February was a very busy month for GDPUK and its members. Discussion of how the credit crunch will affect UK dentistry was lengthy and wide ranging, leading to comments on life and career coaches who work in UK dentistry helping dentists see things from a business perspective. Scores of messages followed in support of and against business coaches, specifically and in general. This was a full-blown discussion, with some in favour, some against, and both sides putting point after point forward. The coaches themselves showed they were aware of opinions in their blogs. One such topic had more than 100 replies, and the thread was read over 3,000 times.

The ongoing Professor Steele enquiry is being followed. As he is now publishing a weekly blog himself, his points will be publicly aired well before the report sees the light of day.

Mercury in all its forms were analysed, and there was much made of the new environmental impact of the energy saving light bulbs, which have to be disposed of very carefully as they contain mercury vapour. These could be the next source of mercury getting into the human systems in the UK.

Unfortunately, a dental colleague in Northern Ireland has been charged with murder and this was discussed with sadness. Calls were made for this not to be raised, but the news was, and is, in the public domain, and GDPUK reported only that.

Colleagues were also unhappy to read a rumour that the Review Body might only offer a 1.5 per cent rise in fees/contract values for NHS dentistry. It was however, a rumour, and the actual result of this review has not been published at the time of writing.

Amid all the chaos, humour still abounds on GDPUK, and a recent posting of a classic Swedish video of TM joint dissection was listed as concerning the ‘yoint’. This was mocked by another colleague who posted a video of the Swedish chef from The Muppets we all remember from a few years ago. You have to see it to have a laugh.