



# SNAP HAPPY!

**The results are in and the winners in this year's competition can be extremely happy with their efforts.**

The second BIGGA Golf Photography Competition produced a huge variety of pictures from greenkeepers who see photography as both a hobby and an important communication element of their job.

Last year the winner was Swiss-based Steven Tierney who took a stunning photograph of his course, Golfpark Nuolen, near Zurich, and as a result featured in Greenkeeper International in August.

This year the winner is a little closer to home and comes from 21 year old Michael Cunningham, of The Duke's Course, Woburn, on which Michael works as an Assistant.

The competition was judged by three distinguished lensmen. Alan Birch is a long time friend of BIGGA whose photographs have been published extensively. The competition was his brainchild. Alan was joined by professional golf course photographer, Eric Hepworth, and, Matthew Harris, who has been one of the top photographers on the major golf Tours of the world for over 20 years.

"I thought it was a great photograph of a beautiful golf course," said Alan.

"I'm particularly delighted that Michael is just 21 as having such a good eye for a photograph is going to stand him in good stead throughout his greenkeeping career. A camera is such an important tool now for any greenkeeper and an ability to take good photographs is a very useful skill to have.

"Marek's picture from Mount Juliet is a wonderful picture which highlights some of the work that greenkeepers do while the Chris' picture of Sunningdale is another super effort."

Eric was equally praiseworthy of the winning pictures.

"All the pictures which make the final three have something going for them."

With the Woburn shot there is a good use of the shadow area. If the picture had been cropped a little more from the bottom upwards the picture would have been so much better. For future pictures, try to place yourself so the green is cross-lit. With slightly less foreground, I would be pleased to have this within my library. It's a fine effort.

"With the Mount Juliet pic it was taken with the benefit of decent weather although the sky could have been improved if the photograph was taken when attractive cloud formations were present. A good effort though nonetheless.



Hankley Common by Gareth Roberts



Traditions by Laurence Pithie



Newmachar by Dale Robertson



Palheiro by Peter Wisbey



Windyhill by Darren Welsh



Colne Valley by Gavin Steed



“The Sunningdale picture is a classic view of the course. Good use of players in the picture to give the view some scale. I would have preferred that it was photographed though on a better day. The sky could have been a little better.”

Matthew, who has taken some extraordinary golfing pictures during his time as a professional photographer was complimentary about the overall quality of the pictures entered.

“I was extremely impressed by the standard of the standard and it is obvious that there are many talented amateur photographers within the BIGGA membership,” said Matthew.

The remaining pictures shortlisted by the judges will comprise the 2008 BIGGA Calendar.

They are: Hankley Common, Gareth Roberts; Perranporth, Billy Mitchell; Newmasher Dale Robertson; Traditions, Laurence Pithie; Cumberwell, Marc Haring; Colne Valley, Gavin Steed; Windyhill, Darren Welsh; Fleetwood, Roy Welsh and Palheiro, Peter Wisbey.

The three winners will receive an Eric Hepworth print of their choice, while Woburn will be profiled in the magazine next year.

**1ST THE DUKE’S COURSE, WOBURN, MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM**

**2ND MOUNT JULIET, COUNTY KILKENNY, IRELAND, MAREK ZUBERT**

**3RD SUNNINGDALE OLD, CHRIS SHERRINGTON**

