

Jock Stein Cup Round 1:

Carloway 5 (2) Point 0 (0)

Calum Moody 30, 84, 90+1 (pen.)

Seumas Macleod 33

Archie Macdonald 83

At Cnoc a'Choilich.

3.5.10

Ref.: Calum Macleod

Gordon Craigie

Domhnall Mackay Andrew Maciver (capt.) Calum Moody

Darren Mackinnon Donnie Macphail Kenny "Beag" MacIennan Murdo "Squeg" Macleod

Gordon "Tago" Macdonald

Kevin "Gochan" Macleod Seumas Macleod

Subs.used: Archie Macdonald (Kevin Macleod) 60; Ed Ansell (Murdo Squeg) 85; Donald

Chisholm (Seumas Macleod) 88

A milder, but greyish evening at Cnoc a' Choilich, thankfully windless, witnessed a rather one-sided cup-tie, though the final score line may have flattered the Blues a little. Apart from one brief spell in mid-second half, na Gormaich maintained an easy control against a combative, but punchless Point side. Dan Crossley was off-island; Seumas Macleod led the attack, and Kenny Dokus made the bench, alongside Ed Ansell, Calum Mackay, Archie Macdonald, and Donald Chisholm.

The Blues survived an early scare when Sean Macleod neatly brought down a long diagonal ball from left midfield and turned on the edge of the box to fire a quick left foot shot at Craigie. Thereafter Carloway had little difficulty containing the Rudhachs, largely in their own half, helped by a natural tendency in the visitors to drift back into defence, no doubt mindful of their last visit to Carloway. For long periods, Rab Maciver was unsupported to face the Blues' back three, who patiently built from the back to supply the midfield or used the long cross ball to the breaking Tago, Gochan, or Mackinnon. On 17 minutes a Mackay long ball from the left found Seumas Macleod in front of goal but he lifted the ball over. Then a Gochan run set up Tago on 16 metres, but Wright beat the ball down. Moments later Gochan broke down the right but his cross was headed over by Macleod. On the half-hour Mackinnon stormed in from the right and his square pass was mishit into the air by Macleod, about 12 metres out. It was actually dropping in when Wright flicked it over the bar. A peach of a corner from the left by Donnie Macphail was met by a totally unmarked Calum Moody on the 6-metre line and headed home. Substitute Seumas for Calum Tom and we had a carbon copy goal two minutes later. Point have many tall defenders. Where were they all? The game died a little after that, understandably, though Point had a glorious chance to resurrect themselves when Anthony Maciver got behind his namesake to run in on goal but his low shot from 18 metres was blocked expertly by Craigie with his right leg.

For the opening period of the second half na Gormaich maintained their edge. On the hour an excellent Jimmy McIlroy-type pass inside the left back from Seumas Macleod set up the charging Mackinnon to cross deep to Tago

running in but his header went past. Then Craigie was fast off the line to thwart Rab Maciver on his first real chance as he raced to connect with a high diagonal cross from the right. Suddenly Point were using the long ball to effect: ten minutes later the same header came close with a header, before Anthony Maciver shot over. On 81 minutes Seumas Macleod chipped over just before Archie Macdonald settled the game as an exquisite Macphail ball from central midfield sent him running in, as the defence ran out, to lob over the helpless Wright. A minute later an unfocussed Point were slow to organise for a free-kick about 22 metres out on the right and Calum Moody sent a low drive whizzing just inside Wright's left-hand post. Alasdair Gillies had a cracking free-kick from 22 metres beaten away brilliantly by Craigie before the Rudhachs' misery was completed in injury-time, when Tago was brought down on the left of the box. Calum Tom converted expertly low to the left.

On the face of it, this was a job well-done for the Blues, although the disappointing nature of the opposition must be taken into account. Gillies, Maclellan, and the Point defence competed hard; Sean Macleod and Anthony Maciver broke well, and Rab Maciver never stopped running, but the sum of it only troubled the Blues now and then and for a 20-minute period in the second half. As per usual, Carloway's last line, plus Craigie, were solid as granite in defence and creative coming forward, featuring an astonishing performance from hat-trick hero, Calum Moody (my Carloway Man of the Match). The midfield were basically set an exercise in lock-picking, as they tried to find ways through an industrious Point defence; however, a classic dead-ball kicker like Donnie Macphail provided two beautiful corners and a searching through ball to help Carloway along the way.