

# New vision for Olde Eight

The former Links at Stoney Point in South Carolina is being transformed by a project team aiming to produce a course that is unlike anything else.

Husband-and-wife duo Ashley and Shane LeBaron want to “set the bar” with their new golf club.

They have worked in the golf industry for over 20 years. Shane is an award-winning golf instructor, and has worked at Belfair GC in South Carolina, Knollwood Club in Illinois and Cherry Hills CC in Denver. In addition to managing operations and admin for Shane’s

instruction business, Ashley has held retail and merchandizing roles at Berkeley Hall Club in South Carolina, The Mirabel Club in Arizona and Cherry Hills.

In 2024, the couple – along with founding partners Mitch Kovitz and Matt Green, and with professional golfer and former world number one David Duval as an investor – seized on the opportunity to

purchase The Links at Stoney Point in Greenwood, South Carolina. With a golf course, designed in 1990 by Tom Jackson, along the shoreline of Lake Greenwood, the LeBarons’ vision has been to develop an entirely new identity for the property and its facilities. That vision was to become Olde Eight Golf Club.

To overhaul the course, the LeBarons, Kovitz and Green

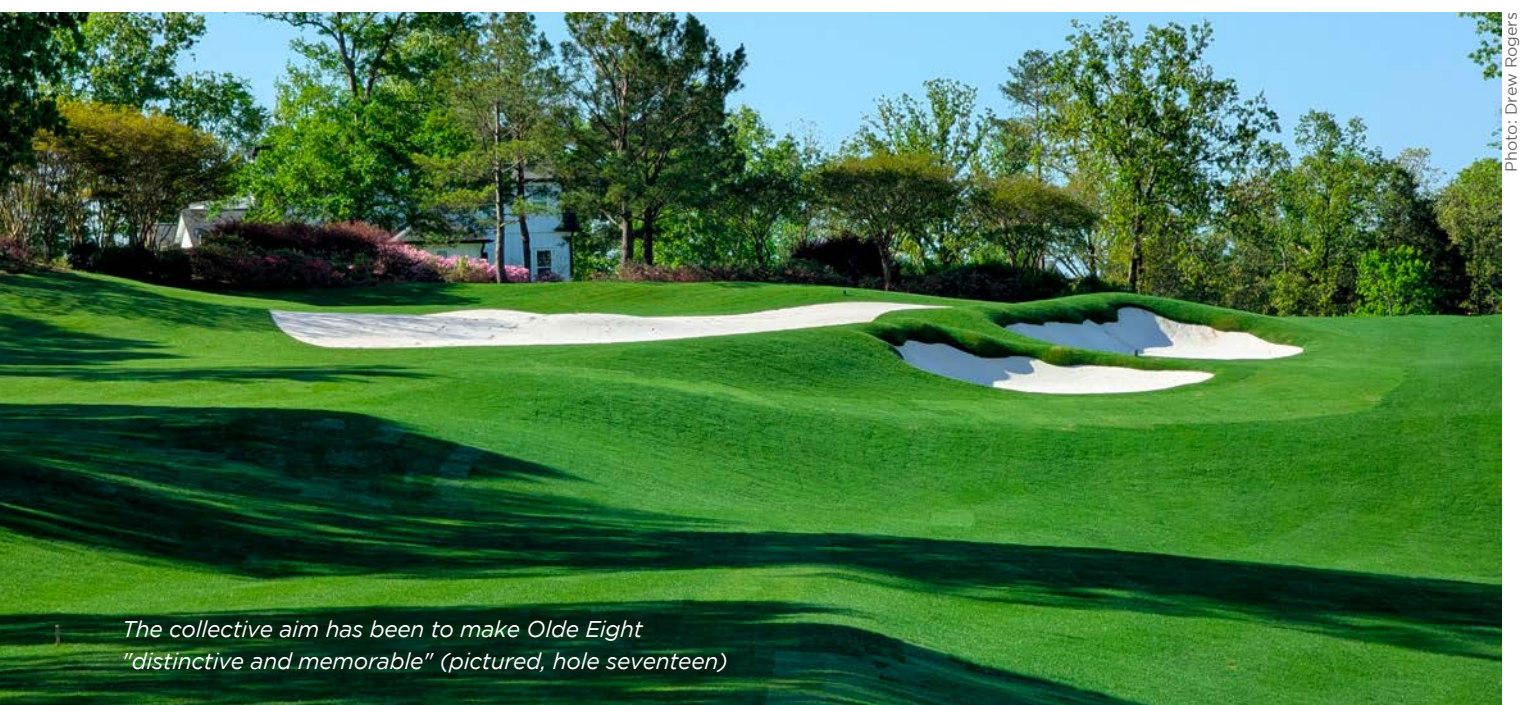


Photo: Drew Rogers

*The collective aim has been to make Olde Eight “distinctive and memorable” (pictured, hole seventeen)*





Photo: Chris Jordan

*Olde Eight is on track to open in October 2025 (pictured, the par-three thirteenth)*

assembled a team of JDR Golf Design’s principal Drew Rogers, ASGCA, and architect Joel Hornickel, ASGCA, John Lytle and crew from Total Turf Golf Services (TTGS), Chris Jordan as the club’s director of golf course and

a typical renovation,” says Rogers. “The palette is strong, and the bones are good. The terrain here has nice variation and movement and the sequence through the site exposes its diversity, with both open and wooded areas, mixed

property has been acquired for the expansion of the residential neighborhood to include retail shops, multiple clubhouses, dining opportunities, a lake club, and health and wellness facilities. A par-three layout, putting course and practice facility are also planned.

“First and foremost, we will be establishing a completely new architectural identity and experience,” says Rogers. “We do have the challenge of there already being a golf course here – so the positioning and sequence will not change – but the elements within the golf envelope will most certainly take on a more refined and purposeful character, and in most cases be presented in a much more dramatic fashion. The course is being

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grounds, plus experts from Leibold Irrigation, Mazzella Partnership and Better Billy Bunker.

“What attracted us to the Stoney Point site was its solid arrangement – it has a sequencing and fit that we felt could be improved upon within

vegetation, varied elevations and even some accented exposures along the banks of Lake Greenwood.”

JDR’s plans involve the total reimagination of the golf experience while utilizing the original corridors. Additional





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## OLDE EIGHT LAKE GREENWOOD



*The golf course renovation is one part of the area's redevelopment, which also includes hundreds of new homes, nature trails, green spaces, a marina and more*

lengthened to its limits and many holes will feature strategically angled elements that will define the holes visually and beg the skilled players to think, while the shouldering off-line areas will be expansive and playable for the average golfers. I think players will immediately appreciate the balance in the way the course is ultimately presented.”

In JDR’s ‘Scenes From A Build’ docu-series about the project, Shane LeBaron says: “We want that awe factor, the sense that you’ve arrived somewhere. I don’t want someone to come here and say it looks like X or Y, it has to have a unique feel to it; that this is Olde Eight.”

Mazzella Partnership is serving as a liaison and facilitator between the

club stakeholders and the renovation team. “We have been deeply involved in project oversight, ensuring that both the vision of the club and the technical requirements of the renovation are aligned throughout the process,” says Nick Mazzella. “We worked early in the project to help define clear objectives, including scope, budget parameters and quality standards. By focusing on clarity from the start, we minimize ambiguity, which often derails projects of this complexity. We also implemented structured processes for documentation, communication and change management. This includes maintaining updated budget reports, schedules, meeting minutes and regular reporting

formats – tools that help all parties stay informed and accountable.”

Work began in late 2024 and the course is expected to open in October 2025. Shane wants the course to be up there with the very best in South Carolina. “If you ask 25 well-travelled golfers what their favorite courses are, they will come back with the same top 10 or so answers, a Pebble Beach, a Seminole, whatever,” he says. “But if you ask them, ‘Why?’ their why is different. The place created a memory that stuck with them. It was vital for us to produce something out here with Drew that would create a memory where the holes talk to each other. I want you to play this once and it sticks. I want everyone to be able to







Photo: Drew Rogers

*Rogers has designed greens and bunkers in "a much more dramatic fashion" than what was there on the old Links at Stoney Point layout*

tell a story of all 18 holes."

Rogers adds: "We certainly don't play favorites when it comes to golf holes as we like to think about the course as more of a 'whole' than of pieces and parts. But with Olde Eight, there is a desire and commitment by

hole so that the entire experience comes together as something very distinctive and memorable."

Jordan appreciates the dialogue he has had with Rogers throughout the build: "Drew is always looking out for us, he's

## "I want everyone to be able to tell a story of all 18 holes"

the ownership and team to make the course very distinctly unlike anything else. What we liked about this property originally was just how well the course was originally visioned, so the routing does allow for solid variety and distinction. Our aim is to squeeze the very best out of each

calling me over for every visit and saying, 'are you good with this?' There will be some stuff that is fun to manage and involve some problem-solving skills, but if that's what it takes to have the best product out there, then we're willing to do that."

Judging by the glimpses of the golf course provided in JDR's docu-series, the result will be one-of-a-kind. "What makes Olde Eight truly unique and appealing is its commitment to family and community," says Rogers. "Designed as more than just a destination, Olde Eight aims to create a place where visitors feel compelled to stay – a community that seamlessly blends world-class golf amenities with the warmth and connection of a close-knit neighborhood. The creative and development team here at Olde Eight is probably the strongest I've ever been a part of, and we're excited to create a unique golfing experience like no other, and we're excited to welcome guests soon." ●