

## Mine's a double !!

This is the moment when a thousand dreams came true and Carloway FC ended their 55 year-wait for a major trophy. Darren Mackinnon's penalty conversion, the twentieth of a nerve-shredding shoot-out, sparked massive celebrations - not only from the players but from a host of Carlowegians, young and old, who joined the players on the



pitch in joyous scenes.....amongst them an emotional DR Macleod, survivor from the last victorious team and inspiration to all. The match itself against Back was a tight fought affair with Carloway on top for most of the game but falling behind to a smart finish from Fraser Macleod – the team fought hard but, having been denied by the woodwork three times, it looked another hard luck story. However, the current squad are made of stern stuff and following some superb wing play from Kenny Dokus, a left foot cross was bulleted home by Seamus Macleod with just four minutes left. With no extra-time being played, the match went straight to penalties. Calum Tom Moody and Gus Maciver both had chances to win it but were denied by sharp saves from Tohan in the Back goal....thankfully David Beaton was equally effective in the Carloway goal and saved Back's last two penalties giving Mackinnon his shot at glory. It was almost impossible to watch but the ball was fired into the corner and the Co-op Cup was won! Incredibly, it wasn't the only silverware to return to Cobby's mantelpiece that week....



Six days later, our community reconvened with the venue moving across the Broadbay from Garrabost to Upper Coll for the Moldova Lewis Cup Final against rivals West Side – surely we were pushing our luck to think about a double! With confidence high, Carloway started strongly and went ahead early through Kenny Dokus after good work by Dan Crossley (man of the match in Garrabost). Two first-half

penalties from Martainn Shields turned the tide however and forced a half-time

reshuffle in the Carloway dressing-room which brought immediate dividends with Andrew 'Tago' Maciver heading home a Murdo Squegg cross two minutes in. West Side nudged ahead again with a Spike header but, instead of the heads going down, Carloway reacted superbly and created a number of clear-cut chances – one of which was headed home by talisman Moody after great work on the right wing from Gus Maciver. There was still time for a winner but, despite more Carloway pressure, the rest of normal and then extra time remained goalless. So it was back to penalties and two early Beaton saves gave Seamus Macleod the chance to win it....his shot was well struck but crashed back off the inside of the post. Following a successful West Side strike, it was then back to Moody to try and win it.....despite having missed last week, the big man was cool as a cucumber and slotted it home, sparking more mayhem. Domhnall Mackay lifted his second trophy in a week; Kevin Gochan won Man of the Match; and the crowd, this time also including another surviving cup winner Brot Macarthur, partied on the pitch once again. Great credit goes to the players for turning round both matches despite being down late on and to manager, Kevin Anderson, for making the right changes at the right time. Great credit also to the fans for sticking with it and creating such an incredible spirit, atmosphere and support–mon the way!