



Gassiat Type Putter By Ernest F. Sales Of Sunningdale.

Sold



REF: 29941

Height: 93 cm (36.6")

Width: 11 cm (4.3")

Depth: 6.5 cm (2.6")

Description

Antique Gassiat Style Putter, Ernest F. Sales, Sunningdale.

A good example of a hickory shafted persimmon wood 'Jean Gassiat' type putter with a polished leather 'pistol grip'. The makers name is stamped on the crown of the club 'Ernest F. Sales, Sunningdale GC, Special'. There is a half a brass plate to the sole of the club head and because of its squared off nose, a 'Gassait' putter could also be used croquet style. Ernest F. Sales was the professional of Sunningdale Golf Club from 1926 to 1933.

Born in 1883, Jean Gassiat was a talented French golf professional who worked at Golf de Chantilly, in Chantilly, France. He won the French Open in 1912, defeating Harry Vardon by a stroke, and was the French Native Professional Champion in 1912, 1919, 1927 and 1929.

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 challenge matches with other leading players of the day.

Since the formation of the Club the duties of Secretary had been performed on a part-time basis, but during 1901 it became clear that it was time to make a full-time appointment. A sub-committee was formed to appoint a Secretary. It received 435 applications, and invited six gentlemen to attend a selection meeting. At the Meeting Mr. H.S. Colt was selected...