Standing ovation
It’s been one big emotional roller coaster for Dr Eddie Crouch lately.
He continued exclusively on why he continued to fight the good fight.

Two sides
The two clinical endodontic questions continue to cause much controversy in the profession. Dr Richard Mounce explains why.

Veneer pitfalls
There are more patients than ever before presenting with acute sensitivity and pain after veneer treatments says Dr Sultan.

Three cheers for Dr Crouch
An orthodontist has won a landmark victory, after taking on the Department of Health and fighting against an appeal, which would have given health bosses the right to terminate dental contracts without cause or notice.

The DH lodged the appeal this year. Eddie Crouch, an orthodontist in Birmingham, won a Judicial Review, which said that primary care trusts (PCTs) were wrong to insert a clause in the NHS dental contracts allowing them to terminate the contract without cause or notice.

The DH battled it out in the High Court, saying that health bosses needed such a power. The Court of Appeal upheld the earlier ruling that the reasons by which a PCT can end a contract are set out in legislation and that a PCT must abide by legitimate termination reasons.

If the DH had won the appeal, primary care trusts would have had the power to end dentists’ contracts with as little as one day’s notice.

Dr Crouch said that it was ‘reassuring’ that ‘fairness’ was seen to be upheld and said it ‘should encourage others to challenge inappropriate powers that PCTs and the Department try to influence’.

Dr Crouch was forced to rely on financial support from fellow dentists to fight the case after he failed to come to an agreement with the British Dental Association (BDA) over a confidentiality document they wanted him to sign.

Mouthwash link with cancer
Mouthwashes containing alcohol can cause oral cancer and should be removed from supermarket shelves, a dental health study claims.

The news, which was revealed as Dental Tribune was going to press reports sufficient scientific evidence that such mouthwashes contribute to an increased risk of the disease.

The ethanol in mouthwash is thought to allow cancer-causing substances to permeate the lining of the mouth.

Michael McCullough, associate professor of oral medicine at the University of Melbourne, Australia, who led the study, said: ‘We see people with oral cancer who have no other risk factors than the use of mouthwash containing alcohol, so what we’ve done is review all the evidence.

‘Since this article, further evidence has come out, too. We believe there should be warnings. If it was a facial cream that had the effect of reducing acne but had a four to fivefold increased risk of skin cancer, no one would be recommending it.’

Professor McCullough, chair of the Australian Dental Association’s therapeutics committee, said the alcohol in mouthwash increases the permeability of the mucous membrane to other carcinogens, such as nicotine.

A toxic breakdown product of alcohol called acetaldehyde that may accumulate in the oral cavity
Mouthwash link with cancer

Dr Gregory, a former dental public health consultant for NHS Fife, is a fellow of the Faculty of Public Health, Royal College of Physicians and a member of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Dr Gregory said: ‘I am tremendously excited by this award. It is always a great privilege to be recognised for the work that you do and this is a really fitting end to a wonderful few months.’

More Honours for the profession

New president for the BSDHT

Marina Harris is to be the new president of the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy.

Ms Harris trained in the RAF and qualified as a dental hygienist in 1984.

She currently works as a dental hygiene tutor at the University of Portsmouth’s School of Professional Dentistry, which offers a postgraduate qualification in Hygiene and Therapy.

Ms Harris told BSDHT members when she took over the presidency ‘I sincerely believe that the success of your society should never be down to a particular presidency, rather that it evolves to establish if there is a genuine connection.

‘If patients are in any doubt about using mouthwash, they should consult their dentists.’

Dr Nigel Carter, the chief executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, rejected the findings and said: ‘A recent, and more thorough review of all available evidence carried out by leading experts on behalf of the foundation concluded there were no proven links between alcohol-containing mouthwashes and an increased incidence of mouth cancer. The public should not worry.’

Last night, a spokeswoman for Johnson & Johnson Ltd UK, the manufacturer of Listerine, said: ‘There is no scientific evidence to support an association between the use of alcohol-containing mouthwashes, such as Listerine, and an increased risk of oral cancer.’