

UEFA CUP SPECIAL - Pages 94-95

Mac the knife

Liverpool book final slot thanks to spot-on Gary

By JOHN EDWARDS

GARY McALLISTER passed a supreme test of nerve to ignite Anfield and revive memories of past European glories for Liverpool last night.

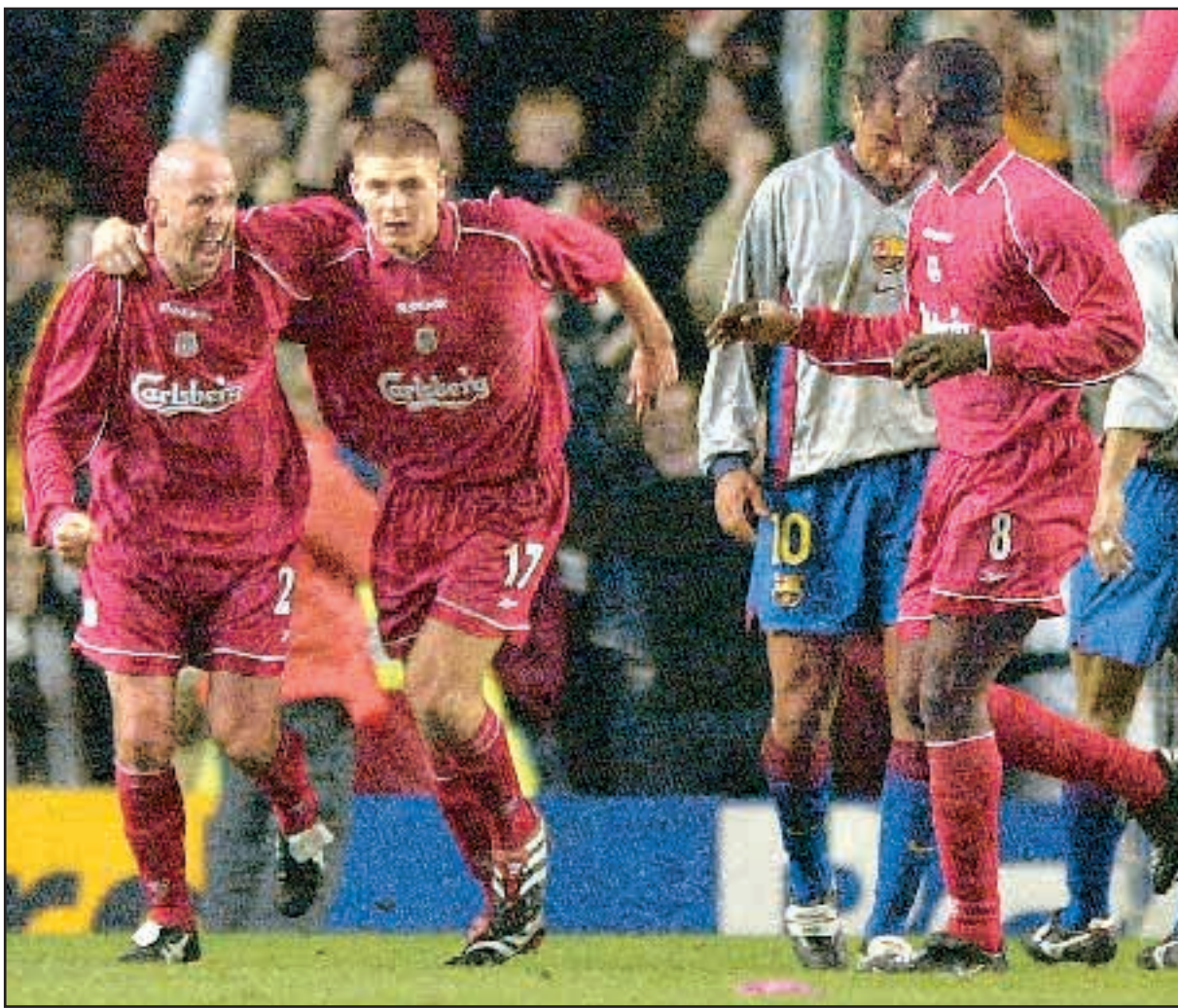
The veteran midfielder was retained by Gerard Houllier after scoring a dramatic last-minute winner against Everton and soon rewarded the Liverpool manager's faith by booking a place in the UEFA Cup Final.

Liverpool needed a strong character when Patrick Kluijvert inexplicably handled a corner by McAllister to concede a penalty seconds before half-time.

McAllister volunteered himself as the man for the occasion despite the bitter memory of missing from the spot for Scotland against England in Euro 96.

David Seaman's crucial Wembley save haunted McAllister for years and even played a part in his retirement from international football following an unwarranted backlash from the unforgiving Scotland supporters. But it did not stop him stepping forward and taking responsibility as a packed Anfield held its breath.

The 36-year-old was a picture of calm as he ran up and side-footed his kick into the top right corner with Jose Manuel Reina



On our way: McAllister (left) is congratulated by Gerrard after his penalty

Picture: GRAHAM CHADWICK

World Cup in crisis as marketing supremo is sacked

EXCLUSIVE

By ANDREW JENNINGS and NEIL WILSON

THE man in charge of marketing next year's World Cup was sacked yesterday amid allegations that he was plotting with FIFA against his own stricken company.

Patrick Magyer is the latest casualty in the plummeting relationship between soccer's world body and ISL, who are facing bankruptcy with debts of £300million. The crisis is threatening preparations for the finals in Japan and South Korea.

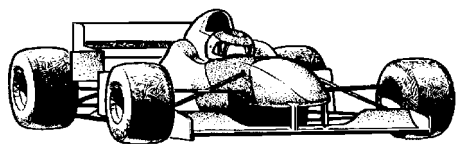
Staff at sports marketing company ISL — whose £1.1billion deal with FIFA forced up the price of coverage to TV companies such as BBC and ITV by almost 600 per cent — were told that Magyer had left. Friends said he was escorted from company headquarters in the Swiss city of Zug after accusations that discussions he had had in recent days with FIFA were not in the company's best interests.

ISL, created by the late Horst Dassler — who inherited the sportswear giant adidas — has held uninterrupted marketing rights to FIFA events since a 'sweetheart' deal with its former president Joao Havelange when the company was created in 1982. ISL is still owned by Dassler's

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MONACO GRAND PRIX



Fly by private charter from Gatwick at 11 am on Friday, 25 May. On arrival in Nice, transfer for your four night stay at the Hotel Thalazur overlooking Antibes. Facilities at this 3-star hotel include restaurants, bar, swimming pools, fitness and spa centres. The coach departs for Monte-Carlo at 10 am. Watch all the excitement from your reserved seat. See the Qualifying Race on the Saturday and the Monaco Grand Prix on the Sunday. Arrive back in Gatwick at 7 pm on the Tuesday. The price per person in a twin is £999.

If you prefer, spend four nights at the Hotel Westminster in Nice. This first class hotel faces the Mediterranean and has a private beach. On both the Saturday and the Sunday, you are invited to a three course buffet luncheon at the deluxe Mirabeau in Monte Carlo. From the private balcony suite facing the Mediterranean, you can see the race and catch up with events on the giant TV. A complimentary bar will be open during the race. The cost per person in a twin is £1,499. All prices include flights, hotel with breakfast, transfers, race tickets and airport taxes.

SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL

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I would like to book _____ persons for the four night Monaco Grand Prix holiday on 25 May at the Hotel Thalazur overlooking Antibes/Hotel Westminster in Nice*. (* please delete).

I enclose my deposit cheque for £ _____ (£300 per person).

Bookings can only be made directly by cheque. I agree to abide by your Booking Conditions.

NAME(S) OF PASSENGER(S) _____

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Ruthless Fergie ready to rebuild

By JOHN EDWARDS

SIR ALEX FERGUSON will ruthlessly rebuild Manchester United so he can retire as a Champions League winner in his native Glasgow.

As well as signing PSV Eindhoven striker Ruud Van Nistelrooy at the second attempt, Ferguson will be looking at Barcelona's Rivaldo, Valencia playmaker Gaizka Mendieta, France and Parma defender Lilian Thuram, Atalanta midfielder Christian Doni and Newcastle winger Kieron Dyer. France and former Arsenal midfielder Emmanuel Petit, now at Barcelona, is another candidate.

The victims of Ferguson's rebuilding could be Nicky Butt, Dwight Yorke, Phil Neville and

Mikael Silvestre while even David Beckham could be used as a bargaining counter.

Ferguson, the most successful manager in the history of English football, sees the 2002 Hampden final as the perfect way to end his 16 years in charge at Old Trafford. If that means big-name casualties then so be it. Defeat by Bayern Munich in both legs of this season's quarter-final confirmed Ferguson's worst fears about his side's limitations against Europe's best and will lead to a radical overhaul during the summer.

After reluctantly concluding that

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Ferguson: grand finale

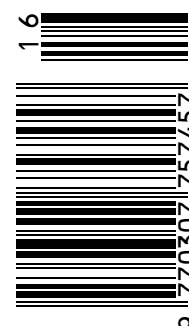
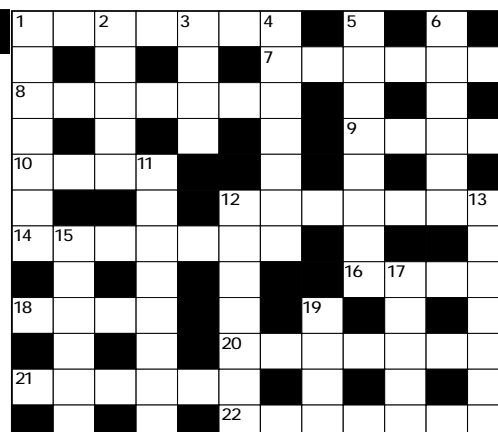
QUICK CROSSWORD

2,585

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 18 Net (4) | 4 Judas (7) |
| 1 Hazelnut (7) | 20 Offender (7) | 5 Broily (8) |
| 7 Gossip (6) | 21 Get the better of (6) | 6 Martial art (4,2) |
| 8 Loss of memory (7) | 22 Brief account (7) | 11 Native American axe (8) |
| 9 Latvian capital (4) | | 12 Chooses (7) |
| 10 Set of actors (4) | DOWN | 13 Long (7) |
| 12 Showing deep feeling (7) | 1 Lacking firmness (7) | 15 Regretful (6) |
| 14 Percussionist (7) | 2 Breathing organs (5) | 17 Insect grub (5) |
| 16 Mr Shearer, footballer (4) | 3 Simple (4) | 19 Close noisily (4) |

Today's solution will be published tomorrow, but if you would like to hear it today call: 0906 8700 313 Calls are charged at 60p a minute.

THURSDAY'S SOLUTION (No 2,584): ACROSS: 1 In cold blood. 7 Burn. 8 Redress. 9 Nag. 10 Evoke. 11 Larder. 13 Coasts. 16 Niger. 18 Rid. 19 Thimble. 20 Link. 21 Specialists. DOWN: 1 Iguana. 2 Conned. 3 Larger. 4 Badge. 5 Onerous. 6 Dispels. 11 Linctus. 12 Ragtime. 13 Cereal. 14 Addles. 15 Tennis. 17 Rabbi.



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