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Champions' night

THE WINNERS AND HIGHLY COMMENDED IN THE ACT'S DEALS OF THE YEAR AWARDS WERE HONOURED AT A DINNER LAST MONTH FOLLOWING ANOTHER CHALLENGING YEAR FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE CAPITAL MARKETS IN 2011.

Last month's celebration of the ACT's Deals of the Year Awards – now in its 14th year – recognised the achievements of corporate treasurers in successfully utilising the debt and equity markets on behalf of their companies in 2011.

Once again supported by Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets, the Awards celebrate excellence in corporate treasury. Corporate treasurers and their bankers from across Europe can nominate for awards those deals they consider worthy of recognition. All types of transaction, including bonds, loans, liability management and equity raising, are eligible.

Winners of the Deals of the Year are often praised for their innovation and this year's evening had innovation of its own: for the first time guests enjoyed a TV-style interview. In Olympic year, Diana

Brightmore-Armour, managing director of Lloyds Corporate Banking, took on the role of interviewer to quiz Sally Gunnell, who captured a host of gold medals in an illustrious athletics career, most notably gold for the 400m hurdles in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Now a motivational speaker, Gunnell and the Deals of the Year winners know that when the going gets tough the tough get going. As one guest noted: an informative Olympian pep talk.

The evening, held at the headquarters of the Institute of Civil Engineers in Westminster, London, then reverted to tradition with Peter Matza, ACT engagement director, giving an entertaining and insightful analysis of another extraordinary year in the capital markets and announcing the winners, who received their certificates and the applause of their treasury and banking peers.



Deals of the Year winners, representing Qinetiq, Rexam, SABMiller, JD Wetherspoon, E.ON, National Grid, Kerry Group and Hunting.



ACT chief executive Colin Tyler welcomes guests to the evening.



Olympic champion Sally Gunnell explains to Diana Brightmore-Armour how treasurers and bankers can stay focused and motivated.



Diana Brightmore-Armour, managing director of Lloyds Corporate Banking, reflects on the achievements of treasurers and bankers.



Peter Matza, ACT engagement director, sums up the year in the capital markets and announces the winners.



The judges (left to right): Philip Learoyd, Paul Watters, Richard Sedlacek, Mary Finn, Lesley Flowerdew (chair), Peter Matza, Henryk Wuppermann, Simon Allocca. Also on the judging panel but not pictured here were Ann Larsson, David Reitman, Sergio Val and Charles van der Welle.



Guests enjoying the Awards dinner.



After the dinner the serious discussions begin...