



1st



Snap happy

The 2010 BIGGA Photographic Competition was a huge success, writes Scott MacCallum

BIGGA's Photographic Competition, sponsored by Syngenta, and now in its fifth year has seen the standard of pictures taken by BIGGA members steadily rise. More and more greenkeepers are aware of what constitutes a good photograph and many more carry a compact digital camera or mobile phone with a quality camera built in as a matter of course.

This year the winning entry came from regular entrant Gareth Roberts, Course Manager at Hankley Common Golf Club, who won the bragging rights in his own home as he pushed his son, Graeme, into second place, which his superb picture taken on his own course. Graeme's picture of Quail Hollow Golf Club in the United States pushed it very close though.

Third place went to Paul Hope, of High Post Golf Club, in Wiltshire, with another stunning entry.

The 2011 BIGGA calendar will comprise those three pictures plus entries from: Marek Zubert, Lewis Birch, James Hutchinson, Peter Dawson, Russell Lewis, Adam Turner, Craig Boath, Glen Kirby and David Harrison.

Judging took place in early October with Alan Birch, whose idea the competition was; Karen Roberts (no relation to Gareth and Graeme), of Syngenta, and professional golf course photographer, Eric Hepworth. Tom Campbell and Scott MacCallum, of BIGGA, co-ordinated the judging.

Eric was particularly impressed by the winning entries this year.

"Gareth shows a superb use of the sky. The cloud formations coming in on the left hand side are very strong. I don't know how on earth he's been able to keep the flare out of this picture because the sun is looking directly into the lens. There is a good use of composition and I like the trees on the right hand side which frame it really well," said Eric

"Graeme has shown a good use of perspective on this picture. The line of the edge of the green, which I'm presuming is a lake, on the left hand side is really fantastic and goes all the way to the bunker, turns left then all the way around the back so is leading your eye into the picture. It is framed fantastically well by the two trees both right and left. The mist is just the icing on the cake. I would love to have this in my library," he said.

"I like Paul's picture a great deal. There is a rule in photography that a subject which is the main element of the picture should be on what is called a third within the whole frame and that is where the triple mower is set on. The sun has been placed behind the trees using an established technique where, to shade the light coming into the lens, and stop flare coming into the lens. Flare on this picture would have ruined it and the tree has acted as a long lens hood."

Gareth, Graeme and Paul each win a framed print from Eric's extensive photo library.



2nd



Old Course, St Andrews, by Lewis Birch



Carnoustie Golf Links by Craig Boath



5th on the Heritage, at The London Club, by Glenn Kirby



Fairhaven GC, by James Hutchinson



St Michaels GC by Adam Turner



Mount Juliet, Republic of Ireland, by Marek Zubert

3rd



View to the 5th at South Essex Golf Centre, by Peter Dawson



Hale GC, 9th green being dewied, by Russ Lewis



Early morning sun at Crieff GC on the 9th, by David Harrison