

Lorraine Clark from Kirkcaldy, a woman on the SFA Senior List of Referees has been appointed to the prestigious Women's U23 Nordic Tournament being held in Sweden during July. The Webmaster recently had the pleasure in meeting up with Lorraine prior to her trip to Sweden to officiate as an Assistant Referee in the tournament.

GM Congratulations Lorraine on being chosen to officiate, how did you find out about your appointment?

LC Drew Herbertson of the Scottish Football Association in Glasgow called me with the appointment a number of weeks ago.

GM How were you chosen? And how did you feel when you got the news?

LC I referee the Women's Premier League during the season alongside Junior football, teams such as Glenrothes, Keltie Hearts and Hill of Beath etc. Scotland was asked to provide a referee and an assistant referee for this tournament and as we do not have any FIFA female referee's at present, Morag Pirie of Aberdeen and I were selected as we referee at the highest level of women's football. The SFA want to give us experience at a higher level and this was the amazing opportunity that came along.

GM Morag Pirie will be refereeing at the tournament. Have you had a chance to chat to Morag about the whole thing, and how is she feeling?

LC Morag is as excited as I am, this will be the first international tournament I have been on and therefore the first one we have been appointed to together. It is great to be asked to represent your country. This is the first time Morag has been appointed as a referee at a tournament of this level and she is looking forward to the games. It'll be an excellent experience for both of us.

GM Do you know what games you'll be officiating in, and do you know any of the venues?

LC We have been informed of our first two games. We'll only know the next ones depending on who gets through to the knock out rounds.

GM What kit will you wear?

LC We'll wear our official FIFA kit for our games, it's cool.

GM Where will you stay in Sweden?

LC All the teams and referees are staying in the one hotel in Sweden. We travel with the Scottish squad on Sunday afternoon.

GM Well Lorraine, it's a prestigious appointment and I would like to congratulate you on your success at being chosen, I'm sure this will be the first of many International Appointments. Do you have a message you would like to get over to any women out there who are thinking of becoming referees? Is the sport worth taking up?

LC I think anyone that who enjoys making new friends, keeping themselves fit and obviously enjoys football should consider being a referee, male or female. There is no doubt Women's football is becoming bigger throughout Scotland, and the world, therefore more officials are required. There is the possibility of a FIFA badge and officiating at a high level if you show the commitment and potential.

GM Thanks Lorraine, all the best on your trip and I hope you have a good time. I look forward to interviewing you again on your return.