

# Close finish for Elite Laboratory Awards winners

**T**HE final of the inaugural Elite Laboratory Awards took place during the Dentistry Show at the NEC on 1st March. The event kicked off with an introduction from Laurence Grice-Roberts MBE, on behalf of the sponsor Roland DG, following which the judges were introduced.

Bill Sharpling, director of LonDEC at King's College London, was head judge with Lisa Higgins, senior lecturer in Dental Technology at Manchester Municipal University and WO1 (LabMan) Carl Harris, Senior DT in the Royal Army Dental Corps, completing the panel.

The first two presentations were from the winners of the "one technician" and "two to five technicians" section, these categories being decided before the event.

Heather Humphries made a presentation on her laboratory, Solo Ceramics, as winner of the "one technician sector"; with Peter

Gange from Peter Gange Ceramics, presenting on his laboratory as winner of the "two to five" section.

The finalists in the "open" section were Byrne Laboratory with Ashley Byrne presenting, CBC with Paul Johnson presenting and Dental Precision with Martin Docking presenting.

The standard of presentation from all the laboratories was exceptional and, interestingly, the same key messages were coming through in each of the presentations:

1. Focus on what is best for the patient.
2. Getting and keeping good staff is key to a successful business.
3. Provide a good place for people to work.
4. Keep abreast of new techniques and materials.
5. Invest in the new technologies.
6. Client relationships/support/education are vital.
7. Market your business.

### Three points...

In the end, there was very little between the finalists by way of marks from the judges. Out of a possible 750 points, the winning margin was only three points.

The judges were so impressed that head judge Bill Sharpling made special comments on the finalists, highlighting areas where the judges thought each lab had been exceptional.



The judging panel (from left): Carl Harris, Bill Sharpling, and Lisa Higgins



Top award winner, Martin Docking from Dental Precision, congratulated by Laurence Grice-Roberts MBE



Peter Gange, winner in the two- to five-technician category



Heather Humphries from Solo Ceramics

There can, however, be only one winner and the judges awarded Dental Precision from St Agnes the title of Elite Laboratory 2012.

Martin accepted the prize on behalf of his team and reprised the presentation in the main conference hall later in the afternoon.

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The Schick new Qube micromotor and G2 model saw – two must-have products for any lab looking to save time and money – will also be demonstrated.

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Our "just published" 2012 course programme and our brand new All Your Lab Need brochure featuring most of our products and lines will be available on the stand. Special offers on many products will be available at the show.

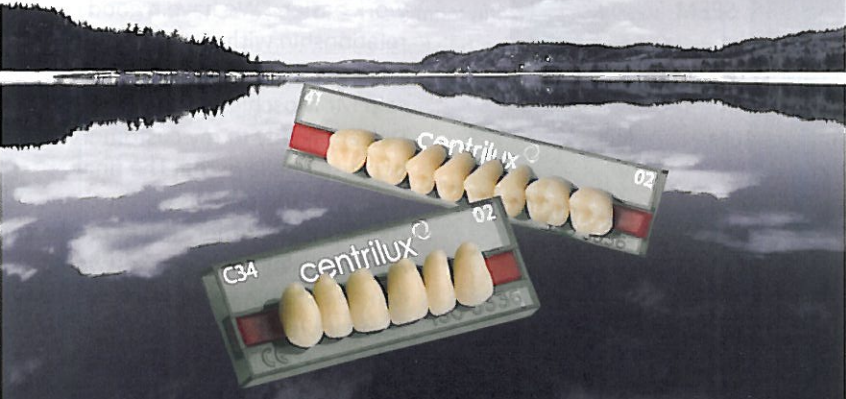


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