

Moldova Lewis Cup Round 2:

United 1 (0) Carloway 8 (3)

DJ Clinton 68

Kevin Gochan 52 secs.

Seumas Macleod 18, 67

Gordon Tago 36, 66, 83

Billy Anderson 73

Lewis Uig (o.g.) 81

At Goathill

12.8.09

Referee: DI Maclean

Gordon Craigie

Darren Mackinnon Calum Moody Domhnall Mackay DI MacIennan

Kevin Macleod (29 ?) Kenny MacIennan Kenny Dokus Gordon Tago

Seumas Macleod Ross Bremner (17 ?)

Substitutes used: Billy Anderson (Kenny Dokus) 62; Calum Mackay (Kevin Gochan) 75; Calum Macleod (Ross Bremner) 77.

Things change, even in Lewis. First, the Blues were to face Arsenal at Garrabost; then it was Hull City at Cnoc a' Choilich; finally, they got Alloa Athletic at their "favourite" ground, Goathill, in what was supposed to be a re-run of their League game a few days earlier. It ended up anything but. With their inspirational captain, Pongo, unavailable, Carloway had one change in their starting line-up, though several positional changes. Calum Moody moved to central back alongside Domhnall Mackay; Darren Mackinnon dropped back to right wing-back, and Kevin Gochan switched from left to right wing forward to allow Gordon Tago to re-appear. DJ Clinton and Allan Don Mackenzie returned up front for United, the latter on the bench, while Iain O' Donnell deputised for Martin Macphee in goal, with Andrew Macaulay partnering Lewis Uig at central back; Calum Campbell was absent from midfield.

On an overcast but windless evening, the game began explosively. An initial Wasps' attack broke down on Carloway's left and Calum Moody fired a long crossfield clearance deep into the United half towards Gochan, who slipped his marker to beat a hesitant O' Donnell to the ball and flick it past him, then convert behind retreating United defenders. Such an opening would unbalance any team and na Gormaich established an early grip on proceedings, Gochan and Tago stretching the back men, allowing Bremner and Macleod room to test Macaulay and Lewis Uig. On 16 minutes Liam Coleman went close with a rising free-kick from 22 metres before a stroke of luck helped the Blues double their lead. Gochan was freed on the right and his reversed pass allowed Seumas Macleod to turn inside just outside the box and shoot. O' Donnell had it covered but it took a wicked deflection off Macaulay's back and soared over the luckless keeper's head.

Then Calum Moody, on the 6 metre line, headed wide from a corner. However, he redeemed himself on 31 minutes with a glorious saving tackle 12 metres out when Allan Don, sent free on a through ball, delayed too long before shooting. It was a costly miss; five minutes later Gochan attempted to head on through the middle. The pass was blocked but returned to him. He

headed on again and the ball ran diagonally through the defence to Tago running in wide of Sandy Morrison on the left, and from 20 metres he sent a left-foot screamer whizzing home. The half ended with Allan Don setting up DJ but Craigie saving well, and Calum Tom firing just over from about 22 metres.

United needed a quick goal to have any hope of a result and DJ was just forced out on the right of the 6 metre line by Domhnall in the opening minute. However, the initiative remained with the Blues' midfield four, retaining possession and confining DJ and Allan Don to unsupported breaks. Mark McGee toiled tirelessly in midfield, but Dokus and Kenny Beag were much more prominent than they had been in the League game and Gochan was running free on the right.

Midway through the half there was an unexpected deluge of goals. In the space of three minutes a Bremner effort was punched clear by O' Donnell but Gochan returned it immediately, long over the exposed keeper's head where it bounced low for Tago to stoop to nod home at the far post. Then Macleod had a shot blocked but as he fell 8 metres out with his back to goal, the ball came back to him and, lying prone, he hooked it back over his head into the net. At the other end, the ball broke to DJ, about 23 metres out and he sent a low daisy-cutter powerfully through Craigie, its pace and power too much to handle. Only 5 minutes were to pass before a free-kick was slipped to Bremner who moved it on fast to Gochan and his low cross was converted by Billy Anderson, all alone on the 6 metre line.

To their credit, United still came forward, Liam Coleman just shooting over on 75 minutes, and the arrival of supersub, Fraser, gave them more pace and options up front. Nevertheless, the wide nature of the Blues' attack was causing their defence to unravel, long before Lady Luck was again unkind to the Wasps. Gordon Tago burst free on the left and as he advanced into the penalty box, he passed it on to Macleod running across goal. Seumas either flicked it on or dummied it, and his cover, Lewis Uig, was unfortunate enough for it to bounce off him behind Bananas, who had already moved forward behind him to collect. Lewis' s bad luck continued moments later when a long clearance was headed backwards by him but short of the advancing keeper. Gordon Tago nipped in, steadied himself, then lifted the ball carefully over the stranded keeper.

For 36 minutes, this was a remarkably even game, with United far more dangerous up front than in the previous match, but DJ and Allan Don (eventually) were isolated, as Mark McGee was embroiled in a midfield struggle with Kenny Beag and Liam Coleman kept having to track back, not come forward. Also, Sandy Morrison and Tom Lawrence were too occupied as full-backs to function as wing-forwards. Perhaps if Allan Don had scored on the half-hour, the game would have been significantly different. Carloway were much more positive tonight than in the League, with Dokus and Kenny Beag forceful in midfield, and Macleod and Bremner ubiquitous and elusive up front.

Once again, the back line, although troubled at times by Clinton' s pace, remained in control, and Craigie sound, if taken by surprise by the goal. Calum Tom and Domhnall always look happier beside Pongo than they do

with each other, though. The main difference, however, between the sides was the wing men, with Gochan running free to supply the ammunition, and Gordon Tago - with a hat-trick, my Man of the Match - firing the bullets (with Seumas's and Billy' s help, of course!).