



Helsby Golf Ball, Gutta Percha

£320



REF: 30887

Diameter: 4.4 cm (1.7")

Description

Solid Mesh 'Helsby' Gutter Golf Ball.

A solid moulded square mesh patterned gutta percha golf ball in good condition. The late 1890's 'Helsby' gutter ball manufactured by Telegraph Wire & cable Manufacturing, Queen Victoria Street, Helsby, Cheshire. The ball is only marked on one pole, 'Helsby' on one line within six mesh squares in inverted lettering.

The ball is approximately 4.4 cm in diameter.

The solid gutter golf ball replaced the feathery ball because of its cost effectiveness, as a gutter could be rolled in a matter of minutes, and slowly the game of golf became affordable to the masses. The 'Gutter' era lasted from around 1848 well into 1900's.

To make a gutter 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 "Gutter" 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.