



The large undulating mature Bermuda mini-verde greens can challenge even the best of putters when approaching from the Bermuda fairways.

Its traditional layout is a perfect fit for the land and provides privacy, with a smattering of homes, mostly on the back side, to spoil the back-to-nature privacy.

by Sam Smith

During his playing career, Hale Irwin enjoyed 20 victories on the PGA Tour, including three U.S. Open Championships and 45 wins on the Champions Tour. His senior play was highlighted by three consecutive Senior Championships. Irwin was well-known for his shot-making skills, and it was no surprise that his golf course designs mirrored his desire to give golfers a layout that required getting into position with well-placed shots.

You don't have to go far to test the only Hale Irwin designs in the Greater Charlotte golf market. Just 25 minutes from Uptown Charlotte, Waterford Golf Club is an 18-hole championship golf course that opened for play in 1997. This tranquil journey molded by mother nature in the River Walk Natural Reserve and refined by Irwin, is a classic design that has received rave reviews from local and national media as well as golfers from all over the southeast.

Now under the watchful eye of Traditional Golf Management, and new general manager Mike LaPierre, Waterford has taken giant steps to returning to its once prominent position among area courses. LaPierre spent the last four years as head PGA Professional at Skybrook Golf Club in Huntersville following a four year stint as assistant professional at Statesville Country Club.

"Getting back to what Waterford was in the past, a premiere club in the Charlotte area has been a labor of love," said LaPierre. "Our major project was repairing our tee boxes. Many were over-seeded, but several were completely re-sodded to speed up the process for our golfers."

The course, reaching 6,940 yards from the back tees, is nestled amongst dense hardwoods and rolling terrain. With water from lakes and creeks coming into play on 16 of the 18 holes, Waterford is a true shot-maker's course.

Waterford is player-friendly layout with most holes gently going left to right, which is how most players hit. And to accommodate all level of golfers, players tee off from one of four sets of tees, each named after a world-famous PGA Championship courses, three on which Hale Irwin won PGA titles – Winged Foot, Inverness and Medinah.

"We are striving to build a solid base of junior and lady golfers to match the excellent groups of golfers that enjoy Waterford now," said LaPierre. "We have junior camps running all summer and several ladies clinics hosted by our staff are on the calendar."

Waterford Golf Club can truly tailor a tournament to fit your needs. Whether it's a corporate outing, charity event, or social occasion, their professional staff can create an event to accommodate your wishes and exceed your expectations. The clubhouse at Waterford includes banquet and dining facilities with indoor and patio seating, and a golf shop. The practice facility includes a driving range, large putting green, short game practice area and practice bunker.



Players can enjoy excellent golf membership opportunities, including the Queen City Golf Passport for all five of the Traditional Golf course in the Charlotte area. Plus, Waterford offers special additional memberships options to fit golfers of all skills.

For more information contact the golf shop at 803-324-0300 or log on at thelinksatwaterford.com