



SUMMER LOVIN'

Ah summer is here at last. Warm weather, tennis, holidays, Pimms, strawberries — and body odour.

BY CLAUDIA REIZNER

(who has never had an office romance but is definitely best friends with her antiperspirant.)

Summer really does test the personal hygiene of our work colleagues and can push our own diplomacy to the limit.

In the disgusting stakes, sweaty arm pits take some beating. And in fact smell, both good and bad, actually affects our performance at work. So, on the premise that bad smells inhibit performance, nice smells actually aid it. So much so that it is not uncommon for companies in Japan to use environmental fragrance systems in their offices! One construction company allegedly emits aromas varying from refreshing citrus at 9am with variations every ten minutes right through to relaxing wood at the end of the day! Now there's a thought, particularly at this time of year!

But it's not just nasty smells that come with summer. It's also the season for the fashion faux pas. Hot weather fashion disasters can seriously harm your professional health! It seems that as the temperatures soar so do the hemlines, and that's not just the skirts, tops seem to rise too often exposing midriffs that really should have been kept secret. But why on earth do people think this is acceptable? Surely it's for the beach. How can you possibly take someone seriously when you can

see their belly button? And it's not just women either. Why on earth is this civil servant fashion of socks and sandals finding its way into offices? Please, I beg you, keep your professional look, albeit wearing lighter weight materials in summer and keep your professional credibility.

Perhaps it's the heat and the positive benefits of the sun which is so much more abundant in summer, but I do feel that the overall mood of the general public is much lighter (oh get real it's the summer holidays of course!). According to a survey by Fish4jobs, 72% of the respondents claimed that summer, with its summer clothes, led to much more flirtatious behaviour in the office! Well, they don't call it 'summer lovin' for nothing. So, if you're the boss reading this, then the ball is in your court. Get your staff to dress like they mean business and they won't be doing the business (nudge! nudge!). So, I guess the same applies if you're not the boss — if you fancy that girl in accounts, start wearing some casual summer clothes and that's bound to draw her to the water cooler to cool down! And you know what happens at the watering hole — the predators pounce! ■