

Highland Amateur Cup Round 2:

Lochs 1 (1) Carloway 2 (1)

*Don "Lava" Macleod 14 Calum Tom Moody 3
Andrew "Tago" Maciver 75*

*Ref.: D.J. Maclean.
At Sgoil nan Loch.
Saturday, 4.6.11.*

Gordon Craigie

*Donald "D.I." MacIannan Andrew "Tago" Maciver Calum Tom Moody Darren Mackinnon
Kenny "Dokus" Macdonald Murdo "Sqweg" Macleod (capt.) Dan Crossley Seumas Macleod
Gordon "Tago" Macdonald*

Kevin "Gochan" Macleod

Subs: Donnie Macphail (for Calum Tom Moody) 70mins, Archie MacDonald (for Kenny Dokus) 85 mins

Yellow Cards: Andrew "Tago" Maciver; Murdo "Sqweg" Macleod; Dan Crossley.

Carloway are through to the 3rd round of the Highland Amateur Cup, where they have been drawn against old foes Castletown (from Caithness) after recording their second win of the season against Lochs. The only change to the starting eleven who beat Harris the previous Monday night was Andrew "Tago" returning to the fold in central defence to take over from Domhnall Mackay (unavailable due to his attendance at a wedding in Inverness). Also missing from the squad, for the first time this season, was Stuart "Keevins" Rankin the doyen of Lewis football reporters.

The Carloway management also tinkered slightly with the formation from the previous fixture, lining up the team in a 4-5 1 formation, with Kevin "Gochan" playing as the lone striker, to counteract a strong Lochs midfield. Although not a classic cup encounter, it was nevertheless an incident packed, enthralling and often feisty affair, with the result in doubt all the way to the referee's final whistle.

On a sunny and cold but dry night Carloway went on the offensive from the start, forcing a corner within three minutes. The corner, taken expertly by Gordon "Tago" was met perfectly by Calum Tom Moody, rising majestically above everyone, to bullet the ball into the back of the net not only to open the scoring but also his own account for the season.

This was followed in the fifth minute by a speculative shot from distance from Darren Mackinnon which went harmlessly past the Lochs goal. However, the lead did not last long as Lochs equalised in the 14th minute when a free kick taken by Graeme Mackenzie, just yards from the halfway line in his own half, was back-headed into the Carloway net by Don "Lava", standing on the 6 yard line.

This seemed to act as a spur to Lochs as the ever dangerous "Nomie" got past Mackinnon on the left but his shot, although on target, was hit straight at Craigie, then rebounded back to him; once again he beat Mackinnon on the outside, but this time Mackinnon recovered to clear the danger by putting the ball out of play for a corner. This was followed by a Lochs shot from outside the 18 yard box which was well saved by Craigie, diving low to his left hand post.

Carloway then went close when a long ball by Moody dropped behind the Lochs defence but Dan Crossley failed to get enough height on his flick to get it over the

onrushing Black. Then, from a Carloway throw in on the left the ball was back-headed by "Gochan" into the path of Seumas Macleod, on the edge of the eighteen yard line, but by taking a second touch he allowed David Macmillan time to block his route to goal and he was forced to shoot wide of the Lochs post.

In the 27th minute Peter Mackenzie won the ball in the centre of the park and sent "Nomie" clear on the left; he beat Mackinnon on his outside using his left foot to control the ball, reached the touch line, switched the ball to his right foot and shot into the side netting, when the best option was to cut the ball back to the onrushing Peter Mackenzie, who was unmarked at the corner of the box. Carloway immediately went up the park with Mackinnon on the overlap and he sent in a low cross across the face of the goal but fortunately for Lochs it fell to Graeme Mackenzie, who hooked it away unconvincingly for a corner.

Craigie was then once again called into action when he again dived low, this time to his right, to prevent a certain goal from Peter "Robbie" Mackenzie's shot from twenty yards. As the first half drew to a close, "Nomie" picked up the ball on the left, cut inside along the 18 yard line, but his mishit shot. The ball landed at the feet of a Lochs player who drove it across the face of the Carloway goalmouth, only for Moody to hook it off "Lava's" toes two yards from the line.

The second half continued at the same frenetic pace. Lochs appealed for a penalty when a forward collided with the Craigie in the box but the linesman was well placed to dismiss their claims. Lochs then forced a succession of corners and free kicks but the Carloway defence stood resolute and weathered the storm.

In the sixtieth minute a "one two" between Seumas Macleod and Gordon "Tago" left "Tago" with a sight of goal but he completely mishit his shot and it went well wide. Then, in the sixty seventh minute Carloway were forced into a substitution when the influential Moody, who had been a colossus in the centre of defence, was forced to come off. He was replaced by Donnie Macphail who went into the midfield slot vacated by Seumas Macleod, who dropped back into the heart of the defence in place of Moody. Fortunately both players made a seamless and smooth transition into their new roles and, crucially, the balance of the team remained unaffected.

The game continued to ebb and flow until the defining moment of the game in the 75th minute when Andrew "Tago" dispossessed "Nomie" in his own half, nutmegged him, glided past the onrushing Macmillan and attempted a diagonal ball behind the Lochs defence which promptly landed back at his feet; He then took two touches before blasting the ball, from fully 30 yards, into the top left hand corner of the Lochs goal. It was a truly spectacular effort, worthy of winning any match and sparked delight amongst the sizeable travelling support. Shortly afterwards the captain, "Sqweg", had a goalbound, overhead kick (of which Dennis Law would have been proud) well saved by Black.

Lochs continued to press in the final minutes in an attempt to force extra time and at the death they nearly succeeded but "Gochan" cleared the header off the line.

This was a tremendous result for the side where every player played his part; you can't beat this Lochs team without every player making a worthwhile contribution. As for man of the match, there were a few candidates as you would expect if you beat Lochs on their home patch. Calum Tom was immense for the 67 minutes he played; Andrew "Tago" also is worthy of special mention, but I feel I have to pick Seumas Macleod, not only for his performance in midfield but also the maturity and

competence he showed when called upon to slot into defence in latter part of the second half.

Credit must also go to Kevin Anderson and "Windy" for getting their tactics correct, other than the time when "Windy" was berating Andrew "Tago" for running with the ball out of defence to score the winning goal !!