

**CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS
PARK RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB**



**2009 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS
CRAIG McDONNELL
BEVERLY COUNTRY CLUB**

Park Ridge, Illinois, September 24, 2009

Craig McDonnell of Beverly Country Club, Chicago, Illinois, shot a one under par 69 to win the *Champion of Champions* golf tournament, a one day stroke play event hosted by Park Ridge Country Club featuring the individual champions of sixty-three private golf clubs in the Chicago metropolitan area. The tournament was played in pleasant but overcast early fall weather and,

while there was little wind, some challenging hole locations and damp, gnarly rough made scoring difficult.

McDonnell's strong, steady play resulted in the only score under par, with only two other players within two strokes at one over. His start was a bit rocky as he bogeyed the first hole after hitting his drive into a fairway bunker and then his second shot into a greenside bunker. But, after missing a five foot par putt, he managed to play the front nine in even par thanks to a birdie four on the fourth hole and pars on all the rest. Two quick birdies on holes ten and eleven were followed by three pars, then a bogey on the lengthy 452 yard par four fifteenth hole despite an impressive drive which left him only about 170 yards to the green. His final three holes, which are often the undoing of many at Park Ridge, were played in even par to produce the one under par round. McDonnell played in the third to last group of the day. One of his closest challengers, Blake Johnson of Exmoor Country Club, played in the first group out and carded a one over par 71, giving him the clubhouse lead for a good part of the day. After McDonnell finished with his sub par round, Terry Werner of Briar Ridge Country Club, a three-time winner of this event playing in the last group, had a final chance to catch the leader after closing to one over par through fourteen, but he was unable to make any birdies on the difficult closing holes and finished tied for second with Exmoor's Johnson.

Craig McDonnell, 49, played golf competitively in high school and at Scottsdale Community College in Arizona. He has played in numerous CDGA tournaments and in the Illinois Open, and just a few weeks ago won the Glenmorangie Tournament held at Hawthorn Woods Country Club.

Chicagoland's *Champion of Champions* invitational golf tournament for men was first played in 1933, and was held annually at various clubs until 1984. Park Ridge Country Club revived the

tournament in 1998 and has hosted it annually ever since. The traveling trophy to be displayed at the home club of the winner was donated by the Western Golf Association (WGA).

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