

28th April 2007

Joe Power II

According to the Daily Echo Online (Thursday 26th April 2007) medium Joe Power is all set to solve the disappearance of Debbie Griggs. Debbie Griggs vanished in May 1999, at the time she was 34 years of age. Understandably her family are desperate to find out what happened to her and probably willing to accept help from anyone. You really can't blame them for asking for help; if nothing else it once again helps raise the profile of the case.

Sadly any hope of finding their daughter through a medium is doomed to failure. To be honest I don't know how any 'psychic' has the audacity to tell a family that their missing loved one is either alive or dead as all the evidence to date would indicate they are simply speculating. As we all know Sylvia Browne did just that and was rightly condemned for her heartless, not to say inaccurate, remarks. In all probability Debbie Griggs is dead but until this is known for sure her family probably retains a spark of hope that she'll eventually turn up safe and well. Is it right for a medium to extinguish this spark, or raise what might be false hope? Considering it's based on no more than guesswork I personally think it's despicable. And people like this portray themselves as spiritual!

As is often the case psychics claim to have helped the police in numerous cases, although strangely this is rarely confirmed by the police (Tony Batters being the only exception of which I'm aware) and Joe Power is no exception. For example I previously mentioned one of his pronouncements here. He provided the following information;

"Mr. Power, 39, has told police the killer could have the surname White and first name Stephan or Stephen. He might live in a block of flats by railway lines and have been in a park before the murder. And Mr. Power believes the killer, who he thinks is a delivery driver aged between 24 and 26, met part-time hairdresser Sally Anne through the friend of a friend."

Following a DNA match 35 year old pub chef Mark Dixie was charged with the murder of Sally Anne Bowman and is currently awaiting trial. Presumably Joe Power is protesting Dixie's innocence, but if he is he's doing it very quietly.

"Stephen White" – wrong.

"Aged between 24 and 26" – wrong.

"Delivery driver" – wrong.

As to whether Dixie lived in a block of flats by railway lines I don't know – but if he did there's a good chance Mr. Power would be telling the rest of us.

Another case in which Joe Power claims to have helped was in finding the body of Lynsey Quy whose husband was eventually convicted of her murder. Reporting Power's version of events The Northern Echo (4th July 2005) tells us, "She came to him in the middle of the night, during a fitful sleep. 'I'm Lynsey, Lynsey Quy,' she whispered. 'I've been carnaged, mangled.'"

Really? Well I urge readers to read the excellent report by 'Phaedra' at Skeptic Report. The article provides a telling quote from Detective Superintendent Sloan who headed the investigation:

"I wish to state, categorically, that as the Senior Investigating Officer on the Lynsey Quy murder, I made a policy decision not to use psychics on the investigation. Joe Power has allegedly made claims that he assisted the enquiry but this is not the case."

Not a very impressive record and yet the Northern Echo also informs us he, "...specialises in working with police on missing persons and murder cases." If this is his speciality one can only wonder how good his other skills are. The same article also mentions that Joe is confident in locating the body of Helen McCourt', "... a 22year-old from St Helens, Liverpool, who went

missing 17 years ago. Pub landlord Ian Simms was subsequently found guilty of her murder, although her body has never been found."

Well Joe is quoted as saying (this is in 2005 don't forget), "Let me say, from the information I've given to the police, I'm pretty certain it will lead to Helen being found," he says confidently. "We're waiting for the officers to come back to us."

As you've probably guessed - her body is still missing.

In the same Northern Echo article he also makes another bold claim....

"The next case Joe got involved in was the high-profile Sarah Payne murder in Sussex. The police suspected that known sex-abuser Roy Whiting was connected with her disappearance on July 1, 2000.

By the end of the year, Joe says he was receiving messages from the spirit world that a towel in a van would prove vitally important to the case. He sent the information to Scotland Yard and claims that DNA on a towel later linked Whiting to the eight-year-old and aided his conviction ."

Based on all the other cases he mentions I rather suspect Joe Power's contribution was either minimal or non-existent. Meanwhile I have written to Sussex Police to ask them to confirm if Power provided them with any useful information at all. If I hear back I'll let you know the outcome.

Finally to quote from Joe Power's own website, "Joe is renowned for his amazing gift in the paranormal field and is increasingly becoming the most proficient profiler in the world."

Second only to Sylvia Browne I dare say.

See also a write up in BadPsychics. This report includes further links.