

Co-op Cup 1st Round

Carloway (3) 4 v Back (0) 0

Fraser Macleod 30, 39, 40, 90

Friday, 24.5.13

Ref.: D J Maclean (Bragar).

At Cnoc a Choilich, Carloway.

David Beaton

Calum Tom Moody Seumas Macleod Donald "D.I." MacIennan
Kevin "Barra" Macneil Billy Anderson Kenny "Dokus" MacDonald Murdo "Sqweg"
Macleod (capt.) Dan Crossley

Fraser Macleod Ben Smith

Subs.: Cameron "Tiger" Macarthur (Kenny "Dokus" Macdonald) 45; Jamie MacDonald (Ben Smith) 58; Craig Hacker (Dan Crossley) 71

Subs. not used: Colin Maclean, David Macleod.

A warm(er), drier evening and the fact that this was the only game being played attracted a large crowd to Cnoc a Choilich to witness a re-run of last year's Coop Cup final. That game will last long in the memories of all Carloway fans and players not only as it was the game that put to rest the talk of a hoodoo but also finding out that the club's Facebook correspondent could use his legs at the same pace as he uses his fingers.

Back's team had seen a major transformation since that evening. No Tohan in goals, no David Ox or Ross Hall in defence and no Bloxy or Fraser up front. Carloway more or less have retained the same line-up but most importantly have added Fraser to their ranks and what a signing he has been already. The teams had already met once this season, Carloway having triumphed 6-0 in the Acres Boy Cup Final.

Both teams lined up in the favoured formation of Lewis managers-3-5-2. Carloway having to reshuffle their ranks with suspensions to Gochan and Domhnall, injury to Gus and the unavailability of Scott, who had taken the opportunity to visit St Kilda. This meant that Kevin "Barra" continued at right wing back, Kenny "Dokus" started in midfield and young Ben Smith was given the opportunity to start up front beside Fraser. Back welcomed former Carloway player Ally Tolsta back into their team.

For the first 25 minutes possession and chances were shared evenly. Carloway, neat and tidy, in possession however struggled to find their wide men and release their forwards whilst Back whenever they broke into Carloway's box were met by outstanding defending from Calum Tom, Seumas and DI, hence Beaton in the goals was rarely troubled. However, as the half wore on there were signs that Carloway were beginning to grow in confidence and that Dan Crossley in particular was beginning to get the upper hand on his Back opponent.

On 30 minutes the first real bit of excitement. Crossley broke down the left wing, got to the bye line and crossed for Fraser who shot first time. The

young Back goalkeeper, James Macleod, pulled off an outstanding instinctive point blank save, the ball breaking out to Kenny "Dokus" whose shot was deflected past for a corner. Anderson took the corner and Fraser rose unchallenged to head the ball firmly past Macleod. 1-0

Straight from the kick off Crossley was released again beating man after man until he reached the 18 yard box where his progress was halted by a mistimed tackle by Alex "Tippex" Maciver. Yellow card was referee Maclean's decision. The majority of the crowd thought that the referee had been very lenient. From the resultant free-kick taken by Anderson, Fraser headed over from a similar position to his goal.

The second goal was not delayed for long. A free kick awarded to Carloway just inside the Back half was taken by "Squegg" long to the back post for Calum Tom to head back to Fraser to knock in his second of the evening. 2-0

To cap off an outstanding 10 minutes for Carloway, and especially Fraser, along came the third goal on 39 minutes. Squegg won the ball just inside his own half and played a magnificent through ball to Fraser in the inside left position. After sprinting way from his marker he clinically dispatched the ball behind Macleod for his hat trick. Unfortunately, an element of the Back support decided to criticise the lineman at this point only to be reminded quite vociferously and correctly as to the laws of the game. 3-0

Half-Time 3-0

The start of the second half brought about a change for Carloway. Cameron Macarthur being brought on to replace "Dokus" and slotting into the same midfield position, albeit in a more defensive role.

This change didn't appear to affect Carloway's rhythm with young Macarthur showing his versatility and his ball winning abilities. There were a couple of half chances for Fraser which came to nothing.

On 52 minutes another change for Carloway with Ben Smith having to go off injured and be replaced by Jamie Macdonald. Another reshuffle ensued with "Barra" moving up front and Jamie going to wing back. This change did seem to affect Carloway more and Back started to dominate possession without really troubling Beaton apart from a brilliant attempt by D J Macdonald which crashed off an upright on 74 minutes. Other than that sterling defensive work by everyone ensured that Carloway maintained their three goal advantage.

As the game wore on Billy Anderson adopted a more offensive position where he could influence the chances created. It was from one of his passes that Fraser concluded the scoring on 90 minutes. A great pass by Billy and yet another clinical finish from Fraser. 4-0

So what does this game show us about Carloway. Obviously success and a long unbeaten run instil confidence. Players are playing at the top of their abilities and are playing as a team. The introduction of Fraser Macleod has

also made a huge difference. Finally the manager is able to blood young players without them being under pressure.

Carloway man of the match - Seumas Macleod

Back man of the match -James Macleod