

Hidden benefits of nominations for ICI Premier Greenkeeper

In the February issue I promised freedom from 'party politics', 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 printed word, Greenkeeper International style, must occasionally be used for prodding 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, indeed it could be the most humble little nine-hole tucked away from all but local admiration. Having played many such delicious nine-hole courses, especially in Scotland, I can vouch for the particular charm and superb conditions of such gems, often achieved on peppercorn budgets by totally dedicated greenkeepers who are, quite simply, unsung heroes.

Another point to remember is that any member can nominate

a head greenkeeper for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper Award, including those members in the trade, from the educational sector, or even a green committee chairman or Club secretary. Most important of all is that we want to hear from our members and we want to hear now! On a more commercial tack, such 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

GTC APPROVED COLLEGES

OAKLANDS COLLEGE

School of Agriculture & Floristry

DON'T LET THE GRASS GROW UNDER YOUR FEET!!

Oaklands College can offer you a wide range of courses including

The New National Certificate in Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management

Further information from:

Admissions Officer,
School of Agriculture & Horticulture,
Oaklands College, Oaklands Campus,
Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts. AL4 0JA.
Tel: 0727 50651. Fax 0727 47987



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

Check out the difference



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



BIGGA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING