

Lewis Cup Round 2

Lochs 4 (1)

*Peter Mackenzie (33)
Robert Mackenzie (67, 83)
Don "Lava" Macleod (79)*

Carloway 1 (0)

Jack Buchanan (46)

At Creagan Dubh ,Leurbost

Friday, 15.08.14

Referee: Calum "Chancy" Macleod

Linesmen: Calum "Cobby" Macleod (Carloway)

Calum Murdo Mackenzie (Lochs)

Gordon Craigie

Cameron "Tiger" Macarthur Domhnall Mackay (Capt.) Archie Macdonald

Lee Johnson Paul Forster Stevie Williams Grant Stewart Josh Harris

John "Wee John" Macdonald Jack Buchanan

*Subs.: Mark Macleod (Josh Harris) 25; Colin "Monkey" Maclean (Grant Stewart) 39; Calum
Iain Macleod (Paul Forster) 77; Euan Macleod (Colin "Monkey" Maclean) 81*

Subs. Not used; Ross "Tiny" Maclean

It would be fair to say that Carloway travelled to Creagan Dubh more in trepidation than expectation to face an in-form Lochs side, perennial winners of this competition, in this Lewis Cup tie. In the last thirteen years Lochs FC have made this competition their own with ten appearances in the final, winning eight of them and with seven consecutive successes between 2002 and 2008 (inclusive). It was against this backdrop and with a depleted squad that Carloway went into the heat of battle.

Carloway's depleted and inexperienced squad meant that the line-up showed four changes from the team that played Lochs on the previous Wednesday night with Kevin "Barra" Macneil (off island) Kenny "Beag" MacLennan (back to work), Kenny "Dokus" MacDonald (brother Peter's wedding celebrations) and Murdo "Squegg" Macleod (added to the lengthy long term injury list) dropping out. Two players were drafted into the side, Grant Stewart and Stevie Williams. They were not only making their competitive debuts for Carloway, but also making their first ever appearances at senior level as they normally ply their trade in the Communities League. Paul Forster was also making his first appearance of the season and his first appearance since 2011, when he had made two appearances. Young Josh Harris also made a welcome return to the starting line up after his recent injuries but cruelly his night did not last very long.

Ross "Tiny" Maclean remained on the bench from Wednesday's squad, as did Mark Macleod who had made a promising senior debut that evening, and was possibly unlucky not to make the starting line up. They were joined by Calum Iain Macleod and Colin "Monkey" Maclean who were also "pulling on the boots" for the first time this season. Under 18 player, Euan Macleod made up the quintet of substitutes.

It took only two minutes for the first controversial moment of the match to arise when Don "Lava" Macleod, to the consternation of the Carloway bench, appeared to cynically foul Archie Macdonald. However, after treatment Archie was fit to continue and "Lava" also escaped a caution. On the seventh minute Carloway made their first attack of substance when Domhnall Mackay broke

from the centre of the Carloway defence played it left to Archie Macdonald who sent the ball in the Lochs box, but unfortunately there was no-one there to meet it. Carloway began to apply a bit of pressure, and in the eighth minute, a Calum Tom Moody clearance fell to the feet of Archie Macdonald but his effort went wide.

Following a Lochs counter attack in the eleventh minute, Peter "Robbie" Mackenzie sent a dangerous ball in from the right into the Carloway box but Domhnall Mackay was there to clear it to safety. Another Carloway attack in the twelfth minute gave Lee Johnson the opportunity to threaten the goal but his header was wide from the edge of the box. Lochs then went up the field and a thirty yard shot from Peter Mackenzie was saved well by Gordon Craigie.

Lochs began to press but the Carloway defence stood resolute. On the twentieth, minute a further opportunity arose as Jack Buchanan collected the ball on the corner of the Lochs box, ran across the face of the box and despite him appearing to have two opportunities to shoot he was forced wide by Andy Murray who tracked him on the edge of the box and averted any danger. Within a minute Buchanan had a further opportunity but his twenty yard shot was saved by Cameron Houston.

After a strong challenge by Grant Stewart on Angie Campbell in the twenty second minute, Lochs were awarded a free kick. The ball ended up out in the touch line where Johnnie Smith did well to keep it in, he played the ball to Peter Mackenzie who sent a dangerous cross into the box, but Gordon Craigie managed to beat Don "Lava" to the ball. Then, on the twenty fifth minute Josh Harris had to be taken off injured and had to be replaced by Mark Macleod, necessitating positional changes to accommodate the substitution.

Lochs continued to press, and in the thirty second minute Andy Murray set up Don "Lava" Macleod who was denied from close range by a superb save from Gordon Craigie. The Lochs pressure finally paid dividends when a momentarily lack of concentration by Carloway allowed Peter Mackenzie to burst forward to rifle home the ball from the edge of the Carloway box and break the deadlock **(1-0)**.

Further pressure continued to be applied by Lochs and in the thirty fifth minute after a scramble at the edge of the Carloway box Andy Murray chipped a ball just over the bar. In the thirty ninth minute, Andy Murray had a further opportunity to shoot from distance but the ball went over the bar. Immediately afterwards Carloway were forced into another substitution when Grant Stewart had to be replaced by Colin "Monkey" Maclean. However, Carloway did not give up and on the forty second minute Jack Buchanan volleyed the ball on target from the edge of the box but his effort was well saved by Cameron Houston. The last meaningful bit of action in the first half occurred when a Peter Mackenzie shot from twenty five yards was well saved by Gordon Craigie.

Half Time: Lochs 1 Carloway 0

Despite a dogged first half performance from the men in blue, surprisingly, the second half opened with Carloway taking the initiative and within a minute of

kick off they were back on equal terms after a wonder goal by Jack Buchanan. The ball was swung in from the right around halfway by Domhnall Mackay. It found Buchanan standing leftwards just inside the Lochs' box with his back to goal. The young striker spun to receive the ball and in one swift movement demonstrated great technique to execute the most exquisite volley and send the ball into the net beyond Houston, to the delight of the visiting support. **(1-1)**.

This shock seemed to spur Lochs into greater action, but Carloway stood solid. In the fifty second minute another terrific saved by Gordon Craigie denied Robert Mackenzie's low effort from sneaking inside the post. This was followed by a Steven Williams clearance to safety in the fifty fourth minute and in the fifty seventh minute a Chris Mackay cross was met by Don "Lava" Macleod but his effort just went over the bar.

However Lochs were not having it all their own way. Paul Foster was making a nuisance of himself battling in the centre of the midfield, winning free kicks but, unfortunately, nothing came of those opportunities

In the sixty second minute, arguably the pivotal moment of the game arrived when Jack Buchanan caught Calum Tom Moody in possession and dispossessed the ex-Carloway man around 30 yards from goal. He bore down on Cameron Houston's goal, but inexplicably his powerful shot from 15 yards out went agonisingly over the bar when a goal for Na Gormaich seemed inevitable. Five minutes later, in the sixty seventh minute, Lochs finally achieved the breakthrough when Robert Mackenzie found himself in space and rifled home a shot from twenty five yards out into Craigie's right hand corner **(2-1)**.

Another opportunity arose for Carloway in the seventieth minute but unfortunately Domhnall Mackay was unable to get his header on target. On the seventy second minute Gordon Craigie was once again called into action and he denied Andy Murray from 35 yards out. On the seventy ninth minute further good fortune came to Lochs when a ball delivered from the left wing nicked a Carloway defender, fell at the feet of Don "Lava" inside the Carloway box and he made no mistake as he shot low inside Craigie's left side post **(3-1)**

Despite Carloway giving their all, they were unable to breach the Lochs back line and the "*coup de gras*" was finally delivered in the eighty third minute when Robert Mackenzie scored his second goal of the night – a powerfully hit long range shot which ended up in the top right hand corner of Craigie's goal **(4-1)**.

Full Time: Lochs 4 Carloway 1

Despite the inexperienced line up, the Carloway squad to a man should be proud of their efforts as they managed to compete with Lochs for most of the game but ultimately the more experienced and fitter team finally won the day. It has to be borne in mind that manager Graeme "Windy" Miller was forced to sign five players on the night for this game (a total of seven signings in the week) just to be able to make up the squad: certainly a first for Carloway since returning to the league in the late seventies which reflects the extent of the injury situation at the club is.

Once again captain MacKay was a colossus, leading by example in that he not only repelled the Lochs attack time after time but also found time to prompt attacks from the back .He was ably assisted by his lieutenants in defence Cameron “Tiger” Macarthur and Archie Macdonald (once again showing his versatility as he made his second appearance ever as a defender). Gordon Craigie was also on the top of his game and could not be faulted for any of the goals as they were all” top drawer strikes”. Lee Johnston showed his mettle and made a real contribution especially when he moved into central midfield. The three community league players Forster, Williams and Stewart (even for the short time he was on the field) acquitted themselves well and worked really hard for the cause and their contribution should not be under-estimated or diminished. Mark Macleod reinforced the potential he showed on Wednesday as did “Wee John” Macdonald who competed well especially when he had to take over unfamiliar wing back duties. Calum Iain Macleod in the short period he was on the field also reinforced the belief that he would have been a real asset to the squad if he had not fallen out of pre-season training. The other contender for Carloway man of the match was Jack Buchanan who not only scored a wonder goal but was a constant thorn in the Lochs defence throughout the ninety minutes despite long periods on his own.

Carloway man of the match – Domhnall Mackay

Lochs man of the match – Angie Campbell