

# Letters

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LETTER

## TOOTH COWBOY

Dear Editor,

At our dental practice in Chippenham we had a poetry competition and we thought that this entry, complete with 'tooth cowboy' illustration, was brilliant! Please note the alias 'MAXOHO'... Max Hooper.

*Mrs Runel Tromp, Practice manager  
Dental Health for Life, Chippenham*

*Runel wins an Oral-B Triumph 5000 toothbrush  
with SmartGuide.*

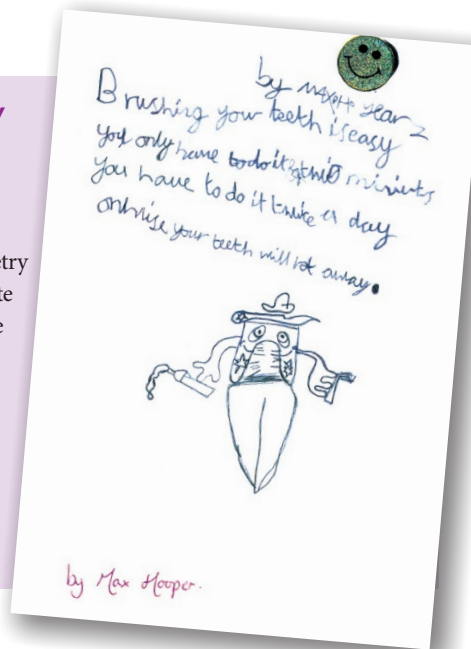


PHOTO  
STORY

Becky Wall, orthodontic care nurse at One Devonshire Place in Birmingham, enjoys reading her starring feature in the winter issue of *Vital: Women in orthodontics*. Read the article here: <http://www.nature.com/vital/journal/v11/n1/full/vital1771.html>.

Please note that the text of this article contained an error: One Devonshire Place is in Birmingham, not London. We apologise to the team at One Devonshire Place.

## CROSSWORD WINNER

Mrs Diane Eastment, a dental practice manager from Bognor Regis, won the winter 2013 *Vital* Secretword competition. The secret word was TREATMENT.

Diane won a magnum of Laurent-Perrier Champagne.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the *Vital* Secretwords!

## CORRECTION – AUTUMN VITAL

In the article *No turning back: posture in dental practice*, published in the autumn 2013 issue of *Vital* (pages 23-25), reference 5 incorrectly referred to 'Ellis P'.

The reference should have read as follows:

5. Paul E. *Team dentistry - chairside procedures and practice management*. London: Dunitz, 1991.

We apologise to Dr Ellis Paul for this error.

Do you have an opinion on something published in *BDJ Team* or on being a dental professional/working in the dental industry? Do you need advice from an expert that we might be able to help you with? Just email [bdjteam@nature.com](mailto:bdjteam@nature.com).

The best email received by the end of June 2014 will win a prize!

Letters may be edited for space. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team or the publishers.

## A BIG STEP BACK

Dear Editor,

I find all the letters in *Vital* regarding registration depressing but true. I am one of the lucky ones who has managed to secure a good job within a NHS community setting. I am a dental nurse with four post-qualifications and extended duties in conscious sedation, radiography, fluoride application and delivering oral health advice (all of which I use). I have been in this role for ten years and I always thought that the NHS Agenda for Change dental nurse salary would set a benchmark for all qualified dental nurses – how wrong. Due to the economy and the state of the NHS I continuously doubt my own job security.

Generally within the NHS Trust it had always been that a qualified dental nurse would start as a band 4 then the idea was AFC (Agenda for Change) band 5 description (specialist dental nurse) would include nurses with extended duties and post-qualifications. A lot of nurses here are stuck on band 4 all with two or three post-qualifications, which are all being used and needed to fulfil their duties. Everyone here sees no career progression and feels no benefit from registration.

I have seen recently that the managers within this trust plan to advertise vacant NHS dental nurse roles at band 3 – I find this to be taking a big step back from what registration is meant to be about, after all we may all just go to work in a supermarket/retail shop for the same pay and less responsibility/hassle and strain on our purses.

As I say I am one of the lucky ones but for how much longer? Morale is low at work. The only thing registration has done for me is take a big chunk out of my hard-earned cash and given me the grey cloud over my head that in this blame and claim culture means I may get sued!

We have all been registered for five years yet I see no change that was meant to come in with registration – when will dental nurses' roles, responsibilities and hard work become reflected in our pay?

I'm sorry to moan and I am grateful to be in my job but good roles are very few and far between and I really feel for ALL registered dental nurses. At the end of the day I love my job; registration has not changed how I work or think; I will always work hard and do my best and I love that I contribute to team working and patient care.

*Clare, Dental nurse*