Sorry... this is not a hoax

A rogue British sunbather has been abusing the British flag and defiling the nation's favourite newspaper.

This man has brought shame on the army of holidaymakers and Sun readers who happily fight on beaches across the world every summer.

The man, identified only as "Sunbather P," was pictured here in Union Jack trunks while reading a copy of the super-soaker during a tour of terror in Tenerife in 1987.

Publication of such a disgusting photograph brought swift condemnation and was seen as a calculated and malicious attempt to tell the truth about the Brits abroad.

BosSES at the Ministry of Beach Defences launched an urgent investigation to check the veracity of the unverified photograph, while Sunwatch experts and swimwear intelligence analysts predicted that this shocking snap would jeopardise the global fight for tourism.

One sunburnt pundit dismissed: "This comes when there is heightened tension in tourism. It is time for the beach bravado of one man to be measured against the potential sunburns of our boys across the world."

A number of high-office workers remain convinced the photo is an "unreal illustration" and point to "inconsistencies" that "prove" their case.

The Shorts — the colours and pattern are those of the British Union Jack, but there is no discernible flagpole and no one on the beach is saluting.

The Paper — there is no evidence of sweet or suntan lotion, or a struggle with turning the pages; a common condition in all half-pissed Brits on holiday. And where is the beer belly?

The Sand — there is not enough tar-mac for a beach in Tenerife and not one Bedford truck is visible;

The Lack of Movement — Sunbather P is not lurching or leering. He is really an egomaniac poseur, not a real-life beach thug. And why is there no metal compass in the photo?

The Lipstick. Boxer Shorts (front left) — Tenerife of the Eighties was pretty lawless, but these abberrent, floppy boxer shorts were never issued.

Whatever the truth behind the photograph, it is widely accepted that the damage is done. The world will now believe that all British tourists dress like this.

Former beach-bum guru Nell Andrew (sic), now a bizarre rent-a-quote boy, scoffed on SunNight: "This was a cheeky, irreverent sunbather who took risks. The beach won't be the same without him. I love him and always will! (Blub blub cup next link.)"

There was widespread speculation last night that "Sunbather P" is former celebrity stalker and Big Bother contestant Piers Morgane. He refused to admit the picture was real or to apologise for his abusive beach attire.

Morgane — now living beneath a pile of cash the size of the Grand Canyon while retaining as a sandwich vendor — said: "I will not admit that this is me until I see incontrovertible evidence."

by Rob McGibbon, our man embedded on the beach

Morgane: won't admit it's him until he sees ' incontrovertible evidence'

Luton wins Olympic bid

Bidding contests don't come much more exciting. Dunstable started as the favourite and led strongly for a while. At one point it looked as if Hatfield was going to carry off the crown. But in the end Luton won the day, as Aristotle Stefanopoulos decided to site the latest addition to his chain of Greek restaurants — the Olympic Taverna — on the Lower Luton Road.

Mr Stefanopoulos — 'Ari' to his regular customers — commented: "I love Luton. And the people of Luton, they love my stuffed vine leaves. Already I have three restaurants here. Why change a good thing?"

Why indeed? Luton may not be in the running for the biggest athletic event in the world, but it's becoming more and more people's choice to live, work and have a good time.

Dunstable and Hatfield pipped at the post.