Success for BADN
BADN’s 2007 annual dental nursing conference, held in Newport Pagnell, was the biggest and liveliest yet, says Pam Swain

Due to major sponsorship from Barnfield College Luton, as well as Oral-B, Dentsply, the BDTA, Premier Dental Agency and Practiceworks, we were able to keep the conference registration fee down to less than £100 and, for the first time, had a waiting list of dental nurses wanting to attend!

Following the inauguration of the new president, Angie McBain, and the keynote speech from Professor Stephen Lambert-Humble, postgraduate dental dean for Kent, Surrey and Sussex, introduced by Barnfield principal Pete Birkett, the lecture programme included information on Barnfield’s new foundation degree for dental nurses; professional indemnity by Sharon Brennan of WR Berkley; diversity and equality by Trevor Gordon; emotional intelligence by Carolyn Dawson; and dental software by Practiceworks’ Paula Sleight.

Local consultant Mike Simpson provided the gruesome photos required for any dental nurse conference in his oral surgery presentation; and Dunkin Rudkin from the GDC updated everyone on dental nurse registration.

Exam tips welcomed
Alongside Saturday’s programme, Sophie Schneider and Joan Hatchard of DN Training Solutions gave student dental nurses tips on how to pass the National Exam to be held the following Saturday in their Exam Revision Day, sponsored by Dentsply.

On Sunday, we had a repeat of the professional indemnity presentation for those who had missed it the first time; Leon Gevertz told us how to deal with dental anxiety; Sunil Hirani outlined the role of the modern orthodontist and team; Paula Sleight came back and explained how Practiceworks new back office system would make life easier for practice managers; and Chris Barrow of the Dental Business School explained about personal and professional vision.

The new President handed out Fellowship Certificates at the closing ceremony—this is a new membership category for dental nurses holding the City & Guilds Licentiateship who have been BADN members for 10 years or more. Too many new members and first-time delegates signed up to have Sunday lunch with the president, so instead, new members and first time delegates were given the opportunity to introduce themselves at the closing ceremony.

Time for fun
It wasn’t all work. The conference offered plenty of chances to socialise too. At the presidential dinner, masterfully compered by Richard Collard and attended by the Mayor of Newport Pagnell, local dental public health consultant Sue Gregory and Duncan Rudkin provided the jokes and a few gentle digs at BADN’s president and chief executive respectively; the Rising Crane martial arts centre provided diversity and culture with their Lion Dance; and local musicians Fergie and Rob provided the music until the early hours.

Some of the presentations will be made available to delegates over the next few weeks, and photographs by Wayne Pilgrim will also be on sale. We weren’t planning on having a full conference next year, but this one was such a success, we may have to reconsider!