

SERIES ONE

THE GAMES

EPISODE

05

**PAST SPORTS STARS
AND GENDER**

BROADCAST DATE
14/09/98



John walks into the office clasping a wad of newspaper clippings.

JOHN Good morning. Bit crisp this morning, isn't it?

BRYAN (on phone) Come off it, Craig. Vladimir Kuts? Not in the same class.

The phone rings in John's office. Gina answers.

GINA Olympic Hotline, Gina speaking. Thank you. Thank you. That's beautiful singing. Thank you. Thank you.

JOHN Good morning.

GINA Good morning.

JOHN What are you doing in here?

GINA Kevin from Marketing just rang to wish me happy birthday.

JOHN Oh, happy birthday.

GINA Thank you.

JOHN I didn't know you knew anyone in Marketing.

GINA Never met or spoken with Kevin in my born days. He's obviously done one of those marketing courses that tells you to find out the birthday of everyone in your organisation, pop it in your diary and give them a call on the big day, no doubt in order to prove what a particularly genuine type of person you are. (She is dialling as she speaks)

JOHN Where's my stapler?

GINA Kevin in Marketing, please. Oh Kevin, It's Gina. (He doesn't recognise her name) Gina. Never mind. Listen, I just rang to wish you a happy birthday. It's not? Well, it's in my diary. Let me check. I see... Oh, it's Brad Pitt's birthday. I see the confusion. He's someone else I've never met and couldn't give a shit about. And Kevin, one more thing... (slams down phone)

John is still looking for his stapler and wanders down the corridor and into Bryan's office.

JOHN Stapler? Stapler?

BRYAN (still on phone) This is the Russian Vladimir Kuts we're talking about here, Craig is it? Come off it. Cathy Freeman with a wooden leg would have beaten Vladimir Kuts. If he went any bloody slower he would have been going backwards.

JOHN Stapler?

BRYAN (on phone) Hang on a second, Craig.

JOHN Stapler? Stapler?

BRYAN Yes. What are you...?

JOHN Have we got a stapler, Bryan? We must have a stapler. We're the Olympics. We must run to a stapler. (leaves Bryan's office for Gina's) Ah! Something that looks a bit like a stapler. (As he enters Gina's office he hears the radio. As is the case every morning, community concerns are articulated through discourse with Albert Einstein, a talkback host, John is fortunate to experience the following.)

CALLER Morning Alby

EINSTEIN Morning

CALLER Alby I'm opposed to the new freeway plan because it involves the demolition of my house

EINSTEIN Hang hang on It involves what?

CALLER The demolition of my house

EINSTEIN Yeah, what about it?

CALLER The freeway plan involves the demolition of my house

EINSTEIN Hang on hang on. What involves the demolition of your house?

CALLER The freeway plan

EINSTEIN Yeah, what's all this got to do with your house?

CALLER It involves the demolition of my house

EINSTEIN Hang hang on. What does?

CALLER The freeway plan

EINSTEIN What are you talking about?

CALLER The freeway plan involves the demolition of my house

EINSTEIN What your saying is that the freeway plan involves the demolition of your house.

CALLER Yes

EINSTEIN Is that what you're saying?

CALLER Yes

EINSTEIN That it involves the demolition of your house?

CALLER Yes

EINSTEIN The actual demolition.

CALLER Yes

EINSTEIN Of your entire house.

CALLER Yes

EINSTEIN The house you live in.

CALLER Yes

EINSTEIN Won't be there any more.

CALLER No

EINSTEIN Gone.

CALLER Yes

EINSTEIN Why?

CALLER Because of the freeway plan.

John is impressed.

JOHN Whatever they pay that bloke, it's simply not enough.

Gina is looking through binoculars in John's office. She looks out at the arena, which is not yet completed.

GINA This stadium's never going to be finished at this rate.

JOHN Any sign of my stapler out there?

GINA There's a labourer over there in about Section 12. He has not so much as farted in twenty minutes. Look at him.

BRYAN (walking into the office) Vladimir Kuts What an idiot!

JOHN Vladimir Kuts is an idiot?

BRYAN No. No. No. Craig.

JOHN Craig? Who might Craig be?

BRYAN Craig from Accounts Receivable. Going on with the same old crap about how the athletes of the past are better than the athletes today.

JOHN Have you seen my stapler? Blue stapler.

BRYAN No. I told you I haven't seen it.

JOHN It must exist somewhere. Craig might be a bit of a bore, Bryan, but I'll tell you something for nothing – on that issue he is absolutely right.

BRYAN Oh not you too, John. Come on, your modern athlete is a machine.

JOHN That may be, Bryan, but your older athletes used to root, shoot, drive a truck, work sixteen hours a day, yank a pair of shorts on, try and get a bit of training in at lunchtime. Your modern athlete... Incidentally we have to go to the IOC about this GST thing. (points to phone) How do you work that? (presses a button and speaks to receptionist) Could you give us a whistle the minute this GST package arrives, please.

BRYAN And your point is?

JOHN Your modern athlete, Bryan, lives in a thermostatically controlled biosphere for eleven months of the year wrapped in mung beans or something and they're still only 10 per cent faster.

BRYAN Oh rubbish.

JOHN They are. Go and look it up. Do a bit of compare and contrast.

BRYAN I will. It's a lot of rubbish.

JOHN Blue stapler. Look for that too.

BRYAN Rubbish.

John approaches Gina.

JOHN Gina, that bloke might move if you stop watching him. A watched pot never boils.

GINA You're blinding me with science. Some respect please. I'm on phone duty.

JOHN We're all on phone duty.

GINA No, I'm on special phone duty.

JOHN Special phone duty? What's special phone duty?

GINA Upstairs thought it might be a good idea to establish a freecall Olympic hotline so that intending overseas visitors could call with their queries about our beautiful city.

JOHN That's actually not a bad idea.

GINA It's a shocking idea, John. The line is only open from 9 till 5.

JOHN You can't have people working 24 hours a day.

- GINA** Having a phone line that operates only in Australian business hours is not much good for the rest of the world, is it?
- JOHN** Well, it's probably not bad for Asia or something.
- GINA** Asia's broke, John. They called this morning to say they're not coming.
- John is still looking for his stapler. He has a handful of loose papers. He looks behind the couch and is pleased to have found something.*
- JOHN** Lord Lucan, how are you? Have you got my stapler? (He comes back to Gina) I thought we had an auditorium full of people doing this.
- GINA** No.
- JOHN** We did. I saw them. It was like 'Gandhi' with phones.
- GINA** We did until yesterday, yes, when the Federal and State Governments couldn't agree which one of them was going to pay for it.
- JOHN** What do they want to know? How is it going?
- GINA** What do they want to know? Most of them want to know if the Games are still on.
- JOHN** Of course the Games are still on.
- GINA** Foreign newspapers have been full of stories about the collapse of the Asian economies. Most callers think we can't afford to hold the Games and we're going to cancel them.
- JOHN** Why would anybody think we're part of Asia?
- GINA** Because we spent the best part of ten years telling them we are.
- JOHN** Well I don't think... .
- Bryan walks in with a reference book.*
- BRYAN** Here you go: your average marathon runner is 22 per cent faster than he was 50 years ago.
- JOHN** He's fitter. I didn't say he wasn't fitter.
- BRYAN** John, you are a broken record.
- JOHN** Bryan, he'd want to be a bit faster wouldn't he? In 1924 at the Paris Olympics, at the start of the marathon, the runners were only crouched down because they were stubbing out cigars.
- BRYAN** Oh, come on.
- JOHN** You've got to make some introductory remarks, incidentally, about a GST.
- Jonathan walks in with a cup of coffee for Gina.*
- GINA** Thank you, Jonathan.
- JONATHAN** The courier's on his way.
- JOHN** Oh good.
- BRYAN** Yes. I know about the remarks. I'll do it.
- JOHN** (points to Jonathan) Who's that?
- Phone rings.*
- GINA** Olympic Hotline. Gina speaking. Just hold on a minute please.
- GINA** Could you get me a biscuit please John? And a cuppa?

- JOHN** Yes, for madam. Coffee. Of course.
- GINA** (into phone) Yes. Certainly. No, we're not part of Asia. No, I assure we're not.
Bryan encounters John in the gents' toilets. Bryan continues with his argument.
- BRYAN** Tennis. Tennis.
- JOHN** I beg your pardon?
- BRYAN** Tell me tennis used to be better than it is now.
- JOHN** Tennis? That's exactly what I'll tell you, Bryan.
- BRYAN** You have got to be joking.
- JOHN** Used to be miles better, Bryan. Tennis: a game that used to be played on an ant bed with a racquet the size of a postage stamp and a ball you had to go and get out of the neighbour's guttering. An era, Bryan, in which it was considered nobler and better to win the Davis Cup for your country than it was to win Wimbledon for yourself. It was played by players who spoke to the umpire only in the event that they wished to inquire after the state of his wife's health.
- BRYAN** John, don't take it personally.
- JOHN** Bryan, the last sixteen at Wimbledon used to all come from Queensland. Every single one of them. And possibly someone from New South Wales.
- BRYAN** Absolute nonsense.
- JOHN** And they played in whites, Bryan.
- BRYAN** Oh big deal!
- JOHN** In sharp contrast, your modern tennis player, Bryan, is going to phone in sick if he has a sprained eyelash so he can stay in the sauna longer playing tonsil hockey with the supermodel du jour.
- BRYAN** Get a life!
- JOHN** They played in whites, Bryan. You watched them. You didn't have to read them.
- BRYAN** So what? You're mad. You're absolutely mad.
- JOHN** (to camera as he leaves) Let the minutes show that at this point Mr Clarke left the meeting of the Australian Rationalists' Society looking tense but dignified.
Bryan is engaged in important government work and does not realise John has gone.
- BRYAN** Give us an other example. Go on. You haven't got one, have you? See. John? John?
Back in John's office, Gina is still on the phone. John is on the couch.
- GINA** ...But I think we all agree now that was a mistake. What more can I say? The Games are still on. No wucking furrries.
Bryan walks in. He has another point to make to John.
- BRYAN** Football.
- JOHN** Hello, Bryan.
- BRYAN** Football.
- JOHN** Football.
- BRYAN** Football.

- JOHN** You keep saying 'football'. I presume this is a pathetic attempt to regenerate an argument in which you are being roundly thrashed.
- BRYAN** Oh rubbish, come on. Football.
- JOHN** El Niño, Bryan, has presented players of the modern era with the hardest surfaces in history. Most players under the age of twenty have never, for example, played in rain.
- BRYAN** You have not given me one single example in any sport where a player of today and a player of your golden past has contested under the same conditions over exactly the same course. (brandishes a stapler)
- JOHN** Bryan... hey, that's my stapler!
- BRYAN** I'll give you this back when you give me one single example.
- JOHN** Bryan, I presume all this rhetoric is a clear indication you've finished your beautifully crafted first paragraph on the subject of the influence of the GST on the Olympics that you're going to talk to the IOC about?
- BRYAN** I have.
- JOHN** Give us my stapler now.
- BRYAN** One example.
- JOHN** Give us my stapler.
- BRYAN** One example.
- JOHN** Give us my stapler back now, Bryan.
- BRYAN** One example.
Gina in on the binoculars again.
- GINA** Oh, he's getting up... He's getting up. He's going to do some work. No, just scratching the builder's inch. No, don't do any work. That's right. Sit back down. Good on you.
*Wednesday 10.24 a.m.
John is in Gina's office. He's talking on the phone.*
- JOHN** Ah Dino! It's John. Good thanks. How are you? Listen, a bit of help. Long-distance swimmer. Australian. Big bloke, 48-calibre chest. Fair-sized roof over the tool shed. Used to do the English Channel a fair bit, in about... yeah, that's him. You're a genius. Thank you. Bye. Bryan?
Outside, Bryan is on the rooftop practising his putting.
- BRYAN** Beautiful. (to John) Not you again.
- JOHN** Hello, Bryan. English Channel. Des Renford.
- BRYAN** Des Renford?
- JOHN** Des Renford.
- BRYAN** Dessie Renford.
- JOHN** Des Renford would regularly take on the English Channel, Bryan. He would drop his tweeds, pull on a pair of oversized budgie smugglers and he would drop a bomb off the white cliffs of Dover and start rolling his arm over.
- BRYAN** Des Renford?
- JOHN** Yes. He would then disappear off the world's radar screens for about three weeks. Subsequently he would be found, lying on a beach near Calais somewhere, with a school

of herring up his snorer. He'd be in intensive care for about a fortnight. He would then swim back to England, Bryan, and get his towel.

BRYAN And your point is, Mr Clarke?

JOHN As distinct from your modern athlete, who is provided with a waterproof five-star hotel suite which they drag from one side of the Channel to the other. It only takes about 40 minutes. They give them a wake up call five minutes out.

BRYAN You're mad.

JOHN (He gives an imaginary channel-swimmer a wake-up call) Hoi! Nearly there.

BRYAN That's it? That's your best shot?

JOHN Name me your modern-day Des Renford. (Bryan doesn't. John opens to the contest to the broader public, driving past along the road) Anybody?

Back in the office, Gina is fielding yet another call.

GINA All right sir, we are Pacific-rimmers. The fact that you've never heard of a Pacific-rimmer is hardly my concern, is it? I don't give a flying f... (caller hangs up. Gina turns to camera) What's the reverse of PR?

Wednesday 12.10 p.m.

John and Bryan are in Bryan's office.

JOHN It's not the athletes I blame actually, Bryan. I don't blame the athletes for the fact that when I'm stuck in the traffic I've got to look up at a billboard advertising an athletic shoe that tells me there's no second prize.

BRYAN John, it's inspirational.

JOHN It must be enormously inspirational to the people who make the actual shoes, stuck in a sauna somewhere up in Asia getting about five cents a year. What are you doing?

BRYAN Looking for your 'off' switch.

JOHN It must be very inspirational to the woman on the production line, Bryan, trying to work out whether her one remaining lung allows her sufficient aerobic capacity to rugby-tackle a rat at some stage of the day so she can lug it home and feed her family.

BRYAN John, you do not get on the cover of Sports Illustrated if you are the runner-up.

JOHN That's another part of the same problem, of course. In the old days a sports magazine used to have a sportsperson on the front. Betty Cuthbert, hurdling, a bit of Betty, a bit of hurdle. Nowadays you've got a supermodel on the front, in the nude, smoking a bloody cigar. There might be a synergistic relationship between Linda Evangelista's lower alimentary canal and sport of some kind, Bryan, but it bloody eludes me.

(Bryan hands him his stapler) Thank you very much. Well done.

BRYAN Fifteen—love.

COURIER (calling out) Delivery.

JOHN Oh good. Bloody marvellous. About time too. We've got to get down to the IOC, Bryan. We've got to do this very quickly. The GST stuff will all be in here and if they ask us anything more complicated than our names we're going to be in some kind of trouble, I think.

BRYAN Is this the GST stuff?

COURIER Capriccioso, I think.

- JOHN** This is a pizza?
- COURIER** Yeah, pizza.
- GINA** (from inside John's office) For the birthday girl!
- JOHN** (takes pizza into office for Gina) Oh, I am terribly sorry. That is much more important, isn't it, than the impact of the GST and the ensuing tax package on the entire Olympics.
- GINA** I only ordered that ten minutes ago. Geez, they're good, this new mob. Thank you.
- BRYAN** Have you got everything you need?
- GINA** (She is in binocularworld again) They do not want to work, these people. Look at them. Yeah, that's right. Sit down. Good on you.
- John's mobile phone rings.*
- JOHN** Hello. Yes it is. Oh yes, really. Where? Yes, oh I see. (He looks out the window across the arena) Which window am I doing something in? Very good. Okay. (to Gina) Gina, this is the concreters in – (on phone) where did you say? – B15? Yes, B15.
- GINA** Hello.
- JOHN** (to Gina) Yes. They've got a couple of questions they want to ask you. (on phone) Fire away. (to Gina) Are you a statue? (to Gina) What are you being paid? (to Bryan) What are funbags, Bryan? (on phone) Yes, and the rest of the afternoon to you too, Jack. (to Bryan) Have a bit of pizza, Bryan.
- BRYAN** Oh, thank you. (He tries to take a piece but it proves difficult to pick up)
- JOHN** Get into it. No grab it. You've got to grab it firmly, boy. Grab it firmly. There's a good boy.
- BRYAN** It won't come up.
- JOHN** Not from a very big family are you, Bryan? Oh, I'm terribly sorry – did you want a piece of pizza that isn't stapled to the bottom?
- BRYAN** Hilarious, isn't he?
- Gina's phone rings.*
- GINA** Hello. Welcome to the island continent.
- Bryan Dawe visits the Minister's Secretary to discuss the seating arrangements for a regional delegates meeting.*
- BRYAN** (to camera) You guys will have to stay here, I'm afraid. I'll have to check this out. He's expecting the three of us, all right?
- In Nicholas Bell's office, Bryan sits and they have the plan spread out before them..*
- BRYAN** So who's going from here?
- NICHOLAS** There is you, Gina, Don Talbot, Ric Charlesworth, Tracey Holmes, (He crosses out one of those names). They're sending through a final seating arrangement this afternoon.
- BRYAN** Isn't this the seating here?
- NICHOLAS** No, it's been changed. We're sitting here at the European table in this plan but we have been shifted.
- BRYAN** Why were we at the European table?
- NICHOLAS** I think they meant culturally.



BRYAN We've got nothing to do with Europe.

NICHOLAS That's what the Belgians and the Portuguese said.

BRYAN So where are we?

NICHOLAS We've been invited to sit here at the Scandinavian table.

BRYAN They're hardly synonymous, are they? Australia and Scandinavia?

NICHOLAS (explaining the connection) There's room at the Scandinavian table.

BRYAN What about Oceania? New Zealand? Solomon Islands? Fiji?

NICHOLAS No. We have been vetoed.

BRYAN Guam?

NICHOLAS Apparently Australian mining companies are causing too much trouble in Nauru and Papua New Guinea. (Nicholas's mobile phone rings) Excuse me again. (on phone) Hello. Hello. God, these things are bloody useless. (Bryan presses a button on his phone)

BRYAN Completely useless.

NICHOLAS Apparently you're supposed to get reception in 97 per cent of the country.

BRYAN It must be the other 97 per cent.

NICHOLAS (Back to the seating plan) Look, we could just sit at 'Other'.

BRYAN We can't be 'Other'. We're the bloody host.

NICHOLAS All right. It has been suggested that we invent another table.

BRYAN Called what?

NICHOLAS 'Host cities'. We invent another table called 'Host Cities' and invite the last two and the next two as well.

BRYAN And who would that be?

NICHOLAS Well, there'd be someone from Athens, someone from Nagano.

BRYAN And someone from Coca-Cola and a Mormon.

NICHOLAS That'd be right. (Nicholas's mobile phone rings again) Excuse me, sorry. Hello? (to Bryan) Why don't they stop ringing until they get to an area where I can talk to them? (to phone) Hello?

BRYAN They drive you mad, those things.

NICHOLAS Hello? No, look. It's even got the number of the person to talk to and I can't talk to him.

BRYAN (presses a button on his phone) Completely useless, all of them.

NICHOLAS Height of efficiency.

BRYAN (Back to the seating plan) I don't know. How about Cuba?

NICHOLAS Cuba's over here. Carribean.

BRYAN We could sit there.

NICHOLAS They're actually very nice people.

David Pigot from the Sports Accreditation Board is on his way to John's office. He encounters the documentary-makers as he enters the lift.

DAVID (to camera) You're the doco people.

REPORTER Are you going up to the Games office?

DAVID (to camera) I am. I am. Yes. I saw this on the television on Monday night. I didn't see you, I saw... Second floor right? Yes, I was supposed to come for a meeting on Thursday but they cancelled. Then I was supposed to come on Friday but they were interstate. I wanted to come yesterday and they were too busy. Too busy. I've got better things to do. (lift doors open and David gets out) Anyway, see you later. (Cut to John's office, where David seems irritated) Have you seen this?

JOHN Yes, I have. Who is Consuela?

DAVID Carlos Sabatini. Same person.

JOHN I realise that. I'm asking who she is.

DAVID It's in the letter.

JOHN David, the letter explains the problem. I want to know how it happened.

GINA Carlos won the gold medal in skeet-shooting at Atlanta.

JOHN Ah yes. Not an event I follow.

DAVID He wants to come here and defend his Olympic title.

JOHN Fair enough.

GINA Has won the last three national championships in Argentina.

JOHN A commendable performance.

GINA Is current South American champion, European champion and world champion.

JOHN Have we got to the problem yet?

DAVID He can't come.

JOHN Can't come to Sydney?

DAVID No.

JOHN Why not?

DAVID Not eligible to enter the event.

JOHN Any reason given, David?

DAVID Read the letter.

JOHN I'm asking you.

DAVID Not eligible. Can't go in it. Doesn't qualify.

GINA In February 1998 at the El Hambro Clinic in Buenos Aires, Carlos had a sex-change operation.

JOHN I see.

DAVID And he's now a woman.

JOHN This is Consuela?

DAVID That's exactly right. Yes.

JOHN And who says Consuela can't come?

DAVID The Olympic Sports Accreditation Board. We control who is allowed to come and who isn't.

JOHN And you've decided Consuela's not coming.

DAVID That's exactly right.

JOHN What are the issues here?

DAVID There aren't any issues here. He's not coming.

A slight pause occurs

JOHN He's the defending champion.

DAVID He's a woman.

JOHN Let him compete in the women's event.

DAVID He's the Men's World Champion.

GINA He was a woman when he won it.

DAVID Yes, but that wasn't known at the time.

JOHN Somebody must have known.

DAVID Nobody knew.

JOHN Did Carlos have any kind of inkling?

DAVID Well, no-one else knew.

JOHN All the other competitors were men, were they?

DAVID Of course they were.

JOHN Although, of course, you couldn't possibly have known that at the time.

DAVID No, we knew that the rest of them were men at the time.

JOHN At the time, David, you must have thought they were all men.

DAVID How the hell could we have known who was a woman and who was a man?

JOHN My point is, how the hell can you know that about anybody?

DAVID Oh don't be bloody stupid. You can tell.

JOHN David, if you could tell a man from a woman, how did a woman win the Men's World Championship?

GINA Look, this is a disaster. 'We call upon the athletes of the world to come and compete in Sydney regardless of colour, race or creed. So long as you fit the gender requirements'.

Another slight pause occurs

JOHN What do the other shooters think?

GINA The other shooters don't have a problem.

JOHN David, Sabotini is the defending champion, isn't she?

DAVID No.

GINA Yes, she is.

DAVID No, he isn't. You can only be the defending champion if you're defending your title.

JOHN But the only reason she's not doing that is that you're not going to let her in.

DAVID Well, you can't be the defending champion if you're not defending your title. Can you?

- GINA** Look, what is the difference between men's skeet shooting and women's skeet shooting aside from gender?
- DAVID** What do you mean 'aside from gender'? Gender is the difference.
- JOHN** Are the skeets the same? Are the targets the same? Is the gear the same? Are the rifles the same? Is the scoring system the same?
- DAVID** Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes.
- GINA** Why have they got separate events?
- DAVID** Well, all sports have separate events. You have a Men's 100 metres and you have a Women's 100 metres. Are you going to have them run together?
- GINA** Yes, but this is not an event that involves strength or speed. Gender is just an idea that's been imposed on them.
- DAVID** No, it isn't.
- GINA** It's a social construct.
- DAVID** Ridiculous. This is an Olympic event we're talking about. You can't have men and women in the same event. You don't have women rowers competing against the men. You don't have women swimmers competing against the men. You don't have women weight-lifters competing against the men.
- GINA** Those are events involving physical strength.
- JOHN** Yes, there's a clear difference there, David.
- DAVID** Oh, so there is a difference. It's not just a social construct.
- GINA** Yes, there is a difference between men and women, David. There's a difference between black and white, short and tall, bright and very, very thick.
- A third slight pause occurs*
- JOHN** You see, David, I think Gina's point is that it's not necessary to break everything people do up into two classes. In the case of the Skeet for example, which seems to involve aim, steadiness and experience, we might be able to make the problem go away if we can make the difference between the two groups go away.
- DAVID** And my point is that you can't.
- GINA** What about events where men and women compete now?
- DAVID** What events?
- GINA** Equestrian. A sport in which Australia is defending its four-day event gold medal in Sydney.
- DAVID** Not a proper sport.
- JOHN** Not a proper sport, David?
- DAVID** This is different. How can this woman defend a men's title? He's a woman.
- GINA** This is hopeless.
- JOHN** David, she won it at the last Olympics.
- DAVID** She won the men's event.
- GINA** Yes, well why can't she defend it?
- DAVID** Only a man can defend a men's title.

GINA Name a single man on earth who can defend this title.

DAVID I don't care about that. The ruling is very clear on that point.

GINA No-one can defend this title!

DAVID He should have thought about that earlier.

GINA She might have had a few other things on her mind.

DAVID Well, if you're not going to concentrate at this level you're going to pay the price.

Gina leaves the room. The resulting silence is broken by John.

JOHN David, what is your definition of the problem?

DAVID The problem is that we have two genders and we have two events.

JOHN Can this person compete or not?

DAVID In which event?

JOHN In either event.

DAVID Let's take them one at a time, shall we?

JOHN The Men's?

DAVID No.

JOHN The Women's?

DAVID No.

RECEPTIONIST Call for you, John.

JOHN That pretty much exhausts the possibilities as I see it. (picks up the phone)
Just excuse me for a minute will you please? Hello.

GINA John.

JOHN Oh, hello. (She is in her office and we can see her but David cannot)

GINA Don't look over here. Look out the window and say exactly what I tell you to say.
Say 'put him through'.

JOHN Sure. Put him through.

GINA Hello. It's Richo here.

JOHN Richo! Yes. Yes. David's here now. We're just talking our way through it. Oh well, you know, there are some difficulties. It's obviously hard to put her in the men's event. She is a woman. Well, they don't want a man in the women's event. They're not going to let her come in and do it.

GINA Ask Chuckles if other women are allowed to compete in the women's event.

JOHN Just a minute, I'll ask. (to David) David, are other women allowed to compete in women's events?

DAVID Yes.

JOHN (back to the phone) Yes they are.

GINA Yes, and ask him if they can't compete in women's events, where the hell are they supposed to compete?

JOHN I'll just check that with him. (to David) David, if women are not allowed to compete in the women's events, where are they supposed to compete?

- DAVID** What's his point?
- JOHN** (to the phone) Richo, David's not quite sure where you're going with this very interesting line of questioning.
- GINA** That's because he's stupid.
- JOHN** Yes. Hang on a minute. (to David) David, do you want the shooting to be a very big success at the Sydney Olympics or are you completely insane? Richo says you can only pick one.
- GINA** Oh, that's beautiful, John.
- JOHN** He's having a bit of a think about that one, Richo. Oh, I think he would see that Friday is an excellent opportunity to make an announcement to the world press in fact, that the current World Men's Skeet Champion will be competing in the Women's Event at the Sydney Olympics. One thing, Richo, when David goes to make this announcement, could he take Gina with him?
- GINA** No!
- JOHN** Oh good, he can.
- GINA** John!
- JOHN** Fantastic. That'd be great.
- GINA** John! I don't want to go with him. He's a little prick.
- JOHN** Thank you. I'll tell him. Bye. (to David) That was Richo, David. Do you want a cup of tea?
John walks out of his office and meets Gina in the corridor.
- GINA** How did that go?
- JOHN** That seemed to go fairly well, thank you.
- GINA** Why did you make him take me with him on Friday?
- JOHN** Well, you'd want to hear the words coming out of his mouth, wouldn't you? (to camera) And you can cut this bit out. You'd want to hear him actually say it. Would you trust him? (to camera) Cut it bloody out.
Bryan comes back into the office.
- BRYAN** Morning.
- JOHN** Oh, good morning. Good morning.
- GINA** How did you go?
- BRYAN** Fair to average. The Regional Delegates thing is a complete shambles.
- JOHN** Get away.
- BRYAN** The highlight of the morning was that I rang the Minister's Secretary three times while we were talking.
- GINA** How did you manage that?
- JOHN** He bumps his redial button. He rang me a couple of times the other night from an extremely enjoyable time. There you go, he's done it again.
- BRYAN** (on phone) Hello. Hello. Oh hi, Nicholas, hi, yes, Bryan. I was just ringing to say that I thought the host cities idea was the go.
- GINA** That's not what you said to us.

BRYAN I'm sorry. Just a sec. (He glowers at Gina) No, Gina just wanted to know something about budgets. Yes. No. Nice talking to you, too. No other reason.

GINA (to John) He's very good, isn't he?

JOHN (to Gina) Excellent. Yes, the host cities thing was the go, yes, very much so. Bryan, give him our regards.

BRYAN John's just sending his regards.

JOHN Thank your mother for the mouse trap, Nicholas.

BRYAN Okay Nicholas. All right. Nice talking to you. Bye bye. Okay. God, they're useless things.

JOHN You want to get that bloody thing fixed, you do. That is ridiculous. (picks up Bryan's phone and presses the redial button) Hello. Yes, John here. How did your meeting go with Bryan about the host cities? He seems terribly impressed. Good outcome, was it Nicholas? Yes. Mmm. Yes.