

Lewis and Harris League:

**Westside 2 (2)**

*Martainn Shields 34, 36*

**Carloway 4 (1)**

*Kevin 'Gochan' Macleod 43*

*Kenny 'Dokus' MacDonald 48*

*Dan Crossley 56*

*Ali 'Tolsta' Maciver 89*

*Referee: Allan Iain Macleod*

*At Barvas Showground*

*Wednesday 4.7.12*

*David Beaton*

*Ali 'Tolsta' Maciver Seumas Macleod Gus Maciver Donald 'DI' MacIennan*

*Kenny 'Dokus' MacDonald Domhnall Mackay (Capt.) Murdo 'Squeg' Macleod Dan Crossley*

*Kevin 'Gogan' Macleod Donnie Macphail*

*Subs: Calum Iain Macleod, David Macleod, Chris 'Christy' Smith, Paul Forster, Ben Smith (all unused)*

*Yellow cards: Domhnall Mackay, Gus Maciver*

And so to Barvas for the first Taobh Siar derby of the season, an eagerly anticipated fixture which now must rank up there as the "must see" game of the season. A healthy crowd turned up on a warm summers evening eager to see which one of the "Blues" would have the first bragging rights.

As well as their long term injury casualties Carloway had Calum Macleod and Andrew Maciver also unavailable. This meant another case of musical chairs with Seumas Macleod moving to central defence, Ali Maciver moving to right back, Domhnall Mackay moving to centre midfield, Dan Crossley moving to left midfield and Donnie Macphail moving up front beside Kevin "Gochan". Versatility obviously being the name of the game during an injury crisis. For West Side Ally Williamson, Dan Macphail and Colin George Morrison were also unavailable, with the latter following in the footsteps of Cheryl Cole in trying to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

Referee Allan Iain Macleod blew for kick off and also blew a breeze across the ground to get rid of the dreaded midges. Despite all the changes in the Carloway line up, they started very positively, dominating possession with Mackay and Macleod striving to release the front four. Only a combination of heavy touches and good defending prevented Carloway from scoring with Crossley and Gochan evading their markers time and again. Opportunities also came from corner kicks for Gochan and Seumas Macleod but their headers were either off target or saved by the young goalkeeper.

West Side struggled during this opening period with their best opportunities coming from dead ball situation and usually delivered by Ali 'Barvas'. However, as has been the pattern in recent Carloway games this was going to change.

The home team were starting to gain in confidence and on 34 minutes they got their reward. Clinton who was his usual busy self managed to work the ball to Scott Graham at the edge of the box. He played a great ball to Martainn Shields who had evaded his marker and he dispatched the ball into the net in some style.

Carloway immediately retaliated and after a great move on the right Kenny Dokus played a great cross to the back post. Crossley however could not keep his header down and the ball ended up on the roof of the net. His next involvement in the game would be totally different.

With his back to goal on the halfway line and under no real pressure he inexplicably played the ball straight to Shields who easily beat Beaton again. 2-0 to West Side after 36 minutes and a real mountain to climb for Carloway, just like Colin George.

If a team is to come back from a two goal deficit there has to be game changing moments. We were about to witness two of these.

Firstly, on 40 minutes, Ali Barvas was left with far too much room in the box. However instead of squaring to the unmarked Shields he chose to shoot. Beaton pulled off a great save and all Carloway breathed a sigh of relief or was that the neutral linesman in a Carloway rain jacket?!!

Then, on 43 minutes came the next game changing moment. A long ball from the West Side defence released Clinton on the left wing. In slid Seamus to win the ball fairly and cleanly. He immediately released Murdo Squegg, who quickly spotted Gochan in space. Gochan easily outpaced his marker, went round the goalie and scored to make 2-1. Game on.

Half Time West Side 2 v Carloway 1

Gochan's goal had obviously given Carloway a lot of confidence and they started the second half at high speed. This was going to pay with some style.

On 48 minutes, Mackay played the ball to Macphail inside the box. He then managed to return the ball to an unmarked Kenny Dokus, who finished easily. 2-2.

On 49 minutes a free kick by Dokus was saved with some difficulty by the West Side keeper. Two minutes later Gochan took advantage of indecision in the West Side defence but could only find the side netting. However the inevitable was only delayed and what a goal we were about to witness.

On 56 minutes, Crossley gathered the ball just inside the West Side half. Ignoring the obvious pass to Gochan he cut inside beating his marker easily. He then drove at the centre of the defence where a big gap opened up. The West Side defenders were unable to tackle him and he shot home from 18 yards. A great goal and captured on video by his mother. Just as well Dan

doesn't listen to his father, who was screaming at him to pass to Gochan!

After this, Carloway sat deeper and invited West Side to attack them. The central defence pairing of Macleod and Maciver remained solid with Beaton and D I Maclennan giving excellent support, In fact Maclennan's direct opponent, Ali Barvas, was substituted.

On the break Carloway still created and missed chances. A Crossley shot produced a magnificent save from the keeper with the subsequent corner being headed wide by Macphail. Another great run and cross from Crossley was only narrowly missed by Gochan.

Finally, on 89 minutes, Carloway broke at speed again. That's not quite true. Squegg broke from defence and passed the ball to Ali Tolsta who was breaking at speed. His shot from 18 yards found then net. 4-2 Carloway.

There was still time for Beaton to produce two great saves but the whistle blew with Carloway deserved winners. A satisfying end to a wretched run of results.

For Carloway, there were great performances from Beaton, Macleod, Maciver and Maclennan. Dan Crossley seems to thrive in the left midfield role and his performance especially in the second half was top class. Gochan was back to last year's standards and finally a word for the two warhorses Mackay and Macleod in the midfield who worked their socks off.

For West Side Grant Hunter must wonder how his side lost a two goal lead. The truth is that some of his top players just didn't turn up.

Carloway Man of the Match - Dan Crossley

West Side Man of the Match - Martainn Shields