv (24) doubled t'score and some lower order hittin' from Ashbirt and Redders saw t'team t'154 when both got oot tryin' t'slog. T'scorer berated t'actin' skipper Redders for not seein' it thro' but was flummoxed when Redders explained 'it was there t'be 'it and it was my shot!'. There's nothin' worse than a batter who plays like Sir Geoffrey and then tries t'Chris Gayle it. A tense few overs saw Pseudo Scouser and debutant Rob Highton creep t'total up until t'match ended with five wides. Four more pois and still top!

c T'Sage 3.7.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 10 : 1sts SHAMBOLIC /2nds SUPERB CATCHING

Nor sooner than t'firsts reach top o'league than t'wheels fall off. T'inability t'put oot a regular team week after week was again shown as t'Millers took a heavy loss t'Lakesiders by 7 wickets. T'innings started well with Youngy (28) and Doddy (31) puttin' on 47 f't'first wicket but a golden duck from t'skipper started a collapse an' t'team were railroaded by Qurban's 8-42 t'104 all oot. In reply t'Lakesiders slumped t'23-3 as Brum took two early wickets, but that 'twas t'last success o't'day. T'only oother incident was t'worst jugglin' act an' drop o't'season ...naw thou thingst 'twas t'Kiwi but no, 'twas TEI. In contrast, t'2nds fielded like men possessed and some remarkable catches were taken by Pseudo Scouser, Ashbirt, Lowey and Fatboyfat. I 'ave t'mention that I knew 'twas Millers' day when both Redders and Scotty held their chances. I wonder what odds t'bookies wudve given me on t'rarity. T'Walshaw booy nosedived from 86-3 t'91 all oot with Merv takin 4-14 and Pseudo Souser 4-45. Earlier in t'day Lowey 'ad entertained t'crowd with cuts and drives in his 39 but still t'Millers were in trouble at 114-7. Cometh t'hour cometh t'man and in this case two. Acting skipper Redders and Merv (26 noot oot) put together a match winnin' stand o'52 with Redders (18) actually hitting threeboundaries. T'umpire actually signalled six f'one o'em but t'Patio Panel t'were quick t'inform t'umpire t'scrawny individual hadn't t'strength t'hit a ball that far. A whirlwind 16 noot oot from Ashbirt was in contrast t'Merv's last over effort o'swish and miss, but t'team finished up on 186-8. Anooother cinq pois and 35/35 points so far.

c T'Sage 23.6.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 9 : DALTON'S 14-50 TAKES MILLERS TO TOP OF LEAGUE

T'Fireman rampaged thro' t'weekend blastin' Failsworth and Robbo's with 14 wickets for just 50 runs. On t'Saturday t'Macedonians were quickly dispatched f'64 with t'Fireman 6-19 and TEI 3-19. TEI top scored with 25 as t'Millers knocked t'runs off in 11 overs f't'loss o'four wickets. T'whole match was done an'dusted in 27 oovers. T'next day t'Fireman took 8-31 against t'Robinsons as they were dismissed f'93. He was on t'whole well supported in t'field with a superb catch from Wadey which no one else would have got. This contrasted with t'dolly dropped by 007 at 2nd slip though he did snaffle t'next one tha' camst his way. T'only lapse t'skipper 'ad was to bring on old Kiwi. His first ball full bungler somehow got a wicket but Robbos made hay as his three overs went f'36. T'battin' reflected t'inconsistencies o't'season and it was left t'TEI with 32 t'add t'impetus. Once he went Deano saw t'booy's home on 94-5 and t'team perched on top o't'league f'first time this season.

c T'Sage 21.6.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 8 : SUN AFFECTS DODDY WHILST RUSHY SWEATS THRO' 18 OVERS

T'Millers flayed t'Totty boys but still dropped un pois, which made better readin' after t'Catholics 'ad lost t'Ladyboos. An excellent rare spell with t'ball for our TEI held Totts in check and only t'veteran Butterworth managed t'make a tellin' score o'52 b'fore being run oot by Wadey. T'boos restricted Totts t'172-8 and then began t'take 'em apart with t'new openin' partnership Gaz 'n' Doddy, a product o't'Millers academy. Gaz made a good 37 before being lbw but Fatboyfat 41 noot oot and Doddy continued on t'merry way t'smack 173-1 off 30.4 oovers. Life is never simple f'our Doddy as he bitterly complained that t'scorers 'ad lost 13 o'his runs an' he shoold be on 101 noot oot instead o'88. T'consensus o'opinion, from those in t'know, was that t'main cause o'only one five pointer so far was doon t'lack o'wickets from t'Man from M&S. Such was his drought that t'Secretary asked f'transfer market t'b'brought forward so that he could sling t'culprit f'his fantasy team. Whilst Doddy was miragin' at Totts Rushy was ploddin' thro' 18 overs in t'bakin' sun t'take 6-34. T'sconds 'ad suffered late cry offs an' t'Pink Blur 'ad t'be dragged oot kickin' and screamin' in t'whites. He ended t'match with severely bruised ribs, pad rash and a scorebook butchered courtesy o't'Colonel an' Scotty. Merv Dwyer was also wheeled on t'park and trundled thro' some oovers t'take 3-44 and Phil Party snaffled two stumpings and a divin' catch by Dwayne ended Totts 2nd XI score on 120. Wilko quickly embarked on his role as a mini Zorro and made a quick fire 41 after Lowie went f'a'duck. Scotty at last looked like a batsman and t'lad was actually impressin' with his forward defence mixed with aggression. His score o'26 was his highest since Nat Lofthouse was in his prime. Merv was sent in t'steady t'ship with 20 noot oot and he and Benji took t'score from 92-5 to 121-5. Anooother five shiners an' top o't'league.

On t'Sunday t'team came a cropper as Milnrow mangled 'em in t'cup. Thou knowst tha' canst go int'a cup game with only 3 main boolers. T'fillin' boolers went for 120 off 16 oovers as Milnrow amassed 241-8. Rushy was t'pick o'boolers with four wickets and one exceptional catch by Benji was in contrast t'two dollies AB dropped. T'Millers were never really in t'runnin' but AB hit a controlled 50 until realising his fantasy points needed improvin', did a swivel pull shot and hit t'ground never t'move agin. A classic red inker and anooother ten fantasy points. 'Twas fortunate t'two young blonde ambulance lasses 'ad hydraulic equipment t'cart t'carcass off t'hospital. T'lad survived t'nite in Oldham hospital but looks like that's it f'season f'AB just as he was hittin' allroonder form. Zorro smacked t'younguns broot on t'bool f'quick fire 31 and a little cameo o'18 noot oot from t'Ashbirt enabled t'Millers t'reach 183 before t'innings folded. T'Patio Panel were oot in full force and 'ad t'listen t'El Presidente lambastin' t'Milnrow boolin' and what he'd 'ave done t'it in t'halcyon o'broon envelopes. T'Panel calculated that El Presidente 'ad top scored with 150 noot oot.

c T'Sage 11.6.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 7 : MATTY, WADEY, BENJI AND ZORRO'S DAD DO THE BUSINESS

Despite an excellent win t'firsts inability t'bool a side oot has seen 'em slip eight poonts behind t'Catholic Club. T'Millers 'ad t'Ladyboos 132-7 but were then put t'sword as Ladyboos reached 208-9. Why t'skipper still picks t'Kiwi 'tis one o'lfe's mysteries as he dropped anoother dolly and 'ad figures o'1-35 off 3 overs. Brum, t'£3m allroonder and TEI picked up two wickets apiece and Doddy claimed what he described as a wonder catch. In reply Doddy made 21 but t'top order again failed t'function as t'boos were 58-4. T'TEI's bingo with t'purple rinse set must o'gone well as he embarked on his one substantial innings o't'season. He and Wadey put on an undefeated partnership o'153, 124 o'which came in boonderies. TEI made 86 noot oot and Wadey 83noot oot. Questions are being asked about t'lack o'wickets from t'Man from M&S especially at it's seriously affecting t'Secretary's Fantasy league team.

T'Ladyboos seconds won t'toss and batted and t'b'honest I've seen more mobility in t'A&E unit than I saw on t'Croft Lane turf. With skipper Kiwi AWOL, Redders took t'helm and plonked t'casulties at first and second slip and gully-Zorro, Sherlock and Zorro senior. T'entertainment ensued as t'crowd wondered which o't'three would trundle after t'ball when it went thro' slips. It turned oot that Sherlock 'ad t'hobblin' duties tho' Zorro did make one effort t'chase ball but his trousers began t'fall doon and exposed t'cheeks o'arse. Benji began t'first act o'show with a juggle at cover but clung on t'catch off Dwayne but it was AB at t'other end who racked up t'wickets. T'Ladyboos found themselves 50-6 b'fore t'skipper hit a rapid 65, 56 of which were boonderies. He was dropped three times, twice in t'slips and t'innings ended on 138 with AB takin' 8-44. In reply, Sherlock smacked 43 off 35 balls t'give t'Millers a good start but he 'ad no support as t'Millers crumbled t'92-7 which included a magnificent 26 balls duck from t'actin' skipper. Zorro senior, batting one one leg, crashed t'boondaries and inspired young Benji who joined in t'act. Benji was dropped at slip, an expensive miss, as t'pair put on a match winning partnership o'43 before Zorro senior (20) skyed one at 135. Benji then smacked t'winnin' four t'end on 20 noot oot.

On t'social side, t'Fun Day attracted a record crowd and a good day was 'ad by all. T'Secretary was assured by t'anal Treasurer that he could bank t'monies as it had been counted correctly. Fortunately t'Secretary was well averse t'Treasurer's bullshitting monologues and checked t'cash. T'Secretary would like it known that not only was he presented with a number o'mixed bag o'coins but also that he 'as donated t'2p which was short. Following an incident in t'bar on Saturday nite, I do feel a Children's story comin' based on blackcurrant cordial and a bizarre conversation between Mr Monologue and nurse Fawceps.

c T'Sage 2.6.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 6 : DALTON HATRICK TO NO AVAIL/WILKO SMASHES BLACKLEY

T'match f't'firsts swung one way and t'other but eventually t'Blackley last pair withstud t'barrage from t'Fireman and t'£3m forgotten all roonder. Earlier in t'day t'top order 'ad struggled with only Gaz and Fatboyfat gettin' in t'twenties. TEI didn't contribute much and he probably 'ad his mind on t'bingo session in t'evenin' galavantin' with his mature biddies. With t'team at 106-5 it was left t'skipper Wadey with 65 supported by t'Fireman 21 and Brum t'take t'score t'a decent 214. In reply, Blackley made a cautious start and then arround t'25 overs mark, started t'push f'victory. Mr Bentham smacked t'ball t'all parts o'field includin' t'outlyin' areas but shudave been coot by t'Man from M&S, but t'drop proved costly. He was eventually booled by t'£3m allroonder f'76 and then t'Fireman intervened with a fiery all booled hat trick. T'final wicket proved elusive and a dropped point as t'Catholic booy picked up anoother five pointer t'give 'em top spot, seven points ahead o't'Millers, 'avin' played a game more.

T' seconds booled Blackley oot for 127. Rushy took three wickets and old man Dwyer, makin' a welcomed return, pie lobbed t'ball and somehow picked up three wickets. It was left t'skipper Kiwi t'wrap up t'innings with two wickets with catches from Benji and Zorro. In reply, Wilko just avoided a lbw duck with an edge but he and Lowey then pummeled t'attack. Wilko took t'aerial route hittin' five sixes and seven fours in a maiden fifty with a score o'63 noot oot whilst Lowey demonstrated t'art o'classical driving, scoring ten fours in a 49 noot out as t'Millers strolled t'a ten wickets win. T'seconds four wins oot o'four and t'skipper forced t'play f'firsts next week.

c T'Sage 28.5.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 5 : DOUBLE WIN

T'ud appear tha' t'boys from t'first team are takin' on board m'words o'wisdom. On t'Sunday they chased doon t'boos from Totts' total o'168-7 f't'loss o'only four wickets. Matty took two and Fatboyfat managed t'blag t'skipper into three overs takin' 2-16, but Brum 'ad a mare, such are t'vagaries o'cricket, a star one week, a shite t'next. Son o'007 made a welcomed return scoring 47 and Youngy a solid 22, Wadey 23 and Fatboyfat scored 51 t'cement a good battin' performance alroond. T'skipper praised a good team effort except f't'Kiwi who ducked oot o'two catches which added t'one he avoid for t'2nds a day earlier.

T'seconds 'ad t'match against nine men Darcy Lever wrapped up in 90 minutes. AB took 6-14 as t'Lever boos collapsed to 17-7 before last wicket took t'score to 44. At around 2.44pm Radcliffe experienced a mini earthwake at 5.3 on t'Richter scale as AB launched 'imself full length t'get a coot and booled. A magical run oot from young Benji was also impressive durin' t'collapse. In reply t'openers Doddy and Wilko put on 41, 18 on which were wides and no balls, until Doddy was run oot for 12, treadin' water, as t'bails were taken off and sub umpire Sherlock raised t'digit in a flash. Wilko(15) was coot but a slim line Danny Scott, with his highest score in two years, 0 noot oot and young Benji saw t' side home withoot further ado.

c T'Sage 20.5.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 4 : BRUM & T'MAN FROM M&S SAVE THE DAY

T'amoont o'battin' shite this first team are producin' means I've nah choice but t'git on me soapbox and educate t'boogers, especially t'captain. I mean, 55-9 against t'bootom club 'tis a disgrace. T'art o'openin' an innings 'tis like t'dark arts o't'front row in t'scrum. It takes time t'master as t'Pink Blur will tell those who ask. There's a new ball, which moves arooned and t'art o'openin' is t'take t'shine off t'ball, which reduces its movement, so t'premadonnas in t'middle order can strut their stuff. Thou needs t'know when t'leave t'ball and when t'play. T'captain opened last Sunday, he's nah an opener, and 'twas oot first over trying t'pull a fast decent ball. This week he sends in a Grandpa whose never opened before whilst t'second team opener is sittin' on his arse waitin' t'go in at seven. Grandpa Kiwi leaves t'first two balls which are straight, and then leaves t'third which moves in....booled. Classic openin' booler strategy. T'Patjo Panel 'ad to explain t'Kiwi that although he's never moved a bool in his life, others can. They came and the went, though t'£3m allroonder did manage 18 before being booled. Young Brum (30) and t'Man from M&S (29 noot oot) showed t'lads how t'game should be played, and their last wicket partnership put on 63 which effectively won t'game. In reply, t'Meths boys were 3-3 and 51 all oot as t'Fireman 5-28 and t'Man from M&S 3-14 ran amok. Gaz managed t'hold on t'five catches and Brum ended t'match with 2-4. Five shiners in t'bag but t'booy's 'ave used their get oot o'jail card.

T'Chairman was conspicuously absent from t'evenin' festivities...somethin' t'do with Wigan. T'evenin' brightened up as t'lovely Donna and posse returned from a day's racing at 'aydock. I think she'd 'ad more success than punter Holty, but t'burnin' question is how do t'girls getta away withoot catchin' a cold in such short outfits. In my day.....

c T'Sage 12.5.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 3 : 1sts scalp Catholic Club but lost t'LCB Cup match

Nor game for t'seconds this week so t'first team skipper 'ad full choice f'both matches and still he picked Redders. T'booy went t'Catholic Club and beat 'em in their own back yard. RCC hit 215-6 but t'boolin' 'twas too inconsistent and it didn't 'elp that t'veteran Kiwi 'ad a mare in t'field. TEI took 3-63, two stumped by Gaz Young, and Wadey took 2-32. T'skipper led from t'front and hit 48 in boundaries in his score o'67 before he was coot with t'score on 101-3. TEI didn't troobled t'scorer too much but t'crucial fifth wicket partnership o' 87 between Fatboyslim, miraculously recovered from last week's groin debacle, and t'veteran Kiwi. Fatboy (56) went with t'score on 200 and t'Kiwi followed soon after for 28. 007 and t'Man from M&S, fresh back from his holidays, where t'b'honest he should 'ave stayed after 0-58 and a duck, saw t'Millers sag t'209-8. T'£3m allroonder was coolness itself as six were needed off t'last oover. AB thrutched a single second ball and t'all roonder despatched t'third f'four. With scores level he nonchalantly smacked a six o't'fourth t'take t'Millers t'important victory.

On t' Sunday t'booy entertained Winton in t'first roond o'LCB Cup. Wadey inserted t'opposition and t'Fireman put in a nine over spell o'hostile boolin' takin' 2-26. T'Winton pro hit a classical 52 off 57 balls before Wadey 'ad him taken down t'leg side by GAZZER with t'score on 89-4. Winton then carefully rebuilt but t'Millers missed two chances and Winton went on t'amass 230-9. Only as a last resort was t'£3.5m allroonder broot on and he took 4-39 includin' an Oscar winnin' performance when he damaged t'ankle trying t'avoid a powerful drive. In reply, t'Millers never got going and collapsed from 64-4 when Fatboy was oot f'26, t'97-7. TEI held sway and led t'revival with a hard hittin' 46 before he was oot with t'score on 140-9. T'joint top wicket partnership f't'innings was t'tenth as t'Man from M&S smote his way to 20 noot oot and t'£3m allroonder smacked 15 before t'show ended with t'score on 179.

c T'Sage 7.5.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 2 : 1sts CHASE 191, 2NDS DEMOLISH GREENFIELD

Sincere apoloogies t'me readers for a much delayed report. T'thoogt o'singin' t'praises o'Fatboyslim 'ad a severe affect upon m'constitution; so I thoogt t'make 'im suffer first by makin' t'lad dial up this page in excited anticipation oonly t'foond nothin' there. T'first team matters -following withdrawals t'first took a much weakened team t'Irlam and came away with a magnificent win. Battin' first Irlam were initially held t'144-7 after t'skipper remember that Danny Willett was a booler. He took 3-31 along with TEI's 2-34 before t'wheels came off and t'number 9 clubbed away t'take t'score t'191-7. T'Millers lost two early wickets but 'twas a 91 third wicket partnership 'tween TEI an' Wadey that set t'booy's up. TEI smacked 47 before he was lbw. T'second team skipper t'Kiwi, 'ad been toold t'abandon ship and 'elp oot t'firsts-nah wickets and a measley 8 was his contribution, but Danny Willett, trying t'live up t'fact he's supposed t'b'a £3.5m allroonder made 10 in a partnership which all but took to team t'victory, Wadey holed oot for 82 but Zorro and Brum saw t'team home.

T'seconds scraped their eleventh player on t'moonin' o't'match. A hobblin' Fatboyslim arrived complainin' he'd pulled his groin and could he 'ave a runner. T'Secretary dismissed t'mardy arse by givin' 'im a run doon o't'rules. Anooother first teamer rolled up from t'buildin' site and 'twas startin' t'look like a first team rejects wake. T'add t'Fred Carno's circus, Bostick graced us with his presence all dressed up in his Fisherman's Friend sweater, knitted by his gran in 1872. Anyhooe, Fatboyslim hobbled his way t'a fifty and t'old Bond man scored a cultured 36 noot oot. AB finally foond his true position at six and scored a reasonable 22. T'Millers ended up with a creditable 158-6 . I'd just supped me sweet tea and munched me way thro' t'sausage and marmalade baps, 'twere bigguns they were, and was just startin' on me parkin when t'standin' captain threw t'ball t'Fatboyslim. T'groin injury sudden disappeared as he trundled in boolin' is left arm tripe. Poor AB at t'other end, t'lad booled well for 3-27 but t'Greenfield lads just laid doon an'died when Fatboy was boolin'. He took 5-17 and laid claim t'being t'finest all roonder t'club 'ad ever 'ad. To make matters worse, Redders booled t'Greenwood lad and he took a wicket as well as Greenfield were dismissed for 52.

T'Inspector Clueso's were aboot as t'Secretary turned up with a black eye. Norboody would believe t'honest lad's tale o'wakin' up with it and t'amateur sleuths, with t'stress o't'amateur, deduced t'missus 'ad givin' a gud punch and were keen t'give t'lad t'domestic abuse number.

c T'Sage 4.5.13

2013 SUMMER SAGE 1 : FIRSTS FLOP/KIWI GUIDES 2NDS TO VICTORY

Before I rent m'spleen o'anoother season on t'bollocks served up by t'Millers, I thought I'd run thro' t'list o'runners and riders f't'coomin' season.. Casanova and Dangerous have decided t'take a sabbatical and Marcus 'as gone t'pastures new but t'biggest blow is t'retirement o't'Pink Blur. There's nor substitute f't'experience t'lad broot t'team and I'll miss t'horizontal shots and t'deft a'nimble glovework behind t'stumps.T'Chairman will b'happy as he thinks t'Blur pulled a fast one on 'im last year by coming oot o'retirement after he picked his fantasy team. T'Pink Blur assures me this 'ad no bearing on 'im winning t'fantasy league and t'Chairman lollin' arood in t'bottom 'alf o'table. Two new lads 'ave joined from t'Circle, Dave Rushton and Dean Worthington. Welcome t'nut 'ouse lads.

I understand attendance at nets was poor and so was t'firsts in their first match as defendin' champions. T'Man from M&S decided t'take his holidays so missin' first two matches.T'Chairman will be 'avin' words with t'boy on his return. Fireman Steve burst thro' t'top order t'take 5-40 but t'Elton Vale's lower order rallied t'118. Brum and TEI took two wickets apiece but t'fantasy league committee 'ave called for Wadey to explain t'fact he didn't employ his usual tactic of coomin' on t'bool at t'end o'innings t'pick up cheap wickets. A pathetic top order saw t'Millers 11-4 which was rescued by Wadey 32 and Gaz Young 25, but Wadey's impatience got t'better of him. T'lower order folded meekly and a score of 97 was a disgrace. Changes are afoot came t'cry from t'Patio Panel.

T'seconds embarked on a season in Division 4 under t'guidance o't'Kiwi. AB picked up t'first Milnrow wicket but a 72 run partnership threatened t'take t'game away from t'Millers . New boy Dave Rushton came on t'take 3-15 includin' t'wicket which turned t'match. T'opening bat 'ad smacked his way to 40 whenversion 1 ..AB sprinted along t'boundary edge and took a magnificent one handed difficult catch which he made look easy....Version 2...AB trundled a few paces t'his right and stuck oot a hand in 'ope and was more shocked than anyone it stuck. Choose your own version. Ok version 2 it is. T'prodical son Joe Bailey was too good f'youngsters in t'Milnrow lineup and took 4-16. Only t'skipper clubbed an entertaining 30 before he ran out number 11 t'try t'get strike.Target 115 t'win. Most o' Milnrow's wickets were from catches, a rarity f't'Millers and when Redders and Ash hold onto chances, you nor t'luck's with you. It 'as t'be said at this point that Doddy 'ad a 'mare behind t'stumps with four missed chances but it's unfair t'compare 'im t'legendary standard t'Pink Blur set. Doddy made amends with t'bat. He and Joe put on 40 for t'first wicket and he topped scored with 38 in 85 minutes off 90 balls. AB played his usual shite shot f'2 and it was left t'Andy Greenwood (24 noot oot) with a very sturdy defence and occasional slap,t'help t'Kiwi 29 noot oot t'guide t'team home on a pitch with variable boonce ,f'seven wickets win. T'Kiwi commented t'his Associates at t'end o't'game that all t'team needed was his experienced hand on t'tiller o't'ship. Wadey blew that one oot o'water by selectin' Kiwi f't'firsts f'next match.

KIWI'S ARSE WIPING ...#1

Greeting's t'all me readers. Whilst thou hast been slumberin' thro' t'winter I've been researchin' me latest project t'keep me followers interested. Following his exasperatin' past exploits as 1st team skipper t'members surprisingly voted t'Kiwi as 2nd team skipper. Those in t'know realise t'second team skipper's job is fraught with problems and t' wealth o'material t'saga will produce this season was t'good t'miss.

T'first incident as already 'appened as t'Kiwi failed his first test-t'February NMCL Fixtures meetin'. T'Kiwi ignored t'Secretary's email,text and Wadey's request t'contact 'im, and true t'form, t'Kiwi failed t'attend t'Fixtures' meeting. Fortunately t'Secretary and Redders anticipated this. T'future looks chaotic as t'Kiwi as t'negotiate team selection, Friday nite cryoffs, paying umps, phonin' in results, sortin' oot pre-match jobs when he only arrives 'alf 'our befoor t'match starts.

Next article: Children's Bedtime Story No 7: What led to Sleeping Beauty Miss Fawceps kippin' for 26 hours?

c T'Sage 15.2.13

CHILDREN'S BEDTIME STORY...NO. 6 MR.MONOLOGUE'S PRE-CHRISTMAS ADVENTURES

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. With winter setting in many of Mr.Monologue's friends didn't visit his refreshment cafe and Mr.Monologue became seriously depressed. Miss Fawcetts the nurse had gone orf to Orlando, Mr.Dickinson the Sun Tan Shop owner was busy building his decking, Mr.Bluedyke the builder,plasterer,electrician,plumber,fencer,patio layer,tiler and his new additional job as goose shit collector, won't come out to work as it was too cold for him, Mr.Thistle had no gardening to do, Mr.Psycho the pathmaker was child minding,Colonel Mustard was playing with is cue and Mr.Edentulous the milkman was just plain apathetic. So Mr.Monologue spent his time counting his money, pounding his calculator, playing the horses and reading alternative religious literature. Such was the effect of the latter that he then went to work locking Mrs Monologue and the two Monologue minors in the house and taking all the keys. Mr.Monologue then learnt he had to have another hernia operation. Despite key hole surgery Mr.Monologue's groinal area was black and blue as was his friend Mr.Winky.Mr.Monologue was pleased when one or two of his friends wanted to visit him but on further enquiry he found out they were only interested in sharing his painkilling drugs. Time they say is a healer, and Mr.Winky knows it'll be some time before he'll be up and running .The End

cT'Sage 12/12/12

CHILDREN'S BEDTIME STORY...NO. 5 THE ADVENTURES OF MISS FAWCEPS AND OTHER FRIENDS

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. It was coming to the end of the summer and the residents of Pleasure Island decided to have a party in Mr.Monologue's refreshment cafe. Mr.Monologue was not a happy man because he'd had to see Miss Fawceps the nurse. 'Good morning Mr.Monologue' said Miss Fawceps 'And a feckin' good day to you' replied Mr.Monologue. 'What's the problem Mr.Monologue, you seem in a lot of pain' said Miss Fawceps.'It's me feckin' nether regions' said Mr.Monologue. Miss Fawceps smiled and thought awhile, for there were numerous scenarios going through her mind regarding how Mr.Monologue had acquired his nether pain. 'It's a reoccurrence of your old hernia isn't it Mr.Monologue' said Miss Fawceps 'Very feckin' Sherlock of you' replied Mr.Monologue. Miss Fawceps had no intention of further examination as this would have entailed dressing up in a decontamination suit with breathing apparatus for an expedition into what as a largely unexplored area. 'It's off to the specialist for you' said Miss Fawceps and she left the room and went straight to her sports car.

Miss Fawcep's big shiny car had caused her some problems. She had been caught speeding and Mr.Plod had told her she'd get three naughty points on her licence if she didn't attend a four hours Speed Awareness course. Miss Fawceps sighed a big sigh and chose the course. A few weeks later Miss Fawceps received her invitation to attend Mr.Plod's course and arrived at 9am. Mr.Part Time Plod asked Miss Fawceps if she was here for the Traffic Lights Awareness Course. 'No' she replied ' I'm here for the Speeding course' she said. 'Oh' said Mr.Part Time Plod, 'Are you sure you're not here for racing through the red lights course as the speeding course started at 8am and you can't now attend'. Miss Fawceps said some vey naughty words and was told to attend the next speeding course at 1pm. 'What a shite day' she said to herself.

Mr. Monologue's party was in full swing but Mr.Monologue had to take long seated rests because of the pain so Mr.Bluedyke the builder,plasterer,electrician,plumber,fencer,patio layer,tiler and his new additional job as goose shit collector, with the help of Mr.Edentulous, the milkman, helped serve the customers. Mr.Monolgue was still expounding the incompetence of Mr.Blurr who had once again rung up £80 instead of 80p on his precious till when Mr.Edentulous rung up £269 instead of £2.69. 'What the feck is going on' Mr.Monologue said 'I'm feckin' surrounded by feckin' useless feckin' people who feckin' can't feckin' use a feckin' till and it feckin' does my feckin' head in.' Well children, it appears Mr.Monologue was a little upset but we'll put that down to his age and lack of a pain threshold.It would appear that a number of the residents had been busy recently acquiring new mates. Mr.F.B. Slim had been scouring the area for some months and had eventually found a filly meaner than what he was used to. Colonel Mustard had at last found an E Harmony friend at 02 and part of the package involved him acquiring a new mobily. Mr.Dangerous attended the party and was an unhappy bunny as Mr.Blurr had

upset him by giving him some Lurpak. Mr.Dangerous was eventually guided into a taxi by Mr.Psycho the Path maker, as he'd overdosed on his own brand of herbal tea. So children, at the end of a very long day everyone went home and off to bed, although some probably didn't sleep in the bed they wanted to. The End

T'Sage 19/10/12