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Photographic competition

How you can win our coveted members' competition, and see your photography grace Greenkeeper International and the BIGGA Calendar 2014, following in the footsteps of recent winner – Craig Boath, Head Greenkeeper of the Carnoustie Championship Course

Are you a BIGGA member and do you fancy yourself as a budding photographer? The competition offers you the chance to portray your course in a variety of publications, with the winner receiving a full course feature in GI

Our industry offers terrific opportunities for stunning photography across the year – and now is the time to send in the images many of you have captured from the autumn and winter. The forthcoming weeks also offer another chance for great spring and summer shots.

The competition is judged by a panel of experts including professional photographers Alan Birch

and Eric Hepworth – and the winner will receive a framed image of their choice from Eric's super selection of golf course photography (www.hepworthgolfphotography.com), as well as one of your own entry. Two runners-up will receive an unframed print, and the final 12 will all be featured in next year's calendar.

To enter, please send your images to comps@bigga.co.uk - the closing date is the 31st July 2013.

Please write "BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2013" is the subject header of your email, and label your entries with your name, club/college currently at, membership number and a brief caption of the course.

Images need to be high resolution and landscape shape (at least 30cm wide at 300dpi) suitable for an A3 calendar.

Please avoid reducing the file size as this will reduce the quality – we recommend one image per email if file size becomes an issue – or use a compression facility such as winzip or an ftp site such as www.mailbigfile.com

There is no limit to the amount of images you can send us., but please seek permission of the club before sending your entries – we are sure they will be delighted with the potential coverage.

Only BIGGA members are eligible to enter. Good to luck to all.

BIGGA Seminars at SALTEX 2013

The Grandstand, Royal Windsor Race Course

Wednesday 4 September 2013

BIGGA is delighted to have once again, been invited by the IOG to present a series of seminars at SALTEX 2013.

10.15 am – 11.15 pm
Greens Drainage - Mission Possible

A workable solution - Transforming soil based greens with Deep Thatch and Black Layer at Robin Hood Golf Club. Discover the methods used and the solution to draining troublesome greens.

Presented by Andy Wood, Course Manager, Robin Hood GC.

11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Sand Traps and Money Pits

This session will look at managing and constructing golf course bunkers on limited budgets, whilst revisiting the past to shape our future. It will also include the art of compost creation and it's role in modern traditional greenkeeping.

Presented by Stuart Yarwood MG, Golf Course Manager, Lymm Golf Club.

1.00 pm – 2.00 pm
Go in Green.....Come Out Clean

Winter disease on golf greens is particularly problematic since there is little turf growth to allow recovery and for scars to heal. This can impact the playability of greens right through into the spring period leading to the dissatisfaction of golfers. An integrated approach to disease management can reduce the disease pressure, improve turf health and enhance the performance of fungicide applications. New findings on disease management will be presented along with practical advice for how to deliver smooth, disease free greens right through the high risk autumn and winter periods.

Presented by Dr Simon Watson, Syngenta Technical Manager, EAME Turf and Landscape.

BIGGA CPD Credits
- 1 CPD credit is available for each seminar.
A CPD register will be available at the end of each seminar.



puzzlepage answers

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1) East Stirlingshire
- 2) York City
- 3) Jose Mourinho
- 4) Oxford United
- 5) Lee Martin
- 6) Peterborough
- 7) Teddy Sheringham & Ole Gunnar Solksjaer
- 8) 13
- 9) Chapman

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MONSTER SUDOKO

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Monster Daily SuDoku: Wed 19-Jun-2013 easy

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

5	9	8	7	3	6	2	1	4
3	7	4	1	2	5	6	8	9
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Daily SuDoku: Wed 19-Jun-2013 hard

The Back Nine

A column for writers and members to air and share their views on golf greenkeeping topics

Last month Justin looked at the perils of social networking. Now in the second part of his educational look at the medium, he considers content and the increasing influence of Twitter and Facebook

The first question I'm usually asked when I speak about blogging is "How much time does it take?" The answer depends on your preference on what information you want to get out.

Remember more and more people get information in bits and pieces to their phone or tablet.

So if you post a ten page document on soil respiration and throw in a few Latin names you are likely to lose your audience, plus it is going to be a big commitment for you to write.

Try to keep the posts short and to the point and better yet add some pictures.

A picture is worth a thousand words. It will definitely help your members and guests understand better how a machine goes across the green, or how you are dealing with a layering problem in the greens.

The other fear that superintendents have is content. Here are a few topics that seem to keep the blog flowing and still get some variety.

- Projects – Aerification, renovations, drainage...
- Employee spotlight – Take a person on the crew and give the members an idea of who they are and what they have done
- Frequently Asked Questions - Talk about things that people have come up to you and asked you about, and why you do these things
- Environmental – Golf course superintendents are stewards of the environment, promote your practices that conserve and reduce
- Did you know – Explain a more complicated topic that is behind the scenes

New content will keep your followers interested and also understand more about your profession. Instead of the golfers yelling at one of your guys to get out of the way, they might

know a little more about that staff member and introduce themselves. They can better understand your work and issues on the course.

Twitter is another way to blast information out with short messages. This is a good way to direct members and guests to your blog and post live information like weather, project info, course closure etc.

If the golf shop wanted to get involved as well it could be a good avenue to post deals on rounds or specials on equipment.

When I first got involved in Twitter I didn't really know what I was going to post and if anyone would really care.

Now a few years later I have gathered quite a few followers and it has become a great resource for me to post quick bits of info to inform our membership about what is happening in real time. It also has doubled as a good place to learn more about turf management.

I follow other superintendents that post information about their practices. I can ask quick questions and get fairly quick responses from many different people.

Now onto Facebook and Google+. These are both borderline time suckers. Facebook can be a great tool to connect with many people - after all, 72% of the UK uses Facebook.

That means for every ten people that play your course or that are members, seven of them are updating their status and it may be about your course.

Facebook seems much more personal, can become a sinkhole for time and I feel it's better for revenue seekers like the golf shop.

Google+ on the other hand does have some value.

The instant upload from your smartphone's camera makes it easy to post pictures and the hangouts can be ideal to do meetings with



For every ten golfers on your course, seven of them are updating their Facebook status and it may be about your course

other superintendents in your area or across the globe.

This is becoming more popular and ideal to get advice or new ideas for your course.

Social media can become confusing if you don't keep it simple.

You can end up wasting your time posting to several accounts with the same information or not gain traction if you fall behind on posting content.

Keeping your investment to a blog and Twitter is a great start. These two go hand in hand and can be updated quickly and provide a lot of information to your golfers.

Use Twitter for instant information and your blog for more detailed presentations.

If you keep these two accounts simple and to the point, you should be able to keep your time commitment to a reasonable level.

Remember, you don't want to get stuck wasting your time. You just want to increase your communication and visibility.

about the author



Justin Ruiz CGCS MG is Golf Course Superintendent at the Indian Summer Golf and Country Club in the US state of Washington. He runs a detailed blog on work on his course at <http://indiansummerglasspot.co.uk/> and has won awards for previous articles looking at social media.

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