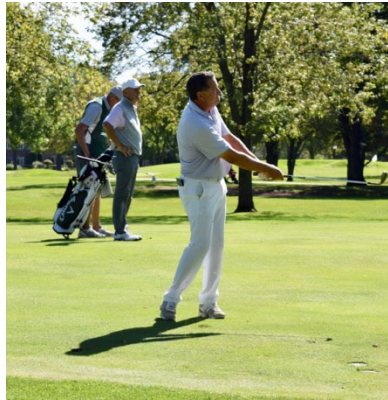


PECORA'S WINNING FORMULA PRODUCES VICTORY IN THE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS by Dennis LaLiberty

Ted Pecora of Bob O' Link GC, Highland Park, IL, cruised Park Ridge Country Club's course in a thoughtfully planned round, carding a two under par 68, thereby achieving a four-stroke victory over his nearest competitor and earning his second victory in the *Richard E. Peterson Champion of Champions* Golf Tournament. Pecora, whose previous victory came in 2012, entered this year's competition on a down note, having missed the cut in two recent tournaments, the USGA Senior Amateur, played at Old Chatham GC, Durham, NC, in late August, and the Illinois State Senior Amateur, played earlier in September at Westmoreland CC in Wilmette, IL.



Ted Pecora [Bob O'Link]

Pecora's plan was conservative coming in, minimizing errant shots and, in his words, "going for fairways and greens." A birdie 3 on the 405 - yard first hole gave Pecora cause for optimism, which was heightened with three more birdies coming quickly at holes 4, 5, and 7. From experience Pecora knew that playing well on Park Ridge's five 3-par holes was key and he felt that one of his strengths, skill with long irons, would give him a slight advantage. He went on to birdie #5, but bogied #14, and made workmanlike pars on the other three.

A clutch par save with a putt from the fringe on the 3-par ninth took the sting out of a bogey 5 at the 457 yard eighth hole (which statistically has always played one of the toughest relative to par of all the holes), leaving him 3 under at the turn.

From there on out, save only for the bogey at #14, Pecora's scorecard would reflect a steady run of pars, with the one at the 454 yard, 4-par #15 being the most adventurous: After a second shot pulled some 10 yards left of the green into the closely mown grass runoff, Pecora's comeback chip rolled through the green and settled at the collar, whereupon a clutch 18-foot putt produced a "sweaty palms" par. With #15 being the first of Park Ridge's "Last Mile," the final four holes which so often have determined the winner, Pecora's play from #16 on was admirably steady, tracking precisely his "fairways and greens" roadmap. Realistic birdie opportunities at #'s 16 and 18 produced comfortable pars, as did a two-putt par made after a center of the green tee shot at the final 3-par hole #17. The net result: a 4-shot victory and the only round under Park Ridge's par 70. [To view an interview with Ted Pecora, access the following link: <https://youtu.be/NrqqdkaIpjM>

While no one mounted a serious challenge to the eventual winner, Jamie Young of The Club at Strawberry Creek, Kenosha, WI, finished alone in second place, four strokes off the winner's pace with a 2-over 72, followed by five players at 3 over: Mark Kroencke (Boulder Ridge CC, Lake in the Hills, IL); Alex Moore (Indian Hill Club, Winnetka, IL); James Neville III (Prairie Landing GC, Lockport, IL); Craig Sopko (Exmoor CC, Highland Park, IL); and Tom Sweetwood (McHenry CC, McHenry, IL). Pecora was one of six former champions in the field, and he observed that he particularly enjoyed playing in a threesome with Blake Johnson of Glen View Club, winner in 2017, and Terry Werner, Briarwood CC, a frequent playing partner of Pecora and the tournament's only four-time winner, the last time in 2016.



Ted Pecora with Old Tom Morris Trophy

Ted Pecora grew up in the far south side Chicago suburb of Roseland and didn't take up golf until he was close to 30 years old. As he explained, he only did so because his two business partners at the Chicago Board of Trade were both avid golfers, and that represented his sole opportunity to spend recreational time with them. Pecora's earlier sporting efforts were pretty much confined to baseball, which he played in high school and college and later, briefly, in the Baltimore Orioles' minor-league system as an infielder, primarily at second base and occasionally at

third. While he eventually put aside his aspirations for the Major Leagues, Pecora remains to this day a dedicated baseball fan.

This year's tournament proved to be one of the largest fields in recent years and enjoyed a virtually perfect day, almost as if it could have been ordered from a golf catalogue: sunny with temperatures starting in the mid 60's, quickly slipping into the low 70's, and a few clouds in a beautiful Carolina Blue sky. A moderate westerly wind with an occasional gust whispered of autumn's hint in the air and gave the players reason for an occasional second thought on club selection.

As the contestants have come to expect, the Park Ridge course was in immaculate condition, thanks to a beneficent Mother Nature and the hard work of the Club's grounds crew, with the greens coming in for particular praise. Many of the participants commented favorably on the work of the volunteers whose cheerful presence as greeters, scorers, rules officials, and organizers made them welcome and created the ambience which makes this tournament such a popular early fall event in the Chicago Metro Area golf schedule.



L-R: Jenny Perry, Dennis LaLiberty, Bonnie Durkin

2019 marks the 22nd year for Park Ridge CC to host the event. Chicagoland's *Champion of Champions* invitational golf tournament for men was first played in 1933 under the auspices of the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA), and was held annually at various clubs until 1984. Park Ridge CC reinstated the tournament in 1998 and has hosted it annually ever since, with the exception of 2001 when the course was closed for remodeling (it was played at Medinah #1). Since

2017 the tournament has an official new name, "*The Richard E. Peterson Champion of Champions*," honoring Club member Rich Peterson, who was one of the driving forces in reviving the event and bringing it to its now permanent Park Ridge Country Club home.

The CDGA has remained strongly supportive of the event, and so, too, has the Western Golf Association (WGA), who donated what has now been named the "Peterson Trophy," a traveling trophy for display at the home club of the winner.

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Richard E. Peterson Champion of Champions Golf Tournament

Park Ridge Country Club

September 26, 2019

Final Scores

6650yards
Par 70

2019

68	Ted Pecora	'12 C of C Champ [Bob O'Link]	Mills Rendell	North Shore Country Club
72	Jamie Young	The Club at Strawberry Creek	80 Matt Cohen	Bryn Mawr Country Club
73	Mark Kroencke	Boulder Ridge Country Club	John Finn	Riverside Golf Club
	Alex Moore	Indian Hill Club	Paul Krentz	Cress Creek Country Club
	James Neville III	Prairie Landing Golf Club	81 John Beaulieu	Makray Memorial Golf Club
	Craig Sopko	Exmoor Country Club	Michael Cooney	Lake Geneva Country Club
	Tom Sweetwood	McHenry Country Club	Chris Crawshaw	Westmoreland Country Club
74	Rich Balla	St. Charles Country Club	Brian Hogan	Long Beach Country Club
	Brian Barrett	Royal Melbourne	Doug Meyer	Ivanhoe Club
	Anthon Fowler	Flossmoor Country Club	82 Miles Kirkpatrick	Ridge Country Club
	Grant Goltz	Black Sheep Golf Club	Pat McGeean	Bull Valley Golf Club
	Blake Johnson	'17 C of C Champ [Glen View]	83 John Gross	Bowes Creek Country Club
	Matt McLaughlin	Barrington Hills Country Club	Mark Martin	Sand Creek Country Club
	Michael Reed	LaGrange Country Club	Mike Martin	Royal Fox Golf Club
75	Ryan Cuitino	'18 C of C Champ [Morris]	Brad Metzger	Butler National Golf Club
	Craig Duncan	River Forest Country Club	Jim Norman	The Grove Country Club
	Marty Hynes	'15 C of C Champ [Ridge]	84 John Christiansen	Edgewood Valley Country Club
	Steve Sawtell	Merit Club	Stino Milito	Park Ridge Country Club
	Terry Werner	'16 C of C Champ [Briar Ridge]	85 Alberto Moriondo	'14 CofC Champ [Kemper Lakes]
76	Pat Becker	Wynstone Golf Club	Tom Nelson	Rolling Green Country Club
	Josh Brown	Eagle Brook Country Club	Brendo Santi	Deerpath Golf Club
	Jason Chojnacki	Prestwick Country Club	86 Dale Paavilainen	Bonnie Brook Golf Course
	Andy Kross	Glen View Club	Jerry White	Hawthorn Woods Country Club
	Mike Rice	Inverness Golf Club	87 Jimmy Lambert	Innsbrook Country Club
77	Jarrold Asfour	Medinah Country Club	91 Chris Diemand	Pheasant Run Resort
	Dave Feder	Conway Farms Golf Club	92 Kurt Hintz	Elgin Country Club
	Michael Hurwitz	Sunset Ridge Country Club	DNS Scott Lamb	Beverly Country Club
	Chuck Malik	Biltmore Country Club		
	Tony Sambo	Olympia Fields Country Club		
78	Brian Gryn	Twin Orchard Country Club		
	Mike Karney	Crystal Lake Country Club		
	Terry Levy	Deerfield Golf Club		
	Jason Marrs	Aurora Country Club		
	Brad Walker	Sportsman's Country Club		
	Jon Zolecki	Harborside Intl Golf Center		
79	Matt Davis	Indian Oaks Golf Club		
	Larry Elbaum	Briarwood Country Club		
	Jonath Gerrard	Northmoor Country Club		