

Lewis and Harris League:

## **Harris 0 (0) Carloway 2 (0)**

*Kenny "Dokus" Macdonald 86  
Archie Macdonald 90+4*

*At Rally Park*

*17.5.10*

*Ref.: Murdo Macaulay*

*Calum "Flanker" Moody*

*Domhnall Mackay Andrew Maciver (capt.) Darren Mackinnon  
Kevin "Gochan" Macleod Seumas Macleod Kenny "Beag" MacIennan Murdo "Squeg"  
Macleod Gordon "Tago" Macdonald  
Kenny "Dokus" Macdonald Dan Crossley*

*Subs.used: Donnie Macphail (Dan Crossley) 58; Archie Macdonald (Seumas Macleod) 71; Ed  
Ansell (Kenny Dokus) 90+3  
Yellow Card: Calum Moody 23*

*Carloway Man of the Match: Kenny MacIennan.*

After their champagne display last Friday versus the champions, tonight's chaser was considerably flatter, as Carloway failed to sparkle against a spirited, if punchless, Harris side. Selection problems abounded: Craigie was still injured and Gordie Mackenzie unavailable (work commitments), so Moody drew the short straw; Mackinnon remained in place, beside returnees, Domhnall Mackay and Andrew Maciver, as did Seumas Macleod in midfield, with Donnie Macphail unable to make kick-off and dropping to the bench. Kenny Dokus started up front beside Crossley.

The Hearachs started in a rush, with Sutton wasting two early chances. On 8 minutes an attempted Blues' clearance rebounded back off another defender to leave him clear on the left edge of the box, but his finishing shot was weak. Then a cross from the left put him clear 14 metres out on the right but he pulled his effort wide. A retaliatory strike from na Gormaich saw Gochan storming into the Harris box on the right, but Beaton moved fast to drop on it, then appeared to lose it; a wrestling match ensued between Gochan and the keeper when both, in turn, seemed to have it, before Beaton finally grasped it.

On 23 minutes Moody had his first real action, saving well on the right at the feet of an inrushing forward, but in doing so, slid out of the box and was perhaps fortunate to receive only a yellow card. The game degenerated into stalemate: Carloway's backline adopted their usual no-nonsense approach under pressure, and calm, possession-play when free, forcing it; Gochan and Tago dropped back to cover the flanks, and the Hearachs attempted to go head-to-head with the flooded midfield; Cherry and co. had only an isolated Crossley and Dokus, wide-apart, to deal with and, in their turn, pushed forward. At the other end, Sutton and Lennie were equally isolated.

There were few chances until, suddenly, towards the interval, the Blues almost broke through: Gochan got to his bye-line but Crossley could not divert the low cross accurately at the near post. A long ball from Pongo on the

right halfway line was fisted away by Beaton under pressure, to be met with a spectacular scissors-kick by Tago but he cleared the bar by a metre. Then the same player broke along the edge of the box, beating two men, but his shot flew just outside the left-hand post. The half ended with Beaton doing well to flick on an inswinging Squeg corner from the left.

There was little change in fare in the second half, with scant wing play and precious little in either box: 20 players seemed to be occupying a rectangle which extended from 20 metres from either goal and 10 metres in from each side-line, and were effectively cancelling each other out. On the hour Kenny Dokus eluded his marker on the left but rushed his shot. Then, on 70 minutes, came na Gormaich's best chance of the game so far: a Harris defender headed back without noticing his keeper advancing towards him, but Beaton reacted expertly high to his right to avert the danger.

With 8 minutes remaining, Harris wasted their last, and best, chance with a hurried shot inside the box, high and wide. The game appeared to be winding down as a contest when a huge long ball from Andrew Tago was brought down by Dokus, all alone in front of goal, about 10 metres out, and he then flicked the ball over the helpless keeper. No wonder Beaton was raging at his absent defenders! They repeated their favour deep in injury-time: this time Domhnall provided the long ball, Macphail brought it down about 8 metres out to the right and knocked it across goal, where Archie Macdonald was stationed centrally, like Napoleon on Elba, to sidefoot home.

This game had no-score draw written all over it. Carloway toiled relentlessly to impose some pattern on their play and attack, as did Harris, but the tightness of the park and the tactics adopted militated against this, and prevented open ball-play and extended goalmouth action. Calum Moody had little to do, Beaton little more. After the opening period, Sutton was little seen, and Steven Lennie, normally a dangerous handful, disappeared through lack of ammunition.

Kenny Dokus and Dan Crossley, then Seumas when he took over, suffered similar fates, though Dan chased and harried in search of the ball into midfield if necessary. The Blues' back three were as stout as ever and only occasionally troubled, and the midfield up for it, especially Kenny Beag (my Carloway Man of the Match) who delivered a tireless combative performance, but the whole game appeared to take place in an alternative universe where everything was slightly out of synch, off-balance, and is perhaps best forgotten by both sides.