

## Description

Gutta Percha Golf Ball, G. McHardy Special.
A moulded mesh patterned white Gutta Percha golf ball in original condition manufactured by G. McHardy The 1890's Gutty ball has had a hole drilled into the bottom so may have been mounted on a trophy at some time. The surface still has most of the white paint but is with some surface marks. On one pole of the ball it is stamped 'G. McHardy, $271 / 2{ }^{2}$ ', the other pole 'Special'.
A rare golf ball.
The ball is approximately 4.3 cm in diameter.
The solid gutty golf ball replaced the feathery ball because of its cost effectiveness, as a gutty could be rolled in a matter of minutes, and slowly the game of golf became affordable to the masses. The 'Gutty' era lasted from around 1848 well into 1900's.

To make a gutty golf ball first the gutta-percha was heated and loosely rolled into a ball shape. The ball was then put into the mould and then placed into a press. The press would imprint the pattern onto the ball and the excess would squeeze out of the sides. The seams were then trimmed when cool, leaving a hard and non-brittle "Gutty" golf ball. The durability of the gutta along with its lower costs and better play rejuvenated the game of golf.
Gutta-percha is the evaporated latex produced from a tree, mostly found in Malaysia.

