



Golf Painting By John Blair, Craigmillar Park G C

£575



REF: 29195

Height: 17.5 cm (6.9")

Width: 26 cm (10.2")

Framed Height: 36.5 cm (14.4")

Framed Width: 47 cm (18.5")

Framed Depth: 47 cm (18.5")

## Description

Craigmillar Park Golf Club Watercolour, John Blair.

An atmospheric original watercolour of Craigmillar Park Golf Links in Edinburgh by the Scottish artist John Blair (1849-1934). Craigmillar Castle from which the club derives its name from is clearly seen in the background and the painting is signed to the lower left corner. Craigmillar Castle was a haunt of Mary Queen of Scots, the world's first recorded lady golfer. How ironic then, that since the golf club's inception equality of the sexes was the rule at Craigmillar Park.

John Blair was a Scottish painter, predominantly of watercolour landscapes. Of humble beginnings in Berwickshire, he moved to Edinburgh to study and spent the rest of his life there. His paintings mainly reflect the landscapes around him, both of urban settings and also of the castles, sea and lochs of the Borders. As well as his original work, his paintings were viewed by a wide audience in the form of picture postcards, book endpapers and illustrations.

Taken from Craigmillar Park Golf Club website:-

Craigmillar Park Golf Club was constituted in 1895 and moved to its present location in 1907. It was extended to 18 holes (designed by James Braid) in 1927.

On 12th of January 1895 the Scotsman newspaper carried the following "birth" announcement :

"NEW GOLF COURSE IN THE SOUTH SIDE OF EDINBURGH. A nine-hole golf course is being formed at Craigmillar Park and is expected to be ready for play in February. A lease of the ground which extends from Crawford Road to Lady Road has been obtained from Captain Gordon Gilmour of Liberton and Craigmillar. The principal entrance will be from Crawford Road within three minutes' walk of the Craigmillar Park car terminus and Newington Suburban Station. The course is about a mile in length and has been laid out by Mr. Day of Musselburgh, who has given a very favourable report of the suitability of the ground for the purpose. Already about 150 ladies and gentlemen have been admitted as members of the club."

Many, perhaps most, of the new clubs created about the same time as Craigmillar Park were (and some continue) as male preserves. It is clear that from the outset equality of the sexes was the rule at Craigmillar Park, although it was not until 1914 that the subscriptions were equalised.

The course was situated in an area of land close to Newington Railway Station and the Newington Bus and Tram Terminus and was thus, easily accessible. In those days there was very little building development between the course and the iconic Craigmillar Castle from which the club derives its name. The castle was a haunt of Mary Queen of Scots, the world's first recorded lady golfer. How ironic then, that since the golf club's inception, ladies have had equal status with men and there was no gender barrier to any office. This was in an age when golf clubs were regarded as male preserves. In 1914, ladies started paying exactly the same subscription as their male counterparts and this has remained right up to the present day. When you consider that all women did not get the vote until 1928, Craigmillar Park Golf Club were indeed trendsetters!

Despite the club's early success, with 400 members and a waiting lis...