

Lewis & Harris League

Carloway 4(1) v Harris 0(0)

Kenny 'Dokus' MacDonald 8

Gordon 'Tago' MacDonald 47, 56

Scott Macaulay 90

Cnoc a Choilich, Carloway

Wednesday 18th April 2012

Referee: DJ Maclean

David Beaton

Seumas Macleod Domhnall Mackay (capt.) Gus Maciver Donald "D.I." MacIennan

Kenny 'Dokus' MacDonald Dan Crossley Donnie Macphail Murdo "Squeg" Macleod

Gordon "Tago" MacDonald

Kevin "Gochan" Macleod

Subs.: Calum 'Caley' Macleod (Gordon 'Tago' MacDonald) 68; Kevin "Barra" Macneil (Kenny

'Dokus' MacDonald) 68; Scott Macaulay (Murdo 'Squeg' Macleod) 83; Andy 'Barvas'

Macleod; Gordon Craigie

It was back to league duty and Cnoc A Choilich for Carloway on Wednesday. Maybe a bit early in the season to say that it was a must win game, however, after the two previous disappointing results a win was very important.

Harris were the visitors and with them going through a transition period the Carloway supporters expectations were high. For Carloway, Moody was unavailable meaning that Kenny 'Dokus' Macdonald was drafted in for his first start of the season. To accommodate Macdonald, Domhnall Mackay moved to centre half, Seumas Macleod to right back and Donnie Macphail moved inside to centre midfield. This meant Macdonald was able to line up in his customary wide right midfield role in a 4-5-1 formation. Harris lined up in a 4-4-2 formation with a line-up that contained many young and inexperienced players.

Referee Maclean blew his whistle on an ideal night for football. Immediately Carloway were on the offensive with both wingers (I prefer to use this traditional terminology) Tago and Dokus determined to dominate their full back opponents.

After a couple of near misses, Carloway broke the deadlock on 8 minutes and again both wingers were involved. Tago collected the ball in the middle of the park turned and played a great pass to Dokus breaking in the inside right position. He strode in to the box and easily beat the goalie from 12 yards to open the scoring. 1-0 to Carloway... Now to sit back and wait for a barrow load of goals or so we thought.

That's not quite what happened. A multitude of chances were created and a multitude of chances were missed. Crossley hit the underside of the bar from a close in shot after great work by Dokus on the right, Seamus Macleod crashed a header against the crossbar from a Macphail corner on the left and Dokus, Tago and Gochan either missed great chances or the goalie saved. However, chances were being created and the team were playing well.

The only respite Harris had in the half were from two corners the first of which

Beaton had to tip on to the bar. Most of their best work came from the ex-Carloway player Benn Esslemont with Taz and the young goalkeeper Macrae both striving manfully to plug the gaps.

Half time arrived with Carloway leading 1-0. The questions on everybody's minds were how on earth was it only 1-0 and would Carloway regret their missed chances.

Half time Carloway 1 Harris 0

The answer to the last question was a resounding no. In 47 minutes a clever pass was played inside the young left back enabling Dokus to advance on goal. His shot beat the goalie but crashed against the post. However it fell kindly to Tago and he buried the chance. 2-0 Carloway.

With the cushion of a two goal lead Carloway attacked with more vigour. Crossley fired wide on 52 minutes before the third and best goal of the night arrived on 56 minutes. This time after a good passing move Tago was released in the inside left position and he hammered a 20 yard drive high into the net. 3-0 Carloway.

Gochan then missed a chance on 61 minutes before being involved in an innocuous challenge on the Harris goalie. Unfortunately the goalie took a blow to his kidneys which meant that he was unable to continue and had to be substituted. Carloway also introduced their first two substitutes around this time. Caley replacing Tago and Barra replacing Dokus-the Uig connection in the team being maintained.

The incident with the goalie and the delay whilst he received treatment took the sting out of the game and Carloway struggled to regain the momentum they had. Scott Macaulay continuing his rehabilitation was introduced for the final ten minutes. His introduction seemed to spur Carloway and almost immediately a chance was created on the right which culminated in Caley having a miss of Van Vossen proportions when from nearly on the goal line and right in front of the goal he managed to hit the crossbar. Enough said, and I am sure he will score plenty of goals for Caloway this year from much more difficult opportunities.

In the last minute Carloway sprung the offside trap with no less than five players through on goal. Gochan beat the goalie and passed to Scott Macaulay to score his first goal for Carloway in a very long time. 4-0 Carloway.

A pleasing result and performance for Carloway. Kevin and Windy will have gained some positives from the game. Gus continued his good early season form and looks like Domhnall and himself have the makings of a good central defensive partnership. Both Tago and Dokus had excellent games and were involved in everything good that Carloway created. Gochan and Squegg looked to be coming back to something like last season's form. Seumas again displayed his versatility and played well at right back. Finally it was good to

see Scott Macaulay scoring after such a long spell out through injury.

Carlway Man of the Match – Gordon 'Togo' MacDonald

Harris Man of the Match – Taz Morrison