

WHY 2008 SHOULD BE THE YEAR YOU SUPPORT THE BRITISH DENTAL GUILD

What is the British Dental Guild?

The British Dental Guild was established over 50 years ago to support the General Dental Services Committee (GDSC) who worked to look after the NHS practitioners. The fund was established to compensate those practitioners who gave their time to attend meetings and to negotiate with the Department of Health about the terms and conditions applicable to NHS Dentistry and to ensure that it was independent of BDA resources. The General Dental Practice Committee (GDPC) is the successor Committee to GDSC and had its name changed to reflect the wider remit it has which includes looking after the interests of practitioners who practice to a greater or lesser extent in the private sector. The Guild continues to support the work of the officers and sub committee members of the GDPC which, whilst supported by the BDA's professional teams, represents both BDA members and non-members. It is elected every 3 years in a process which makes all GDPs eligible to stand for election and to vote in the election – a representative body for all GDPs.



Chairman-Dr Julie C Williams
BDS MFGDP DPDS

Don't ignore the Guild – Your contribution makes a difference!

Despite the widely known fact that the Department of Health failed to listen to the significant concerns raised by the GDPC about the new contract, there were some significant concessions:

- Allowing dentists to prioritise children and adults exempt from charges. This would have benefited up to 20% of practices
- The 3 year transitional period guarantee has given practices the opportunity to assess their future whilst in a reasonably secure financial position.
- Doubling the UDA performance 'tolerance' to 4 percent
- Scrapped the original proposal that PCTs may end the GDS contract with just 18 months notice: instead GDS contracts are indefinite.
- Allowing dentists to refuse to treat violent or abusive patients without having to first call in the police to report actual or verbal assault.
- Secured the continuation of rules allowing 'mixing' of NHS and private treatment within the same course and the broad definition of what falls outside the scope of the NHS.

The work of GDPC members is ongoing as they are involved on a daily and monthly basis with meetings, working groups, correspondence and pilot schemes which have recently included a review of the Business Services Authority Dental Services Division, a review of the use of the NHS identity and defending VT and ensuring it remains of high quality. GDPC is working with Local Dental Committees (LDCs) to upgrade and modernise Regional LDC networks in order that there is (a) better communication between local dentists and their main committee, GDPC, and (b) that GDPC and BDA can give better support to the dentists which they will need as local commissioning is developed for 2009 and beyond.

Why does the Guild need your support now?

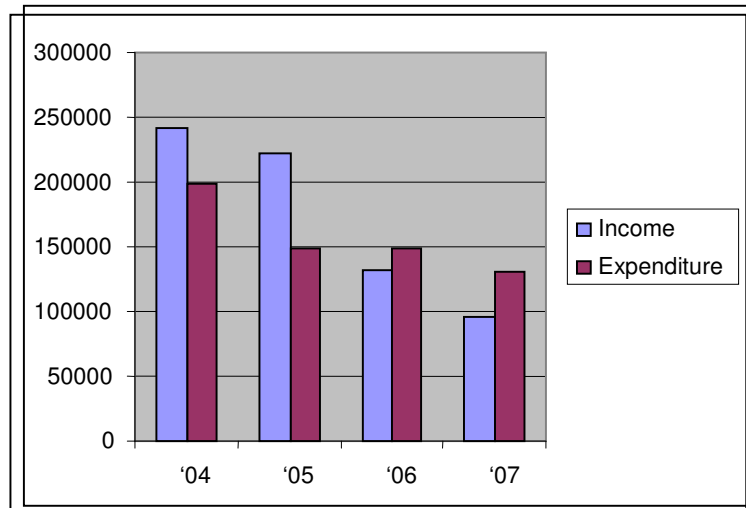
Traditionally, general dental practitioners have found it very easy to support the Dental Guild and their LDC by simply having a small voluntary contribution deducted from their monthly NHS schedule. However, this has changed since the new contract was introduced. It has never been more important to support your representatives, who have to take so much time out of their practices, travelling the country negotiating and communicating on your behalf. Please make the effort to organise your contributions, if you have not already done so.

Over many years the British Dental Guild has been able to compensate members of the profession, mainly on the GDSC/GDPC, for loss of earnings when working on behalf of their colleagues. The payment from the Guild, known as the Guild rate has been some financial compensation for time taken out of surgery and has become a bench mark within the profession.

The British Dental Guild has always relied upon donations, principally from LDC's, to meet the expense of paying representatives. We are all aware of the difficulties of the last few years but hopefully things are improving!

Expenses are always kept to a minimum. As few meetings as possible, teleconferencing where possible and committees maintained at a minimum effective number. However, over the last few years there has been a steady decline in the amount of donations which is now bringing us to a 'shortfall' situation. We have managed not to 'raid' emergency funds but this situation cannot be maintained for very long.

The graph below shows the fall in donations and the increase in the shortfall over the last four years.



Clearly with a shortfall of £35,000 last year this is a situation which cannot be maintained. We are all very grateful for the support which the guild continues to receive. For those of you who have not supported us recently, we understand very well the difficulties with which you have been faced but urge you to look very carefully at making a donation in this year.

To coin a phrase 'every little helps' but I would suggest that a figure of approximately £20 per year per dentist represented by your LDC. We, the Managers, look forward to your continuing support for the British Dental Guild.

[How can I help?](#)

Support your LDC financially! There are a number of ways LDC's can 'raise a levy'. If an LDC cannot agree a format with its PCT I will be happy to advise on standing orders. Please contact me either through DentalGuild@aol.com or 07770 808212.

Many thanks from the Managers of the Guild and all those who receive your support-helping dentists to help the profession.