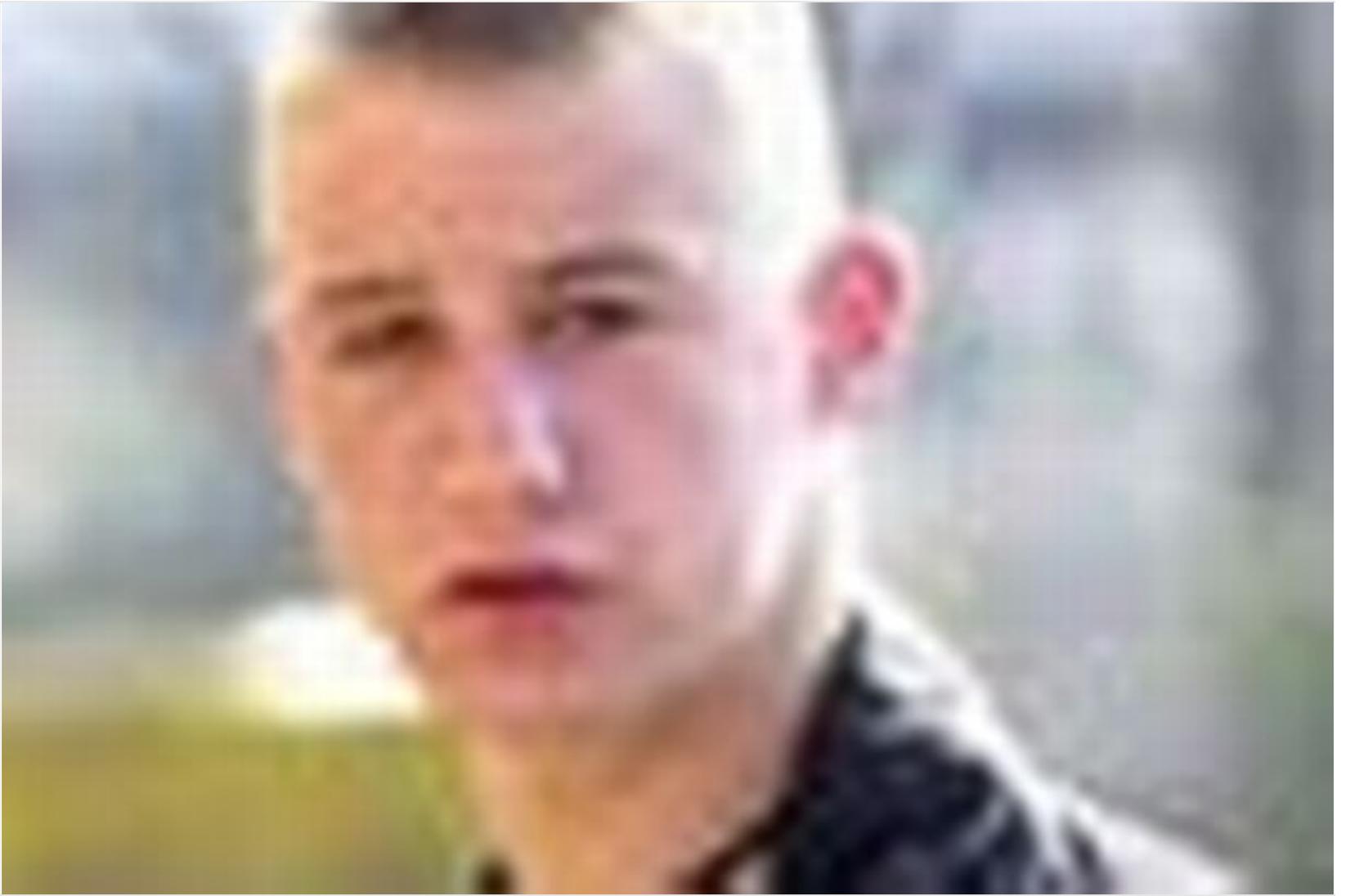


Killer thug 'the Bootle bully' to be freed from prison



A thug who stabbed a talented footballer to death, threw an axe at a girl and shot a boy with an airgun is set to be released from prison.

Yob Peter Hillman – who revelled in his nickname as the Bootle Bully as he reigned terror across Merseyside – was branded a danger to society when he was [locked up over the killing of 17-year-old Alexandras Laou in 2005](#).

Now, the Sunday ECHO understands that he could be back on our streets within weeks.

Hillman, now 29, wreaked havoc in and around his [Bootle](#) stomping ground as a teenager – throwing an axe at an eight-year-old girl, shooting a 10-year-old boy with an airgun, hurling chairs at a terrified elderly couple and crashing his motorbike into a police car.

He then went on to knife Alexandras, supposedly a friend, in the chest with an ornamental double-edged knife.



Alexandras Laos, who was killed by Peter Hillman

Hillman, who claimed he was play-fighting, left Alexandras bleeding in the kitchen of the house in King Street, Bootle, and fled to his girlfriend's home after the attack in April 2005.

And as his friend lay dying, he pranced around wearing her clothes.

Hillman was locked up indefinitely after admitting manslaughter. A judge said he would only be released when a parole board deemed it safe to do so.

That day has now come.

A friend of Alexandras today told the Sunday ECHO of his fury at Hillman's impending release.

Wishing not to be named in fear of reprisals, he said: "It's not right that he is coming out and people don't know about it.

"He will do something else. I am scared someone is going to be hurt.

"He is a bad lad – you don't ever want to come face to face with him. He is a dangerous, dangerous man.

"People need to be aware that he will be back on the streets soon.

"Peter Hillman will never, ever be rehabilitated, it's impossible. He has always been evil – he is a thug.

“He got the name Bootle Bully - and he won't change.”

Hillman first appeared before the courts for assault when he was 14 and was handed an anti-social behaviour order when he was 16, barring him from most parts of Bootle.

His reign of terror forced his then neighbours in Marsh Avenue to effectively become prisoners in their own homes.

Cypriot-born Alexandras, who was training to be a football coach at Hugh Baird college, was looking forward to the birth of his son when he was killed.

His child is now 10 years old. Alexandras's mum and brother have moved away from Liverpool.

The Ministry of Justice said Hillman's release was a matter for the parole board.

A spokesman said: “The release of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences is entirely a matter for the independent parole board, who must be satisfied that an offender can be managed safely in the community.

“The board considers a range of factors which are likely to contribute to a reduction in risk, including behaviour and progress in custody.

“Public protection is our priority. Offenders on licence are subject to strict conditions and are liable to be recalled to custody if they breach them.”