

# Larkin Golf Club – A secret no more!

## *New owners creating special course experience in Statesville*

If you have traveled north out of Charlotte on I-77, you have noticed a golf course on the left just before Statesville, and wondered about it's identity. Carolina Golf Journal is about to turn your curiosity into a playing reality with the introduction of Larkin Golf Club (Formerly Fox Den Golf Club).

Rolling through beautiful rolling hills with scenic views, Larkin GC designer Clyde Johnston has taken full advantage of 400 acres of lush, countryside and the gentle waterfalls of Third Creek in creating a challenging and enjoyable course for players of any skill level.

Larkin GC is operating under new owners with excellent golf course excellence experience. A team headed by Bobby West, the longtime General Manager of the highly successful Stonebridge Golf Club in Monroe, N.C. is partnering with Monroe-Based True Homes in the takeover at Larkin.

“We are proud to be taking over this beautiful golf course that has become a staple for so many in the Charlotte-area golf community,” West said. “We have a lot of talent and experience to bring to this already loved golf course and are excited about the possibilities and the progress we have made since announcing the sell in May of this year. Like at Stonebridge, our No. 1 concern at Larkin GC is always the golfers.”

If West can bring the same type of leadership to Larkin GC he has displayed at Stonebridge, this is a win-win situation. Stonebridge Golf Club is one of the area's top Charlotte golf courses, recently receiving a four star rating from Golf Digest "Best Places to Play" and ranked in the Top 100 Courses in the Carolinas. Stonebridge has always been one of the best conditioned courses in the area, dedicated to superb conditions and the highest level of customer service

Opened in 1996 as Fox Den Golf Club, Larkin GC offers a good mix of interesting holes, some with eye-catching elevation changes. Bermuda fairways, Crenshaw Bent-Grass greens, and nine scenic ponds add to the enjoyment of this beautifully designed course. Water comes into play on 10 holes, including the final six.

Before the picturesque adventure on the last six holes, Larkin's first few holes offer a walk in the park feel set on mildly undulating land. The next six holes will remind you of mountain golf with its elevated tees and greens. Overall, the course is an excellent Johnston design with accommodating fairways, some tightly tree lined and others open off the tee, and receptive bent grass greens kept in great condition by Course Superintendent Shane Staples. The course length varies from 7005 yards from the gold tees down to 5300 yards from the red.



“We have made the course more accessible for all golfers, but especially for the seniors,” said Head PGA Pro Michael Hamrick. “Carts are now allowed on the fairways, taking away the difficulty of several holes when we were cart path only. We have also been able to upgrade our staff to meet golfers, be more aggressive with maintenance, add merchandise to the pro shop and introduce a VIP membership with the best rates anytime.”



Greens fees have been lowered for affordability. Monday-Friday you can ride 18 for \$32 before noon and for \$27 after noon. Green fees Saturday-Sunday before noon is \$37, and after noon \$29. Seniors (60+) and Juniors (17 and under) can play Monday-Friday for \$25. Special online prices are available at [www.foxdengolfclub.com](http://www.foxdengolfclub.com)

The new clubhouse, open to the public, was finished earlier this year and includes pro shop, grille, dining room and pavilion.

With these additions, Larkin GC has established itself as a perfect location for an enjoyable round of golf, or group outings and charity tournaments.

In the surrounding housing community, the developers of what is now Larkin Golf Club took full advantage of the rolling hills, waterfalls, and meandering streams to create a superb recreational environment for golf, swimming, with a Jr. Olympic sized pool, sun deck and shaded patio, and tennis with two lighted courts for evening play. Residents can also enjoy nearby 32,510 acre Lake Norman, ideal for fishing, sailing and water skiing.

Larkin Golf Club and Golf Course is conveniently located at Exit 45 on I-77, between Statesville and Charlotte. (5 mi. south of Statesville/30 mi. north of Charlotte)

If Larkin Golf Club was North Carolina’s best kept secret, or at least that mystery golf course off I-77, the cat is out of the bag. For more information and tee-times call 704-872-9990, or logon at [www.foxdengolfclub.com](http://www.foxdengolfclub.com)