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QBE to sponsor NIBA's Stephen Ball Memorial Award

NIBA's annual Broker of the Year Award will be renamed the Stephen Ball Memorial Award in honour of the former NIBA President and JLT Australia Chairman who died last year, with QBE Australia the new sponsor.

QBE has signed a three-year agreement to sponsor the award, which will see five regional Broker of the Year winners go on to compete for the national Stephen Ball Memorial Award. The overall winner will be announced at the 2016 NIBA Convention in Melbourne this September, with a prize valued in the region of \$20,000.

NIBA CEO Dallas Booth said: "Recognising and rewarding excellence in insurance broking is central to what we do at NIBA. We are particularly pleased to be able to honour Stephen Ball by renaming the award.

"Stephen embodied all the qualities we look for in insurance brokers, and we believe this is a fitting tribute for all he brought to the profession. We're extremely pleased to be partnering with QBE on such a prestigious award, and we are very grateful for the support they will be providing."

Jason Clarke, QBE Australia's Executive General Manager, Intermediary Distribution, said: "QBE is incredibly proud to be supporting the Stephen Ball Memorial Award and working with NIBA to recognise and celebrate the commitment and professionalism of intermediaries in our industry. This award not only provides brokers with a valuable opportunity to showcase their exceptional work, but to motivate others by demonstrating what's possible.

"We're especially excited to be involved in the year the award is renamed. Stephen epitomised the very best qualities of the broking profession and dedicating this award to his name makes receiving it even more significant."

Stephen's wife, Maureen Ball, added: "I am really delighted to see Stephen's contribution to insurance broking recognised by this award. He was a strong advocate of the industry and while he genuinely encouraged self-development, he recognised that a strong industry needs its members to participate to keep it relevant and robust.

"I hope that the future recipients of this award will be encouraged by these comments to get actively involved in their industry."

Regional nominations for the 2016 award will open on Monday 1 February. To nominate online visit www.niba.com.au/brokeroftheyear

The Broker of the Year Award was inaugurated in 2012, and was sponsored by Zurich Australia until last year.

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Stephen Ball began his career with JLT Australia in 1982, becoming Chairman in 2013. He served as NIBA President from 2004-2006, and was a NIBA Director for 12 years. He died of a heart attack in May last year while on a business trip to London.

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NIBA is an independent industry association representing approximately 320 firms and more than 3500 individual intermediaries, who handle almost 90% of the commercial insurance transacted in Australia. Brokers play a major role in insurance distribution, handling \$18 billion in premiums annually and placing around half of Australia's total insurance business.

QBE Australia is part of the QBE Insurance Group, one of the world's top 20 general insurance and reinsurance companies with operations in 38 countries. Headquartered in Sydney, QBE has more than 30 offices across all states and territories and deliver one of the broadest product ranges of any insurer in Australia. In 2014 QBE's gross written premium was US\$4.392 billion. For more information visit www.qbe.com.au