

Viscount Whitelaw to relinquish BIGGA presidency



Viscount Whitelaw pictured here at a BIGGA award ceremony last year

It was in January 1988 that the BIGGA Board of Management invited Viscount Whitelaw to become the Association's first President. Ten years on and with the approach of his 80th birthday Viscount Whitelaw has advised the Chairman and Executive Director of his wish to step down from his position in favour of a younger person.

Commenting on the President's decision, Neil Thomas said, "Following a recent meeting with Viscount Whitelaw, the Chairman and myself fully understand and respect his wishes and the Board of Management has reluctantly accepted his resignation.

"His contribution to BIGGA in the past decade has been outstanding. His empathy with the greenkeeping profession and his support for greenkeepers has greatly benefited both BIGGA and individual members."

First Honorary Member

BIGGA's constitution enables the BIGGA Board of Management to recognise as an Honorary Member any person deemed to have contributed in an outstanding manner to the Association or the profession.

"I am delighted to announce the

Board's decision to award the first Honorary Membership in the Association's history to Viscount Whitelaw," said Neil Thomas.

"It is richly deserved and we all join in sending our very best wishes for the future to both Viscount and Lady Whitelaw," he added.

Club Captains Asked for Donations

Every golf club Captain in the country has been circulated with a letter from BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw asking him to request his committee to make a donation to the Association's Building Fund.

In the letter Viscount Whitelaw writes...

"As I prepare to step down from the presidency of the Association, I take great pleasure in the knowledge that the construction of BIGGA's new headquarters building will be completed later this year. This will most surely mark another step forward for BIGGA and its members who will be able to take advantage of the modern training facilities within the building. At present the Association is actively raising funds towards the cost of the

building and I write to ask if you would kindly request your committee to consider making a donation to BIGGA's Building Fund in recognition of all that BIGGA has done to enhance the profession of greenkeeping in the last ten years and which in turn has led to the great improvements in golf course management and maintenance which so many golf club members enjoy today.

"Donations should be forwarded to BIGGA headquarters and will be acknowledged on a Roll of Honour within the new building. For donations of £250 and upwards, BIGGA will additionally recognise such donations through the presentation of plaques."

BIGGA's Chairman Gordon Child said, "It is hoped that a positive response from the country's golf clubs to Viscount Whitelaw's letter will help to ensure that the Association's financial commitments brought about by the need to build a new Headquarters are reduced."

