

Richmond Business Awards 2016

Lawyer gets nominated for accolade



A LAWYER who became a partner at a Richmond law firm aged just 27 having left school at 17 has been shortlisted for a prestigious national diversity award.

Trevor Sterling, pictured above, of Moore Blatch, is among those nominated for the Positive Role Model Award for Race, Religion and Faith, at the National Diversity Awards 2016.

He will attend the ceremony at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral on September 16.

Mr Sterling, who is chairman of the Mary Seacole Trust and established the Capital Mentor Scheme supporting children at risk of disadvantage, left school with four O Levels and was told his career options were "tennis racquet stringer, warehouse man or clerk working for a firm of solicitors."

He said: "I chose the latter. "While working full-time I studied to become a legal executive, progressing to solicitor and aged just 27 became a partner."

"Since then, I wanted to demonstrate to younger generations what's possible, especially those facing diversity and inequality challenges and to also give 'hands on help' to those of a disadvantaged background."

Mr Sterling is also one of a handful of black lawyers in England to achieve a landmark victory in the House of Lords, with his *Corr v IBC Vehicles* case becoming the first employer's liability suicide case since 1957.

He is also vice-chairman of Headway South West London brain injury charity.

Business awards will honour achievements

RICHMOND Chamber of Commerce chief executive Anne Newton is urging businesses and non-profits to enter the Richmond Business Awards ahead of the deadline at the end of this month.

There are 39 opportunities to win recognition for outstanding work by applying online.

The Kew Gardens retail team were worthy winners in the Best Retailer category in 2015, according to Ms Newton, and were closely followed by Oliver's Wholefood and Orleans Gallery.

Ms Newton said: "All demonstrated to the independent judges that they had optimised their retail space to best effect and had excellent vision, strategy branding, digital presence, financials, shop floor layout, customer service and supply chain management."

Last week businesses and non profits including The Poppy Factory,

Twickenham Rotary, The Lensbury, St Mary's University and the NFL gathered at Strawberry Hill Golf Club for a networking event.

The organisations learnt more about Richmond Council's strategic planning policies from Councillor Pamela Fleming, cabinet member for business, environment and communities, and completed the morning's session with a relaxing round of golf.

Ms Newton said: "We are particularly fortunate to have such beautiful sporting venues including the excellent St Mary's University and such a high take-up of physical exercise across the borough."

"It is no surprise, therefore, that we have thoroughly enjoyed Team GB's Olympics success and totally appreciate their achievements."

"Mo Farah, a former student of St Mary's and Chamber member, has worked to achieve his four Olympic golds over two consecutive Olympic

Games – well done Mo and all our Olympians."

St Mary's University boasted a record 22 athletes at the Olympic games who contributed six medals to Team GB.

Alongside Farah, current student Joshua Buatsi achieved bronze in the men's light-heavyweight Boxing and alumni rowers Moe Sbihi and Karen Bennett achieved a gold in the men's four and silver in the women's eight.

Alumnus Simon Amor coached the men's rugby sevens squad to a silver medal in the sport's inaugural Olympic tournament.

Amongst the other athletes attending the Games from St Mary's were alumnus 1500m runner finalist Charlie Grice, alumna and 5000m runner Steph Twell, current student and 800m runner Elliot Giles, alumna and 10,000m runner Beth Potter, and current student and Team Canada fencer Leonora Mackinnon.



Nominate: Chamber of Commerce members want more businesses to enter the awards. Trevor Aston Photography

In brief

Tuesday, September 6 – Chamber Coffee Morning at The Dysart Petersham TW10 7AA.

Thursday, September 8 – Chamber Business Masterclass: Make Social Media Work for your Business.

Monday, September 12 – Exclusive Members-only Chamber Group Mentoring Programme.

Monday, September 12 Chamber Business Workshop.

Monday, September 13, 6pm – Exclusive Members only - Chamber Group Mentoring Programme, Richmond upon Thames College, Room E20A.

Thursday, September 15, 12.30pm – Chamber Business Lunch at The Crown St Margares.

Tuesday, September 20, 2pm – Chamber Business Masterclass: Customer journey mapping and identifying magic moments, Morrisons Solicitors.

Thursday, September 22, 7.30am – Chamber Business Breakfast at The Plough, East Sheen.

Thursday, September 29, 6.30pm – Chamber Business Evening with unique wine tasting at Twickenham Experience, Twickenham Stadium.

Tuesday, October 4, 10am – Chamber Coffee Morning at St Mary's University, Twickenham.

Monday, October 10, 2pm – Chamber Business Workshop: The Dimensions of Successful Leadership, Harlequins Football Club.

Thursday, October 13, 6.30pm – Chamber Cocktail Party at Livin Kitchens TW9 2SE.

Thursday, October 20, 7.30pm – Chamber Business Breakfast with Dr Tania Mathias MP at The Lensbury.