

ANOTHER SUNDAY WORLD EXCLUSIVE

'YOU SHOULD HAVE KICKED HIS ARSE'

I'M SORRY



COWARD: Geraldine confronts Henry and (inset) our snapper Marti

By **GERALDINE COMISKEY**

HE was the party pooper who spoiled 2010 even before we had rung out the old year.

However, cheat Thierry Henry is paying dearly for his underhand tactics as his reputation takes a battering.

And the *Sunday World* has gained fans all over the world after we exposed the French captain as a coward.

Our snapper in Barcelona has become a hero in the Catalan capital after he scored the ultimate goal – a shot of cowardly Henry scurrying away from yours truly.

Henry proved once again that he was no sport when, instead of simply signing our poster to say he was sorry, he ran for cover.

"Me and you have become Irish idols," photographer Marti Berenguer said this week. The top paparazzo has been swamped with messages of support for Ireland – and anger at Handball Henry.

He said one local asked him: "Why didn't you kick his arse when you got him in front of you, instead of taking the picture?"

Cheat

Barcelona FC supporters cannot hide their embarrassment at having a world-class cheat on their team. Henry and FIFA fatcat Sepp Blatter may have been hoping we would forget about it but millions of people around the world are still kicking up over the ugly incident which has forever marred the beautiful game.

Indeed, Inter Milan's Marco Materazzi this week called for Henry to be booted out of the World Cup.

The Italian defender said FIFA's refusal to discipline the cheat shows "the disgusting side of soccer". Materazzi pointed out that he himself was "treated like a delinquent" for jeering French star Zinedine Zidane in the 2006 World Cup Final.

Materazzi's taunts about Zidane's sister earned him a headbutt from Zidane and sanctions against both players. The Frenchman was sent off and Materazzi got a tongue-lashing from furious FIFA bosses.

Meanwhile, ever since Henry refused to sign our poster to say he's sorry, *Sunday World* readers have been rowing in behind our campaign.

My Facebook page has crashed several times under



SHAME: Henry's actions tainted the beautiful game

Our campaign to boot Henry out is worldwide hit

the weight of messages from people from all over the world who read about it on our website or saw me in their own national papers and on TV. I've also been inundated with offers of holidays in exotic locations to "get over it" – and not in the way Roy Keane means.

Among all the countless messages I've received supporting the *Sunday World* campaign to boot Henry out of the World Cup, I've had just two asking us to drop it – one French and one, amazingly, Irish.

One anonymous weirdo threatened to stalk me the way I stalked Henry. Having had my fair share of stalkers, I have to say I'm not as easily scared as Henry!

Meanwhile, the incident has made the top three on various lists of the biggest events of 2009 and the past decade.

Ian Dempsey's listeners on Today FM's Breakfast Show ranked the handball incident second only to our Grand Slam as the Sporting Moment of the Year.

Still, Robbie Keane's goal against France made it to third place in the Feel Good Moments of the Year – if only we could ignore what followed.

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