



A new 300 yard plus driving range (above-left) has opened at Meadowbrook Golf Club near Rutherfordton as part of a major course remodeling project. Paul and William Deck (above-right) are leading the course remodeling and development of a residential community at the course. Two new holes are being built to replace the tenth and eleventh holes (below) and open up some of the property to homesites. The construction will be done in phases and the course will always have 18 holes available for play during the project. The new homesites have a spectacular view of the surrounding Blue Ridge mountain range.

## Changing course at Meadowbrook

### Golf course soon to be a complete golf community

Meadowbrook Golf Course needs to hang out a sign at the front of the property. Open for business while under construction.

Golf carts and mowers are not the only equipment rolling over the terrain at the club near Rutherfordton. Land movers are shaping new golf holes and clearing property for a new residential community called Carolina Hills at the club.

"We were able to add about 76 acres to the course recently and that has given us the room to remodel the course and start the residential development," said William Deck, the head professional at the course.

Deck and his cousin Paul are the sons of the two founders and owners of Meadowbrook.

Carson and Kenneth Deck had Willie B. Lewis of Pickens design and build the Meadowbrook course in 1963.

Now over 40 years later, the sons of the founders are working together to put a modern face on a classic old course and complete an idea of their father's.

"Over the years the family added tracts of land around the golf course in hopes of one day having this kind of golf course community," said Paul Deck.

"I was at another golf community and thought why can't we do this," said William Deck. "Why not have a lifestyle that you would enjoy at a resort but in your own back yard," he added.

The long time dream of their fathers is now in the initial stages of development. The land has come a long way since it was a family farm

The two heirs bring a wealth of golf and business experience to the project on the land owned by the family for over 100 years.

William Deck has been a PGA professional for over 30 years. He has held head professional jobs at Hilton Head, Charleston and in Florida before returning to take over the family course 15 years ago.

Paul Deck and his two brothers who are now golf pros all worked at the course as youngsters. After graduating from Clemson, Deck went into the family's other business, a car dealership.

While both siblings are involved in all the decisions, William is concentrating on golf and the club while Paul is focusing his efforts on the residential development.

"The changes we are going to make will not change the character of the course, but it will change the look and it will also modernize it," said William Deck.

Noted architect Rick Robbins is designing the changes to the course and assisting in developing the master plan for the property.

Robbins designed Deer Brook in near-by Shelby along with dozens of courses all over the country.

He has also renovated courses like Camden Country Club and The Cardinal in Greensboro.

The renovation and remodeling plans call for the redesign of two holes, rerouting ten holes and designing six new holes for the course.

"The best thing about the remodeling is that we will be open all the time. We will always have 18 holes in play and sometimes during the project we may have 20 holes open," said Deck.

The old driving range will soon be a part of two new holes. The club has relo-

cated the range to behind the clubhouse and expanded the length.

The new range is open but it has not yet reached its eventual length. When all the renovations are completed the range will be well over 335 yards and have practice tees on both ends of the range.

The second tee will be used for special instruction, clinics and junior golfers.

"The range has target areas and it is designed to look like a fairway. We hear so many golfers say they hit it great on the range but when they get on the course things change. Having the range look like the course should help," said Deck.

The first new holes are currently under construction and will eventually replace the tenth and eleventh holes.

"We are adding length around the course. The extra length will actually make some of the holes more playable," Deck said.

The new design will also include something that golfers at Meadowbrook have rarely seen, bunkers.

"We only had two bunkers on the entire course so we are going to add over 30 bunkers, not to make the course play harder but to improve the character of the course," Deck said.

Many of the new home sites will have golf course views and some will occupy a ridgeline well above the golf course that will afford owners a spectacular view of the surrounding mountains.

"We always say Meadowbrook is a well kept secret. Well we would like to get the word out that we have a very good golf course that is going to be even better and a residential community that will be a great place to live," said Paul Deck.

Even when the renovations are completed and the residential community is built and occupied, the course will remain open to the public.

A new clubhouse will be built for members and guests with some special features reserved for property owners and residents.

As the residential community grows, the club will add a swimming pool, tennis courts, walking trails, nature areas and a fitness center.

"We have put a lot of planning into this project so we can build the residential development, improve the course and keep the course open all at the same time," said Paul Deck.

The recent downturn in the economy has slowed the development but not the determination of the Decks.

"We are finding things are loosening up for individual buyers and we have arrangements to help with financing," said Paul Deck.

Since it is a family business on property owned by the family for many years some of the pressure to speed the project along are not in the equation at Meadowbrook.

"We thought it might take five years to compete the residential community but it could be a little longer," said Paul Deck. "We want to make sure everything is right now and we can take a little more time if needed," he said.

The golf course changes will come sooner. The two new holes will be open early next summer and construction will then begin on other holes.

The end result of the project will likely be the end of Meadowbrook as a secret in the Carolinas.

Additional information about the Carolina Hills at Meadowbrook development is available on the internet at [www.carolinahills.net](http://www.carolinahills.net). The golf clubs phone number is 866-863-2690.

