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# OUTCASTS!

## The Lands That FIFA Forgot

by Steve Menary



TUESDAY, 17 JULY 2007

### Football under the midnight sun



Sami cup winners Stil (photo: Ante Jovna Gaup)

I was in the far north of Norway last week, to see the Sami Cup. Here's an extract from my account of the tournament for [The Guardian](#):

An indigenous Nordic tribe known to most people outside of Scandinavia as Laps, the Sami have rejected the latter term after decades and have reasserted their traditional name. Reindeer-herding and lasso-throwing are traditional Sami sports but since the first Sami Cup was held in 1978, the tribe have taken football to their hearts.

Two thirds of the 70,000 Sami live in Norway, another 20,000 in Sweden, with 5,000 or so in Finland and the rest on the Kola Peninsula in Russia. The Sami Cup was set up to help reunite this disparate northern people with teams made up of relatives, local associations and reindeer herders getting together to play football. More than a dozen Sami football tournaments will be staged this summer but the Sami Cup, rotating annually between Norway, Sweden and Finland, is the big one.

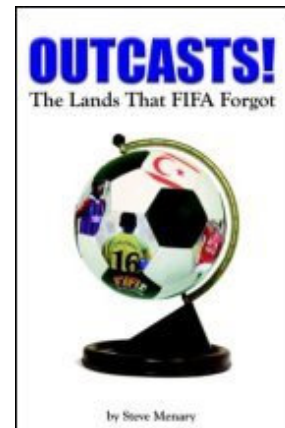
POSTED BY STEVE MENARY AT 08:40

WELCOME TO STEVE MENARY'S BLOG

This blog is about those footballing nations not recognised by FIFA. I've written about them in my new book, "Outcasts!", to be published by Know The Score Books on 27 September 2007.

I'm a freelance journalist and regular contributor to World Soccer and When Saturday Comes.

- [Contact me.](#)
- [Buy a copy of "Outcasts!"](#)



"Outcasts!" will be published on 27 September 2007 by Know The Score.

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"Outcasts! The Lands That FIFA Forgot" examines the much tarnished reputation of FIFA, the governing body of world football, and just how they

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justify the exclusion of some 'nations' from their organisation while welcoming others. For two years, I traced the incredible journeys of the teams that FIFA refuse to recognise - either for reasons of political expediency, or because FIFA just believed they could not compete with the likes of Montserrat on the world stage.

Forewords to the book have been written by [Adrian Chiles](#) and [David Conn](#).

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