2012 Season Opener Newsletter

Pen Pushers of America

Golf Society

www.penpushers.us

Welcome Pen Pushers! This is our 11th season as the Pen Pushers of America Golf Society. We hope everyone has been getting ready for our first outing of the season. Your Pen Pushers 2012 committee members have been working to firm up the schedule and get ready for our 2012 season. We have some exciting golf outings planned for everyone this year with the addition of **one new course and the return to an old favorite**; we hope everyone will make this year's golf a priority!

We have added Hidden Creek in Reston to our schedule this year. We are also giving Reston National a rest this year and moving our Spring Challenge back to an old favorite Pen Pusher hangout, Bull Run Country Club.

Speed of play has always been an issue and we have tweaked some of the Pen Pusher rules with regard to out of bounds play. Committee member, Steve Smingler has crafted the updated rules.

Look for many **more trophies and golf "Bling"** to be given out at our first outing, the Irish Open. We will be presenting the awards from last year including the "Player of the Year" and "Most Improved". It was very close for each of these awards. Speaking of being very close, there is a 3 way tie for the "BIG DOG" of the year and we will have a play-off at the Irish Open. The three members who had won the Big Dog twice last year will be in the same group at the Irish Open and will have a play off on the long drive hole of the day.

The Website is now open for event registration, so if you have not done so already, make sure you sign up for our first outing ASAP which is only a few weeks away. Our first event is the Irish Open at Lansdowne and is currently limited to 24 players. Lansdowne has always been a great opener for us, and is an opportunity to play a course that is normally closed to the open public.

Handicaps…. With the scores last season of 40's and a 50, you all know, we had to fix the problem. We've made adjustments and our Handicap Czar Dave Watts will spell it out for you. We think the system is fair and gives everyone an opportunity to WIN.

We need every one to Sign-up, send in their $50.00 membership dues, and get out there on the range and work on your game! Remember the $50.00 memberships, help pay for the trophies and insure we have lots of food at each venue. We are putting together another perpetual trophy for another event this year. Some of the clubs make us put down deposits so we use the memberships dues help with this. Thanks for sending in your membership dues! (Mailing details provided later in this newsletter)

Let's all plan this year to make as many outings as we can and make this a GREAT year for our gold society.

2012 Committee Members:

Special Thanks to Matt Jacobs for his role as 2011 Captain and let's all welcome in the 2012 Captain – Steve Smingler and our new Vice Captain – Jon Fraim. Thanks to everyone who helped plan and worked our events last year. We all appreciate your hard work and dedication! - We welcome those who want to help out.

Here are your 2012 Committee Members:

John Sullivan – Chairman
Paul Tierney – Vice Chairman
Steve Smingler – 2012 Captain
Jon Fraim – 2012 Vice Captain
Brian Hogan – Event Coordinator
Matt Jacobs – Event Coordinator
Bob Caines – Event Coordinator
Dave Watts – Handicap Secretary
Mike Rubin – Event Coordinator/Communications



Pen Pushers Golf Society: 2012 List of Events

Event:	Coordinator:	Dates:	Location:
Irish Open	John Sullivan	March 14th	Lansdowne
Spring Challenge	Mike Rubin	April 18th	Bull Run
British Cup (27 Holes)	John Sullivan	May 9th	Stoneleigh
Founders Trophy	Matt Jacobs	June 20th	Blue Ridge Shadows
Patriots Memorial (27 Holes)	John Sullivan	July 18th	Shenandoah Valley
Summer Championship	Bob Caines	Aug 15th	Loudoun Golf and Country Club
John Denale Memorial Captains Day Challenge	Jon Fraim	Sept 15th	1757 Gulf Club
Autumn Challenge	Paul Tierney	Oct 10th	Hidden Creek
Turkey Shoot-Out	Paul Tierney	Nov 14th	Raspberry Falls

New Course:

Each year we look to change a couple of the courses that we play our events at to add some variety. There are many great courses in our area and we want to eventually play them all. This year we were able to add a fantastic course to our list of outings.

The Autumn Challenge in October will now be hosted at Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston VA. Hidden Creek Country Club is a private club that will be allow Pen Pushers a chance to play one of the finer clubs in Fairfax County. The centerpiece of Hidden Creek is the spectacular Ed Ault signature designed golf course, a classic, playable design that is renowned for its meticulously landscaped tees and greens where beautiful plants and flowers adorn each hole.

The course is located just minutes from Reston Town Center. If you appreciate a classic tree-lined course design in PGA Tour quality condition then it just doesn't get any better than a round at Hidden Creek. The course features bent grass fairways and greens.



16th Hole at Hidden Creek

After three solid opening holes where better players will be hunting for early birdies, the difficulty meter at Hidden Creek ratchets up significantly on holes four, five, and six. Hole four is 476 yards from the back tees—and it's a par four. Hole five is perhaps the finest hole on the course, a 571 yard par-5 with a stream crossing the fairway close to the lay-up area for third shots. Big hitters may be able to get close in two but most will have to think seriously about their second shot. Three good shots on the way to the green may set up a birdie but one mistake and a big number looms. The sixth hole is another big par-4, 473 yards from the tips. A creek bisects the hole and comes dangerously close to the right side of the fairway near the green. Four feels like a birdie.

Once members have successfully dealt with this corner, the course offers a little more breathing room—yet the creek is an ever-present hazard that must be given a wide berth at all times. For example, many members think birdie when they tee it up on the par-5 11th hole, a modest 496 from the back tees and 471 from the regular tees. Yet those who are going to go for the green with their second shot must negotiate the stream—only it's just in front of the green here. The green on the par-3 15th is just next to the Potomac Dining Room in the clubhouse so for those who enjoy a gallery, this might be your favorite hole. And Hidden Creek's finish is a sporty three-hole loop that provides plenty of opportunity for a really terrible finish or a heroic one—perfect for the end of a hard-fought game.

Hidden Creek is now scheduled for our Autumn Challenge on October10th, so the leaves will be turning and it should be a great venue for us this year.

2012 New Outing Rates:

We are "Fixing" the costs of all the outings this year. Each outing will be priced at $80.00. This should help out with speed of registration (exact change) and keep costs consistent throughout the year. Each year the courses have bumped up their costs for Food and Greens fees. We have done everything we can to make your golf day enjoyable and still be cost effective for the quality of courses we have on our schedule. Please help us out by making sure you have exact change for each event.

2012 Handicap Adjustments:

by Dave Watts (Handicap Czar)

The minimum handicap is 0 and the maximum is 36. As in the past, the monthly event winner's handicap is adjusted -3 strokes as well as -0.3 strokes for each point scored above 36 points. For the beginning of the 2012 season we will adjust a member's raw handicap +1 stroke for each point where the rounded average 2011 score (3 event minimum) is below 30 points. We will adjust a member's raw handicap -1 stroke for each point where the rounded average 2011 scores (1 event minimum) is above 36 points. Raw handicaps are rounded for use at each event.

We will continue the monthly handicap adjustment used in the latter half of 2011. Monthly handicap adjustments equal +0.1 stroke adjustment for every point scored at that event that is below 36 and -0.1 stroke adjustment for every point scored at that event that is above 36, added to your prior month raw handicap. A score of 36 incurs no handicap adjustment unless that player is the event winner.

The purpose of all of the handicap adjustments is to bring the members handicaps in line with their Stableford scores and create a level playing field where all members have a chance to win the event.

For example: Your handicap is 18.4. You score 28 points at the March event playing off of 18 as your rounded handicap. You receive an adjustment equal to (36-28) * (0.1). Your handicap adjustment for April is 18.4 + 0.8 = 19.2. We round down from 0.1 to 0.4, so you play at a 19 handicap at the next event in April. Your adjustment following the April event will be based on the raw handicap score of 19.2.

The handicap czar reserves the right to make all handicap rule interpretations and rule changes and arbitrary adjustments are made to the handicaps of those members who whine and moan about the rules or their handicaps.

2010 Season Awards:

((To be announced and awarded at the Irish Open))

1. Player of the Year
2. "Big Dog" Long Drive Hitter
3. "Birdie Master", most birdies for the year
4. Putting Champ
5. Most Improved
6. Grand Prix Winner



2011 Recap of Event Results:



Location:	Date:	Champion	Goat Boy	Long Drive
Lansdowne	3/16/2011	John Kravatz	Dave Beachamp	John Kravatz
Reston National	4/13/2011	Paul Tierney	Brian Hogan	Jon Fraim
Stoneleigh	5/18/2011	Chris Cowman	Paul Tierney	Bob Caines
Blue Ridge Shadows	6/15/2011	Brian Hogan	Steve Smingler	Ruben Ortiz
Shenandoah Valley	7/20/2011	Todd Davis	Bob Caines	Phong Peverall
Loudoun Golf and Country Club	8/17/2011	Steve Smingler	Eric Kenneweg	Bob Caines
1757 Gulf Club	9/14/2011	Paul Tierney	David Watts	Blaine Keyser
Beaver Creek	10/19/2011	Jon Fraim	Glenn Skillman	John Kravatz
Raspberry Falls	11/10/2011	Brian Hogan	Doug Kim	Phong Peverall





Upcoming Events and Activities:

Location: Lansdowne Golf Course, Norman Course
Date: **March 14th, 2012 (Wednesday)**
Time: 10:00 – 11:00 Registration, Putting Competition, driving range,
11:00am Tee off

Prizes, Awards and Meal: (Directly after the golf – as usual)
Champion, Long Drive, Closest to the Pin, Goat-boy, Putting Champion
Entry Fee: $80 - Includes Golf, Practice Range, Prizes, Awards, and Food
Event Registration: Use web site if you are a member,
or call John Sullivan at (703) 622-0084

Registration Cut-off: March 11th
Lansdowne is still a private course. Only "special events" allow non-members to play there. So, this is a rare opportunity to play a course that is not open to the general public. We are urging everyone to bring a guest, who would be a potential member,

So... **find a golf buddy and talk him into joining us for a great day.**

Other Interesting Historical Stats:

Statistic	Score / #	Name	Year	Course
Lowest Goat boy*	1	John Denale	2002	Bull Run
Highest Goat boy	29	Dave Watts	2004	Stoneleigh
Lowest Champion*	16	Jed Fotchman	2002	Bull Run
Highest Champion	50	Todd Davis	2011	Shenandoah
Total # Championship's	5	John Denale Mike Fallon	N/A	N/A
Total # Goat boys	8	Paul Tierney	N/A	N/A
Total # Closest to Pin	7	Steve Pera	N/A	N/A
Total # Long Drives	7	Ken Tucker	N/A	N/A
Total # Putting Championships	6	Larry Brooks	N/A	N/A
* 9 Hole Event				

Pen Pushers Local Rules for Lost Balls:

by Steve Smingler – 2012 Captain

*** In the interest of saving time we have adopted this Local Rule for all Pen Pusher Events so time is not wasted going back to the previous position and hitting a second ball, or spending excessive time searching for lost balls. ***

26-PP.1 - Relief for Ball Lost "Through the Green or Out of Bounds" - 1 Stroke Penalty

If a ball is deemed to be lost **Through the Green, Out of Bounds, or otherwise**, the player shall drop a ball (under penalty of **ONE** stoke) within **2 club lengths** of the spot where the ball was last seen in play (no nearer the hole). *If the spot to play from is in question, the remaining members of the group will determine the spot to play from - majority rules.*

What this really means is if you hit your tee ball 250 yards into the rough, tree line or Out of Bounds but it crossed into the rough, tree line or Out of Bounds 150 yards down the fairway you should play within **2 club lengths** (no nearer the hole) of the 150 yard spot that it crossed the margin of the rough, tree line or Out of Bounds - **NOT WHERE YOU THINK IT ENDED UP**. This is just like the lateral water hazard rule. If this was your tee shot, you would then be hitting your (3rd) third shot after the drop.

The player may also play a provisional ball **before leaving the area from where the previous ball had been struck after declaring such to his playing partners**. If this provisional ball then becomes the ball in play the player will only incur the one stroke and distance penalty. If this was your tee shot, you would then be hitting your (4th) forth shot from where the second tee ball landed.

In the interest of Speed of Play, if you lose a 2nd ball on the hole you should assess your potential to score a point and pick up if you are no longer able to score a point, and ***accept your Blob like a man***.

2011 - Membership Renewals

It's that time of the year again! It's important for the funding of the upcoming events to get renewal fees collected ASAP. Thanks for taking care of this straight away!

- **Past Members:** We have activated your account for registration on the website for 2012 events. You can now go to the web site and register for events. Call or e-mail Paul Tierney if you forgot your log on ID and PASSWORD. If you register for the Irish Open you can pay annual dues then. Otherwise, please send an e-mail with your intent to be a member to: jksully@hotmail.com , and mail your check as described below. **For your GUESTS**: e-mail guest information to the same address, and/or call John Sullivan.
- **New Members:** Send your contact information: Name; Postal Address; E-mail; Phone(s); who nominated you, Handicap, etc., with $50 check to the address below.
- **Annual Membership Dues: $50** (Still the greatest golf value in America!)
- **Checks should be made out to: John Sullivan**
- **Mailed to: Pen Pushers of America: C/O John Sullivan**
  19836 Frasier Hill Lane
  Bluemont, VA 20135

- It would be greatly appreciated if you could mail in your dues ASAP or better yet, bring them to the first outing. Thanks!

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