

Larkhaven Golf Club reaping the benefits of new MiniVerde greens

“The new MiniVerde greens at Larkhaven Golf Club are great.” A golfer's comment that must be music to the ears of General Manager Ken Jamison when the course reopened in August after the conversion from bent-grass greens.

“We knew we had to make the change, our greens were just tired,” said Jamison. “Despite the hard work of Course Superintendent Jimmy Smith, the summer heat and the age of the greens complexes were just too much to continue with and we were happy to make the change.”

Larkhaven regulars and players trying the course for the first time were very surprised at how well the approach shots were holding and lack of grain. Also they are not grainy like many of the other courses with Mini Verde Greens in Charlotte.



The quality of the greens this early is due to an installation called “no-till Mini Verde.” The planting is a process of mowing, verticutting, coring, and topdressing. All of equipment needed for this process can be found in a typical golf course maintenance facility. Larkhaven also delayed their scheduled early August opening to allow for additional rolling and sanding of the new putting surfaces.

“We wanted to make sure the greens could be the best they could be before reopening,” said Jamison. “We will not know how good the greens can be until we have gone through a full growing cycle, but for the moment we are delighted with the results.”



Larkhaven Golf Club is the oldest 18-hole public golf course in the Charlotte area, and with the promotional motto “The green course all year round,” they have been among the most popular to play since opening in 1958. Larkhaven was voted one of Charlotte's Best Golf Values in 2004, combining a challenge, good value and a friendly atmosphere.

The course features rolling terrain with challenging, sloped greens, and narrow, tree-lined fairways that are over-seeded with rye in the winter to keep them green all year long. Water hazards

come into play on nine holes. From beginner to expert golfers and those in between, the layout of the course provides a challenge and enjoyment to suit everyone's round.

Players will find that they can use almost every shot possible at Larkhaven, from “bump and runs” to judging elevation changes such as the 60-foot elevation drop on the par-3 ninth hole. At only 6,700 yards from the back tees, the course plays much longer due to the changes in terrain.

Your round will open with a tempting, driveable par-4 opening hole and you will also encounter risk and reward par-5s and four very challenging par-3s. The round ends with a picturesque 429 yard par-4 protected on the left by a lake that runs along the left side of the fairway and green.

Larkhaven Golf Club has been well known among area tournament golfers. They host the Annual Larkhaven Four-Ball event, a three day event held every year the last weekend of April since 1972 making it the oldest running Four-Ball Tournament in the area, and

conclude the year with the two-man best ball Founders Tournament in the fall. It started as a memorial to the Barron Connell family, founders of Larkhaven, but now includes an honor roll on the wall where family members, employees and other Larkhaven fixtures that have passed are recognized.

To enjoy the history of Larkhaven and the renovations for the future, call for more information and tee-times at 704-545-4653 or visit www.larkhavengolf.com.

