2018 Season Opener Newsletter

Pen Pushers of America

Golf Society

www.penpushers.us



Welcome to the Pen Pushers of America's 17th season. We hope everyone has been getting ready for our first outing of the season, the Irish open March 21st at Lansdowne.

Your 2018 committee met in January and have finalized the schedule of events for our 2018 season (attached later in this Newsletter). Last year we continued to increase the membership and turnout levels at events. We averaged over 30 players per event and hope to increase that to our target number of 40 players per event for 2018. We are looking forward to having everyone back and hope to continue the trend with adding more members this year. Let's all continue to help by spreading the word and bring guests to outings. Keeping the outings numbers up helps us guarantee good price rates with the courses and lets us schedule shotgun starts. This allows us to play quicker and have less waiting around.



Topics of interest in this Newsletter: (Please read it all)

- 2018 Committee Members
- 2018 Event Schedule
- Speed of Play Rules
- 2018 Membership Dues and Event Fees
- 2018 Season Awards
- Season Opener Event Registration
- Ryan Bartel Foundation Charity
- 2018 Myrtle Beach Golf Trip: November
- Ocean City Golf Trip
- 2018 Handicap Adjustment Changes
- Recap of 2017 Event Results
- Other Interesting Historical Stats
- Photo Gallery

The Website is now open for event registration, so if you have not done so already, make sure you sign up ASAP for our first outing which is only a few weeks away. We will expect a good showing so… Go now and register for this great opportunity to play a course that is normally closed to the public.

2018 Committee Members:

Special thanks to Shane Langdon for his role as 2017 Captain. Let's all welcome in the 2018 Captain Shane Langdon and our new Vice Captain Gary Vanderheiden. Thanks to everyone who helps plan and work at our events. Without these volunteer's hard work and dedication, we would not have our Golf Society.



John Sullivan – Chairman / Event Director
Paul Tierney – Vice Chairman / (Web Master) Event Director
Bob Caines – Event Director
Shane Langdon - 2018 Captain
Gary Vanderheiden – Vice Captain
Steve Smingler - Handicap Czar
Brian Hogan– Event Director
Jon Fraim – Event Director
Mike Rubin –Communications / Event Director

Pen Pushers Golf Society: 2018 List of Events

Event	Coordinator:	Date	Location
Irish Open	Sullivan/Hogan	3/21/2018	Landsdowne
Spring Challenge	Rubin	4/11/2018	Bull Run
British Cup	Sullivan/Hogan	5/9/2018	Stoneleigh
Founders Trophy	Hogan	6/14/2018	Heritage Hunt Golf and Country
Patriots Memorial	Sullivan/Hogan	7/18/2018	Shenandoah
Summer Championship	Caines	8/9/2018	Loudoun Golf & Country Club
John Denale Memorial	Fraim/Hogan	9/12/2018	Dominion Valley Country Club
Autumn Challenge	Hogan/Tierney	10/10/2018	River Creek
Turkey Shoot-Out	Tierney/Hogan	11/1/2018	Raspberry Falls

Speed of Play: (Big focus this year . . . again)





We don't want to see this anymore!

Over the past few years we have been trying to make some adjustments to the way we run our events to improve the speed of play. A round of golf should not take more than 4 ½ hours, and never more than 5 hours. Last year, all of our rounds took more than 5 hours and we need to improve on this.

Our special Pen Pushers rules for Speed of Play are as follows:

1) **3 Minute Max Time for lost ball search (Special Pen Pusher Rule)**
    a. Once you arrive at the location where you believe you hit your ball, you have 3 minutes to find your ball. After 3 minutes, if you have not found your ball, you **MUST** take a 1 stroke penalty drop a ball, in bounds, where you feel the ball went. Even if it went out of bounds, Drop it, in bounds, and continue to play. For Pen Pushers (Special Rule), lost ball and out of bounds penalty are the same, ONE STROKE.

2) **Mandatory "Blob" pick up rule**
    a. If you have played so many shots on a hole that you cannot score any Stableford points, you are asked to pick up your ball and support the rest of the players in your group while they finish the hole.
3) **Slow Pace Penalty**
    a. This year Course Rangers have been authorized to apply a "Move to next Hole" penalty for those members who are behind a hole. Those individuals who at the start of a hole will be asked to skip to next hole and will receive a blob for the penalty hole.

2018 Myrtle Beach Golf Trip: November

For the past few years we have joined a larger group event held in Myrtle Beach. It is organized by USA Veterans Administration employees and retirees. The event is always scheduled around the national holiday (Veteran's Day). The event format includes both individual and team categories and is a great golf value with accommodations, golf, breakfast, lunch and beer deals. This year Veteran's Day is on Sunday, November 11th, so the 4 day event will be happening around that weekend and is likely to be the 9th, 10th 11th, and 12th. Event details and dates will be confirmed as we get into the season and we will provide those details when they are available. Typically, the deposit and registration cut-off dates are in early September. More details to follow by early summer.

2018 Spring Ocean City Golf Trip

Shane Langdon is looking to organize a Spring Ocean City Golf Trip. Here are some possible dates and costs for the trip.

- 3/23 to 25 – Rum Pointe, War Admiral, Lighthouse – 2 Queen Beds city view – 2 golfers in each room = $280/golfer
- 4/13 to 15 – Rum Pointe, War Admiral, Lighthouse – 2 Queen Beds city view – 2 golfers in each room = $430/golfer
- 4/13 to 15 – Rum Pointe, Man O War, Lighthouse – 2 Queen Beds city view – 2 golfers in each room = $400/golfer

Accommodations
http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/sbyoc-courtyard-ocean-city-oceanfront/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2

Courses
https://lighthousesound.com/
http://glenriddlegolf.com/

If there is interest? Shane is looking for 8-16 guys to make this trip happen. Contact Shane at:
slangdon@mvbmortgage.com
Cell: 571-328-1634

2017 Season Awards:

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

2017 Tour Champion

The Pen Pushers Tour Champion is our version of the FedEx Cup for our 9-event tour, and is scored with the Grand Prix point system. The top 15 finishers in each of our events receive points, 15 for 1st place, 14 for 2nd, and so on. The member with the most total points for the season is our tour champion. In the event of a tie the committee selects the winner based on a tie breaker process.



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Other Annual Awards include:

- "**Big Dog**" Long Drive Hitter
- Birdie Master (most birdies for the season)
- Mean Green Machine
- Putting Master
- Perfect Attendance (made it to all 9 events)
- Most Improved

Here are all the 2016 Tour Winners from last year. Congratulations to all!

Stat	1st Place	#	2nd Place	#	3rd Place	#
Tour Championship Winner	Gary Pulino					
Total Best 5 Stableford Scores	Gary Pulino	198	John Sullivan	195	Pedro Lopez	192
Total Best 5 Grand Prix Scores	Gary Pulino	60	John Sullivan	55	Larry Newell	54
Highest Average Finish w/ 5 events	Gary Pulino	8.6	H K Jun	8.9	Larry Newell/Michael HG	9
Highest Total Stableford Points	Gary Pulino	328	Bob Caines	312	John Sullivan	305
Highest Total Grand Prix Points	Gary Pulino	67	Bob Caines	58	H K Jun	56
Total Wins						
	9 Different Winners	1				
Total Birdies		18	Craig Collins	10		
	Gary Pulino		Larry Newell	10	H K Jun	9
Big Dog	Jon Fraim	3				
Mean Green Machine	Shane Langdon	2				
Putting Master	John Sullivan	3				
Most Events Attended	Kenny Engram	9	Shane Langdon	8	HK Jun	7
	Bob Caines		Bill Brown		Pedro Lopez	
	Jon Fraim		Craig Collins		Larry Newell	
	Brian Hogan		Chris Eller		Mike Volpe	
	Gary Pulino		Kibok Lee			
	Manny Rodrigez		Steve Smingler			
	John Sullivan		Gary Vanderheiden			

Charity - Ryan Bartel Foundation – Shane Langdon

https://www.ryanbartelfoundation.org/

As you all know, we have made a collective push to raise money for a charitable cause. I am proud to be a small part in raising funds through our unique golf society for the Ryan Bartel Foundation, a foundation that spreads awareness and advocates for educational programs and activities supporting suicide prevention in Loudoun County. We did an awesome job last year in collecting just shy of $1,000 in 2017, and I want to thank everyone who participated! This year we have higher hopes, and with that comes a new way of asking for your donations. We will ask that an additional $10 be DONATED at the time that the money is collected for each event, making the monthly total $90 for each event. This will not be mandatory, but if we get just 90% participation, we anticipate raising an additional $2,500 for the charity in 2018. It is also optional to write checks payable to The Ryan Bartel Foundation, which is a 501© (3) organization has a tax ID 47-5129027, for those of you that may want the tax write off for donations.

Upcoming Events and Activities:

The Irish Open



Location:	Lansdowne Golf Course, Norman Course
Date:	**March 21st , 2018 (Wednesday)**
Time:	9:00 – 10:00 Registration, Putting Competition, driving range 10:00am Tee off
Prizes, Awards and Meal:	(Directly after the golf – as usual) Champion, Long Drive, Closest to the Pin, Goat-boy, Putting Champion, and Lion Man
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 17th 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.



2018 Membership Dues and Outing Fees:

You should all know that Pen Pushers of America is a not-for-profit, fully volunteer managed and operated Golf Society. There are no paid employees here. Our goal is to create a golf experience for our members that is fun, challenging, fair, competitive, and rewarding, with members who are fun to play, and all at the best possible cost value to our members. Our events are funded in two ways, 1) membership dues, and 2) event registration fees. In recent years, as a result of members asking to play "nicer courses", we have added a few higher end courses which has challenged our funding budgets. We also try to make the prizes and awards as nice as possible, but it is always a challenge to balance the cost with the value.

Having said all of this, we still feel that we have created the best golf value in America. . . .

We will continue this year with our "Fixed Rate", of $80.00 for each event registration fee.
Annual Membership Dues: will also be $80.00 for the season of 9 events.

2018 - 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 2018 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: penpushers@gmail.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 $80 check to the address below.

Annual Membership Dues: $80 (Still the greatest golf value in America!)
Checks should be made out to: **Pen Pushers/John Sullivan**

Mailed to:

Pen Pushers of America: C/O John Sullivan
19836 Frasier Hill Lane
Bluemont, VA 20145-2032

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

2018 Handicap Adjustments: - *Steve Smingler Handicap Czar*

At the beginning of each year, we review the handicaps and the past season's scores of each member for potential handicap adjustments. The minimum handicap is 0 and the maximum is 36. For the beginning of the 2018 season we will adjust a member's raw handicap +1 stroke for each point where the rounded average 2017 scores (3 event minimum) is below 30 points (Maximum Adjustment will be 2 points up). We will adjust a member's raw handicap -1 stroke for each point where the rounded average 2017 scores (1 event minimum) is above 36 points. Raw handicaps are rounded for use at each event.

For 2018 the monthly adjustment for the winners and non-winners will be on a graduating scale based on handicap. For the monthly adjustment we will use the average score for that event minus the high and low scores (Avg. Score). The Average Score is a better indication of the course difficulty and weather conditions. This is the same method used in 2017 for monthly adjustments.

Monthly Winners Handicap (HC) will be adjusted based on the players HC for that event as follows:

Beginning HC 0 to 10.4 -2 and -.1 per point over Avg. Score
Beginning HC 10.5 to 20.4 -3 and -.2 per point over Avg. Score
Beginning HC 20.5 to 30.4 -4 and -.3 for points over Avg. Score
Beginning HC 30.5 to 36 -6 and -.4 for points over Avg. Score

Non-winners HC will be adjusted by the same tenths of a points system as above based on HC for that event for scores above or below Avg. Score. The monthly adjustment will be limited to +/- 5 times the appropriate tenths of a point adjustment. A score of Avg. score, less high and low score, incurs no handicap adjustment unless that player is the event winner. These adjustments are made because it is much easier for a higher handicapper to shoot 5 to 10 points better than their handicap than it is for a lower handicapper.

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.** We had 9 different winners last year!!!

Steve Smingler, 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.

Lion Man Awards



During our 2015 season, we added a new monthly award, the **"LION MAN AWARD"** The Lion Man is the person who scored **The Low Gross Score of the Day**, or the best golfer of the day**.** In the past, we elected to only allow the Lion Man to win once per season. Last year we changed this rule removing this restriction to allow the Lion Man to win as many events as he can! Gary Pulino took won the award 4 times and HK twice. Congratulations to our GRRRREAT Lion Men!

Here were the 2017 Lion Man Winners:



LION MEN Winners	Event	Lion Man Winner	Gross Score
	Irish Open	Gary Pulino	82
	Spring Challenge	Shane Langdon	75
	British Cup	HK Jun	75
	Founders Trophy	Gary Pulino	76
	Patriots Memorial	Gary Pulino	77
	Summer Championship	Larry Newell	77
	John Denale Memorial - Captains Day Challenge	Kibok Lee	76
	Autumn Challenge	Gary Pulino	75
	Turkey Shoot-Out	HK Jun	77

New Venue for Autumn Challenge - River Creek Country Club



Our Autumn Challenge Trophy event moves its new venue this year River Creek Country Club.

Course Description

The essence of great Leesburg golf is what you'll find at River Creek Club. The course offers a challenging 18-hole Ault-Clark championship Leesburg golf course with seven holes overlooking the scenic Potomac River. Elevated tees, groomed fairways and greens, as well as a fair number of hazards, traps and woods help characterize one of Northern Virginia's most award-winning golf course communities and this the best of Leesburg golf courses.



Combining quality, design and unparalleled services, River Creek is sure to become your favorite Leesburg golf getaway for all of your corporate and leisure gatherings. Our course provides a challenging round with all of the elements you would expect from a golf course Leesburg golfers love to frequent. Designed in the spirit and tradition of the finest private country club courses, River Creek plays 5,241 to 7,036 yards from four sets of tees and is sure to please golfers of all kinds.

For more information visit River Creek on the web: http://www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/River-Creek-Club

2017 Recap of Event Results:

Event	Irish Open	Spring Challenge	British Cup	Founders Trophy	Patriots Memorial	Summer Championship	John Denale Memorial - Captains Day Challenge	Autumn Challenge	Turkey Shoot-Out
Location	**Lansdowne**	**Bull Run**	**Stoneleigh**	**Heritage Hunt Country Club**	**Shenandoah Valley**	**Loudoun Golf and Country Club**	**Dominion Valley Country Club**	**Hidden Creek**	**Raspberry Falls**
Date	**Mar 22, 2017**	**Apr 12, 2017**	**May 17, 2017**	**Jun 8, 2017**	**Jul 19, 2017**	**Aug 10, 2017**	**Sep 13, 2017**	**Oct 11, 2017**	**Nov 1, 2017**
Champion	**Manny Rodriguez**	**Shane Langdon**	**HK Jun**	**Bill Brown**	**Todd Davis**	**Larry Newell**	**Kibok Lee**	**Subash Penmetsa**	**John Sullivan**
Champion Points	**46**	**45**	**46**	**44**	**44**	**41**	**42**	**44**	**44**
Goat Boy	**Matt Jacobs**	**Bill Brown**	**Kevin McNerney**	**HK Jun**	**Vince Coyle**	**Geoffrey Jones**	**John Sullivan**	**John Kravatz**	**Gary Vanderheiden**
Goat Boy Points	**12**	**26**	**11**	**21**	**25**	**17**	**17**	**22**	**22**
Long Drive (BIG DOG)	**Trevor Davidson**	**Shane Langdon**	**Steve Davidson**	**HK Jun**	**Shane Langdon**	**Darryl Oliver**	**Brian Hogan**	**Chris Nielsen**	**Shane Langdon**
Closest to the Pin	**Chris Eller**	**Kibok Lee**	**Kibok Lee**	**Bob Caines**	**Gary Pulino**	**Paul Sutara**	**Gary Vanderheiden**	**Kibok Lee**	**Gary Pulino**
Putting Champion	**Chris Swanson**	**Shane Langdon**	**John Sullivan**	**Gary Pulino**	**Gary Pulino**	**Kibok Lee**	**Gary Pulino**	**Chris Eller**	**Craig Collins**
Lion Man	**Gary Pulino**	**Shane Langdon**	**HK Jun**	**Gary Pulino**	**Gary Pulino**	**Larry Newell**	**Kibok Lee**	**Gary Pulino**	**HK Jun**
Lion Man Raw Score	**82**	**75**	**75**	**76**	**77**	**77**	**76**	**75**	**77**

Other Interesting Historical Stats:

	Score / #	Name	Year	Course
Lowest Goatboy	1	John Denale	2002	Bull Run
Highest Goatboy	29	Dave Watts	2004	Stoneleigh
		Bob Caines	2011	Shenandoah
		Subash Penmetsa	2015	Loudoun
Lowest Champion	16	Jed Fotchman	2002	Bull Run
Highest Champion	50	Todd Davis	2011	Shenandoah
		Dave Watts	2012	Bull Run
Lowest Score	0	Vernon Hardy	2002	Bull Run
Total # Championships	7	Subash Penmetsa		
		John Sullivan		
Total # Goatboys	10	Paul Tierney		
Total # Closest to Pin	8	John Sullivan		
Total # Long Drives	18	Jon Fraim		
Total # Putting Championships	11	Gary Pulino		
Total # Lion Men	6	Gary Pulino		

Perpetual Trophies:

We have a perpetual trophy for each of our nine events. All the past winners are captured on each trophy. Congratulations to all those Pen Pushers winners!

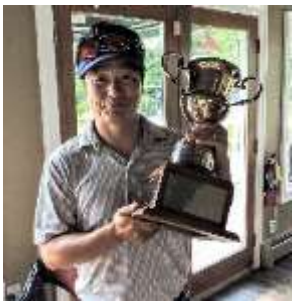
Here are last year's winners holding all the Perpetual Trophies:



March
Irish Open
Manny Rodriguez



April
Spring Challenge
Shane Langdon



May
British Cup
HK Jun



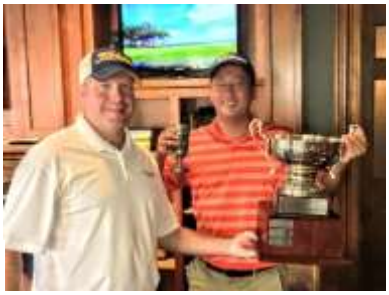
June
Founders Trophy
Bill Brown



July
Patriots Memorial
Todd Davis



August
Summer
Championship
Larry Newell



September - Captain's Day
Challenge John Denale
Memorial
Kibok Lee



October
Autumn Challenge
Subash Penmetsa



November
Turkey Shoot-Out
John Sullivan

Photo Gallery: (Click on picture)

Irish Open 	**Spring Challenge** 	**British Cup** 
Founders Trophy 	**Patriots Memorial** 	**Summer Championship** 
John Denale Memorial 	**Autumn Challenge** 	**Turkey Shoot-Out** 