2020 Season Opener Newsletter

Pen Pushers of America

Golf Society

www.penpushers.us

Welcome to the Pen Pushers of America's 19th season. We hope everyone has been getting ready for our first outing of the season, the Irish open March 18th at Lansdowne.



2019 Pen Pushers Group Photo – (Find your ugly mug……)

Your 2020 Pen Pushers Committee Members met January 15th and has finalized the schedule of events for our 2020 season (attached later in this Newsletter). The meeting was well attended with 11 members and included our newest member and Vice-Captain Pedro Lopez.

If you are new to PenPushers, please read through this newsletter as it contains a bunch of important information about the 2020 season and our events. If you are a "regular PenPusher" you should also read on as we have a few changes this year and you don't want to get caught not knowing, (like the max number of players per event to be limited to 40 players…..) YES, READ ON OR GET LEFT OUT…….

The Committee has put together another great schedule of events for this season, on some fantastic courses!
The Tradition Continues in 2020, Enjoy it!

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

- 2020 Committee Members
- 2020 Event Schedule
- Rules Review
- 2020 Membership Dues and Event Fees
- 2018 Season Awards
- Ryan Bartel Foundation Charity
- Ocean City Golf Trip
- 2020 Handicap Adjustment Changes
- Recap of 2019 Event Results
- Other Interesting Historical Stats
- Perpetual Trophies
- 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.

2020 Committee Members:

Special thanks to Gary Vanderheiden for his role as 2019 Captain. Let's all welcome in the 2020 Captain Chris Eller and our new Vice Captain Pedro Lopez.

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.



Pedro Lopez
Vice-Captain



Chris Eller
Captain

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

Pen Pushers Golf Society: 2020 List of Events

Event	Date	Location	Coordinator:	Holes	Cost	TeeTime
Irish Open	3/18/2020	Lansdowne	**Sullivan/Hogan**	18	80	10:00am
Spring Challenge	4/15/2020	Bull Run Golf Club	**Rubin**	18	80	9:00am
British Cup	5/20/2020	Stoneleigh	**Sullivan/Hogan**	18	80	10:00am
Founders Trophy	6/12/2020	Heritage Hunt Golf and Country	**Hogan**	18	80	10:00am
Patriots Memorial	7/15/2020	Shenandoah	**Sullivan/Hogan**	27	80	9:00am
Summer Championship	8/20/2020	Loudoun Golf & Country Club	**Caines**	18	80	10:00am
John Denale Memorial	9/15/2020	Piedmont Club	**Fraim/Hogan**	18	80	10:00am
Autumn Challenge	10/21/2020	River Creek	**Caines/Hogan**	18	80	12:00pm
Turkey Shoot-Out	11/11/2020	Raspberry Falls	**Tierney/Hogan**	18	80	10:00am

RULES Review!

Last year we adopted many of the new USGA rules that went into effect.

The Pen Pushers have a few rules of their own and we thought that it might be nice to review them for you.

SCORING – Yes, we still play by scoring the by the Stableford Scoring rules. It is modified to give 2 points for a Net Par, 1 Point for a Net Bogie, 3 Points for Net Birdie, 4 Points for Net Eagle and 5 Points for a Net Albatross. (Double Eagle).

No GIMME's - Pen Pushers all must PUT OUT. The exception to this rule is if you can not score any points on the hole then the rule is PICK UP. GIMME's help with speed of play, but the pickup rule speeds things even faster!

LOST BALL/ OUT OF BOUNDS – IF you hit a ball out of bounds or lose your ball the penalty is the same **ONE STROKE**. Out of bounds and lost ball has the two options: Drop the ball in the vicinity of where the ball is lost or out of bounds (Nearest fairway area) or re-hit ball from previous spot (Stroke and Distance). We prefer whichever is the quickest due to speed of play. REMEMBER YOU ONLY HAVE **3 MINUTES** TO FIND A BALL

Thank you all for

2020 Spring Ocean City Golf Trip – Shane Langdon

This year Shane Langdon is putting together an Ocean City MD Golf Trip. The Tentative Dates are April 3, Friday – April 5, Sunday. We will play three rounds on the trip, at Lighthouse Sound, Man O War and War Admiral. All Great Ocean City Courses!
Plans are for Beachfront Condo Accommodations Around $450 per golfer. Let Shane Langdon know ASAP if you are interested.

List of 2018 Winners and Tour Champion announced 2019

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.

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**



2018Tour Champion Winner
Steve Smingler

If you remember at our first event last year, we gave out all the awards for the 2018 year. At our first event this year, the Irish open, awards we will announce the 2019 season awards and the 2019 Tour Champion.

Here was our list of winners we announced last year for the 2018 season. Congratulations to all!

	1st Place	#	2nd Place	#	3rd Place	#
Tour Championship Winner	Steve Smingler	81				
Total Best 5 Stableford Scores	Steve Smingler	185	Darrell Oliver	180	Gary Vanderheiden	178
Total Best 5 Grand Prix Scores	Steve Smingler	73	Ralph Tener	52	Pedro Lopez	50
Highest Average Finish w/ 5 events	Steve Smingler	7.5	Jon Fraim	8.8	Shane Langdon	9.5
Highest Total Stableford Points	Jon Fraim	296	Bill Brown	289	Larry Newell	284
Highest Total Grand Prix Points	Steve Smingler	81	Jon Fraim	65	Ralph Tener	54
Total Wins						
	9 Different Winners	1				
Total Birdies		10 Birds & 2 Eagles	Gary Pulino	13		
	Kibok Lee		Larry Newell	10	Shane Langdon	9
Big Dog	Brian Hogan	3	6 others at 1 each			
Mean Green Machine	Larry Newell & Craig Collins	2	5 others with 1 each			
Putting Master	Martine Gidoni	3	Pedro Lopez	2	4 others at 1 each	
Most Events Attended	Bill Brown	9	Bob Caines	8	Gary Pulino	7
	Jon Fraim		Kenny Engram		Joe Radakovich	
	Kibok Lee		Michael HG			
	Pedro Lopez		Darryl Oliver			
	Larry Newell		Mike Rubin			
	Gary Vanderheiden		Steve Smingler			
			John Sullivan			
			Ralph Tener			
Most Lion Man Wins	Shane Langdon	3	Kibok Lee	2		
			Larry Newell	2		
			Gary Pulino	2		
Most Improved	Jon Fraim					

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 2018, and last year with the 50/50 raffle we collected a whole lot more! We want to thank everyone who participated! We will be presenting our donation check to the Ryan Bartel Foundation as part of the Irish Open presentation.

Here is Suzie and Ben Bartel's story:

Ryan was our oldest son who took his own life on October 15th, 2014, just 3 months shy of his 18th birthday. As we have struggled to come to terms with our family's tragedy, we have learned all too painfully that youth suicide is not uncommon, and the statistics are alarming.

Suicide is now the 2nd leading cause of death in ages 15-19 and rose 56% between 2007-2017 reaching a 40-year high. In that time period the suicide rate for 10-14-year old's also tripled*. While every tragic story behind these statistics is unique, many will include depression and feelings of low self-esteem and self-worth. Ryan belonged to that group, and we owe it to him to do whatever we can to try and prevent others from going through the same terrible experience. Our goal is to create something positive out of his unimaginable tragedy.

Ryan had a passion from an early age for history and all things military. He was loved and respected by his family and his diverse groups of friends, yet he struggled with low self-esteem, having grown up with his own personal challenges and generally feeling like he did not 'fit in', often experiencing the brutal attacks of bullying. He loved nature and often sought its refuge, enjoying the tranquility, beauty and purity of an environment that supports all living things.

Ryan's experiences led him to believe that no one should be labeled or judged at face value because every person is unique, has value and deserves respect. In his quiet, kind, often humorous and very unique way, he spent the last few years of his life reaching out to those who felt different or were going through personal struggles like himself, because as he aptly said many times, 'in the end we're all human".

We've founded the Ryan Bartel Foundation therefore on Ryan's very basic principle that everyone deserves acceptance and that we need to provide resources and hope for youth who struggle with self-esteem and motivation to live.

Our objectives are:

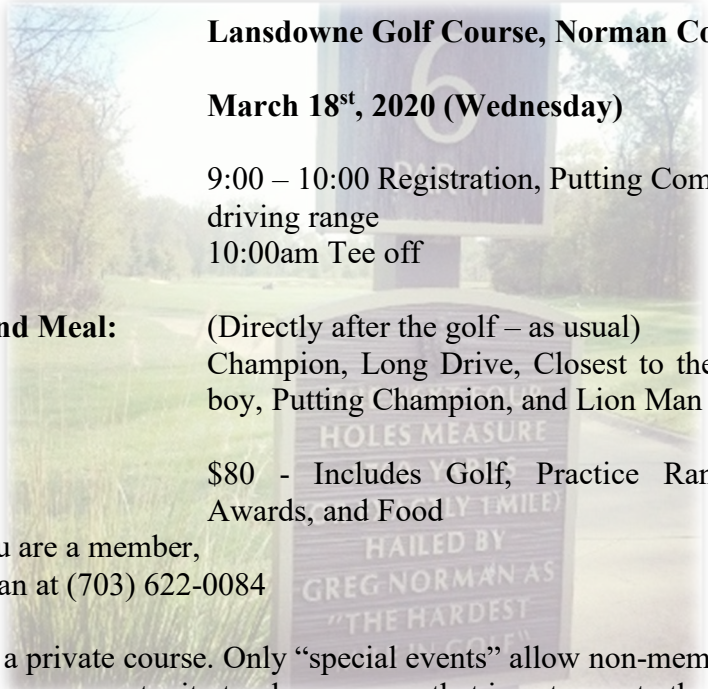
- To break the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide through communication and positive outreach in our communities.
- To create a culture where everyone matters.
- To facilitate connections among youth and with trusted adults.
- To empower youth to seek help for themselves and help others.
- To provide evidence-based programs to build resiliency for coping with life's challenges; and
- To support youth-inspired activities to foster self-purpose, belonging and hope.

Ultimately, we want to become a center for educational programs, activities, information, resources and support for those who struggle so that they can go from feeling hopeless to hopeful about life.

The Ryan Bartel Foundation is registered as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Tax ID 47-5129027.

*https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide/fastfact.html

Upcoming Events and Activities: The Irish Open



Location:	**Lansdowne Golf Course, Norman Course**
Date:	**March 18st, 2020 (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

Use web site if you are a member,
or call John Sullivan at (703) 622-0084

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.

2020 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.

2020 - 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 2020 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!

2020 Handicap Adjustments (Same as Last Year's Method) : -

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 2020 season we will adjust a member's raw handicap +1 stroke for each point where the rounded average 2019 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 2019 scores (1 event minimum) is above 36 points. Raw handicaps are rounded for use at each event.

For 2020 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 2019 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**. Again, last year 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



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, each of our winners won the award more than once with Gary Pulino and Willie Merida winning the three times. Gary Pulino now has the distinction of winning it the most with 11 wins to his total. Congratulations to our GRRRREAT Lion Men!

LION MEN Winners	Event	Lion Man Winner	Gross Score
	Irish Open	Gary Pulino	78
	Spring Challenge	Gary Pulino	74
	British Cup	Larry Newell	83
	Founders Trophy	Williebaldo Merida	75
	Patriots Memorial	Williebaldo Merida	69
	Summer Championship	Williebaldo Merida	74
	John Denale Memorial - Captains Day Challenge	Craig Collins	75
	Autumn Challenge	Chris Eller	74
	Turkey Shoot-Out	Gary Pulino	74

Here were the 2019 Lion Man Winners

2019 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	Piedmont Club	Hidden Creek	Raspberry Falls
Date	3/20/19	4/10/19	5/15/19	6/20/19	7/17/19	8/8/19	9/10/19	10/9/19	11/6/19
Champion	Dennis Peredo	Brian Friedman	Ron Bryce	Williebaldo Merida	Forrest Miles	Martine Gidoni	Bob Caines	Chris Eller	Gary Vanderheiden
Champion Points	40	41	35	38	42	40	44	46	43
Goat Boy	Gary Vanderheiden	Daniel Whiteash	Bob Caines	Mike Rubin	Todd Davis	Bill Brown	Darrele Oliver	Craig Collins	Shane Langdon
Goat Boy Points	16	21	19	21	19	20	11	25	23
Long Drive (BIG DOG)	Chris Nielsen	Brian Hogan	Jon Fraim	Kibok Lee	Gary Pulino	Brian Hogan	Brad Cooper	Jon Fraim	David Kennedy
Closest to the Pin	Bob Caines	Brian Friedman	Chris Eller	Ralph Tener	Todd Davis	Ross Charles	Jon Fraim (ACE)	Jon Fraim	Gary Pulino
Putting Champion	Gary Pulino	Gary Vanderheiden	Kibok Lee	Williebaldo Merida	Gary Pulino	Forrest Miles	Gary Pulino	Dennis Peredo	Martine Gidoni
Lion Man	Gary Pulino	Gary Pulino	Larry Newell	Williebaldo Merida	Williebaldo Merida	Williebaldo Merida	Craig Collins	Chris Eller	Gary Pulino
Lion Man Raw Score	78	74	83	75	69	74	75	74	74

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	Steve Smingler		
		John Sullivan		
Hole in One	1	Charles Han	2012	Shenandoah
		Jon Fraim	2019	Piedmont
Total # Goatboys	11	Mike Rubin		
Total # Closest to Pin	8	Gary Pulino		
		John Sullivan		
Total # Long Drives	19	Jon Fraim		
Total # Putting Championships	14	Gary Pulino		
Total # Lion Men	11			
		Gary Pulino		

Special Moments



Every once in a while, we have had a special moment in the history of Pen Pushers Golf society. Last year we had another. A special shout out to Jon Fraim who at Piedmont Club last year shot our Pen Pushers second Hole in One ever!





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 (2019) winners holding all the Perpetual Trophies:



March
Irish Open
Dennis Peredo



April
Spring Challenge
Brian Friedman



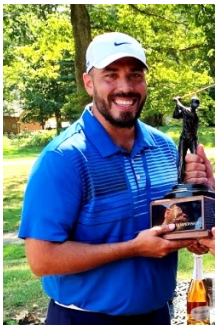
May
British Cup
Ron Bryce



June
Founders Trophy
Williebaldo
Merida



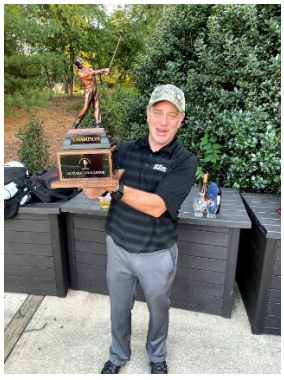
July
Patriots Memorial
Forrest Miles



August
Summer
Championship
Martine Gidoni



September - Captain's Day
Challenge John Denale
Memorial
Bob Caines



October
Autumn Challenge
Chris Eller



November
Turkey Shoot-Out
Gary Vanderheiden

2019 Photo Gallery: (Click on picture to go to album of event)

Irish Open  2019-1 Irish Open - 20 March	**Spring Challenge**  2019-2 Spring Challenge	**British Cup**  2019-3 British Cup
Founders Trophy  2019-4 Founders Trophy	**Patriots Memorial**  2019-5 Patriots Memorial	**Summer Championship**  2019 Summer Championship
John Denale Memorial Captains Day Challenge  2019-7 Captains Day Challenge	**Autumn Challenge**  2019-8 Autumn Challenge	**Turkey Shoot-Out**  2019-9 Turkey Shoot-Out