

THE SAGE – Summer 2014

2014 SUMMER SAGE 18 : CLOSE MATCH SEES MILLERS LOSE ON PRODIGAL SON'S RETURN

It broot tears t'm'eyes t' see t'Lakesiders form a guard o'honour t'welcome Wadey back on t'hollowed turf. T'end of season comedy began w't'usual drawing o't'battin' positions oot o'hat. Wadey and t'former TEI opened and Wadey started w'a'waft at t'first ball and then three successive fours. Wadey 52 off 36 balls and FTEI 47 off 35 balls saw t'first opening century partnership o't'season 105 orf 11 oovers. Kiwi 18 and Tony 19 took t'score t'139-2 and then t'wheels fell off. T'Millers lost 17-6 and it was left t'Doc w'21 t'reach a reasonable score; but one scoop shot too many saw Millers all oot 177 with 16 balls t'spare, which proved decisive in t'end. Lakesiders reached 92-6 w'Fatboyfat's opening spell o'left arm dibbly dobbly filth taking 3-17. T'Man from M&S took 3 catches and t'Doc 3 dismissals but t'7th wicket took Lakesiders t'162-6 when Tony's 2 wickets sparked a collapse t'163-9. Eight needed off t'last oover was achieved off t'penultimate ball.

1st XI Batting 1. Pink Blur 46.00 av 2. Pocket Rocket 28.14 3. Brum 25.75. What can one say, class is permanent even at as a sexagenarian QED. T'educate t'comprehensive masses it's *quod erat demonstrandum* (thus proved).

Well that's it f't'season, t'club's survived agin t'trials and tribulations on and orf t'field. I'm orf on a well earned rest 'aving watched so much shite this year.

c T'Sage 11/9/14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 17 : DOUBLE WIN IN THE RAIN SEES BOTH TEAMS GAIN R-UP SPOT

T'firsts went t' Blackley w'ten men, won t'toss, inserted opposition, booled 'em oot f'52, knocked 'em off and came hoome. Blackley only 'ad ten and t'Man from M&S rattled thro' top order w'4-20 leavin' t'Pocket Rocket 3-1 and Tony 2-0 t'polish off t'lower order. T'Millers lost three wickets as they knocked 'em off in 11.3 overs. T'seconds 'ad 10 v Blackley's 9. T'Colonel won t'toss and inserted Blackley who reached a very creditable 133-4 when t'wheels fell orf t'wiles o'Zorro's flighted filth (4-17) t'be all oot f'138. Anooother lad tried t'emulate t'Pink Blur but t'nor avail. Lowie slipped on t'gloves and was well on t'way t'becomin' Irongloves 3, droppin' two but t'lad's credit he took two and got a stumping. With t'weather closing in, t'Colonel launched his usual assault on t'booling. Lowie and Redders both went w'tp score on 44 but t'Gaygan boy looked well accomplished with 35 noot oot. A couple of rain delays failed t'stop t'Colonel who went on t' smack 79 noot oot off 68 balls as t'Millers beat t'rain t' reach 139-2.

Medical update

Redders wimped off f'a couple o'overs 'aving stopped a ball with his lip which split.. T'Chairman, 'aving congratulated t'booy on their season involved himself in t'piss up. T'Chairman's history of such imbibing is not a good one and t'events at Fothergill are still fresh in t'memory. Suffice t'say injury ensued, broken left hand, despair and nor sympathy from nurse Fawceps.

c T'Sage 6/9/14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 16 : FIRSTS FILTHY FINAL FLOP/DEANO & PSYCHO STAR FOR 2NDS

T'crowd turned up on t'Saturday askin' who t'ringer was f't'Millers. It 'ad t'be explained t'em that it was Fatboyslim makin' a rare appearance. T'match turned oot t'b an easy 9 wickets win against t'Ladyboos from Ashton. T'Pocket Rocket and Brum took four wickets each and Tony two, as t'Ladyboos were dismissed f'92. In reply, t'Doc went lbw f'11 w't'score on 26 but Irongloves 1 (32*) and Fatboyslim (30*) took t'score t'95 without further loss. T'win took t'Millers into runners-up spot which is theirs if they win their last two matches. From t'moment t'Millers won t'toss it was downhill all t'way in t'final. From bool one, t'Valers' boolers held an iron grip on t'game and 'twas a procession from pavilion t'wicket and return. After 30 oovers t'Millers were all oot f'61. Only Brum (15) with aggression and Irongloves 1 with Boycottesque defence (14 off 60 balls) managed dooble figures. In reply, t'Valers openers resisted t'Millers pace which really needed t'b'directed more at t'wicket rather than outside off stump and put on 36 f'first wicket. T'game really needed the Man from M&S to repeat last week's performance of 4 wickets in four balls, but 'aving gained one t'lad was whipped off. T'Pocket Rocket picked up a late wicket with a Kiwi catch but t'Valers cruised t'62-2. T'add t'shockin' performance, t'scorer wasn't paid.

T'seconds wheeled oot some tonnage at t'Ladyboos in what must b't'heaviest openin' partnership in t'club's history pounded t'wicket. Lowie's new partner was Zorro but t'team soon found themselves in trooble at 25-3 against t'Ladyboos. Irongloves 2 with glass back tendencies once agin flattered t'deceive with a noice 17 but as usual was booled. It was left t'Deano and Colonel Mustard, tactically putting himself in at six, t'rescue t'situation. It should 'ave backfired as t'Colonel gave two dollies on 0 and 1 which were dropped. Deano 64 and t'Colonel 45 guided t' team t' impressive score o'177. In reply, Psycho destroyed t'Ladyboos with 7-27 and Captain Merv Hook added a further two. What 'elped was t'fact that t'boos 'eld their catches f'once.

c T'Sage 25.8.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 15 :T'MAN from M&S HAS A STORMER /BRUM BLOWS
MILNROW AWAY

Ten men went t'mow, went t'mow t'Methodists...well not quite. T'Millers arrived t'shock that t'Methodists 'ad a full side. T'Millers batted first and oonly t'Pocket Rocket (57) and Irongloves 1 (28) showed any ability t'cope with t'booling in a score o'126. In reply t'Methodists were well placed t'win t'game as t'Fireman and t'Pocket Rocket were dispatched t'various parts o't'field. Kiwi eventually broot on t'Man from M&S...game oover...a spell o'nine oovers 8-27 did t'trick and t'Millers got home by 12 runs. With RCC losin' to t'Macedonians, runners-up spot beckons.

T'seconds reinforced their side with Brum and Tony. Ash booled t'usual tripe o'long hops and full tosses and got severely dispatched. Brum's pace was t'much f'most o't'Milnrow young lads and took 7-19. With Irongloves 1 and Irongloves 2 with glass back tendencies otherwise engaged, Psycho annooned he 'ad a bad knee and would rest it keepin'! T'lad's credit he took a stunnin' diving catch which broot back memories of t'norm t'Pink Blur used t'achieve. Lowey took his usual stunner but t'champagne moment came in t'space o't'Treasurer's five minutes fag break from behind t'bar. Brum to Doggart, square cut...drop by Redders. Two balls later..Brum to Doggart, square cut....drop by Redders followed by a number o'expletives. Next ball...Brum to Doggart, square cut...Redders dives and t'ball boounces just in front o't'lad misses his 'ead as it screams t'boundary. In t'end Tony came on and mopped up with 2-2 as Milnrow were dismissed f'61. Lowie 'ad a shocker, and spent most o'his innings telling t'fielders 'I wud o'caught that' as he gave four chances in his score o'20. Young Glover swished at a straighten and was booled f'1 Redders got 17, CD 8 and Deano ended t'match with a six as t'Millers reached 61-4. T'team wud like t'thank Captain Merv Hook f'turnin' up. T'poor lad sacrificed a trip t'Trotters only not t'bool or bat but t'lad umpired well.

c T'Sage 19.8.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 14 : 1sts WIN AGAIN/ 2NDS BLOW TITLE CHANCE

T'firsts notched up 223 against t'boys f'Totts who were also missin' players. Tony got a good fifty and Irongloves 1 hit a legside 40. Brum and captain Kiwi hit thirties t'record an excellent score. In reply, t'Pocket Rocket took 5-32 and Brum two as Totts managed 121. T'performance o't'Kiwi since being captain has been a revelation and t'b'honest t'pro weddin' attenders needn't bother t'turn uup agin. T'seconds blew their chance o't'league title with a pathetic battin' display in this top o'table clash. Captain Merv Hook took 5-25 and Ash 4-41 as Totts were dismissed for 102. A dropped catch off Stoney when in single figures was a key element as he went on t'make 41. T'Colonel played a shite shot and Lowie 22 and Redders 25 appeared t'be guiding t'team t'calm waters. Lowie needed DRS help and Redders ran himself oot. Captain Hook played a shite shot and it was left t'Zorro and Ash t'try t'eeek out t'runs. Zorro lost patience and was caught trying t' pull. 97ao and title doon t'swanny.

c T'Sage 10.8.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 13 : KIWI MASTERMINDS VICTORY/2NDS UP TO 2ND PLACE.

With a third o't'teams made up o'emergency players, t'Kiwi took 8 players to Springhead with t'TEI t'latest casualty, fallin' doon t'stairs on the mornin' o' t'match. Opener t'£1.5m all roonder made 30 and Brum hit 38 and t'Pocket Rocket 29 in a score o'138. T'Springheaders appeared oover confident but hadn't catered f'wiles o't'Kiwi. T'Pocket Rocket tore int'Headers with 7-22 but little was 'appenin' at t'other end until Kiwi broot himself on- 2-14- game wrapped up as Springhead 112ao. T'£1.5m all roonder would like it 'known that he kept wicket t'a high standard. There's been so many keepers no one knows who's he comparin' himself to.

T'seconds beat t'rain t'record a win against t'Springhead 2nds. Havin' been put int' bat, t'Colonel opened with young Glover who booled a good spell. Psycho's knee went after first ball which meant t'Colonel 'ad t'check whether young Ash hadn't got a hangover. T'signs appeared positive as he pounded in f'his career best figures o' 8-19. He was aided by some magnificent catching rarely seen at this level by Lowie and MG. Dismissed f'98, Lowie 32 and t'Colonel (22) thrashed a quick fifty partnership in a race against t'weather. T'rest o'team saw them home with loss o'only four wickets 99-4.

c T'Sage 2.8.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 12 : AWOL 1sts magically return for cup win/2nds win again.

T'debacle that's t'first team availability saw 'alf t'team missin' f't'expedition t'Catholic Club. Wadey 'ad started his ban and t'rest were galavanting around weddings. T'third capitano f't'season was t'Kiwi. RCC scored 211 with Tony takin' 5-52 and Brum's four wickets went f'ton. Brum smacked 32 and Tony 25 but t'no avail in a score o'132. T'pro weddin' planners turned up f'semi final against t'Totts booy. T'Pocket Rocket 4-21 and t'Man from M&S 3-27 ensured a miserable afternoon for Totts as they were dismissed f'92. T'Doc (37no) and t'Colonel got t'Millers off t'good start and when t'Colonel left t'TEI finished t'game off with 28no. A final is against t'Valers when no doubt t'awolites will once agin emerge f'under t'stone.

T'seconds played Darcy and a welcome return f'Deano with a smacked 23 and 5-41. With Irongloves 1 away on holiday fettlin' his gloves in some god forsaken Russian foundary, Irongloves 2 with glass back tendencies, took over. Different carcass, same result. Lowie made 37 as t'Millers reached 187-9 and booled Darcy oot f'87. Psycho takin' 4-28 t'add t'battin' score o'22.

c T'Sage 29.7.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 11 : 1sts pick up 5 points and dodge rain

T'Colonel added t'his problems by 'aving t'withdraw f't'match owing t'back injury sustained whilst playin' with his cue. Despite t'eavy rain t' wicket dried oot enough f'battle t'commence. T'Valers batted first and were dismissed f'121 with t'Fireman takin' 5-34 and t'Pocket Rocket and t'Man from M&S two apiece. Stand in keeper TEI took four catches and Lowey two at slip. In reply Lowey went early but TEI attacked f'start and hit 55. T'Pocket Rocket was lbw soon after and t'was left t'Wadey and t'Kiwi t'guide t'side home with 28 noot oot a piece. Five pois in t'bag and t'battle f't'runners-up spot maintained.

c T'Sage 20.7.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 10 : 2nds pick up 2 maximums despite Colonel's tossing problems

T'Colonel still has t'problem o' tryin' t'call correctly at t'toss. Twice this weekend he failed and t'lads were sent oot t'field in t'blazin' sun. On t'Saturday t' Colonel was sufferin' a severe hangover following a 15 hours drinkin' binge t'day b'fore. He was at some do but can't recall what i'twas about. Milnrow's youthful side batted well and very poor booling early doors saw them race t'52 off 7 oovers. Captain Hook then snaffled three, and t'Kiwi, broot on t'late took 2-4 off four oovers as Milnrow were dismissed f'163. By t'ninth oover Lowie, Colonel and Irongloves were in t'shed at 17-3. Fatboyfat and t'Kiwi then shood their experience puttin' on 106 until t'Kiwi slapped one to point for a well made 40. Scotty then decided enough was enough and ran oot Fatboyfat f'76 and went f't'glory o't'winnin' runs with a four t' reach one o't'highest scores of his Millers' career- 12 noot oot. On t'Sunday, t'Millers could only muster ten t'play t'bootom team Blackley. Brum 'ad a fiery oopenin' spell but t'first wicket was a steeplin' catch by Jake the Snake that no one else would've got. Blackley only dealt in booneries as they raced to 92-4 when t'wheels fell orf. Psycho took 6-66 and Ash 2-8 as Blackley were dismissed for 106 with 88 in boonderies. With t'openers boolin' short stuff t'Lowie's square cut and half volleys t'Colonel's drive t'Millers were 63-0 orf 7 oovers. T'Colonel slapped four fours and four sixes b'fore departin' f'41. Irongloves failed agin and Brum didn't hang around f'his 10 noot oot, Lowie remained 39 noot oot as t'target was reached in 20.5 oovers.

c T'Sage 14.7.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 9 : League Leaders thrashed/ 2nds shambolic

T'league leaders, fresh from cup defeat last Sunday, were dispatched by t'Millers by 5.30pm. Irlam reached 76-1 and then crashed to 99 all out. Brum with four wickets,t'Pocket Rocket with three as well as a three f'Tony. In reply t'opening partnership failed yet agin 'ith t'Doc lbw. Irongloves made 22 b'fore being booled. Captain Fatboyfat,makin' a rare appearance between his major summer pastime o'attendin' weddings and stag dos, wisely put himself doon 'order after last Sunday's performance. TEI and Wadey both clubbed thirties t'see t'Millers t'100-2 and second place in t'league.

T'shambolic display by t'2nds began with t'captain Colonel rollin' up a'1.45pm. Lost t'toss an' t'team proceeded to droop five dollies, includin' two by Tony, as t' kids and a few adults scored fifty too many in a total o'156. T'Kiwi trundled away f'3-52 off 12 (knackered) and a couple a piece f'Captain Hook,Ash and Tony. In reply, t'Colonel ran oot Lowie second ball, got coot behind himself and then a pathetic trail o'alleged batters trooped t'middle and trooped back agin t'hutch...76 all out. Is there noot a single batter in t'club who can build an innings properly.....don't bring this subject up when speakin' t'President or t'Pink Blur.

c T'Sage 7.7.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 8 : Magnificent Brum/ 2nds win with 10 carcasses

Thou knowst that 'istory 'twas made at t'Macedonians as t'Millers came away 'ith more balls than they started 'ith, thanks t'GI Jane's infiltration o't'bushes. Both teams were much depleted and on a very damp and mudfest pitch t'Macedonians committed hurry curry and were booled out for 47. Brum's away cooters were on fire as he took six wickets and t'Man from M&S four. Irongloves held onto three and dropped one. T'Pink Blur once agin guided 'is next apprentice thro' t'innings and showed how t'play t'pitch with straight baat 'nd punishin' t'badden. 48-0 Irongloves 24* and t'Blur 17*. On t'Sunday t'two apprentices were left t'try agin on their own-FAILED AGIN- t'Doc went quickly and t'Millers returned t'collapsing 28-3. Fortunately t'Pocket Rocket 45, Wadey 27 and Tony 29 restored some balance b'fore t'Brum onslaught as he repeated dispatched t'booling t'all parts o' t'land beyond t'fence in a magnificent 81 t'take t'total t'246. In reply, t'Pocket Rocket was too quick (6-16) and t'Fireman continued t'explore t'middle o't'pitch and managed to git 3 victims. 54 all oot and a semi final v t'boos from Totts. It has t'be noted that t'Pink Blur is top o't'battin' averages but with Fatboyfat returnin' he was promptly drooped.

T'seconds entered t'game with ten men as Jake the Snake went awol. T'Colonel (38) and Lowey (24) put 80 on f't'first wicket, then carnage. T'rest o'team folded like a deck o'cards t'104 all oot. Fortunately Captain Hook four wickets and Psycho with three and Ashley two dismissed t'Walshaw lads f'68. Lowey has on a high 'avin' reach dooble figures and swooped at slip t'take two screamers.

c T'Sage 3.7.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 7 : Sexagenarian solidifies 1sts top order. 2nds lose again.

T'Doc took over t'skipperin' an' 'avin' won t'toss on a 'ot day decided t'.....field! 'Twas based on t'extensive theory he'd been workin' at t'University that t'Millers didn't score more than a ton when battin' first. Tony's 3-38 and t'Man from M&S 2-55 reduced t'Lakesiders t'130-6. T'skipper decided t'go f't'kill but t'tactic backfired as t'Lakesiders amassed 230-7. T'Fireman 'ad a shocker 9-1-79-0. In reply,t'familiar pattern o'early wickets lost and 147 ao. TEI smacked 37,t'Pocket Rocket 29 and a late order Fireman thrash for a red inker 20.

Such was t'problem at t'top o'order that 15 had been t'highest oopenin' partnership o't'season.Wadey decided on drastic action and called International Rescue . Brains worked oot tha'what t'team needed was a traditional oopener wi'a solid defence. So t'Pink Blur was dragged kickin' and screamin' from t'scorer's box. T'Doc, badly oot o'form wi't'bat was guided masterfully thro' t'early part o'his innings by t'Blur and t'pair put on 58 before t'knackered Blur was booled attempting anoother rare drive for 29. With a solid base laid t'Doc went on t' reach his fifty and TEI blasted a quick 45. T'Pocket Rocket smacked 28 and Wadey blasted 70. Brum(31no) and Tony (15no) added a firefire 39 to a reach a score o'305 containing 17 sixes. T'the Blackley lads credit, they went f'it from t'off. With t'score on 209-4 t'key moment came with a magnificent running catch by t'Man from M&S t'dismiss Bell for 63. Sensin' t'carnage was oover, an' badly needin' fantasy league points, Wadey broot 'imself on t'bool his dibbly dobbles and snaffled 2 wickets,both stumped by t'Doc as part o'his four f't'match. T'game ended wi't'£1.5m all roounder, boolin'only what could be described as lollipop leggies, 'avin' t'number 11 stumped wi' t'score on 244.

T'fact tha' t'Chairman and Treasurer spent Sunday afternoon wi' a constant smirk on their faces indicated tha't'Colonel's search for eleven carcasses 'ad been successful f't'trip t' Springhead. Psycho picked up 4-36 and Zorro 2-36 as Springhead reached 189-8. T'Colonel top scored wi'21 but as usual 'ad little substantial help from t'rest o't'battin'. An encouragin' 17 noot oot from no10 Rob Highton off 34 balls and 19 f'last wicket saw t'Millers end on 133. Unfortunately f't'Colonel t'Blur couldn't be in two places at once...t'b'trueful t'Blur didn't want t'be in either place.

c T'Sage 24.6.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 6 : 1sts batting shambolic as Smalley saves the day. 2nds slump.

'Tis a disgrace that t'firsts top order batting coollapses occur every game. It does nah help when t'Doc tries his new shot the 'dildo scoopio' and is oot and then stoically states he'd play t'shot agin. T'boy should be flogged and put down t' eleven. Against one o't'bootom clubs Springhead, t'Millers crashed t'45-6 and 'twas left t'Pocket Rocket (82) and Tony (56) t'pull t'team oot o't'shite with a stand o'133. T'final score proved too much f't'Springheaders and a dodgy five pois was achieved. Against t'Ashton Ladyboos t'whole team collapsed t'63 with only Redders and young Benji showin' how t'stick and grind it oot. T'Pocket Rocket came up with a fiery spell o'six wickets and t'Man from M&S bagged three as t'Ladyboos slumped t'47. Anooother very dodgy five pois.

On arrivin' t'watch t'seconds I thought I espied t'Pink Blur behind t'stumps but t'imposter 'ad neither t'fleet o'foot nor t'flashin' gloves o't'livin' legend. It turned oot t'be a rare appearance from Scotty. T'2nds blew t'match against t'Ladyboos seconds who recovered f'38-5 t'101. Psycho got thro' 20 overs 3-38 and Ash picked up three and Captain Hook 4-41. Andy Greenwood held t'side together with a gritty 20 off 82 balls and guided t'team t'101-8 when t'red mist descended and was coot trying t'smack t'winner. T'Vicar obviously hadn't been absolved as he tried to smack a straight bool and was castled 101 ao. On t'Sunday t'Colonel had t'replace Scotty who claimed he couldn't get oot o'bed 'avin' kept wicket on t'Saturday. Shambolic is t'youth o't'day. He also 'ad t'cope with 'alf t'team still pissed and little sleep from Shakey's 50th Do t'nite before. Jake the Snake was a particular mess 'avin' danced t'dance o't'single underpant'. T'Sunday match against a reinforced Darcy team saw them oot for 185 with one o't'Hopkinson bruvs scoring a ton. Our imports Tony took 4 and Fatboyslim 3 wickets. In reply t'Millers fell 9 runs short with forties from Doddy and Fatboyslim.

On t'social front t'Treasurer is currently obsessed 'ith punters returnin' 'is plastic glasses. It's got t'such a level that little Stewie Fatboyslim 'ad t'express 'is opinion when returnin' t'plastic pots and innocently stated 'Excuse me, are you the grumpy man'. Just anooother name in a long list o'aliases f't'treasurer.

c T'Sage 19.6.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 5 : Chariots of Fire Debacle

'Twas little entertainment on t'Saturday as both matches were washed oot. On t'Sunday some 'ardened drinkers began proceedings at 3pm and were still there at midnite. Lost in t'annuals of time and soporific haze, was how t'decision t'engage in t'event t'olduns commonly called t'100 yards dash. Four prime Millers athletes, way past t'peak of physical prowess, lined up f't'dash from club house t'gate in t'dark. In lane 1 Shakey, lane 2 t'Colonel, lane 3 t'treasurer and lane 4 Ash Birt. T'offical ceremony o'extinguishin' t'fags took place and muscles tensed. T'start was somewhat spolit by Shaky pullin' up after 5 yards with a t'tweak o'dodgy groin but t'other three sped off.

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At 'alf way stage, Ash Birt who'd been dawn in t'inside lane forgot about t'pile o' sand by t'groundsman 'ut an' crashed a'over tit

Der der derder der....der..... der der der...der... der

T'Colonel cruised 'ome with Ash recoverin' t'beat t'wheezin' treasurer. With no first aiders present t'treasurer was left t'own devises as he failed t'recover in t'alloted time f'such a prime specimen o'manhood. Pins and needles set in and certain parts o't'body failed t'respond an' t'treasurer thought 'twas a 'eart attack. T'lad 'ad visions o'endin' 'is life slumped o'a barrel an' regrettin' 'is recent comments that t'only way t'developers wud get t'club was 'over his dead body'. Even t'taxi driver offered t'take 'im t'hospital but he declined t'invitation.

Reports indicate that all four nags survived although one thought he'd been shot. None will run agin an' 'ave retired t'bar t'do wot they do best.

c T'Sage 27.5.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 4 : Handbags at the OK Corral Croft Lane

There's nah a dull moment when t'Catholic booy's 'r i'toon. T'Millers 'ad 'em 30-5 and then 129-9 'til t'Asian whirlwind took place and blasted t'total up to 188. T'dynamic duo took three wickets a piece and Brum got a couple. Anooother shockin' battin' display 'ad t'Millers 27-5. 'Aving advocated t'rise i't'order o'Brum t'pussy bottled it a number 5 'ith a duck. T'pocket rocket at last put some runs together 'ith a well earned 53no and was supported by Deano who also put bat t'ball and scored 31. Followin' 'is dismissal t'handbags were drawn an' t'sheriffs upt sticks an' walked off in t'distance. Ah well, anooother journey f't'Chairman and t'Treasurer t'take t'Greenmoont.

On t'social front t'fantasy league is up an' runnin', organised by Doddy, who's currently top. Shakey's 50th is also on t'orizon. T'Colonel's fingers 'ave mended but swore he saw a rat as he went t'gents. Redders boldly took a look and said a black rat was lookin' at him thro' a hole. On returning with a broom he poked t'creature only t'find it was a black sock.

c T'Sage 22.5.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 3 : 1sts batting flop again/2nds drop 13 catches in cup debacle

An early exit f't'LCB Cup was expected but t'batting flaws were agin exposed. Only Brum, still battin' at nine w'37 noot oot showed any resistance against Edgworth an' a total o'110 was noot enough. Impressive openin' booling 'ad Edgworth rattled at 37-4 but t'back up boolers were 'ammered. T'Fireman took 4-13 but t'match was over within 46 oovers.Edgworth 111-4.

T'Colonel has fractured two fingers so Psycho 'ad 'is first spell o'captainin' a team.T'least said t'better but I wud need 'ours o'talkin' t'lad just t'get basics right. T'level o'catchin' was appallin' 'ith 13 dropped catches as Walshaw amassed 274-8. Young Ashley picked up 4-51. In reply t'battin' curse o't'Millers was agin t'fore as t'team were shot oot f'92 o'which 34 were extras!I thought I would never 'ave t'say this but t'Colonel was sorely missed.

c T'Sage 8.5.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 2 : 1sts crumble /Psycho at it again

A woeful performance at Irlam exposed t'firsts weakness, a lack o'consistency in t'batting. On a track wi'variable bounce t'Millers recovered from t'early loss of t'Doc as Fatboyslim 35 and TEI 18 took t'score t'54-1 and then t'wheels fell off. Some dreadful shots by t'middle order saw t'collapse t'101 all oot. T'team was cryin' oot f'a Pink Blur type innings t'hold t'side together. Brum once agin looked accomplished wi' 10 not oot and bats too low. T'duck trophy looks as though it's goin' t'be from t'firsts this year wi' Wadey, t'Fireman and t'Man from M&S joinin' t'list. In reply, t'Fireman an' t'Pocket Rocket booled tightly an' 'ad Irlam 12-4 off 15 overs but t'Lowery boy took t'thrashin' t'booling. An early difficult chance t'Brum was spilled and he was later dropped by t'skipper and Tony. He was eventually stumped by t'Doc standin' up t'Fireman for 65. T'fifth wicket put on 88 and there was little in t'shed 'ad an early break through been made.

Colonel Mustard's menagerie continued on their merry wi' a thrashin' o'Greenfield's Saturday team. Psycho took another five wickets haul and after t'greatly reduced all rounder (£3m t' £1.5)'ad failed t'make much impact, young Ashley mopped up t'tail wi'4-9. A total o'47 was easily reached as t'Colonel hit 24 not oot and t'only casualty was Lowie who claimed he was experimenting wi't'lofted shots f'later in t'season. Disappointingly, Doddy got a red inker-see below.

There's nor games this Saturday but both teams 'ave Sunday cup games-t'firsts entertain Edgworth in LCB Cup an' t'seconds travel t'Walshaw.

T'teams f't'fantasy league are now complete. Me shite eleven are goin' for t'treble wooden spoon. I've employed a new captain Doddy who I 'ave ever confidence in 'im 'avin' a shite season. T'bankers o't'team are still there - Redders, Scotty and Zorro and t'full team will be revealed at end o'season.

c T'Sage 28.4.14

2014 SUMMER SAGE 1 : 1sts cruise to win/BJ & Psycho 10th wk partnership sees 2nds win

T'Sage is back following a well earned rest an' recuperation t'boost t'levels of vitriolic abuse an' much needed sage like cricketing advice. So what's 'appened a't'Millers since last season? T'long overdue improvement t'quality o't'firsts came with two new arrivals in t'shape of t'Doc and t'Pocket Rocket, along with a full season from spinner Simon Carr, t'be referred to as Tony. Youngy, Rushy an' Wilko 'ave gone t'pastures new. Colonel Mustard 'as taken charge o't'seconds so 'opefully t'lad can score some runs f'once in 'is life. On t'fantasy front, much amusement an' 'ead scratchin' in evidence as Fatboyslim now classed as an all roonder with price tag o'£4m.

T'firsts, 'avin' 'ad 12 weeks o'indoor nets, scored 161 against t'Macedonians. T'Doc opened up with 21 an' t'TEI decided at long last t'use t'little grey cells an' bat sensibly and made a solid 41. T'usual slap 'appy battin' in middle order was rescued by t'toothless veteran Kiwi 24, Wadey at no 9 with 16 and Brum at 10 with a good 25. T'lad bats t'low. T'£3m all roonder made an early dart f't'duck trophy. T'impressive pace o't'opening bowlers was always goin' t'b't'key backed by Tony. T'Fireman booled like a drain an' picked up a five wicket haul thanks t'Pocket Rocket whose tight 10 oover spell resulted in 1-15. Tony then came on an'mopped up to lower order with 4-10 off 16 balls as t'Macedonians were all oot f'77.

A classic game f'seconds a'Macedonia. T'Colonel began with a gud toss an' inserted t'Macedonians. After two early wickets a century stand ensued with t'Lancs U14 lad scorin'a ton. Fortunately Psycho, in his new role as vice captain, took five wickets and Mozzer booled a gud spell. Lowey got carted and Redders booled his usual shite 4-0-37-1. T'fieldin' was at t'best sub standard an' Macedonia scored an impressive 209-7. Heads were down especially as little nosh was available. T'Colonel led from t'front with an impressive 80, t'total number o'runs he's scored in last foor seasons. Not used t'stayin' longer than his usual 5 minutes t'Colonel was throughly knackered 'aving batted f' 95 minutes. Mozzer smacked 20 and Phil 15 but Scotty still struggles with copin' with t'straight bool. At 173-9 t'game was effectively oover. BJ, 'avin' been dropped first ball dug in f't'next hour and Psycho manfully kept t'straight bool oot an' carted sixes t'short boundary. T'lads reached t'final oover with two t'win. BJ was dropped first ball and then proceded t'miss t'next four. With t'field in he straight drove f'four. 39 partnership, Psycho 'is highest score.

On t'social front t'three Musketeers from Chestnut Rd claim they're a nuclear family and should only pay one lot o'family subs. T'lads got short shrift f't'Treasurer who stated what they did in t'confines o't'Chestnut was no concern of ours an'were told t'flash t'cash. T'Chairman's wife returned emancipated from a day in t'boxes at Haydock and told those present she and her friends would raise money f't'club by doing t'equivalent o't'Calendar Girls. She would do t'buns photo but once Michelle M and Rose agreed t'join in t'Secretary went int'melt down an' 'ad t'leave t'room.

c T'Sage 23.4.14

