

My affair with England captain Rio

25 April 2010
Sunday Mirror
Gary Anderson

'I was his dirty little secret for 13 years.. invited into team hotels and swapping hundreds of lewd texts, but when John Terry was exposed I was dumped without even a goodbye call'

Fabio Capello took swift action to end the John Terry sex scandal by sacking the England skipper.

"I ask always that the captain is an example to the young, for the children, for the fans..." the manager told the nation. "...a role model outside the game – in life – as well."

It was a stark warning for newly-crowned captain Rio Ferdinand, who'd fought hard to resurrect his image after driving convictions, a drug test ban and his own sex scandals. And within days of being handed the skipper's armband, he quietly changed his phone number... and ended a 13-year relationship with Carly Storey, who he had first met when he was a 17-year-old West Ham reserve player. Only a week earlier pretty interior designer Carly had been exchanging texts with the married dad-of-two. Now she was dropped without a word.

Carly, 31, enjoyed an on-off affair with Rio – first as his girlfriend, then as the "other woman" while his romance with accountant Rebecca Ellison developed.

They had phone sex and met in hotels, with Rio using away games as cover and even trying to sneak Carly into the England team hotel.

Carly spent a fortune on designer clothes she could not afford – including £ 3,000 on sexy La Perla lingerie – but spiralled into depression as she realised she'd never be more than a mistress to the £ 120,000-a-week star.

Finally, after Rio was made England captain on February 5, the relationship was terminated without so much as a goodbye.

Speaking exclusively to the Sunday Mirror, Carly said: "I was part of his life for 13 years – but it felt like I was out overnight.

"The message was clear – I was too much of a risk and it was all over. I realise now how badly he treated me over the years. I was his dirty secret."

Carly grew up in Dulwich, South London, near Rio's home on Peckham's tough Friary estate. She was 17 when she was introduced to skinny reserve team player Rio, also 17, at a party in 1996.

She said: "I was attracted to him straight away. He had such a warm, friendly personality. I remember him telling me I had a great a***."

The pair met regularly on nights out at London's star-studded clubs. Carly said: "Rio loved drinking JD and Coke and we were into garage music so we were both happy as long as we could dance.

"He started calling round my flat regularly – he had this burgundy Fiesta and was quite proud of it. We first had sex in my bed in the flat a few weeks after meeting. We were young and both nervous but it was really special."

The romance blossomed as Rio broke into the West Ham first team – earning a hefty pay rise and moving into a plush penthouse apartment in Wapping, East London.

She said: "Rio loved gangster films, R&B and reggae music. He'd dance around the bedroom in his pants. We had wild times in his flat. It was a real bachelor pad – I think he still took his washing back to his mum's."

But cracks appeared as Rio's fame grew and he started attracting attention from would-be WAGs.

Carly said: "He was starting to change a bit from the Rio I had fallen for. He was getting these groups of girls hanging off him and I think he wanted to have his cake and eat it."

The pair drifted apart in 2000 as Rio met Rebecca Ellison and Carly had to read about his £ 18million move to Leeds United in the sports pages. Rebecca followed Rio to North Yorkshire and moved into his huge Wetherby pad.

He then became one of the stars of England's 2002 World Cup campaign, before making a dream £ 30million move to Manchester United. But he still kept in touch with Carly.

The pair met for sex at least 10 times between 2002 and 2005, usually in London hotels. She said: "One night I was at a friend's birthday party and Rio kept texting, asking me to meet him.