

# City move for London trademark attorneys

■ **PATENT** and trademark attorney **Mathys & Squire** has opened an office in Manchester. It has recruited Gary Johnston and Robert Hawley from city centre rival **William A Shepherd & Son** as directors to lead the venture. The firm has its headquarters in London and offices in Cambridge, Reading and York.

Mr Hawley said: "Manchester is a very entrepreneurial city. With an office here we will be able to service the long-recognised demand for trademark and patent expertise in the region."

■ **YOUNG** fans of Manchester City are being challenged to create a 'business strategy' to improve their match-day experience.

The enterprise competition – known as the 'MentorPrize' – is intended to develop young people's business skills and judging will take place tomorrow. The challenge aims to increase young people's problem solving ability and build

on their financial and business skills. Students from schools from across east Manchester are taking part in the competition, which is part of the EnterPrize Awards Scheme which seeks to encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and ambition from an early age.

■ **MANUFACTURERS** based in Greater Manchester are being encouraged to make full use of the Business Improvement Techniques (BIT) programme to help them survive through the credit crunch. BIT has been launched by the **Manufacturing Institute** in an attempt to drive up performance and drive down costs. For further information go to [manufacturinginstitute.co.uk/bit](http://manufacturinginstitute.co.uk/bit).

■ **FREE** advice is on offer for bosses who may have to make staff redundant. Law firm **KBL**, of Bolton, has launched an 'employer redundancy helpline' and a 'redundancy pack' is also available.