

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION ON THE GAMBLER

How this punter bet \$1.6m with a bookie - then refused to pay



Not happy . . . Michael Sullivan is owed \$600,000

A SATURDAY Daily Telegraph investigation can today reveal Sydney punter Mark Peters went on a \$1.6 million betting spree with a bookie — and has not paid a debt of almost \$600,000 to the firm.

This is despite Peters declaring this week he had never had a bet with the bookmaking firm.

Evidence of more than 350 of Peters' bets over a two-month period during the Melbourne spring carnival in 2001 have been passed on to *The Saturday Daily Telegraph*.

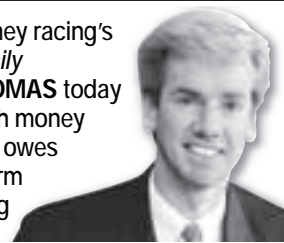
Peters had a credit limit of \$600,000 with the Number One Betting Shop in Vanuatu but stopped gambling when his account reached a debit of \$598,053. As his losses began to mount, he sent a cheque of \$250,000 to the firm which subsequently bounced.

Peters has become racing's human headline this week after it was revealed he sacked Randwick trainer Grahame Begg by fax on Tuesday.

This prompted allegations that Peters had not paid out-

standing training bills to Begg and his Melbourne-based trainer, Robert Smerdon, and also had huge debts with several bookmakers.

Bookmaker Con Kafataris says Peters owes him more than \$1 million and Harry Barrett recently won a court judgment against the punter but is still awaiting payment of nearly \$300,000.



The Number One Betting Shop was taken over by parent company Sportingbet in 2002.

Michael Sullivan of Sportingbet told *The Daily Telegraph* on Thursday that Peters had an outstanding debt to Spor-

tingbet of "more than half a million dollars".

When approached that day, Peters denied owing Sportingbet anything. "I've never bet with them in my life," he said.

Sullivan was incensed when he read *The Daily Telegraph* report yesterday.

"I was really disappointed when I read the story," he said. "What he said was, to say the least, extremely unusual because most punters are man enough to own up to it [debts] and try to manage the problem. "Eventually time catches up with people like him."

The Daily Telegraph then

obtained copies of Sportingbet's transactions with Peters which detail the extraordinary betting spree.

During October and November of 2001, Peters placed bets totalling \$1.65 million with the Number One Betting Shop operating out of Vanuatu.

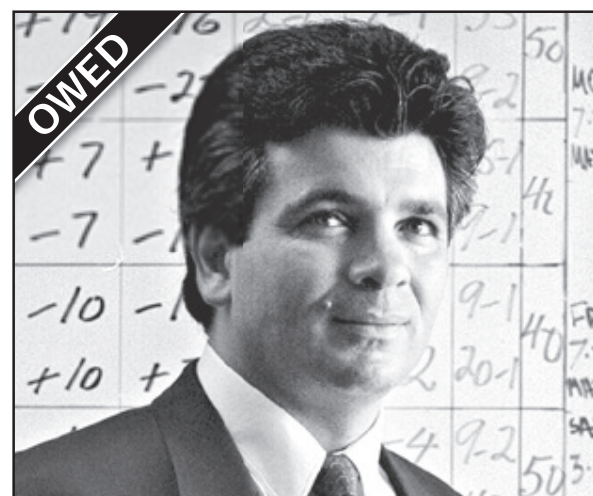
Among his wagers was a successful bet of \$450,000 to \$50,000 on Ethereal in the 2001 Melbourne Cup.

Peters also invested \$15,000 for a place on runner-up Give The Slip and collected \$154,500.

He did collect \$168,900 after placing \$3000 each-way on outsider La Bella Dama in the Mackinnon Stakes on Derby Day.

But that was about the extent of his winning run. Peters backed more losers than winners and his total debt rose quickly.

Among his losing bets was \$40,000 on Ustinov in the Victoria Derby, \$30,000 on Persian Punch in the Melbourne Cup and a string of losing bets for various amounts up to \$60,000.



Court action . . . Con Kafataris is trying to retrieve \$1m



Still waiting . . . Harry Barrett is owed \$300,000



A rare good day . . . Mark Peters won \$450,000 on Ethereal and \$154,000 on Give The Slip in the 2001 Melbourne Cup

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WHO OWES BIG BOOKMAKERS A FORTUNE

Client Account Report

[4827] MARK PETERS

8 Records From Sun 20/05/2001 To Fri 19/08/2005

#	Day	Date	Type	Details	Debit	Credit	Balance
			Brought Forward	Sat 19/05/2001			0.00
1	Sun	14/10/2001	Betting		-96,900.00		-96,900.00
2	Mon	15/10/2001	Incoming - Cheque Received	RECEIVED		121,000.00	24,100.00
3	Sun	21/10/2001	Betting		7,450.00		16,650.00
4	Mon	22/10/2001	Incoming - Cheque Received	RECEIVED		182,950.00	244,500.00
5	Sun	28/10/2001	Betting		-145,600.00		98,900.00
6	Mon	29/10/2001	Incoming - Cheque Received	RECEIVED		125,000.00	223,900.00
7	Wed	31/10/2001	Incoming - Cheque Received	RECEIVED		50,000.00	273,900.00
8	Sun	04/11/2001	Betting		-528,241.00		-254,341.00
9	Mon	05/11/2001	Incoming - Cheque Received	RECEIVED		250,000.00	-4,341.00
10	Fri	09/11/2001	Dishonoured Cheque	RETURNED DEPOSIT	-250,000.00		-254,341.00
11	Sun	11/11/2001	Betting		-7,534.00		-261,875.00
12	Sun	18/11/2001	Betting			175,640.00	-86,235.00
13	Mon	19/11/2001	Incoming - Cheque Received	RECEIVED		90,000.00	3,765.00
14	Wed	21/11/2001	Other Adjustment	ADJ. 17/11 S. SEQUEL		54,000.00	57,785.00
15	Sun	25/11/2001	Betting			150.00	57,935.00
16	Sun	02/12/2001	Betting		-555,968.00		-498,033.00
17	Sun	09/12/2001	Betting			0.00	-498,033.00
18	Sun	23/12/2001	Betting			0.00	-498,033.00
19	Sun	14/04/2002	Betting			0.00	-498,033.00
					1,654,243.00	1,056,190.00	-598,053.00



THE PUNTER

Likes a punt . . . Mark Peters in the ring at Randwick

Peters maintains he does not recognise Michael Sullivan.

"My business was done with Vanuatu and there were no outstanding. They need to check their records," informed Peters.

Sullivan again went straight on to the front foot.

"All I can say is that Mr Peters is well and truly aware he owes \$600,000," Sullivan said.

"We are a fully audited public company and I stand by our records of transactions.

"Anyone can come and inspect them if they want to.

"The evidence is there, it speaks for itself. This is the proof Mr Peters did bet with our firm."

Sullivan said Peters was a regular client of Number One Betting Shop but the firm has refused to take any more wagers from him for four years.

"To put it simply, he was not paying us money he owed from losing bets," Sullivan said.

Peters at one point tried to pay \$250,000 to Number One

Betting Shop but the cheque bounced.

"There was a cheque sent on November 5, 2001, that subsequently was dishonoured four days later. It's with Westpac now," Sullivan recalled.

He explained that Sportingbet has not yet sued Peters for the outstanding claims because it would become an expensive and lengthy legal matter.

"It is a drawn-out process pursuing the debt because of the legal complexities of gaining court judgments in Vanuatu, where we no longer operate, and here in Australia," Sullivan said.

"I hope he shows the honour and respect 99.9 per cent of our clients show us by meeting their obligations."

Peters, who runs a pest control business, has been one of Sydney's biggest punters and most successful owners in recent years.

He has won many big races with horses the calibre of Our Egyptian Raine, Written Tycoon, Dance The Waves and

Perfect Promise under the banner of Written Bloodstock Syndicate.

In an earlier interview, Peters told *The Daily Telegraph* he did not have any financial problems.

"We did last week reject a \$3 million offer for Written Tycoon so to say that we, or even I, are in any financial trouble is presumptuous to say the least," Peters said.

He also denied owing any money to Kafataris and Barrett.

Kafataris is taking Peters to court to retrieve the \$1 million next month but Peters has hinted he is likely to pursue a counterclaim against the bookmaker.

Kafataris said he recently received a cheque of \$600,000 from Peters but the cheque bounced.

Two of Peters' horses, Dancing Daggers and Battle Maiden, are entered for today's Randwick meeting.

Begg is still their official trainer but these horses will be the last he races for Peters.

Mark Peters' wagers with Sportingbet for 18 days during the 2001 spring carnival

Date	Event	Horse	Win	Place	W/Price	P/Price	W/Lost
3/11	ME3	Lila Lill	15,000	0	0.00	0.00	-15,000
3/11	ME5	Hot Beat	5,000	0	0.00	0.00	-5,000
3/11	BR3	Arakal	12,000	0	0.00	0.00	-12,000
3/11	SY4	Sermon Lane	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
3/11	SY4	Planioces	5,000	0	0.00	0.00	-5,000
3/11	ME6	Ustinov	40,000	0	0.00	0.00	-40,000
3/11	AD4	Flying Sea	15,000	0	0.00	0.00	-15,000
3/11	ME2	Storm Zero	16,000	0	0.00	0.00	-16,000
3/11	TR5	Hadawine	20,000	0	0.00	0.00	-20,000
3/11	ME7	Cinder Bella	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
3/11	ME7	La Bella Dama	3,000	3,000	46.10	12.20	168,900
3/11	SY6	King Capps	20,000	0	0.00	0.00	-20,000
3/11	ME1	Grand Falls	12,000	0	0.00	0.00	-12,000
3/11	AD5	Storm Zero	16,000	0	0.00	0.00	-16,000
3/11	AD1	Boys Talk	12,000	0	0.26	0.00	19,200
3/11	ME3	Primrose Sands	12,000	0	0.00	0.00	-12,000
3/11	ME3	Phillidor	3,000	3,000	0.00	0.00	-6,000
6/11	AD4	Mosse	15,000	0	0.00	0.00	-15,000
6/11	ME1	He's Back On Track	20,000	0	0.00	0.00	-20,000
6/11	ME1	Zabuan	5,000	0	0.00	0.00	-5,000
6/11	ME10	Couta	5,000	5,000	0.00	0.00	-10,000
6/11	ME3	Shallus Magic	12,000	0	0.00	0.00	-12,000
6/11	ME3	Roadhouse Blues	2,000	2,000	0.00	0.00	-4,000
6/11	ME3	Kinjika	2,000	2,000	0.00	0.00	-4,000
6/11	ME4	Mandarin Place	5,000	5,000	0.00	0.00	-10,000
6/11	ME4	Chardonnay And Ice	2,500	2,500	0.00	0.00	-5,000
6/11	ME4	Crimson Gem	30,000	0	0.00	0.00	-30,000
6/11	ME5	Ashkaleta	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
6/11	ME5	Marcovette	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
6/11	ME5	Sausalito	2,000	2,000	0.00	0.00	-4,000
6/11	ME5	Verlara	1,000	1,000	0.00	0.00	-2,000
6/11	ME6	Recreate	5,000	5,000	0.00	0.00	-10,000
6/11	ME7	Elthereal	50,000	0	10.00	0.00	450,000
6/11	ME7	Persian Punch	30,000	0	0.00	0.00	-30,000
6/11	ME7	Give The Slip	15,000	15,000	0.00	12.30	154,500
6/11	ME7	Celestial Show	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
6/11	ME8	Shot Of Thunder	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
6/11	ME9	El Nino	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
6/11	SY2	Bond	3,000	0	5.50	0.00	13,500
6/11	SY2	Shockaroo	8,000	0	0.00	0.00	-8,000
6/11	SY3	Noble Touch	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
7/11	ME1	Lambton Quay	40,000	0	0.00	0.00	-40,000
7/11	ME5	Scoritis Image	6,000	6,000	0.00	0.00	-12,000
7/11	ME5	Atthes Gold	50,000	0	0.00	0.00	-50,000
7/11	AD3	Angel Dust	16,000	0	0.00	0.00	-16,000
7/11	ME6	Samosiera	10,000	10,000	0.00	0.00	-20,000
7/11	ME6	Samosiera	5,000	0	0.00	0.00	-5,000
7/11	AD5	Please Me	20,000	0	0.00	0.00	-20,000
7/11	AD6	Madame Merlot	25,000	0	0.00	0.00	-25,000
7/11	SY6	Yukan Miner	50,000	0	0.00	0.00	-50,000
7/11	SY7	Rodeo Blues	20,000	0	3.50	0.00	50,000
7/11	ME9	Natress Lane	50,000	0	3.50	0.00	125,000
7/11	ME8	Kaaptive Bird	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000

Date	Event	Horse	Win	Place	W/Price	P/Price	W/Lost
7/11	AD8	Miss Publicist	20,000	0	0.00	0.00	-20,000
7/11	SY8	Good Result	60,000	0	0.00	0.00	-60,000
7/11	BR7	Mr Fiorelli	30,000	0	0.00	0.00	-30,000
8/11	ME1	Paradis	4,000	4,000	0.00	0.00	-8,000
8/11	ME2	Sporting Scribe	12,000	0	0.00	0.00	-12,000
8/11	ME3	Rain Dance Lady	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
8/11	ME4	Oh So Discreet	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
8/11	AD3	Vincheno	15,000	15,000	4.60	0.00	-1,500
8/11	SY4	Arlie Bird	5,000	0	0.00	0.00	-5,000
8/11	ME5	Cause For Divorce	5,000	0	0.00	0.00	-5,000
8/11	ME5	Idyllic Dream	5,000	0	0.00	0.00	-5,000
8/11	ME6	Warm Smytzer	3,000	3,000	0.00	0.00	-6,000
8/11	ME6	Princess Deheree	3,000	3,000	0.00	0.00	-6,000
8/11	AD3	Vincheno	15,000	15,000	4.60	0.00	-1,500
8/11	AD3	Vincheno	6,000	6,000	4.60	0.00	-600
8/11	SY5	Iron Cross	6,000	0	0.00	0.00	-6,000
8/11	SY6	Queen Of The Ocean	6,000	6,000	0.00	0.00	-12,000
8/11	AD5	Captivate You	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
8/11	ME7	Lodgett	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
8/11	ME7	Embraceable You	40,000	0	0.00	0.00	-40,000
8/11	AD5	Captivate You	30,000	0	0.00	0.00	-30,000
8/11	SY7	Agile	20,000	0	3.50	0.00	50,000
8/11	BR6	Marauding Lass	6,000	6,000	0.00	0.00	-12,000
8/11	SY8	Desert Sashay	6,000	0	0.00	0.00	-6,000
8/11	SY8	Race The Ace	6,000	0	0.00	0.00	-6,000
8/11	A6	Miss Jeanne	30,000	0	4.00	0.00	90,000
8/11	AD6	Deltotte	6,000	0	0.00	0.00	-6,000
8/11	BR7	Silent Assassin	40,000	0	2.80	0.00	72,000
8/11	ME9	Marlie	100,000	0	2.60	0.00	160,000
8/11	BR7	Super Stream	5,000	0	0.00	0.00	-5,000
8/11	ME8	Fair Embrace	12,000	0	0.00	0.00	-12,000
8/11	AD7	Kakaru	60,000	0	3.00	0.00	120,000
8/11	BR8	Princess Clang	30,000	0	2.00	0.00	30,000
8/11	SY9	Star Quest	30,000	0	0.00	0.00	-30,000
9/11	ME3	Armway	4,000	4,000	31.00	0.00	150,000
10/11	ME6	La Bella Dama	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
10/11	SY4	Bump and Run	12,000	0	8.50	0.00	90,000
10/11	AD4	Takings	20,000	20,000	0.00	0.00	-40,000
10/11	AD4	Osea Warrior	12,500	12,500	9.00	0.00	12,500
10/11	AD5	Romilada	25,000	0	0.00	0.00	-25,000
10/11	ME7	Adolescence	15,000	0	0.00	0.00	-15,000
10/11	BR5	Sports Freak	10,000	0	0.00	0.00	-10,000
10/11	ME8	Hatha Anna	16,000	0	7.00	0.00	96,000
10/11	SY6	Into the Night	30,000	0	4.00	0.00	90,000
10/11	SY6	Blinkin Angel	5,000	0	0.00	0.00	-5,000
10/11	BR6	Almighty Alliance	25,000	0	0.00	0.00	-25,000
10/11	AD6	Moel Now	7,000	7,000	0.00	0.00	-14,000
10/11	AD7	Rusty Dusty Grey	25,000	0	5.00	0.00	100,000
10/11	AD7	Ornston	4,000	4,000	0.00	0.00	-8,000
10/11	SY6	Moverman	45,000	0	0.00	0.00	-45,000
10/11	SY7	Accuse	6,000	6,000	17.00	0.00	18,000
10/11	ME9	Debrief	22,000	0	0.00	0.00	-22,000
10/11	AD8	Aerial Pursuit	20,000	0	0.00	0.00	-20,000

Date	Event	Horse	Win	Place	W/Price	P/Price	W/Lost
10/11	BR7	Clay Shaker	40,000	0	0.25	0.00	50,000
10/11	BR8	Arakoola	40,000	0	0.		