



Charge . . . Weatherston

Player in nightclub fight rap

MORTON star Peter Weatherston has been charged after allegedly assaulting a man outside a nightclub.

The 28-year-old striker is accused of attacking Alex Coulter, 29, at Word Up in Greenock, last Friday night.

Alex was left with cuts and bruises to his face after the alleged assault, but he declined hospital treatment. Traffic cops came across the incident by chance and detained Weatherston.

Alex was last night unavailable for comment. A report will go to the procurator fiscal.



HAVE A LAUGH!
WITH SUN READERS

POLICE were called to a disturbance at the British Gurning Championships.

A spokesman said: "Things turned very ugly."

JIM WATLING-STREET, MILTON KEYNES

HOODIE LAD OF 6

A boy of six was in a gang of hoodies quizzed by cops in a crackdown on under-age drinking in Burnley, Lancs.

SHARK ATTACK

● **Dodgy loans treble in just two months** ● **Evil crooks splurge on hols and bling**

By DAVID GOODWIN and TRISTAN STEWART-ROBERTSON

VILE loan sharks are bleeding recession victims dry in the run-up to Christmas with their evil trade **TREBLING** in the past two months.

And the greedy vultures – many of them benefit scroungers – are splurging the cash on new cars, sunshine cruises, Rolex and Breitling watches, and £5,000 bottles of whisky.

Despite huge interest payments – which turn £100 loans into £1,000 debts – the hard-up are rushing to the sharks.

The Scottish Illegal Money Lending Unit (SIMLU) revealed the shock figures yesterday with details of goods found in raids.

Option

Senior investigator Frank Thom said there's been a sharp rise in Glasgow, Inverclyde and Alloa, Clackmannanshire.

He added: "Nobody in their right mind would go to a loan shark but some people think this is their only option."

But he warned many people were scared to shop the sharks.

Since SIMLU was set up in 2004, only eight have been convicted and 29 reported to fiscals – 60 cases are ongoing but it takes up to nine months before court despite the sums involved.



Trading in misery . . . sharks at work

Anne Feeny, Inverclyde's money watchdog, said: "I know of a man who borrowed £150 and paid it back at £75 a week for 2½ years. That's £9,750."

Launching the SNP's Financial Inclusion Champions Project, Communities Minister Stewart Maxwell said: "We're committed to ensuring all people have access to appropriate finance."

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HOW DEBT MOUNTS

PEOPLE borrowing £100 from a loan shark have to pay back up to £150 just a WEEK later.

But those forced to approach illegal lenders can seldom afford to do that and interest is compounded at 20-50 per cent weekly.

So someone who is paying

back at £20 per week could end up doing that for years.

The amounts of cash are often as low as £10 or £20 but can range up to £1,000.

Mr Thom said: "Victims can shell out thousands of pounds while trying to escape the clutches of the criminals."

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