

Willie Conquer achieves FIFA Accreditation for the Third Year running

The Scottish Football Association put Willie's nomination for full FIFA Accreditation forward to FIFA in November 2009.

After an agonising wait again, to see how the nomination got on, Willie was informed earlier this month that he had been successful and would become a FIFA Official for the 2009 Season.

The Webmaster (WM) interviewed Willie Conquer (WC) on his achievement.

WM - This is your 3rd year as a qualified FIFA Referee, is it any different from the first and second years?

WC – No not at all I am still delighted and honoured to have been accepted onto this prestigious list for the 3rd time.

WM - Is the process different from previous years, has it changed?

WC – No the process has not changed at all.

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

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

WM – When you know you have been nominated, how does it feel during the time between being that stage and getting the information that you have been accepted?

WC – Personally, I put it to the back of my mind until the night of the FIFA fitness test then I start to think about it and it is a nervous time.

WM –So, the FIFA fitness test comes along. WOW, What does that mean to you?? And what does that test consist of? How does it differ from the SFA Fitness test? Can you cope with both?

WC – Yes, you carry this out in November, you have less of a recovery time and the sprints have to be completed in a faster time!

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

WC – You receive an e-mail from Drew Herbertson at the SFA with the good news!

WM – You managed to officiate in the Europa League Qualifying Stages this season so far. What games will you be on? Which countries? Which stadiums?

WC – You can referee or in my case be an assistant referee at any level of football in the world.

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

WC – No you can never achieve this on your own. I owe a great gratitude to my wife Fiona for the support she has shown me and other members of the

family who are always at hand to help out with Chloe while I am on domestic games. Also a lot of fellow referees in Fife who have supported me along the way, they know who they are and I have thanked them personally.

WM - What does it all mean to you?

WC – Being one of the 10 FIFA Assistant Referees selected to represent not only Fife but Scotland is a great Honour and I feel very privileged to be in this position.

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

WC – The best advice I can give any young or new referee is to work hard at training and in your games, take on any advice given to you and you never know the world could be your oyster!