

Eilean an Fhraoich Cup 1st Round, 2nd Leg:

Carloway 2 (2) Harris 1 (0)

Kenny 'Dokus' MacDonald 40 Zander Young 54
Billy Anderson 42

At Cnoc a Choilich

Friday 14th June 2013

Referee: Kenny "Cloudy" Macleod

Gordon Craigie

Cameron 'Tiger' Macarthur Domhnall Mackay (capt) Andrew 'Tago' MacIver
Kevin 'Barra' Macneil Stuart 'Bubble' Macdonald Billy Anderson Murdo 'Squeg' Macleod
Dan Crossley

Scott Macaulay Kenny 'Dokus' MacDonald

Subs: Donnie Macphail (Billy Anderson) 65

Subs not used: Ben Smith, Eachainn Miller, Jack MacIennan, Louis MacDonald

For Lewismen and Harrismen men of a certain vintage The Eilean an Fhraoich Cup remains the blue riband of all the trophies available during the football season. Unfortunately for the traditionalists, the rules have been somewhat tightened up in recent years, but at one time if Lionel Messi's mother had been born in Breanish or Christano Ronaldo's father had been born in Croir then they could both have played in the EAF for Carloway. Imagine Cobby shouting at Messi to "play it long"!!!. Of course this ruling has now been tightened up and to a certain extent the magic of the EAF Cup has been lessened.

On a perfect evening and on a perfect pitch, which bears testimony to the skill and hard work of Groundsman George Spy, Carloway and Harris met for the second leg of this first round EAF tie. The first leg ended in a 3-3 draw with Carloway salvaging a draw thanks to an injury time goal from the evergreen (don't know if clan Tochie will enjoy me using that phrase) Kenny Dokus.

With Carloway having a number of ineligible players, a reshuffle was called for. No Gus Maciver, Seumas Macleod, Calum Tom Moody, Kevin 'Gochan' Macleod or Fraser Macleod due to ineligibility, and DI still feeling the effects of a lost weekend in a hotel in Amsterdam or maybe having a dodgy ankle.

This meant that in defence young Cameron Macarthur started alongside Andrew "Africa" MacIver and Domhnall "Terry Hennessy" (Google that name), in midfield Billy Anderson and Murdo 'Squegg' were joined by a man of Bernera Stuart "Bubble" MacDonald with the wingbacks being Dan Crossley and Kevin "Uig Lodge" Macneil (Barra not in the EAF district). Up front Scott was joined by that evergreen man Dokus.

Talking of evergreen, the Harris ranks were bolstered by Fuggy in goals and by a real legend, Peter Macdonald, in midfield. Years of chasing sheep on the Ardhasaig hills has obviously kept Peter extremely fit. Maybe he should start taking Angus 'Nigger' Morrison with him. As for Fuggy, let's just say he is the ideal size for a goalkeeper. The referee for the night being the recently protected by EU law Kenny Macleod (or is that his black puddings).

Now to the important part - the actual game. Harris were much changed from their usual league line-up. Much more organised with Stevie Price at the back orchestrating and organising like only he can. Carloway kicked off and immediately tried to get Scott and Dan free on the left wing. This seemed to be their best outlet and on 5 minutes after a corner Andrew MacIver had a free header which went straight to Fuggy.

After this initial bombardment, the game settled down with Harris happy to contain. Chances were few and far between at both ends with both goalies dealing confidently with anything that came their way. In fact the only incident of real note was an altercation between the veteran Harris goalkeeper and the veteran Carloway striker. Handbags at thirty paces really, quickly diffused by the referee who, at this stage, was heading for the man of the match award.

Then, totally out of the blue, double disaster for Harris. First of all on 40 minutes, a long ball out of defence by Domhnall Mackay was missed by the Harris central defenders allowing Kenny 'Dokus' to steal in and finish with some aplomb. 1-0

Two minutes later a piece of magic by Billy Anderson released Dokus to square the ball across goal. His cross was scrambled clear for a corner which was taken quickly and short to Murdo 'Squegg' Macleod. He was given far too much time to pick out Anderson, who easily headed home 2-0

Half Time Carloway 2 Harris 0

Harris must have felt a little bit angry and frustrated going in at half time. Two moments of lost concentration had cost them dearly, especially after competing so well for most of the first half. They knew that to have any chance of progressing they had to get an early goal in the second half.

Give them their due, they started the second half well creating a couple of half chances. On 46 minutes a dangerous cross from the left wing just drifted past. On 50 minutes after a free kick awarded by Assistant Referee Maclean (Bragar), James Maclean shot over.

Then on 54 minutes the game was thrown wide open. The Referee awarded a free kick out on the left wing when most of crowd thought that he should have played advantage. Up stepped Zander Young to curl a top class free kick into the top corner. I say top class but 'Cobby' obviously thought differently and proceeded to stand all by himself by one of the corner flags for the remainder of the game. He will say he was trying to prevent a pitch invasion by the sheep in the neighbouring field that were enviously eyeing up the green grass on the football pitch.

Back to the game, and although Harris battled manfully (I use the word battled in a diplomatic sense) the better opportunities fell to Carloway. On 56 minutes after some magic by Crossley his cross to the far post found no

takers. On 60 minutes Dokus broke free but his well hit (rarity) shot was well saved by Fuggy.

With Anderson obviously tiring, Clough and Taylor took the opportunity to introduce Donnie Macphail. The pattern of the game however stayed the same. Harris trying hard but Carloway looking the more dangerous team and the more likely to add to their tally.

The last ten minutes came and Harris intensified their efforts. This intensifying brought about two bookings for Morrison and Mulhearn who had battled manfully all night. Mind you it is a man's* game and we shouldn't complain. This extra effort also brought three reasonable chances for Harris all dealt with by the Carloway defence who had stood up really well during the second half.

So, another win for Carloway and progression to the next round. Their playing resources are going to be stretched with Andrew Maciver returning to Africa to continue his work there. Harris on the other hand will feel they could have got something from this tie. The additions to their team gave them a lot more bite and better organisation.

Carloway Man of the Match - Andrew Maciver
Harris Man of the Match - Zander Young