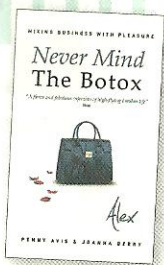


# STAND AND DELIVER

You might have thought installing a convenient cash machine at work would be an easy win, but it proves a total nightmare for **Finance Mole**.

## BOTOX BOON

This is a good example of how working for a Big Four firm helps a literary career. Penny Avis, until 2009 a high flying corporate finance partner at Deloitte, has co-written, with Joanna Berry of law firm Eversheds, a 'chick lit' novel called *Never Mind The Botox*, about the world of cosmetic surgery. It features a corporate financier called Rachel Altman, who is involved in the sale of a cosmetic surgery business called the Beau Street Group. Rave reviews include: 'With their own business experience, the authors have created a top read.' It is the first of a four-part series and there are plans for a TV show. [www.avisberry.com/news.html](http://www.avisberry.com/news.html)



## GETTING YOUR GOAT

Scottish Borders firm Stark Main & Co has come up with an interesting initiative involving goats. It has linked up with a 'global giving initiative' called Buy1Give1 (B1G1) that allows the firm to provide services to people in poorer countries.

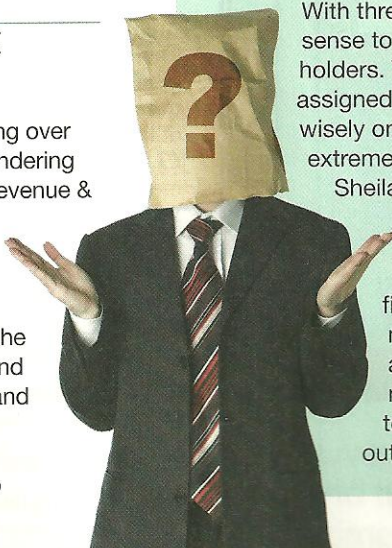


Stark Main director, Ian Main, explains: 'As just one example, now when we produce a set of accounts for a new client, we automatically give a goat to a needy family in Kenya through B1G1 and the World Youth International Project.'

Well, you would, wouldn't you?

## LAUNDERERS TO THE QUEEN, NO LESS

The Queen could be presiding over 'one of the largest money laundering operations in history' – at HM Revenue & Customs. QC Jonathan Fisher says there are fears that HMRC systems have been penetrated by criminal organisations for money laundering purposes. He described the recent agreement between the UK and Switzerland as 'a grubby little deal' and noted that further tax amnesties planned presented a 'colossal opportunity' for money launderers to legitimise the proceeds of crime.



It's the innocuous suggestions that cause the most problems. Getting money out on a wet day was a pain, so the Mole was all in favour of installing an office cash machine. The reality of doing so was surprisingly difficult. A man came, looked round the office, frowned and declared we needed a floor-mounted device. It turned out the landlords wouldn't let us install a floor-mounted device as the concrete structure of the building was apparently not suitable for drilling into, although seemingly suitable for walking on. Such information would have been useful had the floor-mounted device not already been delivered and left like a beached whale in the canteen.

### PIN HEADS

After several months we finally received a specially weighted, free-standing device. Filling it up was a two man job, requiring a pin holder and a key holder. With three keys it made sense to have three pin holders. The treasurer had assigned a key to himself, wisely one to the Mole and extremely foolishly one to Sheila from Accounts Payable. That left only three pin holders, yet five potential staff members to assign the pin number too. I tried to make handing it out an informal,

random process, but immediately it became clear that the two left out were offended.

For the sake of flexibility, I decided to have five pin holders, against the will of Sheila.

With machine, keys and pin holders in place all we needed was money. The first delivery was scheduled for 4pm, when the canteen was quiet. It arrived at 1pm when the canteen was packed. It's difficult to be dignified when trying to work out how to release Tray One on hands and knees while annoying other staff by blocking access to the microwave.

### THE WRONG SORT OF MONEY

Prior to ordering the money there had been extensive debate about how much we needed. As it turned out it doesn't really matter if the machine takes tens and 20s and the delivery man turns up with fives. Especially if the delivery man has left before you realise you have £10,000 worth of £5 notes that won't go in the machine.

If nothing else, the cash machine provided endless conversation with the treasurer where previously I had struggled. He has taken to continually checking how much money is left and what the 'burn rate', as Sheila calls it, will be. All this came before the much-debated purchase of a note counting machine. Exciting times!

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