



Golf Print, The Golfers by Charles Lees, St Andrews Golf Links,  
Royal & Ancient  
Charles Lees

£4,500



REF: 30041

Height: 53 cm (20.9")

Width: 86 cm (33.9")

Framed Height: 87.5 cm (34.4")

Framed Width: 116 cm (45.7")

Framed Depth: 116 cm (45.7")

## Description

St Andrew's Golfing Engraving, Charles Lees.

A fine framed original Victorian golfing engraving 'THE GOLFERS', A Grand Match Played over St. Andrew's Links. This is one of the most famous golfing scenes of all time. The scene is of match in progress on the Ginger Beer Hole (15th) on the Old Course at St Andrews. The engraving captures a moment from the Royal & Ancient 1841 October meeting and is a match between Sir David Baird of Newbyth, and Sir Ralph Anstruther of Balcaskie, against Major Playfair and John Campbell, Esq. of Glen Saddel. As you look at the picture the ball to the right of the hole has been played by Sir David Baird (left of center in dark top hat), it was a fine iron shot from the long grass and heather. Now Major Playfair (next to Baird, in a pale top hat) has just putted, his partner John Campbell, can be seen stood behind the two caddies smoking a cigarette watching the ball run straight for the hole. The city of St Andrews can be seen in the background (top left-hand corner). 'THE GOLFERS', A Grand Match Played over St. Andrew's Links. By Sir David Baird of Newbyth, Bart & Sir Ralph Anstruther of Balcaskie, Bart, against Major Playfair & John Campbell, Esq. of Saddel.

The original oil painting was painted by Charles Lees in 1847, and all the Gentlemen in the picture are either skilful players or lovers of golf. The numerous portraits in the picture have all been painted from actual sittings, and a key was produced at the same time naming them all (there is a modern copy on the reverse of the picture). The engraving is by Charles F. Wagstaffe, printed by W. Wilding, Edinburgh, 20th December 1850, published by Alexander Hill, print seller to the Queen, 67 Princes Street. The original painting by Charles Lees was finished in 1847 and was an impressive four feet tall by seven feet wide. It went on show at the Edinburgh galleries of Alexander Hill, who had purchased it for £400, Charles F. Wagstaffe's black and white line engraving was published by Hill in 1850.

St Andrews "The Home of Golf" is on the Fife Coast of eastern Scotland and is considered the oldest and most iconic golf course in the world. The Old Course is 6721 yards with a par of 72. It is famous for the 'Swilcan Bridge' spanning the first and 18th holes and 'Hell Bunker'. Everyone who plays the 18th hole walks over the 700-year-old bridge, with it featuring in many iconic pictures of St Andrews. The Old Course remains a public golf course, open to all and apart from the clubhouse for the Royal and Ancient, there are clubhouses overlooking the links for The St Andrews Golf Club (1843) and The New Golf Club St Andrews (1902) for men and the St Rule Club (1896) and St Regulus Ladies Golf Club (1913) for women.

The Old Course was pivotal to the development of golf and how the game is played today. By 1754, St Andrews consisted of twelve holes, ten of which were played twice, making a round of twenty-two holes in all. The members deciding that the first four and last four holes on the course were too short combined them into four holes (two in and two out). St Andrews then became the first 18-hole golf course in the world, and a blue print for the modern course.

In 1863 the R&A appointed 'Old'...