

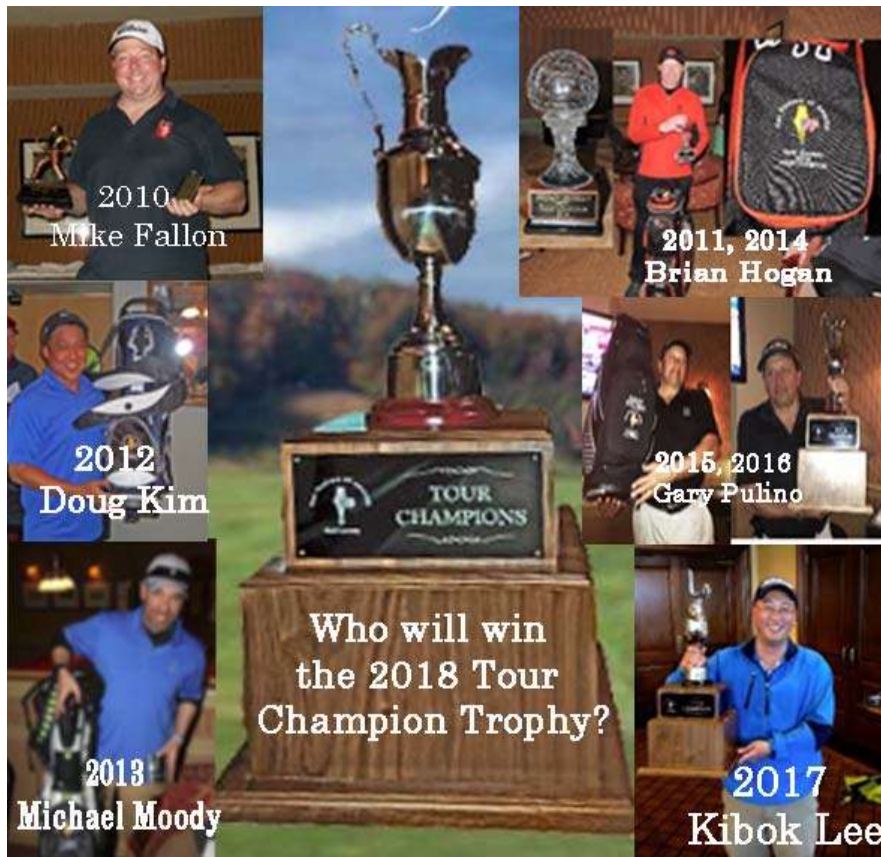


Pen Pushers of America

Golf Society
www.penpushers.us



Welcome to the Pen Pushers of America's 18th season. We hope everyone has been getting ready for our first outing of the season, the Irish open March 20st at Lansdowne.



Awards for 2018 at our Irish Open.

Your 2019 Pen Pushers committee members met in January and have finalized the schedule of events for our 2019 season (attached later in this Newsletter). The meeting was bookended between Top Golf rounds. As the meeting ran into the night, we discussed plans continued to increase the membership and turnout levels at events. Last year we averaged again over 30 players per event and we agreed to cap and target number of 40 players per event for 2019. 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. The new rules this year which the USGA have adopted will help out with speed of play and make our events run smoothly. Plan for another great season in 2019!

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

- [2019 Committee Members](#)
- [2019 Event Schedule](#)
- [New Rules for 2019](#)
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- [2019 Season Awards](#)
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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.

2019 Committee Members:

Special thanks to Shane Langdon for his role as 2018 Captain. Let's all welcome in the 2019 Captain Gary Vanderheiden and our new Vice Captain Chris Eller.

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.



**Gary Vanderheiden
Captain**



**Chris Eller –
Vice Captain**

John Sullivan – Chairman/Event Director

Paul Tierney – Vice Chairman/ (Web Master)/Event Director

Bob Caines – Event Director

Shane Langdon - Charity Organizer

Gary Vanderheiden – Captain

Chris Eller – Vice Captain

Steve Smingler - Handicap Czar

Brian Hogan– Event Director

Jon Fraim – Event Director

Mike Rubin –Communications/Event Director

Pen Pushers Golf Society: 2019 List of Events

Event	Date	Location	Coordinator:	Holes	Cost	TeeTime
Irish Open	3/20/2019	Landsdowne	Sullivan/Hogan	18	80	10:00am
Spring Challenge	4/10/2019	Bull Run Golf Club	Rubin	18	80	9:00am
British Cup	5/15/2019	Stoneleigh	Sullivan/Hogan	18	80	10:00am
Founders Trophy	6/20/2019	Heritage Hunt Golf and Country	Hogan	18	80	10:00am
Patriots Memorial	7/17/2019	Shenandoah	Sullivan/Hogan	27	80	9:00am
Summer Championship	8/8/2019	Loudoun Golf & Country Club	Caines	18	80	10:00am
John Denale Memorial	9/10/2019	Piedmont Club	Fraim/Hogan	18	80	9:00am
Autumn Challenge	10/9/2019	River Creek	Caines/Hogan	18	80	TBD
Turkey Shoot-Out	11/6/2019	Raspberry Falls	Tierney/Hogan	18	80	10:00am

NEW RULES we've adopted!

There're finally here! It's a new year, and that means some major changes to the Rules of Golf have officially gone into effect.

The USGA brought out several proposed rule changes nearly two years ago, and in late 2018, following a year to give feedback, golf's governing body announced the changes that would go into effect on Jan. 1st of this year. The entire list of the changes can be found here, but before you tee it up in your first round of 2019, here's a quick look at some of the new rules that could have the biggest impact on the Pen Pushers.



Our committee voted to adopt all of the new USGA rule changes with one exception, our Pen Pushers speed of play – out of bounds rule, single penalty stroke rule etc. This one rule was the subject of heated debate and requires more discussion. We intend to open up input on this rule decision to the broader membership over the next couple of months and potentially will make a change to our rule if that decision is made. If you have an opinion on this, be prepared to discuss after the Irish Open event.



2019 Spring Ocean City Golf Trip

Shane Langdon is looking to organize a Spring Ocean City Golf Trip.
More information to follow at the Irish Open.

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.

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



2017 Tour Champion Winner
Kibok Lee

If you remember at our first event last year, we gave out all the awards for the 2017 year. At our first event this year after the Irish open awards we will announce the 2018 season awards and the 2018 Tour Champion.

Here was our list of winners we announced last year for the 2017 season. Congratulations to all!

	1st Place	#	2nd Place	#	3rd Place	#
Tour Championship Winner	Kibok Lee					
Total Best 5 Stableford Scores	Gary Vanderheiden	199	Kibok Lee	190	Bob Caines	185
Total Best 5 Grand Prix Scores	Gary Vanderheiden	57	Kibok Lee	54	Chris Eller	48
Highest Average Finish w/ 5 events	Craig Collins	8.2	Gary Pulino	9.3	Kibok Lee	9.4
Highest Total Stableford Points	Kibok Lee	320	Chris Eller	300	Shane Langdon	294
Highest Total Grand Prix Points	Kibok Lee	63	Gary Vanderheiden	60	Gary Pulino	56
Total Wins						
	9 Different Winners	1				
Total Birdies		16+ 1 Eagle				
	Kibok Lee		Shane Langdon	11	Gary Pulino	10
Big Dog	Shane Langdon	3	6 others at 1 each			
Mean Green Machine	Kibok Lee	3	Gary Pulino 2	2	4 others with 1 each	
Putting Master	Gary Pulino	3	6 others at 1 each			
Most Events Attended	Chris Eller	9	Bill Brown	8	Jon Erickson	7
	Brian Hogan		Bob Caines			
	Shane Langdon		Kenny Engram			
	Kibok Lee		Jon Fraim			
	Michael HG		Gary Pulino			
	Manny Rodrigez		Mike Rubin			
			Steve Smingler			
			John Sullivan			
		Gary Vanderheiden				
Most Improved	Craig Collins					
	Most Improved					
	Craig Collins went from avg 14.13 place to 8.2 = 42% better					

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 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. This season we will be adding an option for each event to participate in a cash pool for winners. Part of this cash pool will go to the charity and part will go to the cash pool for winner payouts. More details on this will be explained at the Irish Open, but plan to bring an extra \$20 if you want to be a cash winner.

Upcoming Events and Activities: **The Irish Open**



Location: Lansdowne Golf Course, Norman Course

Date: March 20st, 2019 (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.

2019 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.

2019 - 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 2019 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!

2019 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 2019 season we will adjust a member's raw handicap +1 stroke for each point where the rounded average 2018 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 2018 scores (1 event minimum) is above 36 points. Raw handicaps are rounded for use at each event.

For 2019 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 2018 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



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. This year, each of our winners won the award more than once with Shane Langdon winning the three times. Gary Pulino now has the distinction of winning it the most with 8 wins to his total. Congratulations to our GRRRREAT Lion Men!

Here were the 2018 Lion Man Winners:

LION MEN Winners	Event	Lion Man Winner	Gross Score
	Irish Open	Shane Langdon	76
	Spring Challenge	Kibok Lee	76
	British Cup	Shane Langdon	80
	Founders Trophy	Larry Newell	80
	Patriots Memorial	Larry Newell	77
	Summer Championship	Gary Pulino	75
	John Denale Memorial - Captains Day Challenge	Gary Pulino	74
	Autumn Challenge	Kibok Lee	79
	Turkey Shoot-Out	Shane Langdon	77

New Venue for John Denale Memorial - Piedmont Club



Our John Denale Memorial event moves to a new venue this year Piedmont Club in Haymarket Va.



Course Description

Rich in history and set amid the rolling hills of Virginia's hunt country, Piedmont Club offers the finest in all amenities. Our 18-hole championship golf course, designed by Tom Fazio, is considered one of the most enjoyable in Northern Virginia. The golf course at Piedmont Golf Club is a true Fazio classic, with its generous fairways and medium-sized subtle greens. It is challenging, yet player friendly, and is described as one of the fairest, most enjoyable and best-conditioned Northern Virginia golf courses. It is a par 72 course that plays 7,000 yards from the back tees.

For More information visit the club's website at: <https://www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/Piedmont-Club-Haymarket/Amenities/Golf>

2018 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	3/21/2018	4/11/2018	5/9/2018	6/14/2018	7/18/2018	8/9/2018	9/12/2018	10/10/2018	11/1/2018
Champion	Chris Nielsen	Kibok Lee	HG Michael	Gary Vanderheiden	Darrell Oliver	John Kravatz	Steve Smingler	Craig Collins	John Slye
Champion Points	44	40	40	49	45	43	38	37	39
Goat Boy	Matt Jacobs	Mike Rubin	Kenny Engram	Ralph Tener	Gary Vanderheiden	Jon Erickson	Darrell Oliver	Mike Volpe	Joe Radakovich
Goat Boy Points	24	21	15	21	23	7	22	16	19
Long Drive (BIG DOG)	Chris Nielen	Dennis Peredo	Shane Langdon	Chris Eller	Brian Hogan	Brian Hogan	Brian Hogan	Martine Gidoni	Darrell Oliver
Closest to the Pin	Craig Collins	Larry Newell	Ralph Tener	Jon Fraim	Larry Newell	Gary Pulino	Gary Vanderheiden	Craig Collins	Bill Brown
Putting Champion	Bill Brown	Chris Eller	Pedro Lopez	Martine Gidoni	Larry Newell	Martine Gidoni	Pedro Lopez	Martine Gidoni	Shane Langdon
Lion Man	Shane Langdon	Kibok Lee	Shane Langdon	Larry Newell	Larry Newell	Gary Pulino	Gary Pulino	Kibok Lee	Shane Langdon
Lion Man Raw Score	76	76	80	80	77	75	74	79	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	Steve Smingler		
		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	8	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
Chris Nelson



April
Spring Challenge
Kibok Lee



May
British Cup
HG Michael



June
Founders Trophy
Gary
Vanderheiden



July
Patriots Memorial
Darrell Oliver



August
Summer
Championship
John Kravatz



September - Captain's Day
Challenge John Denale
Memorial
Steve Smingler



October
Autumn Challenge
Craig Collins



November
Turkey Shoot-Out
John Slye

2018 Photo Gallery: (Click on picture to go to album of event)

