

The “Not the Stuart Rankin Match report”

Lewis & Harris League:

Back 0 (0) Carloway 7 (2)

Kenny “Dokus” Macdonald 27, 35

Donald “D.I.” MacIennan 55

Lee Johnson 81

Archie Macdonald 86, 90

Kevin “Gochan” Macleod 90+3

At Col Uarach

Monday, 04.08.14

Referee: David “Spider” Macleod

Gordon Craigie

*Cameron “Tiger” Macarthur Domhnall Mackay (Capt.) Donald “D.I.” MacIennan
Lee Johnson Kenny “Dokus” Macdonald BillyAnderson Murdo “Squegg” Macleod Archie
Macdonald*

Kevin “Gochan” Macleod Jack Buchanan

*Subs.: Gordon “Tago” Macdonald (Jack Buchanan) 66; Kevin “Barra” Macneil (Murdo “Squegg”
Macleod) 66; Euan Macleod (Billy Anderson) 84*

Subs. Not used: Josh Harris; Ross “Tiny” Maclean

After the highs and lows of the Highland Amateur Cup Final weekend it was back to league duty for Carloway and a must win game against Back if they were to put pressure on their neighbours further down the west coast. Hopefully not a case of “*after the Lord Mayor’s show.*”

Carloway lined up in their traditional 3-5-2 formation which is now the preferred formation of Van Gaal and more ominously McCoist. Replacing the long term injury absentees Beaton, Crossley and Maciver were that veteran of many campaigns Gordon Craigie, the ever blue Kenny “Dokus” Macdonald and Billy Anderson. Captain fantastic Domhnall Mackay continuing in central defence. In Back’s line-up were veterans Kevin “Bloxy” Murray, Kenny “Wang” Macleod and Andy “Gress” Macleod.

From the kick off Carloway signalled their intentions. Crisp passing and releasing their wide men quickly. In the first minute good work by Jack “player of the month” Buchanan down the left wing presented a good chance for Lee (as in Sammy and not Vivien) Johnson only for him to shoot wide. On 4 minutes good work by Johnson down the right wing ended with “Gochan” shooting wide. Then on 11 minutes “Gochan” found space to cross for Jack to shoot over.

For the next 15 minutes Carloway continued their passing game without creating many chances. The Management team of Miller and MacIennan showing great PATIENCE (sorry had to get that joke included) with the team. Then, on 27 minutes, the breakthrough and a goal of great significance.

Good interplay between Anderson, who was revelling in the space and time being given to him, and Johnson ended with Johnson’s cross being driven into the net by Kenny “Dokus” Macdonald. His 100th goal for Carloway and a great achievement for

a player who has remained loyal to Carloway throughout the years. **(0-1)**

This seemed to give the veteran an extra spur and goal number 101 arrived soon after. On 35 minutes and after prolonged Carloway pressure the ball broke to "Dokus" on the left hand corner of the 18 yard box for him to curl a great right foot shot *a là* Nicky Law into the net. I use Nicky Law as an example not because of his similarity to Kenny's brother Peter, I hasten to add. Game over. **(0-2)**

The rest of the half continued in exactly the same mode. Loads of Carloway possession. In fact if the Sky TV cameras had been present I reckon they would have calculated about 80/20 in Carloway's favour. It was that one sided. The only real highlights were Craigie making his first save on 36 minutes and "Gochan" forcing a fine save from Andy "Gress" in the final minute of the half

Half Time: Back 0 Carloway 2

Carloway had the advantage of the wind in the second half, not that it had made much difference in the first half. Chances were created for Johnson, "Gochan" and "Dokus" which were either missed or were well saved by the over-worked Back goalkeeper.

Then on 56 minutes, another "I was there" moment. After good work by Johnson on the right wing the ball found its way to D I "Beckenbauer" Maclennan just outside the penalty box. Showing skills his brother in law "Dokus" would be proud of, he shaped to shoot with his right foot, then switched and easily beat his marker curling an exquisite left foot shot into the bottom corner of the net. Where was Billy Flower when you needed him to be there? **(0-3)**

Carloway were now in easy street, although Craigie had to be smart to save a rare Back effort on goal in 59 minutes.

On 65 minutes, the Back goalie Andy "Gress" Macleod suffered an injury which meant he could no longer continue. As Michael Maciver took over in goal, he was replaced byno-one. A sad state of affairs for a club who have invested so much in training young players and providing excellent facilities. Carlway Manager Miller took the opportunity to replace "Squegg" with "Barra" and Jack came off to be replaced by "Togo" (obviously his boots weren't in the missing holdall). This meant a reshuffle with Archie moving to centre forward.

With Back down to 10 men it was really a case of how many could Carlway score or indeed how many did they want to score. The new formation took all of 10 minutes to settle and in the last ten minutes Carlway really turned the screw and made the score more realistic.

On 80 minutes, after a good run by Archie Macdonald, his cross was met by Lee Johnson who scored easily **(0-4)**

On 84 minutes Billy Anderson was replaced by Euan Macleod, son of Carlway and Lewis legend Norman "Ghuilc."

Then just as the dreaded midgie invaded Upper Coll, Carloway hit Back with three goals in the final minutes. On 88 minutes Archie headed home at the second attempt, after Lee Johnson returned his earlier favour. On 90 minutes Archie scored again with a near post header from a Kenny "Dokus" Macdonald corner from the left and finally deep into injury time as most of the fans were retreating from the midgie attack "Gochan" pounced to score Archie Macdonald's assist.

Final score: Back 0 Carloway 7.

A very good night's work for Carloway. After losing players of the calibre of Gus Maciver, Dan Crossley, David Beaton and Fraser Macleod there was always going to be some trepidation as to how their replacements would fare. On the basis of this performance there is a lot of fight left in this Carloway team.

As a footnote the question must be asked if the Carloway Twitter correspondent uses Avon cosmetics. At the height of the midgie onslaught and with all the spectators retreating furiously, our avid correspondent was unmoved and unaffected texting furiously away. "Unbelievable Jeff!"

Back man of the match - Jason Macleod
Carloway man of the match - Lee Johnson