

Acres Boys Club Cup Final

Lochs 2 Carloway 1

Don "Lava" Macleod 18 Ross Maciver 54
David Macmillan 90+1

At Upper Coll.

Friday, 15.5.14.

Referee: Neil. Macritchie.

Linesmen: Calum "Chancy" Macleod; Stuart Macleod

CARLOWAY.

Manager: Graeme "Windy" Miller.

Gordon Craigie

Cameron "Tiger" Macarthur ■ Domhnall Mackay (capt.) Calum Tom Moody Ali "Laxay" Macdonald

*Kevin "Barra" Macneil Billy Anderson Murdo "Squegg" Macleod Andrew "Tago" Maciver
Kevin "Gochan" Macleod ■ Kenny "Dokus" Macdonald*

Subs.used: Ross Maciver (Andrew "Tago" Maciver) 46.

Subs. not used: David "Lurch" Murray; Rab Maciver; Norman "Taz" Morrison; Chris "Christy" Smith.

Yellow cards: Kevin "Gochan" Macleod 72; Cameron "Tiger" Macarthur 74.

LOCHS.

Manager: David Macmillan.

Don "Lava" Macleod Robert Jones

Andy Murray David Macmillan Robert Mackenzie Angie Campbell

*Daniel "Nipper" Mackenzie Donald "Nomie" Macdonald Graeme Mackenzie Jim O'Donnell
James Macleod*

Subs.used: Roddy Morrison (Robert Jones) 67.

Sub. not used: Peter Mackenzie; Gordon "Gordie" Mackenzie; Christy Houston.

It feels like Carloway have played only two teams this year, Point and, tonight's opponents, Lochs. Leaving Carloway knowing exactly how tough this game was going to be. Despite losing in their two games to Lochs so far this season, the Blues still had cause to be optimistic. Both previous games had only ended in a 1-0 deficit with Carloway knowing there was plenty room for improvement in those performances. The return of Calum Tom and Murdo "Squegg" has restored a lot of experience and composure through the spine of the team that has sometimes been lacking this year. They were also able to recall Kevin "Gokwan" and Andrew "Pongo" into the team which was a very welcome boost. New signing Rab Maciver also made it onto the subs bench to make up the strongest '16' Carloway have had so far.

Constant rain and a strong wind failed to keep a good crowd attending the match, and the game kicked off with Carloway attacking the driving range end of the pitch. I use the word 'attacking' loosely as Carloway failed to exert any real pressure on the Lochs defence and were camped in their own half for most of the first 45'. One of the main reasons for this was a hamstring injury

to "Pongo" inside the first 10 minutes. He had looked bright early on and had kept the Lochs defence on their toes but unfortunately his trademark powerful runs were limited after the injury, which in turn meant Carloway lost one of their main attacking options. He did have a half-chance in the first few minutes though when, after a few ricochets in the box, the ball landed to him on the edge of the 18 but he blasted over.

Once the game settled Lochs assumed control and passed the ball with ease across the half way line, waiting for the gap in the Carloway defence for either Don "Lava" or Robert Jones to run into. One such gap allowed Jones free in the box and his miss hit shot landed perfectly at the feet of Don "Lava" and from 6 yards he smashed the ball low past Craigie. 1-0 Lochs.

The game continued much the same after the goal and for the next 15-20 minutes there wasn't much action near either goal. In the 38th minute a ball over the top sent David Macmillan free down the left hand side of the box and he hit a well struck volley across goal just inches past the post.

Half-time, Carloway 0-1 Lochs.

Ross MacIver replaced the injured "Pongo" for the second half and tweaks had been made to the side in a bid to put more pressure on Lochs and to try and push further up the park. In the 52nd minute, Kevin "Barra" delivered a dangerous ball into the box which appeared to strike the arm of a Lochs defender. Amidst the confusion, Ross nipped in and smashed the bouncing ball off the crossbar. A great opportunity missed but it was only a couple of minutes before he got another one. Kenny "Dokus" did his best Dennis Bergkamp impression, turning one defender, cutting inside another and sending a beautiful through ball to the onrushing Ross who sprinted away from his man and coolly slotted the ball past James Macleod. A great goal and just what the game, and Carloway, needed. (1-1)

Whilst the game seemed to gain momentum there were no great chances until the 88th minute when, after good build up play by Lochs, Jim O'Donnell squeezed through the Blues defence and managed to get a shot away that passed Craigie, but unfortunately for him, bounced off the post and was cleared.

That seemed to be that and extra-time was looming. But Lochs had other ideas and in the 91st minute they were awarded what seemed a very soft free-kick 20 yards out when Domhnall was adjudged to have knocked Robert Mackenzie off the ball but it looked as though Robert was already on his way down having 'lost his balance'. There was an air of inevitability around the ground as Macmillan stepped up to take the free-kick and he shot low into the bottom left corner and into the back of the net. (1-2)

Full time, Carloway 1-2 Lochs.

Heartbreak for Carloway, ecstasy for Lochs. That's football. On another day it could easily have been the other way around but champions know how to win ugly, and this Lochs side are full of players who know how to cross that finish line in 1st. There are positives for Carloway to take from this game though, the game-changing performance of Ross MacIver for a start. He made terrific runs in behind the Lochs defence and showed no fear in getting in and about them. It's also easy to forget that this Carloway squad haven't had very long playing together and despite this they came together in the second half as a team and showed great spirit in getting back into the game.

Man of the Match: Domhnall Mackay

Lochs Man of the Match: Angie Campbell