

Ron Blake, Looking Back !

First away days

We previously had 2-3 day match against Oxford, which was discontinued about 1975.

The first two days away was against Shropshire at Ludlow and Bridgnorth. The Ludlow course was inside the racetrack. The evening meal was excellent and enjoyable, so much that the Captain, a wartime Lancaster bomber pilot, whose name unfortunately I cannot remember, arranged for the catering staff to come in early and prepare breakfast for us. He then insisted that we follow him in convoy to Bridgnorth, as we would find it difficult to locate the golf course.

The following occasion we again played Shropshire on a 2 day basis, the second day was against Oswestry. In my match one of the opponents was a member of Oswestry and when I hit the best shot of my life, and failed to reach the green, I was informed that Ian Woosnam reaches the green with a 6 iron. Every drive I hit was always 150 yards of where Ian would have driven. Ian and his father are members and his brother is on the greenstaff.

The first match against Warwickshire commenced in 1986. By coincidence a friend of mine, Tony Uren became Captain of Warwickshire the same year I became Captain of Devon. The first match was arranged at Finham Park Coventry.

We always had a one day match against Worcestershire, returning the same day

It was at Worcestershire that the green jackets were born. The Worcester Captains appeared looking quite splendid in their green jackets, they informed us of the source of their sartorial elegance namely an outfitter in Birmingham who duly supplied the first consignment.

Many of the inter-county matches we now play have started with members of other counties migrating to Devon and instigating a fixture.

Other matches are due to the tireless efforts of Henry Paget.

Ron Blake