

Eilean an Fhraoich Cup: R 1 (L 2):

## **Carloway 4 (4) West Side 1 (0) Aggregate 5-8**

*Chris Macleod 16 (pen.), 30    Chris Adams 64*

*Kenny Dokus 21 (pen.)*

*Seumas Macleod 28*

*At Cnoc a' Choilich*

*13.7.09*

*Ref.: Annalise Ingram*

*Gordon Craigie*

*Calum Mackay   Alex Smith   Domhnall Mackay   Andrew VP*

*Seumas Macleod   Kenny Dokus   Kenny MacIennan   Tom Lawrence*

*Chris Macleod   Donald Chisholm*

*Subs used: DI MacIennan (Andrew VP) 56; Dan Crossley (Donald Chisholm) 65; Calum Fraser (Calum Mackay) 87*

If anyone thought that a 7-1 first-leg scoreline would result in a pretty lame second-leg, half an hour watching this exercise in frantic, unarmed conflict at Cnoc a' Choilich would soon have disabused them. Because of the exigencies of the EaF Cup, Carloway suffered the absence of several notable stalwarts, but had only one "guest", United's Tom Lawrence, at left midfield. T in the Park cut selection options too, although, in turn, the Blues must have been delighted to note the absence of their No.1 bête noire, Scott Maciver, from the opposition line-up. Alex Smith slotted in at the back beside Domhnall Mackay, while the Macleods were both available, Seumas at right midfield and Chris leading beside Donald Chisholm, with three of the Blues' s young stars on the bench: DI MacIennan, Dan Crossley, and Calum Fraser.

A beautiful, fresh summer' s evening saw Carloway survive a couple of early scares before taking the game to the opposition. A West Side corner led to a scramble in na Gormaich' s box and Scott Graham hooked the ball over the bar. Moments later Andrew VP had to move smartly to block the same player directly in front of goal. Gradually, however, Kenny Dokus and Kenny Beag gained a grip in midfield and Seumas Macleod' s elusiveness on the right and his brother' s pace up front began to cause West Side problems. A Kenny Dokus corner was palmed away under pressure by Murdo Graham and Alex Smith met it sweetly on the left edge of the box, but Graham recovered well to save low to his right.

A Kenny Beag shot came back off the junction of bar and post and then Chris Macleod burst through on the left and went down. The penalty award was a bit soft but uncontested and Chris converted the penalty himself, low to the goalie' s right. Next, a Seumas Macleod handball on the edge of Carloway' s box resulted in a Scott Graham free-kick which he screwed round the wall carefully but just outside Craigie' s left-hand post. Immediately a defensive error let Chris Macleod charge through the middle, only to be tackled by Ali Williamson. Down he went in a heap of bodies: this time, the referee consulted the linesman before awarding a second penalty, much to the defence' s annoyance.

After tempers had cooled, Kenny Dokes sent the ball low past Graham to his left. Moments later, a Carloway corner led to a scramble in the West Side box, which was finally booted clear by Donnie Smith, leading to a West Side break down the right. Alex Smith put in the tackle; the attacker went down, and a third penalty was awarded. It was now the Carloway's turn to rant and rave. After an age, Scott Graham stepped up to slot the ball to Craigie's left but Gordon guessed right and blocked, then pulled off a magnificent second block from the rebound.

Within four minutes, the Blues put this game out of West Side's reach: first, Kenny Dokes had a run through the middle and slipped the ball quickly to Chris Macleod peeling off to the right; he turned and crossed, and his brother met it on the run about 14 metres out and glanced it neatly past Graham to his right. Minutes later, Calum Mackay won the ball in the West Side half on the right as they tried to break, then slipped the ball through to Chris Macleod running forward right of centre into the box, and his low right-foot drive gave Graham no chance to his right. Suddenly the unthinkable seemed possible but the Barvas men held firm and, indeed, right on half-time appeared to have pulled one back. Duncan Maclean and Scott Graham had a quick one-two out on the left and Maclean converted strongly; however, he had just stepped behind Calum Mackay and the back line a moment before Graham reverse-passed to him.

West Side had clearly decided at half-time that the best form of defence was attack and in the opening twenty minutes had their best period: after Murdo Graham had an excellent double save, they almost struck lucky when Craigie mistimed a clearance, then, in the space of 15 minutes, Chris Adams nearly had a hat-trick. First, a diagonal cross from the left left him spare on the right but he pulled his shot low and wide; then he had a beautifully controlled run in from the right but his parting effort went over.

Carloway had a break and Chris Macleod went down on the left at the edge of the box after a Williamson tackle. A free-kick was awarded although the Blues claimed yet another penalty. The ball was cleared and a long ball from the centre left careered low through the Carloway defence. This time Adams managed to force it home from 6 metres. Effectively, this ended the tie, but not the match.

Things hotted up; it was a derby game, after all. Tempers flared; the yellow card started to appear; brutal challenges crashed in. Ali Williamson made a superb block on Macleod right in front of goal before Maclean had a run down the left, turned in and shot, but Craigie beat it away. Next, Donnie Smith gave away a free-kick just outside his box on Carloway's left, received his second yellow card, and had to go. The subsequent free-kick came to nothing. In injury time, Chris Macleod sent a screamer over from 16 metres.

Marvellous entertainment ! Anyone turning up after a half an hour would have been surprised to find out that one team was already 4-0 up, so keenly was the match contested for the subsequent hour. Carloway, no doubt, deserved to win on the strength of that opening period, but the rest of the game was an

evenly fought battle, with no quarter given by either side.

For West, Murdo Graham was excellent throughout, having no chance with any of the goals, and Ali Williamson certainly was instrumental in stabilising things at the back after a nerve-shattering opening period. Chris Adams and Duncan Maclean had good second halves, and Donnie Smith unlucky to be sent off. It was the old story: you get your name taken early for a trip, then, later, when you actually commit a foul that, perhaps, merits a ticking-off, suddenly it's a red because of what went before.

Once again, not one of the Carloway boys can be faulted for effort and commitment. For the first half-hour, they were superb, with Dokus, Kenny Beag, and the Macleods uncontrollable, the third goal being especially memorable. Gordon Craigie had another faultless display, but, as usual, security at the back is crucial and Domhnall Mackay would have to be my Carloway Man of the Match for a resolute display at the back throughout and desire to break forward in support whenever an opportunity arose.