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Man who wore stilettos denies vicious attack

Gareth Mcherson

A transsexual on trial for rape said he could not have attacked one of his alleged victims because he was wearing five-inch stilettos.



Clare Lawton, who was born a man but has been on hormone therapy, is on trial with his former lover Peter Steel for raping a woman in Cambridge after she witnessed them allegedly attacking another man at a Waterbeach flat.

The pair are accused of taking her back to Steel's flat in Sackville Close, Cambridge, and forcing her to have sex with them on the night of August 27 last year.

Cambridge Crown Court has been told the victim, who cannot be named for legal reasons, saw the two storm into Steven Butler's flat with a Samurai sword and beat him unconscious over a grudge involving another woman.

Mark Shelley, defending Steel, told Lawton yesterday: "I would suggest that it was you who tied him up and you that punched and kicked him."

The defendant replied: "I would like to say I could but I could not have done it with five-inch stilettos on."

Lawton, of Ditton Walk, Cambridge, also denied raping the woman later with Steel saying she "appeared to be a very willing partner" as they sat around and watched television.

The 43-year-old said: "The three of us seemed to stand up. Pete was taking his clothes off. I was 'oh OK'. It seemed to be the thing to do so the clothes came off.

"Everyone was taking their clothes off and no-one was telling anyone else to take them off."

He said he had not made any verbal attempts to check she was consenting but said "she was not resisting, she was not pushing me away and she wasn't saying no or any other negative."

Last week the court heard how the two men told her they were hired killers before making her undress and taking her to the apartment.

The victim said they called themselves "cleaners" who tortured, raped and killed people on the orders of others in return for money.

The defendants are accused of rape, false imprisonment, robbery and aggravated burglary.

Steel, 38, who is due to take to the stand, faces an extra charge of criminal damage.

The trial continues.

gareth.mcherson

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