2025 Season Opener Newsletter

Pen Pushers of America

Golf Society

www.penpushers.us

Welcome to the Pen Pushers of America's 24th season. We hope to see everyone at our first event of the season, the Irish Open, March 19th, at Westfields Golf Club. At that event we will also award the 2024 season category winners and 2024 Tour Champion trophy.

We do have a few "rule clarifications" in the Handbook for this season, so please read the rests of this newsletter and the Handbook for the 2025 season updates so you don't get surprised.



2025 January Committee Meeting

Your 2025 Pen Pushers Committee Members met in January and finalized the event schedule for our 2025 season (attached later in this Newsletter). We also continue to **update the Handbook** that captures how we manage our competitions and our memberships. The 2025 new version is now posted on the site and every member is expected to read it before the season begins. Thanks in advance to everyone for taking the time to do that each season. It makes a big difference on event day when everyone is on the same page, understands the way we do things, and understands what it means to be a member of this golf society. Especially the Code of Conduct part. We also have **new rates for annual membership and Events**, details are further on in this newsletter….

This year we may be organizing a team to compete for the **Deem Cup in England (July 16-23)**, which is a Ryder Cup type competition, we play against the Pen Pushers of England every 4 years (or so). Anyway, more information about that later in this Newsletter……

Looking forward to seeing everyone at **Westfields in March!**
The Tradition Continues in 2025, after 24 years in the colonies of America.

Enjoy Life to the Fullest, each Day, every Shot, and every last Sip!

Sully
Pen Pushers of America Chairman

Topics of interest in this Newsletter:

- 2025 Committee Members
- 2025 List of Events
- Rules Review
- 2024 Tour Winners and Champion
- 2025 Upcoming Events and Activities- The Irish Open
- 2024 Fall OC Trip
- Deem Cup – Trip to England
- 2025 Membership Dues and Event Fees
- 2024 Season Awards
- Recap of 2024 Event Results
- Perpetual Trophies
- Code of Conduct

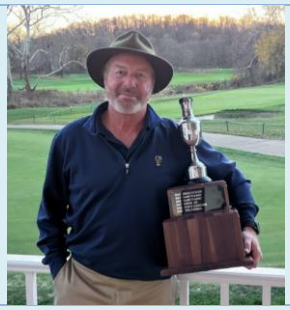
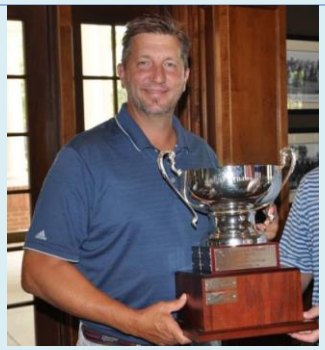
The Website is now open for event registration and we are ready to accept your membership dues for the season, Make sure you sign up ASAP for our first outing which is only a few weeks away. We expect a good showing so go now and register for our opening event at Westfields .

2025 Committee Members:

The Committee who organizes and run our golf society are all volunteers. We have evolved to a point where everyone has a role and responsibility to help with managing our events and policies. It is this group of guys who work together and make everything happen. Big thanks to you all for what you do to make Pen Pushers what it is!

Special thanks to **Kibok Lee** and **Ralph Tener** for serving as our Captain and Vice-Captain for the 2024 season, and they have agree to continue in those roles for the 2025 season. Thanks Guys!

2025 Committee Members:

John Sullivan 	Chairman/Event Organizer/Founder	**Kibok Lee** 	Captain/ Membership Chairman/Event Helper
Brian Hogan 	Co-Vice Chairman/Director of Events/Communications	**Chris Eller** 	Event Helper/ Fall Ocean City Trip Organizer
Joe Radakovich 	Co-Vice Chairman/Event Helper/Golf Genius Manager	**Bob Caines** 	Event Organizer
Steve Smingler 	Handicap Secretary	**Gary Vanderheiden** 	– Event Organizer/Event Helper

Mike Rubin 	Treasurer /Event Organizer		**Jon Fraim** 	Event Organizer/ Fall Ocean City Trip Organizer
Paul Tierney 	Website Master			We are always looking for more help. Please Volunteer!
Shane Langdon 	Charity Organizer/Fall Ocean City Trip Organizer		**Ralph Tener** 	Vice-Captain

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Pen Pushers Golf Society: 2025 List of Events

Date	Event	Location	Holes
March 19	Irish Open	Westfields Golf Club	18
April 16	Spring Challenge	Stonewall Golf Club	18
May 21	British Cup	Stoneleigh	18
June 18	Founders Trophy	Bull Run Golf Club	18
July 8	Patriots Memorial	Shenandoah	18
August 14	Summer Championship	Loudoun Golf & Country Club	18
Sept 9	Captains Day Challenge (John Denale Memorial)	Piedmont Club	18
Oct 8	Autumn Challenge (Jeff Haymaker Memorial)	Musket Ridge	18
Oct 25	Shore Tour in OC (Fri Sat Sun)	Various Courses	54
Nov 13	Turkey Shoot-Out	Raspberry Falls	18

Deem Cup – Trip to England:



We are trying to get in sync with the Brits to compete for the Deem Cup which is named after the original founder of Pen Pushers in England, about 45 years ago. Normally we compete with the Brits on a 4 year cycle, but Covid put a kink in that cycle. We last went over in 2016 and that competition came down to the final match, on the final day. It is a 3 day Ryder Cup style competition. We will also play a 2-3 day match against another local group. You can bring the wife (or not), do other stuff in the south of England before or after our competition. The summary is below**. Let me know ASAP if you are interested. Space will be limited.**

Current Best Guess on schedule and cost:

Dates: July 16-23 (Fly evening of the 15th)
Purpose: Pen Pushers of America challenging the Brits of England for the Deem Cup
Team Size: Target team of 8, could expand if there is interest.
Format: Ryder Cup Style 3 day event, plus extra golf and social/site seeing
Staying together at Burley Manor, look up (New Forest Hotels, Burley Manor.
Budget Costs:

Flights: $800-$1,200
Burley Manor: 8 nights, Double Rooms, $1,600- $2,400 (depends on room type)

9 days food and drink, $100/$150, $900 - $1,350
Golf: $500
Rental Car: $400-$500 each (probably 3 per car)

Total: $4,200 - $5,500 each

- Need to coordinate in teams of 2 or three for flights timing and sharing rental cars
- OK to add travel on either end
- OK to bring Wives

Need to get list together, Deposits, etc. Thinking $2000 deposit to PP acct to secure spot. (Hotel/Golf)



Policy and Rules Review:

We have updated the Pen Pushers Handbook. Please read the section on "Code of Conduct". When you pay your membership fee, you are committing that you have read it and will adhere to it. It should not be a big deal, but we wanted everyone to know what is expected and what is not tolerated at our events. (See a copy at the end of this document).

The Handbook is there because our golf society has grown to a size in membership that we can no longer rely on word of mouth to educate everyone regarding who we are, how we run our tour events, and what our rules are. It is posted on the website for all to read and to know. It covers both general policies of the golf society (membership benefits, rules and policies) and our event structure (rules and guidelines). We expect every member to have read this document before playing this season. If anyone has any questions or suggested input regarding what is in the Handbook, please reach out to a committee member. It is still new and we will be improving and evolving the document going forward.

Here are a few of our basic rules to remember:

Generally, we play by all USGA rules. We do have a few Pen Pusher exceptions and clarification.

- **SCORING** – Our events are scored by the Modified Stableford scoring format. Points are scored in the following manner: 1 Point for a Net Bogie, 2 points for a Net Par, 3 Points for Net Birdie, 4 Points for Net Eagle and 5 Points for a Net Albatross. (Double Eagle).
- **No GIMME's -** You must PUTT-OUT in order to score any Stableford points on a hole, the ball must come to rest in the hole, no whining about the ball would have gone in if the stick was out, etc. And if you are not going to score any points on a hole, pick it up (no need to finish).
- **The PICK UP rule**. This is a Speed of play rule. If you have hit enough shots such that you cannot score on the hole, please pick up your ball, declare that you are a "blob" for the hole, (record as "0" points, gross score as shots to earn "0" points).
- **LOST BALL/ OUT OF BOUNDS –** This is also a speed of play rule. 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 have two options. Please read the Handbook Event Rules section for more details on this rule.
- **Closest to Pin winners** - must make Par or Better to win this award.

- **Long Drive** - ball must be in our own fairway.
- *Go to the **Pen Pusher Handbook** for more information and details.*

2024 Tour Winners and Champion

The Pen Pushers Tour of Events is our version of the PGA FedEx Cup. Our 9-event tour is scored with a Grand Prix point system. Everyone who plays in each of our events receives points. The member with the most total points for the season is our tour champion. In addition to our tour champion title, we also award season tour titles in other categories. These prizes and trophies will be awarded at the first event of the season, The Irish Open, at Westfields, March 19th.
For 2024 our winners are as follows



Brian Hogan

"Tour Champion"

First 3 time Winner!
Well done Brian! Great come from behind victory on the final event!



Kibok Lee
"Big Dog"
Long Drive Competition
(repeat from 2023)



Ross Charles
"**Birdie Master**"
Most Birdies at Events
(23 at 9 events)



Ross Charles
"Lion Man"
Most gross score wins

Yes, you are seeing double..
Ross won both Birdie Master and Lion Man…
Ross will drink to that!

Brian Hayton
"Hole in One"
This is only the 3rd one in PP history. Well done Brian!





Upcoming Events and Activities: The Irish Open

Location:	Westfields Golf Club 13940 Balmoral Green Ave., Clifton, VA 20124
Date:	**March 19th, 2025 (Wednesday)**
Time:	8:15 – 9:15 Check in, 8:15-9:15 Putting Competition, driving range 9:30am Shotgun Start
Prizes, Awards and Meal:	Hot Dog at Turn, Buffet meal (Directly after the golf – as usual) Champion, Long Drive, Closest to the Pin, Goat-boy, Putting Champion, and Lion Man
Entry Fee: Use web site if you are a member, www.penpushers.us	$110 - Includes Golf, Practice Range, Prizes, Awards, and Food

Fall Ocean City Golf Trip



What an fantastic weekend of golf at the **Penpushers Shore Tour 2024!** Three days of competitive golf, camaraderie, and a fantastic dinner at **Fager's Island Fine Dining** made this event a memorable one.

Special thanks to Shane, Chris, Jon. Mike and Joe for organizing and running the event!

Tournament Highlights

Day 1: Rum Pointe

- **Stableford Winner**: Rick Langdon (40 points)
- **Lionman (Lowest Gross Score)**: Ross Charles (78)
- **Birdies Leader**: Gary Pulino (2 birdies)
- **Skins Leaders**: Kibok Lee & Steve Smingler (2 each)
- **Closest to the Pin**: Shane Langdon
- **Long Drive Champion**: Jon Fraim
- **Goat Boy (Lowest Stableford Points)**: Paul Tierney (19 points)

Day 2: Glen Riddle – Man O'War

- **Stableford Winner**: Kenny Fallon (37 points)
- **Lion Man (Lowest Gross Score)**: Gary Pulino & Steve Smingler (81)
- **Birdies Leader**: Ross Charles (3 birdies)
- **Skins Leader**: Mike Rubin (2 eagles, 1 birdie)
- **Closest to the Pin**: Gary Pulino
- **Long Drive Champion**: **Jason Lilly**
- **Goat Boy**: Paul Tierney (24 points)

Day 3: Lighthouse Sound

- **Overall Shore Tour Champion**: Kenny Fallon (105 total Stableford points)
- **Lionman (Lowest Gross Score)**: Gary Pulino (77)
- **Birdies Leader**: Gary Pulino (6 birdies)
- **Skins Leaders**: Mike Rubin (2 eagles) & Derek Langdon (1 birdie)
- **Closest to the Pin**: Steve Smingler
- **Long Drive Champion**: Ross Charles
- **Goat Boy**: **Derek Langdon** (21 points)

🏆 Final Standings

- **Overall Champion**: **Kenny Fallon**

Well done Kenny!



- **Runner-up**: **Jason Lilly**
- **Third Place**: **Steve Smingler**

2025 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 with, 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, there has been a big increase in demand for tee times at golf courses everywhere. This increased demand has been driving course fees up 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.

Membership and Event Fees for 2025:

Annual Membership Dues:	$125.00
Event Fees (per event attended):	$110.00

This is the first fee increase we have had in nearly 10 years.
We strive to keep our events affordable for everyone.

Please pay your dues as soon possible as we have had to make deposits for our events early in the season.

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

2025 - 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 2025 events. You can now go to the web site and register for events. Call or e-mail Paul Tierney if you forgot your login ID and password. If you register for the Irish Open you should also pay annual MEMBERSHIP dues then. Follow the payment instructions listed by clicking the button on the Event Registration Page. And remember to always put a note with your payment about what it is for, ie, which Event or MEMBERSHIP.



- **For your GUESTS**: email your guest information to the same address. (penpushers@gmail.com)

- **Members who want to bring guests:** register them on the website and pay for them when you make your payment.

Annual Membership Dues: $125 **(Still the greatest golf value in America!)**
Please pay your membership dues ASAP. This allows us to make deposit payments for our events to reserve the dates for our events. Payments are only accepted by electronic payment methods: Venmo and PayPal.

Contact Mike Rubin if you have any problems with the payment process.

2024 Recap of Event Results:

Event:	*Champ*	Goat Boy	Long Drive	Closest to the Pin	Putting Champ	Lion Man
Irish Open (Westfields)	*Gary Vanderheiden*	Gregory Lawrence	Kibok Lee	Gregory Lawerence	Larry Newell	Ross Charles
Spring Challenge (Stonewall Golf Club)	*Mark Dudek*	Jon Erickson	Dave Thomas	Mark Dudek	Brad Cooper	Gary Pulino
British Cup (Stonleigh)	*Bill Brown*	Alan Egge	Brad Cooper	Adam Strohbeck (G)	Gary Pulino	Ross Charles
Founders Trophy (Bull Run)	Brian Hogan	Bill Brown	Kibok Lee	Brian Hayton (G) ACE	Ross Charles	Brian Hogan
Patriots Memorial (Shenandoah Valley)	*Marc Steigerwald*	Jerry Ross	Shane Langdon	Brian Hogan	John Sullivan	Ross Charles
Summer Championship (Loudoun Golf) (200th Event)	*John Slye*	Brian Hogan	Marc Steigerwald	Greg Vest	Greg Vest	Ross Charles
Captains Day Challenge (Piedmont Club) (John Denale Memorial)	*Paul Price*	Mike Rubin	Ross Charles	Eddie Vasques (G)	Andrew Reamer	Kibok Lee
Autumn Challenge Rock Harbor- Boulder (Jeff Haymaker Memorial)	*Jerry Ross*	Todd Davis	Andy Kamataris	Lee Dusing (G)	Nick Emery	Mondeth Men (G)
Turkey Shoot-Out (Raspberry Falls)	*Bruce Bibb*	Jason Lilly	Chris Burrell	Kibok Lee	No Contest (Frost delay)	Mondeth Men (G)

2024 Perpetual Trophy Winners:

We have a perpetual trophy for each of our ten events. All the past winner's names are captured on each trophy.

Congratulations to all those Pen Pushers winners!



2024 Irish Open
Gary Vanderheiden



2024 Spring Challenge
Mark Dudek



2024 British Cup
Bill Brown
Sorry no Pics



2024 Founders Trophy
Brian Hogan



2024 Patriots
Memorial
Mark Steigerwald



2024 Summer
Championship
John Sly



2024 John Denele
Memorial
Paul Price



2024 Autumn Challenge
Jerry Ross



2024 Shore Tour
Kenny Fallon



Turkey Shoot-Out
Bruce Bibb

Pen Pushers of America Golf Society:
Code of Conduct

Pen Pushers Golf Society is an organization of gentlemen who play golf. It is expected that Members and their guests will be honest, courteous, polite and respectful while at our events. This Code of Conduct helps to explain why we have a code and describes what we mean by the term “gentlemen”. This Code of Conduct has been developed to ensure a safe, friendly and respectful place for members and guests to gather in the spirit of cooperation, relaxation, goodwill, fun and friendly competition. The Code of Conduct differs from rules in that it addresses acceptable/unacceptable behavior. In the event of unacceptable behavior, the committee retains final review and disciplinary authority to impose suspensions and/or expulsions of members from membership.

All members and guests are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that:

- Is respectful and reflective of personal integrity, honesty, and responsibility to members, guests, and course staff at our meetings. This same integrity, honesty and goodwill is expected whether at the clubhouse, in the parking lot or on the golf course at a Pen Pusher sponsored event.
- Does not insult, harass, talk down to scream at staff, members, and/or guests and does not create unnecessary strife and divisiveness.
- Does not damage the character, integrity, good will, property, or community perspective of Pen Pushers Golf Society.
- Observe proper golf etiquette while at Pen Pusher events. This includes observing event and local rules, proper speed of play, and adhering to Pen Pusher scorecard practices for accuracy and completeness.
- Accepts responsibility for the conduct of their guests.
- Abides by all rules and policies as specified in the Pen Pusher Handbook.
- Avoids unsafe circumstances/activities for oneself, or other individuals.
- Serves as an ambassador for Pen Pushers when out in the community. We are all representatives of the Pen Pushers Golf Society.
- Acknowledges that Pen Pushers is a family social environment that prohibits the use of obscenities and/or loud boisterous behavior in an offensive or threatening manner.
- Precludes member or guest from over intoxication, for both the individual and collective safety and well-being of all Pen Pushers members.
- Acknowledges and meets all financial obligations.

Commitment Note:
By paying Membership dues each year, the member confirms that they have read and understand this document and agree to follow and help to enforce this Code of Conduct. If a member is witness to an infraction of this code, they are obligated to report it (with discretion) to a committee Member as soon as possible.