



Antique Golf Ball, 'SunSpot'.
Jack White

£ POA



REF: 30850

Diameter: 4.4 cm (1.7")

Description

Vintage Jack White Golf Ball 'SunSpot'.

A very nice unusual pattern golf ball with original paint which remains bright and with minimal paint loss. The gutta percha covered, rubber core, golf ball is marked on both poles of the ball, 'SunSpot' in a circle, in its center a blue dot, edges of the circle are a sunburst. The pattern of the ball is made up of stamped sunbursts with a triangular center. The ball was manufactured by Jack White, the well known professional and clubmaker from Sunningdale.

A very scarce ball.

The ball is approximately 4.4 cm in diameter.

The rubber core ball (the ancestor of the modern ball) began its life in the late 1890's. The first mass produced rubber core ball was by Coburn Haskell of Cleveland, Ohio. The first core balls were hand wound with elastic thread with a Gutta-percha cover, moulded with the raised square mesh pattern of their predecessor. The slight irregularities in the early wound balls made them quite lively, it was not until the invention of the automatic winding machine by John Gammeter (an engineer at Goodrich) and the change of pattern from mesh to bramble that the balls became more consistent and predictable.

During 1899 two brothers, T.A. and G.A. Roberts built a house in Sunningdale called "Ridgemount". The land on which it was constructed belonged to St. John's College, Cambridge and mainly consisted of heather, gorse and pine trees. There were no shops, no railway station, and no Ridgemount Road, merely a bridle path over the property running, as it still does across the 2nd of the Old and continuing across to the 9th green of the New Course.

Soon after taking up residence, Tom Roberts, known as T.A., approached the College with a view to making a golf course, and to creating leaseholds on the adjoining land for the building of quality houses. By 1899 an agreement had been reached with the College, and a Founders' Committee was formed with the Roberts brothers as promoters. A hundred keen golfers were soon found to subscribe for £100 bonds. A contract was signed with Mr. William Park Junior on 4th December, 1899, with orders to design and create a course of exemplary character for the price of £3000.

The first Annual General Meeting was held at the Café Monico in London on Thursday, 29th March, 1900 and the first Committee was formed. This Committee quickly approved plans for a Clubhouse "to cost with fittings not over £6,000, and a dormy house to be added afterwards at a cost to be decided on later."

The Green Committee was empowered "to engage Mr. Hugh MacLean as foreman of the construction works for three months at 36 shillings a week and a cottage. "Mac" became foreman and remained in the service of the Club till he went into honourable pensionable retirement in 1940.

In readiness for the grand opening of the course, the Committee requested T.A. Roberts to approach Jack White, with a view to engaging his services as the Club professional. "Remuneration was not to exceed £1 a week, and a cottage on the links". Jack White was then aged 28, and had been Professional at several Clubs. He was a brilliant player and frequently took part in challe...