



Antique Golf Club, James Braid Approach Cleek  
James Braid

Sold



REF: 29363

Height: 91 cm (35.8")

Width: 9.5 cm (3.7")

Depth: 3.5 cm (1.4")

## Description

James Braid Mussel Back Approaching Cleek By William Gibson.

Hickory golf club cleek by William Gibson, Fife, endorsed by five times Open Champion, James Braid. The club carries the James Braid endorsement autograph and the 'Out Line Star' cleek mark of Gibson & Co. Ltd. with their Kinghorn details in an oval stamp. The words 'Warranted Hand Forged, Special, Approaching Cleek' accompany the stamps. The hickory shaft is in good order and has a polished leather grip, smooth face with a mussel back (weight has been placed at the back, center and towards the bottom edge) and is a great usable hickory golf club.

The measurements shown are the length of the shaft with hosel and the width and depth of the face with an approximate 26° Loft. Swing weight B-7.

Gibson's 'OUTLINE STAR' cleek mark was registered in 1906, although it had been used since Gibson began his business in the 1890's and was replaced with the 'DEEP STRUCK STAR' in the 1930's. William Gibson was born in Kirkcaldy in 1868 and originally worked as a blacksmith. He apprenticed with James Anderson, Anstruther, during the late 1880's and by 1897 was part of the small firm of Stirling and Gibson based in Edinburgh. Upon his partners death in 1899 the firm's name changed to William Gibson & Co, moving to Kinghorn, Fife, in 1903. Initially he kept to only producing cleeks but by 1905 he had launched into full club making production, both irons and woods, with the clubs sporting the famous 'star' cleek mark. In 1906 Gibson started to produce what would become one of his most popular clubs and largest sellers the 'Genii' model. The clubs were revolutionary and were patented by Hugh Logan, with their offset head and goose neck hosel, they could be customised to suit most players requirements. Gibson's other successful line was the easily recognisable 'Star Maxwell' irons with their drilled hosels and flanged soles based on the patented design by Robert Maxwell. The business kept expanding and Gibson was acknowledged as one of the world's largest producer of golf clubs. His huge success was due to him being very open minded regarding club production and new designs, leading him to produce several economy brands as well as his top brands. He died in 1921 leaving his son George to continue running the business, though eventually going into voluntary liquidation on 1st July 1955.