

League:

Point 2 (1) Carloway 3 (1)

Allan MacMillan 24 Gordon "Tago" MacDonald 45
"Cally" Mackay pen. 75) Donnie Macphail 65, 89

Venue Garrabost Point
Ref Calum "Chancy" Macleod
28.6 .2010

Gordon Craigie

*Andrew "Tago" Maciver (Capt) Domhnall MacKay Calum Tom Moody Andy "VP" Macleod
Ed Ansell Murdo "Squeq" Macleod Donnie Macphail
Archie MacDonald Kevin Anderson Gordon "Tago" MacDonald*

Subs Used: Kevin "Gochan" Macleod (Kevin Anderson) (57)

Carloway remain undefeated in the league but made hard work of securing the points against a determined Point side. Despite most of the possession in this game they could not convert this possession into goals, to make the game safe, and as such the result hung in the balance until the final whistle.

From the team which played Athletic on Friday night, Seamus Macleod was added to the injury list (possible hernia), Kenny MacIennan was unavailable through work commitments, Kevin "Gochan" and DI MacIennan were only fit enough for the bench and due to shortage of numbers, Calum Iain Macdonald (home on holiday) was drafted in as cover. Carloway welcomed back Domhnall Mackay after his holiday sojourn, Kevin Anderson and Ed Ansell were reinstated to the starting line up as was Andy "VP" who started a game for the first time since the middle of April.

Carloway lined up in an unfamiliar 4-3-3 formation and seemed to settle the better of the two teams in the opening minutes of the game with plenty of possession but no cutting edge. However, Point came into the game and in the eighth minute Craigie was called upon to save a shot from young Allan Macmillan. Four minutes later Anderson set up Gordon "Tago" for a shot on goal but he hit it lamely over the bar from 18 yards. Within minutes a good passing move between Macphail and "Squeq" set up Ansell who also shot over from 20 yards.

Carloway continued to press but in the 18th minute they were caught out on the break and MacMillan, who found himself unmarked on the corner of the 18 yard box, shot wide of the post. Shortly afterwards a clearance from Domhnall Mackay found Anderson on his own at the corner of the opposing 18 yard box but the ball got tangled up underneath his feet allowing the home side's keeper Alex Wright the time to retrieve the situation

The breakthrough came in the 24 minute when "Cally" Mackay picked up the ball inside the Carloway half, ran with the ball and then proceeded to thread the ball through the centre of the Carloway defence for Macmillan to run onto, and slot past Craigie from 8 yards.

For the following twenty minutes Carloway had most of the possession and although no clear cut chances were created there were several opportunities in this period which with a bit of luck may well have brought an equaliser. The only opportunity which fell to Point in this period was when MacMillan shot

over the bar from distance in the thirty ninth minute. From the resultant kick out Carlway were awarded a corner and Gordon Tago's well taken corner kick was met by Moody, who rose majestically, connected perfectly with the ball but headed just wide of the post when it seemed easier to score.

However, the equaliser finally did come in the 45th minute when Calum Tom Moody, just inside his own half, controlled the ball on his chest played a classical diagonal defence splitting pass for Gordon "Tago" (who appeared to be in a suspiciously offside position) to run onto and drill home into the left hand corner of the net with some aplomb.

From the kick off Point went on the attack and depending on who you support, a MacMillan header from six yards out was either saved brilliantly by Craigie, or was a glaring miss by the youngster.

(HT1-1)

The first fifteen minutes of the second half continued in the same vein as the first with no real clear cut chances being created by either side. In the 60th minute Carlway took the lead when a cross from Andrew Tago, marauding down the right hand side, evaded the two Point central defenders and found his cousin, Gordon Tago, unmarked at the far post. Although the ball came to him at speed MacDonald controlled it on the volley, kept it down, and unselfishly played it back to Donnie Macphail positioned just inside the corner of the 18 yard box, who connected sweetly and lashed the ball with power into the right hand corner of the net. Shortly afterwards Murdo "Squeeq" found himself unmarked in the Point box with the goal at his mercy but somehow he managed to shoot wide of the mark.

When it appeared that Carlway were beginning to take control of the game, in the seventy fourth minute, Point were awarded a free kick 30 yards from goal as a result of what appeared to be an innocuous challenge by Domhnall Mackay on a Point forward. Cally Mackay stepped up, drove the free kick against Ed Ansell (positioned on the edge of the defensive wall just outside the 18 yard box) and referee Macleod, controversially, adjudged that Ansell had not only handled deliberately but was inside the box when the ball hit him. As a result Ansell was harshly shown a straight red card and Point were awarded a penalty. Despite the Carlway protests, as in all such cases the referee refused to change his mind. "Cally" Mackay then stepped up to take the penalty. However, Craigie guessed correctly, dived to his right, making a brilliant stop in the process but unfortunately no one in Carlway team reacted quickly enough to the Craigie save and Mackay slotted home the rebound.

The Ansell sending off resulted in a tactical change with Moody pressed into attack in an attempt to win the game and it almost reaped dividends in the eighty fourth minute when from a Kevin "Gochan" cross, Moody headed against the bar. Two minutes later from a Macphail free kick Andrew Tago stooped low but somehow managed to head the ball over the bar.

In the eighty ninth minute Carlway's late pressure brought its rewards. Carlway were awarded a free kick 12 yards from the half way line in their own half. Andrew Tago, (whether by accident or design) drove the ball waist high towards Donnie Macphail, who was standing with his back to goal, just

inside the corner of the 18 yard box .Showing sublime skill (of which Lionel Messi would be proud) in the one movement he controlled it with one touch, turned to face the Point goal and chipped it over Alex Wright into the right hand corner of the net. An exquisite goal, certainly worthy of winning this game and even games at a higher level. Professional players would be proud to score a similar goal and this scribe cannot do it justice as you would have needed to be have been there to appreciate the skill shown by Macphail to ensure the “Blues” would take the points.

Carloway had a late scare in the dying minutes of the game when “Squeeq” needlessly gave away a foul just outside the 18 yard box and from the resultant free kick Craigie got a hand to the ball, but it fell at his feet and began to bobble about in the box. However, to the relief of the Carloway support it was then hooked to safety.

Needless to say this was not one of Carloway’s better performances but at least the main objective of obtaining the win, and the three points which go with it, was achieved. To put the league campaign, to date, into perspective, it is comforting to reflect that despite not yet reaching the consistency of performance of last season they currently lie third in the league, with Lochs and Back still in their sights.

It is a difficult call to choose the man of the match with no obvious candidate standing out over the ninety minutes. For someone who has not started a game for some months, Andy “VP” acquitted himself well and should be very satisfied with his contribution. However, after much swithering, I have decided to opt for Donnie MacPhail as the quality of his goals singled him out over the rest of the team and his second goal will live long in the memory.