

## **Carloway 4 Athletic 1. 22/06/09**

Duncan Macarthur,

Date Monday 22-Jun-2009 Lewis & Harris League Cnoc a Choliich:

Carloway 4 (1) - Athletic 1 (1)

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

Athletic started the game without Steven Clinton and Scott Maciver whilst Carloway had to do without CT Moody's services.

On a perfect evening for football, Carloway came out with a positive attitude, no doubt having been inspired by their efforts against West the previous Friday. There was also the possibility that Athletic were caught in two minds about their approach, due to their forthcoming HA Cup replay against Back. After 4 minutes good one touch play down the left involving DI & Tago offered K. Macleod a headed opportunity which he put over the bar. Athletic regrouped and after 6 minutes got the ball into the Carloway box, two Carloway defenders attempted to clear, but in the referee's judgment an Athletic penalty. Penalty taken to the keeper's left, but Craigie guessed correctly and the danger was eventually cleared.

Carloway regrouped and after 8 minutes and with a move which opened the Athletic defence, the cross was met by Kenny Maclennan and headed into the Athletic net. At this juncture Carloway assumed control of proceedings and chances fell to K. Macleod, Domhnall Mackay and again Kevin Macleod. But Athletic weathered the storm and started to move the ball about, looking for any frailties in the Carloway defence and eventually after some 27 minutes neat interplay between the Athletic forwards dissected the Carloway back line, presenting Ali Walker with an opportunity and duly converted, giving Craigie no chance. Shortly after a clash of heads resulted in K. Maclennan having to leave the field with a nasty head gash and was replaced by A. Smith.

The first 15-20 minutes of the second half were non eventful with neither side showing any great ambition. But after 63 minutes, Chisholm picked up the ball in the outside right position, cut inside, lobbed the ball over an Athletic defender and on the half volley smashed an unsaveable shot into the Athletic net. Seven minutes later Carloway were awarded a penalty which was sent high over the bar by Gordon Tago. After 73 minutes Kevin Macleod received a red card, and as might be expected the combination of the missed penalty & the dismissal spurred Athletic into action. By this time Scott Maciver had come on for Athletic and I thought they should have done more with their chances, but credit also to Craigie for a fingertip save over the bar from Scott Maciver. Having survived a period of sustained Athletic pressure, Carloway eventually managed to get out of their half, and after 77 mins. Billy Anderson was left one on one with Macritchie, the finish was a delicate lob which dipped under the bar and into the net.

Athletic with their numeric advantage still had time to get something out of the game but the Carloway defence held out and at the very close of play,

substitute Beag Mackay turned an Athletic defender in the box and the defender's retrieving challenge resulted in a penalty award to Carloway. This time there was no mistake from the spot; Alex Smith drove it high & hard to the keeper's left.

Again a good collective effort from Carloway and my MOM would be G. Craigie for a sound performance and good saves at crucial times in the game.