Thornton Patent Gutty Golf Ball

£600

Manfred Schotten Antiques
109 High Street • Burford • Oxfordshire • OX18 4RG
01993 822 302 • schotten@sportantiques.co.uk

REF: 30863

Diameter: 4.3 cm (1.7")

Description

Solid Mesh Patent Thornton 27 ½ Gutty Golf Ball.
A very nice example of a 'Patent Thornton 27 ½' gutta-percha golf ball with moulded mesh pattern. The gutty golf ball is manufactured by Thornton & Co. Ltd., 115 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, Scotland. The gutty golf ball is with the ball name 'Patent Thornton' in inverted lettering on a circular flat disc on both poles of the ball with the DWT number (27 ½) within the center. The DWT number (27½ 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 ("gutty") balls-were sometimes marked or described by their weight in dwt, a standard gutty 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.

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

To make a gutty 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 "Gutty" 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.

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