

# Lorraine Clark achieves FIFA Accreditation

The Scottish Football Association earlier this year put Lorraine forward for full FIFA Assistant Referee Accreditation to FIFA.

After an agonising wait to see how the nomination got on, Lorraine was informed earlier this month that she had been successful and would become a FIFA Official for the 2010 Season.

The Webmaster (WM) interviewed Lorraine Clark (LC) on her achievement.

WM - This is your 1st year as a qualified FIFA Assistant Referee – How does it feel?

LC – It feels great, I still can't believe it. Can't wait to get the first game done!

WM - What is the process?

LC – The SFA nominate officials every year to FIFA based on their performances.

WM - How do you get to know you are even in the running?

LC – You don't really, you are assessed throughout the season and the referee committee decide who has to be put forward.

WM - How does it feel during the time between being nominated and getting the information that you have been accepted?

LC – It's a long wait! Once you're nominated people find out who has been put forward and there is a bit more pressure then. There is always that bit of doubt it will happen until the confirmation arrives!

WM - What does the test consist of and how does it differ from the SFA Fitness test?

LC – Fifa Womens Assistant Referee times are 10 laps of the track. 35secs run (150mtrs) 45secs walk (50mtrs).  
40m sprints in 6.8 seconds

WM - What happens to let you know the waiting is over?

LC – We are all emailed from the SFA to say the nominations have been accepted. Within a day or two we receive our badges in the post.

WM - What games will you be on? Which countries? Which stadiums?

LC – At this moment in time, we do not have any appointments. We will wait for the call from the SFA to find out what is next.

WM - Did you manage to do this on your own Lorraine, or were there others who influenced you or helped you?

LC – From the early days of refereeing there have been many people who have helped me get me to where I am today from within the association by giving me lots of advice and by sharing their own experiences. I am thankful to them for this. My family and friends have been very supportive as refereeing can take up a lot of your time. My work is also supportive and has been flexible with time off (sometimes at short notice) for referee commitments so I have been very lucky to have all these people behind me.

WM - What does it all mean to you?

LC – I am just so happy to have this opportunity and plan on giving it 110%. It is an honour to be asked to represent the country and I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

WM - Any advice for young refs, new refs, people thinking about becoming a ref etc.

LC – For anyone thinking about being a referee I would definitely recommend it. There are so many opportunities available that are possible to achieve with a bit of

skill and commitment. It is not always great fun, as there are always days when we will have bad games. A lot of training is required but the good definitely outweighs the bad. People make so many friends within the refereeing community, build up relationships with players and club members and also get to a good level of fitness. I have been lucky enough to see countries I would not have necessarily chosen to go on holiday to and hope to see many more during my career. Never be scared to ask for advice, the thing I have found best in Fife is the amount of people willing to help if you just ask.