The 2016 British Academy of Restorative Dentistry (BARD) Conference was held at the Forest of Arden Marriott Hotel and Country Club in Meriden on 3 and 4 June. The event kicked off with an address from the president, Prof. Paul Tipton, and conference chairperson Adam Toft. This was followed by a day of lectures on various topics by speakers from all over the world, culminating with a live patient demonstration.

The patient concerned was delighted about the treatment outcome and gave a touching account of his experience. The first day’s topics focused on anterior restorations, 3D imaging, cleaning of root canals, the EQUIPOSE denture system, whitening treatment, tooth wear, facial aesthetics in dentistry, avoiding periodontal litigation, and the ArtOn4 dental concept.

After a successful first day, the programme focus changed to new ideas and materials, with presentations on high-performance PEEK polymer and its uses, CEREC and the digital world, occlusion, experiences with advanced technology designed to make clinical practice more economical, effective and efficient. The focal point was the JUVORA stand, where a new non-metal PEEK material used for fixed and removable dental prostheses was demonstrated. Sponsors displays included dental materials and instruments, scanning machines, dental courses, loupes, dental implants, dental laboratories, finance and even a car.

The weekend catered for a broad spectrum of interests and the hugely positive remarks praised the high standard and wide range of topics, exhibitors and speakers, as well as the superb social event. Delegates were inspired to go back to their surgeries and incorporate what they have already begun. The Belfry Hotel and Resort in Wishaw in Scotland is the likely venue for the 2017 BARD Conference.

BARD’s core purpose is the education of dental clinicians, giving them the opportunity to improve their skills in all aspects of dentistry, from the very basic principles to advanced treatments and concepts. Our members are not limited to dentists, dental technicians too can join the academy. Members are encouraged and expected to advance their learning pathway. These pathways can lead to the Membership in Restorative Dentistry via the postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diploma, MSc and MClinDent. Members are encouraged and given the opportunity to improve their skills in all aspects of dentistry, from the very basic principles to advanced treatments and concepts. Our members are not limited to dentists, dental technicians too can join the academy.

The conference is intended to be more than just an educational experience. It is also designed to be unforgettable and enjoyable, especially when it comes to the Saturday evening event this year started with a drinks reception, at which an illusionist had everyone amazed and baffled—‘how did he guess that, just by looking at me?’ This was followed by a charity dinner supporting the Vine Trust’s Amazon Hope Medical and Dental Programme, which seeks to promote health and dental care in Peru, supported by volunteer clinicians. Money was raised via auctioning various items and memorabilia and playing an unconventional game of heads or tails. The night ended late with various unorthodox moves on the dance floor, laughter and some sore feet.

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