

SASQUATCH ROAMS LONDON!

By Leslie Moriarty
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EMBANKMENT LONDON -- All Stefan Poulus wanted was a cigarette. He thinks he got Sasquatch instead.

"I was not a firm believer in Sasquatch," said Poulus, an Australian oil trader from Putney. "But after last night, I'm rethinking that."

Poulus stepped out the front of the Temple Walkabout antipodean pub in Embankment around midnight Saturday to have a cigarette.

"I do that because I can't smoke in the pub," he said.

After lighting his cigarette, Poulus walked off towards Cleopatra's Needle to walk off the copious amount of beer he had been drinking.

"At that point, I heard a loud, high-pitched yell," he said. "I turned and looked behind me and that's when I saw him. I was looking right at the son-of-a-gun."

The creature stood about 5 feet tall, was dark in colour and seemed to have ginga fur around his face, Poulus said. He stood on two legs by a tree near the entrance of the pub about 20 metres away.

"When the bouncer came out, he ran off down the street," Poulus said. "It sounded like a big hairy human running down the street."

Poulus, an experienced oil trader, said it wasn't a Kangaroo.

"Roos don't run like that," he said.

Poulus said he didn't waste any time getting a photo and going back inside the pub, he had dodged the round and his beer was waiting.

"The poor quality of the photo can be explained by the fact that I was completely off my face and I had to take the photo quickly, so that my cheap arse mates didn't drink my beer" he said.

"I have guns, concealed guns, and I was going for them when I decided to drag my mates off the dance floor and tell him what I saw," Poulus said. "At first, they sort of laughed at me. But then they could see how shaken I was, and they began to believe me."

Poulus said he had seen a television show on Sasquatch sightings a few weeks ago. On that broadcast a tape of a Sasquatch yell was played.

"What I heard sounded just like that," he said. "That's why I know this was Sasquatch."

When morning came, Poulus went out to look for footprints, but found none. Then he called Cliff Crook, a Sasquatch expert.

Crook, of Hackney, said he knows of other Sasquatch sightings near and along the Embankment.

"The last one was back in 1994," Crook said. "That one was near the Embankment Tube Station."

Crook said in that case two motorists saw a "not so huge, ginga hairy thing cross the road."

Crook followed up on that one, but didn't find any clues because pedestrians and traffic had destroyed the trail.

In all, Crook knows of about seven reports of Sasquatch sightings along the Embankment. Most were late at night after the pubs closed.

Crook, who has been researching Sasquatch for 44 years, plans to go to the area today and hunt for clues. He'll look for places where Sasquatch may have rubbed lamp posts, at the base of famous monuments for droppings and for any signs of passage along the Thames.

"I want to find out what was in the area," he said. "And I have ways of screening out any fakes."

Although 90 percent of the Sasquatch sightings prove to be "mistakes," Crook said Poulus sounds genuine, despite having been drinking all afternoon. Personally, he thinks there are about 100 Sasquatches throughout London.

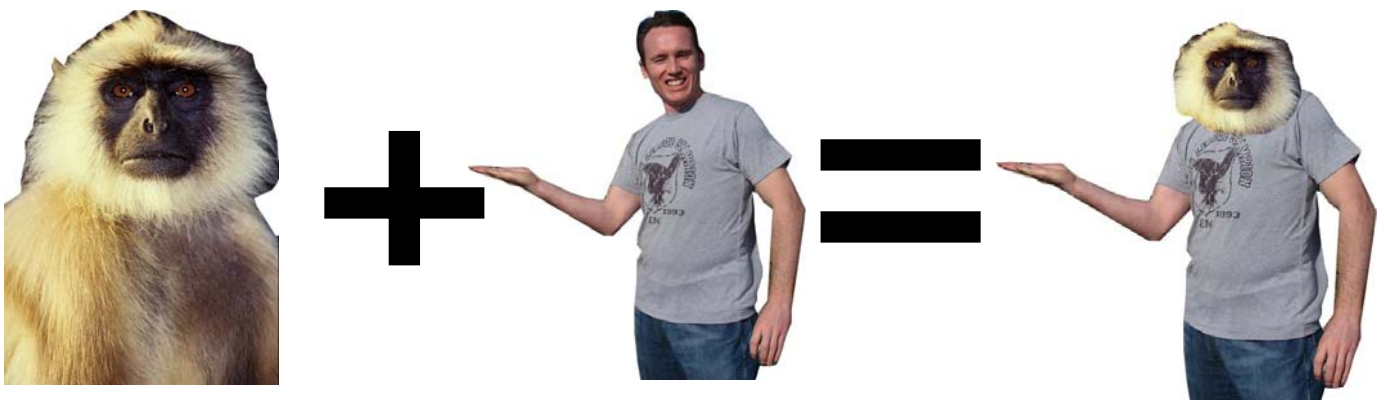
"It's been a while since there was a good report up in that area," he said. "This may be it."

Poulus worries that people will think he's nuts.

"I thought all those guys who said they saw Sasquatch were loony," he said. "But I know what I saw. ... It had to be Sasquatch. Nothing else is that medium sized, hairy and ginga."

London scientists have taken the Poulus sighting and painstakingly compiled an image of what they believe the Sasquatch may look like. Scientists believe that this sighting may not actually be a Sasquatch, but rather the even rarer Mathius Gurnesiensis.

Illustration 1.01 – Scientific Rendition Mathius Gurnesiensis.



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