As most of you are aware Viscount Whitelaw is standing down as our President after ten successful years. It was, therefore, a great honour for me to make a presentation to him on your behalf, at Penrith Golf Club, the venue of the Cumbria Cup run by the North West Section.

Lord Whitelaw has not just been a President in name, his support and guidance over the years have been immense, and we will certainly miss him. To my mind there is no doubt that we presented him with a picture which both he and Lady Whitelaw very fortunate that Lord Whitelaw has contributed to our Building Fund over the past few months. It’s very encouraging to see those committed to greening up and their own future within the industry, come forward to help. A special thank you to the Life members of our Association who in response to my appeal have sent in many donations, some from elderly retired members who have little enough cash to spare, but still feel they want to help. We are very grateful indeed and I intend to write and thank each one of them personally as soon as I can. Perhaps it’s time to ask all Course Managers and Greenkeepers to see what they can collect from themselves and staff at their clubs. After all it’s your future, and any amount large or small will indirectly benefit you all. Cherries should be made out to BIGGA Building Fund and sent to HQ or should be made out to BIGGA than Elliott, and he fully deserves this honour. His work as the Regional Administrator for Scotland over more than eight years is only one part of his commitment to greening up, and I look forward to working with him again.

As the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining and my new Vice Chairman is certainly that. So, it is a pleasure to inform you that Elliott Small has accepted the invitation to become Vice Chairman, and the National Board fully support his election. No one has done more for BIGGA than Elliott, and he fully deserves this honour. His work as the Regional Administrator for Scotland over more than eight years is only one part of his commitment to greening up, and I look forward to working with him again.

Gordon Child