Editorial Comment

In the February issue I promised freedom from 'party political', whilst declaring in the forthcoming months that readers would find it hard to escape those 'other' national electioneering issues that were bound to hit them from every media direction. Well, that was February, the political temperature was still on simmer and there were far more important tubs to thump -- including our own highly successful Golden and Silver Circle Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund.

Be that as it may, the power of the written word, Greenkeeper International style, must occasionally be used for producing the reader into further action, with this particular 'prod' aimed at urging nominations for still more candidates for the 1992 ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award. The Association is seeking to promote the biggest number of candidates ever in 1992, so to begin this column, I propose to run my own 'party political' for this admirable award by outlining again the simple rules by which you may nominate someone that you may know and admire. They are so simple and free from hassle that anyone, indeed everyone, can enter a prospective candidate -- and they should!

All that is needed is the agreement of your choice of head greenkeeper or course manager, someone whose management and playing conditions you admire, to complete all stages of the Award, including a course assessment by an established judge. The course itself doesn't have to be a championship layout, including our own highly successful Golden and Silver Circle Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund.

Another point to remember is that a nomination can look awfully impressive on a job application, recognising as it does that here is a greenkeeper who does an exceptional job. Please fill in the pre-paid card contained within the pages of this issue -- let's hear it for those untold numbers of unsung heroes!

Turning now to other matters, I was disturbed to learn from Paul Copsey, Kent's prolific scribe, of yet another example of 'sharks about' infiltration, this time into the very midst of professional greenkeeping circles by a member of the PGA. Apparently, one such PGA pro has formed his own management company and has circulated Clubs in the south, proposing that his company should manage their entire course and clubhouse, lock, stock and barrel, installing a full complement of 'personally' selected staff -- pro, greenkeeping, bar and catering etc., and using equipment owned or leased by the management company -- all at a fixed fee. One can only shudder at the long term implications of such a 'business', spawned no doubt by the unfortunate introduction of local authority competitive tendering, for as Paul was at pains to point out, such deals usually see costs pared to a minimum by cutting staff, wages and course budgets, with the inevitable result being the lowering of standards and morale.

Paul went on to say that the PGA have been notified of this matter and propose taking measures to restrict the offender's plans. One wonders how powerful on matters of discipline the PGA really are, thus we can only hope they have the teeth to bite -- and bite hard!

DAVID WHITE

Hidden benefits of nominations for ICI Premier Greenkeeper

The first college in the land based industries to achieve BS 5750 is now the first college to offer a Higher National Diploma in:-

Golf Greenkeeping with European Studies

Cannington College, Nr. Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS Tel. 0278 652226

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 April 1992 at 2.30pm in The Royal York Hotel, York (immediately adjacent to the Railway Station)

- NEIL THOMAS, Executive Director

Copies of the audited accounts will be available from Section Secretaries during the four weeks prior to the Meeting