

Mr J.M. McCormack

Past president: 1975-1976



John McCormack qualified in 1958 at Guys. After an HS appointment and two years as a National Service dentist in the RAF he was awarded the Newland Pedley travelling scholarship from Guys.

He went to Toronto Dental school and obtained the DDS degree a couple of years after Ian Gainsford.

Back in London he joined the West End practice of Allan (Tommy) Thompson and Bill McLachlan where he worked happily for the next 39 years.

He also joined the Guys teaching team part time. He was very privileged at an early part of his career to come into professional contact not only with Tommy, but with Professor Pickard, John Mclean and Jack Rowe, all early founding members and past Presidents of the BSRD.

Dentistry was of course very different in the early days of the Society. Fluoride toothpaste was only just starting to make an impact, there was no adhesive dentistry, and no composites or implants.

Accurate and intricate sophisticated techniques of restorative work were therefore at a forefront of these early years. Broken teeth and old amalgam and silicate restorations meant that a dentist might make hundreds if not thousands of gold inlays and crowns over the years.

John's election to President in 1975 at the early age of 40 was because of his work and publication of techniques for splints and bridges using pins for retention. First of all in the 1960's using cemented parallel pins using an intra oral jig, and then later threaded pins to literally screw down a gold superstructure onto the tooth beneath.

It is perhaps a relief that these complicated techniques are no longer needed and that the BSRD has moved on to a leading role of assessment and appraisal of the advances in Restorative Dentistry. John has been proud to have been a member and President of a fine group devoted to the advancement of restorative dental science.

At 83 he is still actively happy and with his wife Madeleine, gardening, walking dogs, fly fishing and recording some 40-year-old restorative work using pins, reversible hydrocolloid impressions and even cohesive gold fillings!

