



CAROLINA PANTHERS get into the golf business at WATERFORD GOLF CLUB

The Carolina Panthers, now owned by South Carolina business man David Tepper, have selected Rock Hill as their new home, but are still anchored by Bank of America Stadium in uptown Charlotte, where they will continue to play their games. However, a \$200 million headquarters and training facility in Rock Hill is now under development.

Adding to the move south by the Cats, a deal to buy Waterford Golf Club, which is just 4 miles away from the site of the NFL franchise's business operations, has also been finalized. The course would be used by the team but would also be open to public play. Panthers Chief Operating Officer Mark Hart says the NFL team envisions making Waterford an 18-hole Hale Irwin design that opened in 1997, an even greater community amenity.

"Anything we do we're going to try to improve it over its current state," Hart said. "It's already a great asset, a great course, a great layout. Perhaps if we can do something in conjunction with the development on the (new) site and make it something that's got a Panthers brand or something that's even better for the community, that's something that we look forward to trying."

Hart has added several other ideas concerning the headquarter complex. He says the campus will include practice fields, medical facilities, entertainment venues, a hotel, commercial space and apartments. He compared it to other NFL teams' training complexes — like those of the Dallas Cowboys and Minnesota Vikings — that have values of more than \$1 billion.

This 18-hole Championship Waterford Golf Club is located just 25 minutes from Uptown Charlotte. Waterford is a tranquil journey molded by Mother Nature and has received rave reviews from local and national media as well as golfers all over the Southeast.

The par 72 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.

The large undulating Bermuda mini-Verde greens, converted in 2011, can challenge even the best of putters when approaching from the Bermuda fairways. Hale Irwin designs feature plenty of doglegs, and golfers will find that shaping their tee shots will be a premium.

"We have eliminated quite a few trees around the greens and tee boxes for more light exposure for better growing conditions," said Waterford General Manager Ty Lefler. "The tee boxes have been sodded with Zoysia grass, which will stand up to the hot summer weather."

With new Superintendent Patrick Woods and his crew making sure the course is in top shape, golfers will find a smooth ride on the new cart paths throughout the entire course. The refurbished clubhouse has dining facilities with indoor and patio seating and a golf shop. And the practice facility includes a driving range, large putting green, short game practice area and practice bunker.

"We offer a traditional membership experience, with the most flexible golf membership options for family or single golfers," added Lefler. "The daily rates to play Waterford are very reasonable for a course of this caliber — starting at \$49 for weekdays, and \$59 for Friday-Sunday weekends, and lower twilight rates apply all week. Seniors are always welcome with rates from \$35 to \$38 for weekday rounds."



Panther's owner David Tepper



9th hole green at Waterford Golf Club
Greens that are acclaimed to be the best ever this time of year.