



## Golf Club Iron by Tom Stewart

Tom Stewart

Sold



REF: 25614

Height: 99.5 cm (39.2")

## Description

Vintage Hickory Golf Club by Tom Stewart, St Andrews.

A No.2 iron by Tom Stewart of St. Andrews. Hickory shafted with line face markings and polished grip. On the rear of the club head is the 'PIPE' cleek mark of Tom Stewart with the phrase 'T.S.St.A.REG.TRADEMARK'. The 'pipe' mark on its own was in use from 1893 to 1905, it was from 1905 and onwards that the phrase was added. 'E. Ray, Herts, Oxhey' is also stamped on the club as is 'L', denoting this was a ladies club.

A great 2 iron in original condition and very usable for modern hickory play. Approximate 25° loft (in modern terms this would be between a Ping G30 5 iron and 6 iron).

If you are wishing to play some hickory golf the best balls to play with are low compression balls that will give at impact, such as ladies balls or soft feel balls.

Edward 'Ted' Ray was born in Jersey in the English Channel in 1877, seven years after fellow islander (and later world renowned golfer) Harry Vardon. It is quite possible Ted got the job at Ganton Golf Club in 1903 because of a recommendation from Harry Vardon, his predecessor. He left the club in 1912 to go to the newly founded Oxhey Golf Club in Hertfordshire. This was the year in which he won the Open Championship at Muirfield, beating Vardon by 4 shots, he was also twice runner-up in 1913 and 1925. Ray, while often overshadowed by Vardon, Taylor and Braid, the Great Triumvirate, he did have many professional successes of his own winning the U.S. Open at Inverness in 1920, aged 43. Ray was player/captain for Great Britain versus America in 1926, he also played in 1921, this being the forerunner to the Ryder Cup. He was again player/captain the next year, 1927, in the first official Ryder Cup. Ray developed his golf skills at the same Jersey course where Vardon had been. Ray was a huge, hefty built man and was known for his hard hitting attacking shots. This style of play would often lead to some wild shots and he would end up in some awful lies. It was down to his phenomenal recovery skills and delicate touches around the greens that made him as successful as he was.

Tom learnt some of his club making art from his father who was a carpenter and occasional club maker. He served his apprenticeship with one of St. Andrews most prolific iron club makers, Robert White.

In his early days one of his best customers was the shop of Tom Morris, Old Tom even played with irons made by Stewart. Other well-known customers were the McEwans in Musselburgh as well as D. & W. Auchterlonie and Robert Forgan in St. Andrews.