

Lewis & Harris League:

Point 2 (2) Carloway 5 (2)

Gordon Craigie OG (10) Calum Tom Moody (41)
Andrew Murray (15) Kevin 'Gochan' Macleod (43)
Murdo 'Squeg' Macleod (70)
Calum Macleod (82, 88)

At Garrabost Point
Wednesday, 13.7.11
Ref.: D J Maclean

Gordon Craigie

Darren Mackinnon Domhnall Mackay Calum Tom Moody Donald "D.I." MacIennan
Kenny "Dokus" Macdonald Seumas Macleod Dan Crossley Murdo "Squeg" Macleod
(capt.) Gordon "Tago" Macdonald
Kevin "Gochan" Macleod

Sub.: Calum Macleod (Kenny "Dokus" Macdonald) 46

Carloway went five points clear in the league race after coming from two goals behind to beat Point in Garrabost but for a period in the first half this appeared to be an unlikely outcome. Carlway started the brighter of the two teams and for the very early part of the game kept Point pinned back in their own half but failed to create any real openings, other than when a Dan Crossley cross found Gordon Tago, unmarked just outside the six yard box, but despite having a free header he squandered the opportunity.

Then, in the tenth minute, disaster struck for Carlway when Murdo "Squeg" conceded a tame free kick for handling the ball, just outside the corner of the eighteen yard box. "Cally" Mackay stepped up and directed the ball over the wall, Craigie dived to his left to save but although he managed to get his hands to it he diverted the ball into the net. The irony of this was that if he had not attempted to save the shot it would not have counted as the referee had indicated that he was awarding an indirect free kick.

However, worse was to follow in the fifteenth minute when Point doubled their advantage. A delightful through ball was played in behind "DI", Duncan Hunter then raced up the wing and passed the ball across the face of the goal to an unmarked Andrew Murray whose shot seemed to have been saved by Craigie but he somehow let it wriggle out of his hands. A minute later Point created another opportunity when Anthony "Egg" Maciver found himself free on the left but his shot (depending on whether you were of the red or blue persuasion) was either well saved by Craigie or a bad miss by the striker.

Despite this setback Carlway did not panic and slowly and surely eased themselves back into the game. Point conceded numerous corners in this period but Carlway could not find a way past the Point defence with Domhnall Mackay (free header) and Seumas Macleod (blasting wide) having the pick of the opportunities.

However, in the forty first minute the pressure finally paid off for "the Blues" when they were awarded another corner and an inch perfect delivery by Gordon "Tago" (of which there many on the night) was met at the back post by the towering Calum Tom Moody who bulletted the ball down into the bottom

corner of the net to reduce the deficit.

Within a minute parity was restored when Kevin "Gochan" hit a low shot from 10 yards out after a delightful build up which started with DI MacIennan at left back up to Gordon "Tago", who played a "one two" with "Squeg" and then set up "Gochan" for the equaliser.

Carloway then had two further opportunities to take the lead: "Tago" was set up by a diagonal ball from Crossley but he shot just over the bar and then on half time Seumas Macleod again blasted the ball wide of the post when it seemed easier to score.

Half time saw the introduction of youngster Calum Macleod, who replaced the injured Kenny "Docus", and this substitution turned out to have a major bearing on the final outcome of the match.

Carloway started the second half in the manner they ended the first and continued to enjoy the majority of the possession but, despite some near misses, they were unable to get the goal their play deserved. As early as the forty sixth minute Murdo "Squeg" rattled the crossbar from 20 yards having been set up by "Tago". This was followed on the fifty second minute by Dan Crossley who shot across the face of goal just past the post. Within a minute of this Calum Macleod found himself unmarked, but shot straight at the keeper. Then Seumas Macleod squandered an opportunity in the fifty fourth minute when he blasted another shot wide. Immediately afterwards a "Tago" cross found Calum Moody at the back post and he unselfishly headed across the face of goal to find "Gochan" standing a yard off the touch line, but he contrived to blast the ball high and wide past the post when it appeared easier to score. Seamus Macleod was again the culprit in the sixty second minute when he hit the crossbar with the goal at his mercy. In the sixty fifth minute Gochan had the ball in the net but the goal was, *correctly*, disallowed as the referee adjudged he had handled the ball before he bundled the ball into the net.

Then, in the seventieth minute the deadlock was broken when "Tago", out on the left, delivered a ball in behind the Point defence, Murdo "Squeg" running from midfield latched onto the ball and coolly stroked the ball, to the right of the advancing Alex Wright into the bottom corner of the net to put Carloway up 3-2.

Carloway now had their tails up and in the seventy eighth minute Darren Mackinnon picked up the ball in his own half, ran up the wing, passed the ball inside to Seumas Macleod, who played a short diagonal ball in behind the defence to "Gochan", out on the touch line. "Gochan" raced up the wing, sent over a cross, which eluded the Point defence, but found Calum Macleod on the far post who headed in from two yards out to make the score 4 -2 in Carloway's favour. The same player then rounded off the scoring in the eighty eighth minute when he beat the offside trap and shot past Alex Wright from 16 yards out .

Once again this game highlighted that following Carloway is not something to be recommended for the faint hearted. However, to their credit they did not panic after going behind but eased themselves back into the game and ended up worthy winners. There were some notable performances from

Murdo "Squeg" and Dan Crossley. Calum Macleod also deserves a mention for his second half performance, but my Carloway "man of the match" goes to Gordon "Tago" Macdonald.