

Moldova Lewis Cup Round 1:

Stornoway United 0 (0) Carloway 2 (0)

Joe Armstrong (own goal) 45

Callum "Beag" Mackay 7

Andrew "Tago" MacIver 87

At Goathill Park, Stornoway

Monday, 30th July 2018, 19:00

Referee: Derek Nicolson

Carloway line judge: Jim Crossley

United line judge: Iain Morrison

CARLOWAY: 4-5-1.

Manager: Graeme "Windy" Miller.

Asst. Managers: Domhnall Mackay; Iain Angus "Gus" Maciver.

David Beaton

Cameron "Tiger" Macarthur Euan Shirkie Donald "D.I." MacIennan Joe Armstrong

Callum Masson Andrew "Tago" MacIver Domhnall Mackay (capt.) Stuart "Bubble" MacDonald

Callum "Beag" Mackay

Andy "Bernera" Morrison

Subs. used: Kenny "Dokus" MacDonald (Andy "Bernera" Morrison) 64; Ben Smith (Callum Masson) 72.

Subs. not used: Andrew "Lanky" MacDonald; Murdo "Squegg" Macleod.

Yellow cards: None.

UNITED: 3-5-2

Manager: Steven Munro

Finlay Macsween Hamish MacDonald (capt.)

Stuart MacIennan Kevin Flower Kenny Macsween Seumas Maciver Jason Guilmartin

Andrew Macleod Eoghainn MacPhee Coinneach Smith

Jack MacIennan

Subs. : David Allan Macmillan (Stuart MacIennan) 90; James Macaulay (Seumas Maciver) 90.

Yellow cards: None.

And so back to competitive football after what was a bit of an unreal period. in Lewis football. This match was The Blues' first match in three weeks, and only their second in five weeks. Carloway were the visitors to Goathill Park, Stornoway for a first round tie in the quaintly named Moldova Lewis Cup, a competition that has been held in the Lewis football calendar for many years. One wonders what many of the icons of Lewis football who played in this tournament would be thinking. Probably somewhere along the lines of "Cait a bheil Moldova?"

Carloway fielded what was close to their strongest team. Eachainn Miller was no longer available as he was away to continue his studies at university. However, in his place and back (temporarily) from his travels was Andrew "Tago" MacIver. This enabled Andy "Bernera" to move to centre forward. Lining up beside "D.I." MacIennan in defence was Euan Shirkie who up until comparatively recently had plied his trade with Carloway's near neighbours West Side. For United, Jack MacIennan was in goals, Coinneach Smith in defence and up front was Hamish

Macdonald, three players who graced the colours of Carloway in this season's Eilean an Fhraoich competition.

Referee Derek Nicolson (home on holiday from Aberdeen) kicked off the game on a perfect evening for football with the Goathill pitch looking splendid. It did not take Carloway long to get into their stride with some quick passing and the strong running of Stuart "Bubble" MacDonald catching the eye. In fact, it was no surprise when on six minutes Calum "Beag" Mackay gave Carloway the lead finishing well after a good pass from his namesake Domhnall (0-1).

It was a well deserved lead after an enterprising start. Now to sit back and wait for a glut of goals.

This did not happen. Stuart "Bubble" MacDonald continued to cause havoc with his strong running and Calum "Beag" Mackay had a couple of good chances, but the scoreline remained at 0-1. United full of youthful endeavour and some good young players started to fight back and created some chances for themselves notably a good free kick from Hamish Macdonald which produced a decent save from David Beaton in the Carloway goals. Carloway also had decent chances from corners and will feel they should have done better from a couple of them just after the half hour mark.

As the half drew to a close, United grew in confidence and it was no surprise that they got their equaliser right on the stroke of half time. A good run along the bye line by Kenny Macsween which finished in a good cross which was turned into his own net by the unfortunate Joe Armstrong (1-1).

Half-time: Stornoway United 1 Carloway 1

The second half started off in exactly the same vein as the first. A strong start by Carloway obviously buoyed up by the half time talk of the stand in Manager (for the evening) Gus Maciver. On 49 minutes the first controversial moment of the game. Callum Masson went down in the box after a challenge by the United left back Andrew Macleod. Referee Nicolson waved away the appeals much to the amazement of the spectators in the proximity, and also I suspect, Macleod. Masson had another opportunity moments later when he shot wide after being released down the right wing. After this brief flurry the game settled into the same pattern as the first half. Clever football by the young United team was frustrating Carloway.

It was obvious that a change had to be made and on 63 minutes this happened. The veteran of many campaigns and knee bandages Kenny "Dokus" MacDonald coming on to replace Andy "Bernera" Morrison who had ploughed a lone furrow up front. This enable Andrew "Tago" MacIver to move to centre forward with "Dokus" playing in what is now termed as the "hole" behind him. This unsettled United and almost immediately Carloway started to dominate, the clever football of "Dokus" creating more opportunities.

As the game wore on Carloway started to create and miss chances. On 78 minutes, after a powerful run by Andrew "Tago" MacIver, Callum "Beag" Mackay shot over. On 81 minutes after a good move Andrew headed over from a cross from "D.I." MacIennan. On 83 minutes a good run and shot by Andrew which was well saved

and on 84 minutes a good opportunity for “Dokus” which was again well saved by Maclennan. It was at this stage where we all began to think extra time may be required.

Then on 86 minutes what proved to be the winner. A ball over the top from the midfield left Andrew “Tago” Maclver one on one with the keeper. He kept his cool and lobbed the ball into the net to give Carloway the lead. **(1-2)**.

There was time for one more chance. A good run by the other substitute Ben Smith ended with a cross which Andrew “Tago” Maclver headed over. United could not create any further chances and the game finished in a narrow 2-1 victory for Carloway.

Full-time: Stornoway United 1 (1) Carloway 2 (1)

Carloway will be pleased to have got their victory. United certainly were not the pushovers some people expected. They can also be pleased with their performance sticking to their principles throughout the game. There is no doubt that the substitution changed the game. Kenny “Dokus” MacDonald remains a very clever footballer and is still a vital part of the Carloway set up.

United Man of the Match – Eoghainn Macphee

Carloway Man of the Match – Stuart “Bubble” MacDonald