



Springvale Gutta Percha Bramble Golf Ball

Sold



REF: 30877

Diameter: 4.3 cm (1.7")

Description

Antique Gutta Percha Golf Ball, Springvale 27.

A very nice example of 'Springvale 27' gutta-percha golf ball with moulded bramble pattern manufactured by Hutchison Main & Co., Cowlares, Glasgow, Scotland. The gutty golf ball is with the ball name 'Springvale 27' in raised lettering on a flat circular band on both poles of the ball, inner circle containing seven brambles. The DWT number (27 on this ball) on old gutty golf balls refers to pennyweights (dwt), a unit of weight from the apothecaries' system. In the 19th century, golf balls-particularly gutta-percha ("gutter") balls-were sometimes marked or described by their weight in dwt, a standard gutter ball often weighed around 26-28 dwt (? 40-44 grams). Since consistency of size and weight was a big issue before standardisation, these markings helped golfers know what they were getting.

The ball is approximately 4.3 cm in diameter.

Hutchison Main & Co. were taken over by North British Rubber Co., Ltd. Edinburgh, in 1912.

The solid gutter golf ball replaced the feathery ball because of its cost effectiveness, as a gutter could be rolled in a matter of minutes, and slowly the game of golf became affordable to the masses. The 'Gutter' era lasted from around 1848 well into 1900's.

To make a gutter golf ball first the gutta-percha was heated and loosely rolled into a ball shape. The ball was then put into the mould and then placed into a press. The press would imprint the pattern onto the ball and the excess would squeeze out of the sides. The seams were then trimmed when cool, leaving a hard and non-brittle "Gutter" golf ball. The durability of the gutta along with its lower costs and better play rejuvenated the game of golf.

Gutta-percha is the evaporated latex produced from a tree, mostly found in Malaysia.