

**The Board Meeting Sketch**  
**by Mark Allen**

**INT - A LARGE BOARDROOM - DAY**

SIX PEOPLE SIT AROUND A LARGE TABLE.

**GERALD:** Well, that's the minutes of our last meeting approved. What's the first item on the agenda Amanda?

**AMANDA:** Cigarette breaks.

**GERALD:** Ah yes. Does anyone want to start us off?

**GRAHAM:** Yes. As a non-smoker, it's not fair that some smokers have at least six fifteen minute fag breaks a day. I'm working an extra hour and a half more than them.

**GERALD:** That's a fair point. Anybody else like to comment?

**SIMON:** I work better if I take cigarette breaks. Why don't non-smokers take fresh air breaks or something?

**GERALD:** Again a fair point, but I think we need to have an official line on it. Amanda, please minute this. Let's say "People can have a maximum of four cigarette breaks a day". Does that sound fair?

THERE ARE A FEW DISAPPROVING NOISES FROM THE SMOKERS.

**GERALD (CONT'D):** Right, what's next on the agenda?

**SIMON:** You didn't say full stop.

**GERALD:** Sorry?

**SIMON:** When you dictated that sentence, you didn't say full stop, so it isn't finished yet. (BEAT) I'm going to finish it by saying "People can have a maximum of four cigarette breaks a day, but each one can last for an hour, full stop". Please minute that Amanda.

GERALD LOOKS ANNOYED.

**GERALD:** (GRUDGINGLY) That's a very valid point Simon, thank you.

**GRAHAM:** Well, I rub out your full stop and say "People can take a maximum of four cigarette breaks a day, but each one can last for an hour except for Simon, full stop."

**SIMON:** You can't do that.

**GERALD:** Can't do what Simon? That sounds perfectly reasonable to me.

**SIMON:** You can't rub out my full stop.

**GRAHAM:** Why not?

**SIMON:** Because it was in pen and not in pencil.

THERE IS A PAUSE. SIMON LOOKS SMUG.

**SHEILA:** Well, I'll tippex out your full stop and say "People can have a maximum of four cigarette breaks a day, but each one can last for an hour except for Simon, exclamation mark."

AMANDA IS FRANTICALLY TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH THE MINUTES AS THE SENTENCE KEEPS GETTING ALTERED.

**LINDA:** In that case, I'll rip out your whole page and say "People can have a maximum of four cigarette breaks a day, but each one can last for an hour except for Simon, who can take two hours, exclamation mark and full stop. And I'd chisel it in a big rock that can't be moved because it's too heavy."

PEOPLE DRAW BREATH. THERE IS ANOTHER PAUSE.

**GRAHAM:** Well I'll blow up your rock with dynamite and say "People can have a maximum of four cigarette breaks a day, but each one can last for an hour except for Simon who can take breaks of two hours provided he only smokes through his ears and eats live snakes at the time full stop, exclamation mark"... and I'll write it on mega thick steel with a laser that only I know how to use and I'll shoot it into space in a capsule that can't be opened ever and no-one can find it and alter it... ever.

THERE IS A LONG SILENCE.

**GERALD:** (ENTHUSIASTICALLY) Ok, let's go with Graham's suggestion then. Minute that please Amanda. (BEAT) What's next on the agenda?

**AMANDA:** Toilet Breaks.

**END**