



Antique Martins Zodiac Golf Ball, Rubber Core.

Sold



REF: 27360

Diameter: 4 cm (1.6")

Description

Bramble Golf Ball 'Martins Zodiac'.

A bramble patterned rubber core golf ball in very good condition. The 'Zodiac' ball is manufactured by Martins from Birmingham. The bramble ball features the three-bladed propeller mark associated with Martins on both poles of the ball. On one propeller is written 'Martins, England', the other 'Zodiac, PAT'. The ball is covered in the classic bramble pattern, raised dimples.

The ball is approximately 1 11/16 inch in diameter (4.3 cm).

Martins from Birmingham (England) were founded in early 1900's by Patrick Alphonsus Martin and they were one of the first ball companies to make a seamless golf ball.

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.