Honorary Secretary’s Report 2015 - 2016

My last year as Honorary Secretary has been another busy one consisting of Executive and Council meetings plus representing BSDHT at meetings with the GDC, NHS England, attending the All Party Parliamentary Group for Dentistry, BDIA, the opening ceremony of Dental Academy, University of Essex, Colchester and Regional Group meetings.

At all the external meetings, I have been aware of how well regarded our Society is and that our views are welcomed and respected in the decision-making processes. The longer I have been on the Executive Committee the more I have witnessed the influence we have in the dental arena and I would not expect this to change in the near future. It is vitally important that BSDHT are represented in these forums to ensure that our profession is included when decisions are made which, ultimately affect our working lives.

I also understand the importance of individuals who can also speak up on behalf of our profession. They have the independence to speak their minds and influence on a smaller scale; it reiterates the regard in which our profession is held. A positive approach to each other and the profession can only yield a positive result.

The BSDHT Accreditation Scheme is still ongoing but more companies or training organisations would be welcomed. This is an educational accreditation scheme to help ensure a consistency of quality and standard for CPD educational material used by its members in the future.

CPD educational material produced by manufacturers and other organisations is assessed by an Accreditation Panel established by BSDHT and where approval is granted the material will receive a licence to use the BSDHT Educational logo for a period of 12 months. Information on the scheme is available on the BSDHT website.

In the past few years there has been a concerted move to bring the Society onto a more business footing; this has included the writing of the Strategy and the writing of Standard Operating Procedures to make the transition for those taking positions on the Executive Committee smoother.

On that note, as I am standing down from this position this year, I would like to wish the next Honorary Secretary all the best and can ensure that your experience will be a worthwhile one that will enhance your personal knowledge and reinforce the point that we are a passionate, dedicated and forceful professional group.

Julie Deverick
Honorary Secretary of the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy