

## Weird love, actually

a disturbing image.

How do US firms hire big cheese partners from swish London firms? The Diary has always wondered what the secret was, apart from chucking mountains of dosh at the partner in question. So, your correspondent was recently shocked to find that love is actually one way to skin the proverbial cat.

At least that is what happened in the case of one New York firm which hired an eminent UK specialist via the sneaky tactic of introducing him to their resident City lawyers have always been a notoriously superstitious bunch. Even today, several big-hitters are known to carry some fortune-bringing charm beneath their pinstripes — such as a lucky rabbit's foot, a rosary, or the scalp of a recently-vanquished accountant. The Diary was far from shocked to learn that the recent Friday the 13th saw warty partners bunk off work avoiding the dangerousous trip to the office.



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Friday the 13th: lawyers take no chances

## Oh, come on Travers

As the sound of drifting tumbledweed echoed down a crackling phone line, he mused: "It's like the Marie Celeste after chucking-out time."

Travers Smith Brathwaite's rocking head of banking Neil Murray is releasing a new album fresh on the success of his summer's number three hit 'Come On England', which dwindled after the national side was knocked out of Euro 2004.

So now Murray, who has in the past been confused with another Neil Murray, the former bass guitarist of hard rock band Whitesnake, is just finishing off a heavy metal album, which promises to be every bit as good as his last offering.

It is as yet unclear whether those Travers bods will be moshing and gobbing to the heavy riffs at the firm's annual partnership retreat, although the firm will probably want to keep an eye on the entertainment

considering just how wild these events can get.

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