



SKY SPORTS



WE DEFINITELY  
"SMASHED IT"  
THIS TIME



GRAY AND KEYS LEARN THE "OFF-COLOUR" RULE



# COCK & BULL

## BLUE SKY THINKING

Andy Gray and Richard Keys are kicked off the telly for being sexist boors.

### What's up?

Andy Gray and Richard Keys' contracts at Sky Sports, after some of their off-air sexist banter turned up on the internet.

### Sexist football pundits, huh? Who knew?

It's a shock to all of us.

### What did they say?

Before going live on a match they were covering, the duo were informed by a colleague that one of the match officials was a woman(!), prompting Keys to express despair at the state of the game and leading Gray to conclude, apparently without irony, that women don't understand the offside rule.

### Do they?

No.

### Are you being ironic?

Yes.

### So Gray was sacked for a lack of irony?

No. Sky suspended him for that incident, but then another video popped up. This one showed Gray putting on his microphone in a studio. With the wires dangling down over his gut, he pulls up his shirt and asks co-host Charlotte Jackson to tuck him in.

### But these comments weren't broadcast?

Right.

### Who leaked them on to the internet?

"Dark forces", according to Richard Keys.

### Ooh, a conspiracy?

An unfortunate coincidence, I'm sure.

### Let me be the judge of that.

Well, the videos turned up on YouTube less than a week after Andy Gray launched a lawsuit over the alleged hacking of his mobile phone by the News of the World, which, like Sky Sports, is controlled by Rupert Murdoch.

### So, Gray was suing his employer?

Kind of.

### And then some damaging footage belonging to his employer appeared on YouTube?

Right. And that left the company with little option but to fire him, because the "unacceptable and offensive" footage was clearly damaging to its reputation as a responsible broadcaster.

### The footage that came from the employer?

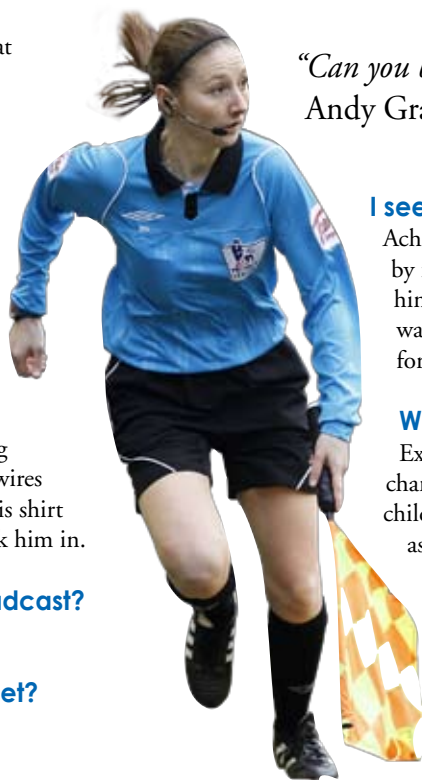
Right.

### And the employer that publishes The Sun?

Yes.

*"Can you believe that? A female linesman."*

Andy Gray, ex-Sky Sports presenter



### I see. Were there any clues Gray was a sexist?

Ach, it's easy to say that now. Sure, he's got five kids by four different women and, yes, the tabloids called him Randy Andy during his playing days. But there was nothing in his 20-year career with Sky that foreshadowed this kind of shocking hate speech.

### Will either of them work on TV again?

Expect a Lazarus-like comeback after some suitable charity work and chatshow confessions of repressed childhoods. ESPN's premiership coverage was rumoured as a natural home for the pair, but the American broadcaster apparently took a pass on the opportunity. The two of them are currently serving penance on radio, co-hosting a daytime show on TalkSport.

### Has Sky replaced them?

Not yet, but one of the favourites is Jeff Stelling, renowned Middlesbrough fan and host of Countdown. Gary Lineker has also been mentioned.

### Are either of them known sexists?

Stelling likes to tell jokes about his wife's cooking on Countdown and Lineker's Mr Nice image suffered a dent during his divorce in 2006, when the press reported stories of his philandering.

### Oh dear. Are any women up for the job?

No.