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Dentist admits trying to strangle wife

A dentist has admitted trying to strangle his wife on New Year’s Eve.

Dr Peter Fleming has admitted punching and trying to strangle his wife at their home in Wirral on New Year’s Eve.

Fleming, who runs the Castle Dental Care surgery in Birkenhead, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court accompanied by two mental health nurses.

The 39-year-old had been charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent and grievous bodily harm.

Fleming denied the two charges and pleaded guilty to the less serious alternative count of assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

The prosecution accepted the plea, saying it matched the seriousness of his wife’s injuries as she had bruises and a cut which needed stitches after the attack.

Fleming was initially remanded in Walton prison, but has been transferred to Rainhill’s Scott Clinic.

A psychiatric report confirmed that he is fit to go on trial.

The hospital is to carry out a full mental health report on Fleming and the case has been adjourned until 21 May.

Judge Bryn Holloway agreed to adjourn sentencing for a full mental health report to be completed. He remanded Fleming to the hospital to await sentencing on May 21.

Fleming graduated from King’s College London in 1995. He is a member of the Faculty of Dental Surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He is actively involved in postgraduate education, holds a teaching certificate and has been involved in the training of a number of newly qualified dentists.

Software developer wins award

A dental software developer has won the Queen’s Award for Enterprise in the Innovation category for development of its dental restoration software.

The award was given to Delcam in recognition of the continuous development of its software for the design and manufacture of dental restorations.

Managing director, Clive Marshall said: “Having identified the need in the dental sector for efficient, easy-to-use CAD/CAM software, the response to our Dent-MILL and DentCAD products has been extremely positive and this award will further boost its reputation as the market-leading offering in the dental industry.”

Delcam’s involvement in the dental area began several years ago when companies in the industry started to use the company’s PowerMILL CAM system for the machining of restorations.

The software gave immediate benefits, both in the time in which machining data could be generated, and in the speed and quality of the machining operations.

However, this early experience showed that it was difficult for dental technicians with no previous experience in CAD/CAM to use the system.

A dedicated piece of software was needed for the dental industry and so Delcam developed DentMILL, a highly-automated knowledge-based program specifically designed to generate toolpaths to machine restorations.

Following early success with DentMILL, Delcam began the introduction of the partner design program, DentCAD.

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GDPUK round-up
The GDPUK online community this month likens the aviation industry to dentistry. Tony Jacobs explains

One of the most interesting points raised on the forum at the time the first lot of Icelandic volcanic ash was hitting the headlines, was made as almost a throwaway comment.

Forum members had been discussing the initial prolonged no-fly period, with tales of colleagues from the dental team stranded around the globe, and the effect it was having on the flying industry by having air traffic controllers supervising. It was concluded and agreed that NATS, in light of the situation, was making sure it was covered and that its jobs were safe in the name of theoretical problems, while test flights seemed to be showing no effect on jet engines.

The comparison was made with the pilot of the BA777 at Heathrow who saved the lives of passengers and people of Hounslow by lowering flaps in an unorthodox method, and dropping the plane onto the grass verge of Heathrow. The moral drawn by Chas Lister was: “If you let an external agency make draconian rules and let that agency employ non-dentists to enforce them, don’t complain when they act in THEIR interest, not yours.”

For the airline industry, volcanic dust threatens life. For dentistry, it’s HTM-0105. Our profession will not be grounded by this document though, but it will be hamstrung by an unscientific political document, written at the Department of Health by people who are covering theoretical possibilities. The cost of implementing the changes along with ongoing costs will be enormous, yet the profession cannot regain control.

Volcanic ash and infection control aside, there have been some more gripes from the forum. We have accepted the fact there is “core CPD”, subjects we must visit during each cycle of CPD. The BDA makes a meal of this requirement as part of its Good Practice Scheme. However, in practice, this means we have to listen to the same information time after time, and perhaps ignore other more interesting parts of the educational world, subjects that are more practical, and more everyday (although cross-infection, resuscitation and radiography are important in daily life).

The same theme arose from this discussion – our profession (without being prompted) has allowed the hurdles to be set by other people, and this is what occurs. But the GDC has covered its corporate self, and the good guys go and sit through the boring repetitive re-education.

The General Election has received coverage on GDPUK, as on all other forms of social networking. A poll of colleagues shows an unsurprising tendency towards the Tories, and the televised debates raised a frisson of excitement. Perhaps when you read this we will all have an idea of how our lives will be shaped over the next few years, or maybe a balanced Parliament with a period of hammered compromise will be the outcome. Have a great month...

About the author
Tony Jacobs, 52 is a GDP in the suburbs of Manchester, in practice with partner Steve Lazarus at 406 Dental (www.406dental.com). He has had roles in his LDC, local BDA and with the annual conference of LDCs, and is a local dental adviser for Dental Protection. Nowadays, he concentrates on GDPUK, the web group for UK dentists to discuss their profession online, www.gdpuk.com. Tony founded this group in 1997 which now has around 7,000 unique visitors per month, who make 35,000 visits and generate more than a million pages on the site per month. Tony is sure GDPUK.com is the liveliest and most topical UK dental website.