Carloway 6 West Side 1. 19/06/09

Duncan Macarthur,

Date Friday19-Jun-2009 Lewis & Harris League Cnoc a Choliich:

Carloway 6 (3) - West Side 1 (0)

G Craigie, Calum Mackay, Andrew Maciver, Calum T Moody, DI Maclennan, Billy Anderson, Kenny Maclennan, Dan Crossley, Kevin Macleod, Chisholm, Gordon Tago

After two consecutive drubbings at the hands of Lochs & West Side in cup competitions, it was back to league business for Carloway against West Side last Friday. Playing with the breeze behind them, Carloway opened the first half brightly with Billy Anderson making a couple of driving runs from midfield. The Carloway pressure quickly translated into goals and in the 4th minute, Andrew Maciver was on hand to find the net, albeit with some assistance from a West Side defender. Two further Carloway goals quickly followed, Dan Crossley after 12 minutes and Gordon Tago on 20. So game over? Well not quite and having seen Carloway squander more than one 2 goal lead last season, including a game against West Side, the Carloway support were by no means convinced that the outcome was a foregone conclusion.

West certainly did not give up the fight and did try to keep the momentum and tempo going, but without asking any questions of Carloway keeper Craigie and their cause wasn't helped by Dan Macphail taking a knock when defending the West goal in the face of a Carloway attack.

West, with the wind behind them, started of the second half looking for the early goal which would give them a foothold in the game and the goal duly came after 52 mins, from a penalty conceded by Carloway and ably converted by Scott Graham. Was this the West comeback, another West goal would have made it interesting but events in the next five minutes were to seal the fate of the game. After 60 minutes Carloway were awarded a free kick about 35 yards from the West goal, up stepped Calum Tom Moody and against the wind lashed the ball into the back of the West net. After 63 minutes West were awarded a second penalty, this time Craigie guessed correctly, parried Graham's penalty and blocked Graham's second attempt at goal for a corner.

In the closing 15 minutes, Carloway had further chances from Chisholm & Kevin Macleod, Chisholm forcing a good save from the West keeper and the eventually scoring after 73 minutes. Kevin Macleod finished of the scoring after 81 minutes, a quite exquisite lob with the outside of his right foot from just outside the left hand side of the box.

This was a strangely subdued West performance for a Carloway fixture, maybe the absence of the injured Murchadh from their defence was a factor.

For Carloway, all performed well and with a decent shape and good to see Donald Fear Beag Mackay coming on as a sub. Hard to pick an individual Carloway player, but Kenny MacLennan would be my Carloway MOM, for his tireless running, tenacity and suppressing the threat of Dan Macphail.