



# SPORTS AGENDA

CHARLES SALE

**FOOTBALLERS'** union boss Gordon Taylor, who made an astute investment in art rather than stocks and shares for his members when he paid £1.92million for L.S. Lowry's *Going To The Match* in December 1999, has privately commissioned football's leading artist Brian West to do two montage paintings. One is of his playing career with Bolton, Bury, Blackburn, Birmingham and Vancouver Whitecaps and the other will feature some of Taylor's best PFA moments, including the strike-busting agreement with the Premier League and the FA. The new pictures hanging in Taylor's Manchester office came rather cheaper than the Lowry.

## last four



Picture: ANDREW VARLEY

## praises classed t-timers

Lions .....12pts  
Warriors .....70pts

ON coach Peter Roe tribute to his part after they gave Chal-up holders Wigan a before being buried 13-try avalanche at Stadium.  
forward Rob Russell Wigan with an early it was all one-way that until Andy n scored a late con for the National Two side.  
aid: "To score first achievement, and for



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## Pepsi deal signals triumph for Barber

THE FA are expected this week to finally sign a four-year sponsorship deal with Pepsi that will bring in around £20million of much-needed funds. The agreement completes the ambitious five-strong sponsorship partner package that the FA have been putting together since the start of the year. FA commercial director Paul Barber has done well to find five backers in the worst possible economic market. But the money raised from Pepsi, Umbro, McDonald's, Carlsberg and Nationwide is believed to be around half the original FA target of £200m over four years. The well-signposted Pepsi deal has been delayed until the long-

form contract details have been sorted out, following the premarriage announcement of previous deals in the package at the heads of agreement stage, which has proved embarrassing for the FA. One added bonus of Pepsi becoming official sponsors, which certainly helped smooth negotiations, is that England captain David Beckham has a multi-million pound personal endorsement contract with the soft drinks company. This will allow Pepsi to sidestep most of the problems other FA sponsors face with strict regulations as to when, which and how many England players they can use for promotions.

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**DERBY** manager John Gregory is in danger of losing his job at Wednesday's board meeting following the club's fall into First Division relegation territory. The directors' problem is a pay-off on his £1m-a-year contract when the club's debt is now nearing the £31m mark. Gregory's former assistant Billy McEwan is taking the club to an industrial tribunal for alleged unfair dismissal.



Threat: Gregory

**NIC COWARD**, joint acting chief executive of

# KICK AND BRUSH



SCORE DRAW: Brian, left, and his McAllister picture

By **STUART MacDONALD**  
SPORTING legends Alex Ferguson and Gary McAllister are re-living their favourite football memories - with paintings of Scotland DEFEATS. The patriotic pair are just two of the stars now flocking to have the beautiful game brought to life on canvas by artist Brian West.

He can already count Celtic and Liverpool great Kenny Dalglish, Southampton boss Gordon Strachan and Hoops hero John Hartson among his A-list clients. The stars each pay between £500 and £3,000 to have their own piece of football history immortalised.

And Sir Alex's choice may surprise some - a £500 picture of Scotland losing 7-2 to England in 1955.

Brian, 58, said: "I was surprised he liked the painting so much at first, considering what the score was in that game."

"But I don't think anybody has to worry about him being a closet England fan."

"He told me the game brought back really fond memories for him because it was the first one his father had taken him to."

Ex-Scotland skipper Gary McAllister also has a painting of a 2-0 defeat to Germany in the 1992 European Championships.

Brian added: "Gary was so pleased about his appearances for Scotland against Germany, there was no question that was the portrait he wanted."

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