As we arrived at the Dentistry Show we had a really nice greeting from all the staff. It really makes a difference when a warm welcome is received from everyone.

There was a fantastic programme for dental nurses this year, mainly due to the efforts of organiser Jillian Eastmond.

She did an incredible job selecting the speakers. My favourite was Dr. Freddie Martin, as his lecture on forensics was fascinating. Other delegates agreed; the talk from the room was good as well.

All the lectures were excellent. Other great speakers were Kimberly Wingrove who gave valuable advice about the role of dental nurses in oral health instruction and Avi Banerjee who really hit home on why minimal intervention is so important. I've heard lectures about this before at the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and it's certainly the way I'd like to be treated myself. The exhibition was also great, a large amount of stands with generally a good response from all the exhibitors, although I couldn't help but feel some discrimination from some of the exhibitors when they realised they were talking to a dental nurse and not a dentist! Their attitude seemed to change quickly and instead of carrying on talking they just pushed leaflets into my hands which was obviously my cue to leave!

I think it's important for exhibitors to realise that we as dental nurses have a big input as to what materials we have and use in the practice. We often persuade our dentists to buy products, and they often ask us to find out information on different products for them, so I can't help but feel that maybe some exhibitors lost out from business from practices purely because of the lesser attention we received.

Having said that, this was still a really enjoyable event. At the end of the first day there was a drinks reception which gave delegates a chance to mingle with each other over a glass of wine or a cold beer before getting ready for the second day's busy programme.

All in all it was a fantastic couple of days and I really cannot wait to see what they can provide for us next year!

Don’t ignore the dental nurses!

Chloe Lewis attended the 2011 Dentistry Show with other members of her practice team

About the author

Chloe Lewis is a qualified dental nurse at Avenue Road Dental Practice on the Isle of Wight. Her extended duties include clinical photography, teeth whitening procedures and patient counselling. Chloe can be reached at: info@wightdental.com. Jillian Eastmond is a Chair and Lecturer at the Dentistry Show. Dr. Freddie Martin, Forensic Odontologist. Kimberly Wingrove discussed oral health education. Minimal intervention must be the way of the future in dentistry. Avi Banerjee gave a great overview.