

Date: 23 March 1993  
 Opposition: Crystal Palace  
 Competition: League

Times	Guardian	British Soccer Wk

23 March 1993

## THE TIMES

### Breaking point for Souness

Crystal Palace 1 Liverpool 1

LIVERPOOL'S golden age may be over, but their passion remains undiminished. Never in three decades, since Bill Shankly inspired the Anfield dynasty, have they finished lower than eighth in the top division, and their point at Selhurst Park last night was enough to lift them three places to tenth.

There is still much to play for this season. That passion was evident in a battling second-half performance, crowned with a goal by Rush which threatened to secure their fourth successive victory, but best typified by their manager, Graeme Souness, who was ordered from the dugout eight minutes from time by the referee, Roger Dilkes, after making comments to a linesman.

Souness, who served two touchline bans with Rangers and one game of a five-match Uefa suspension earlier this season, was aggrieved at what appeared to be a foul on the Liverpool goalkeeper, James, preceding Armstrong's 78th-minute equaliser. Not one to take troubles sitting down, Souness may be forced by the Football Association to do just that from the stands again.

Rush's goal, curled in expertly on the hour, was his fourth in five games since being dropped, and only a controversial offside decision robbed him of a second two minutes later.

But Palace deserved their draw, which moves them five points clear of the four at the foot of the Premier League table. Armstrong, who now starts a two-match ban of his own, converted a corner at the far post for his thirteenth goal of the season.

"The referee saw it one way, most people in the ground saw it our way," Souness said. "Myself and the players thought that James had been pushed at every corner.

"At the end of the day, the referee makes the shots. Referees have said time and again that they would like to get together with the managers. If I can't ask the linesman a question, then there is no chance. I am disappointed it turned out like it did."

Dilkes confirmed that he had dismissed Souness because he had "persisted in using abusive language". He said he will be reporting the incident.

CRYSTAL PALACE: N Martyn; R Shaw (sub: G Ndah), G Southgate, C Coleman, E Young, A Thorn, S Osborn, G Thomas, C Armstrong, S Rodger, E McGoldrick.

LIVERPOOL: D James; D Burrows, S Harkness, S Nicol, M Marsh, R Whelan, R Rosenthal (sub: S McManaman), D Hutchison, I Rush, J Barnes, M Walters.

Referee: R Dilkes.

## the guardian

### Souness in official rage

CRYSTAL PALACE are not safe yet. Renewed life in the Premier League begins at 45 points, not 40. Yet they might have paid more heavily at Selhurst Park for arousing the latent class in Liverpool, and the devil in Liverpool's manager.

Towards the end of the match Graeme Souness was dismissed from the bench by the referee Roger Dilkes for complaining to a linesman about the goal with which Chris Armstrong had equalised 13 minutes from time. Souness was also upset at seeing what would have been a second and possibly match-winning goal for Ian Rush disallowed for offside against Ronnie Rosenthal after Rush took the ball through on his own.

Souness, suspended from the touchline twice when he managed Rangers and banned from five European games for making remarks to officials after this season's Cup Winners' Cup defeat by Moscow Spartak, may now face a charge of misconduct from the Football Association.

'My senior linesman reported to me that Mr Souness had persisted in using abusive language to him,' Dilkes explained. 'I requested him to leave the trainers' bench, and this will be the subject of my report to the FA.'

Souness finished the game resting his head in his hands against the back of the dug-out. Yet he continued to plead his case afterwards. 'Both myself and the players thought that James (Liverpool's goalkeeper) was being pushed at every corner against us,' he insisted. 'He was certainly pushed on the goal.

'In the first half the players asked the referee to watch out for this and he said he knew what was going on. I asked the linesman if he had seen a push and he said he hadn't.

'The referees have said time and time again that they ought to get together with managers more often. If I can't ask a linesman about a bit of pushing then we've got no chance.'

Of course, it all depends on how you ask. Souness certainly had grounds for complaint about the goal Rush was denied less than three minutes after he had collected a pass from Whelan to give Liverpool the lead early in the second half. Seeing that Rosenthal was running back from an offside position, Rush decided to take on Young alone. He slipped the ball past the centre-back, ran round him and slipped a low shot out of Martyn's reach into the left-hand corner of the net. It was a superb piece of individualism, but even as Rush celebrated his fifth goal in as many games the referee disallowed it for offside.

At least the controversy of the second half redeemed the tedium of the first. Before half-time Liverpool, having seen Martyn save in quick succession from Walters and Rosenthal after eight minutes, sank steadily into a trough of apathy, while Crystal Palace failed to produce the kind of cross to prey on their opponents' weakness in the air and James's uncertainty at the near post. Rush's goals, allowed and disallowed, enlivened the second half. Palace redoubled their attacking efforts and drew level from the corner which followed Armstrong's vain attempt to reach a cross from Coleman that had cannoned off Hutchison. Harkness's misplaced clearance fell to Armstrong, who drove the ball into the roof of the Liverpool net.

Armstrong and Young will miss Palace's next two matches, against QPR and Wimbledon, because of suspension. Coppell's team should survive, but there is still an anxious chill in the spring air at Selhurst Park.

Crystal Palace: Martyn; Shaw (Ndah, 73min), Southgate, Coleman, Young, Thorn, Osborn, Thomas, Armstrong, Rodger, McGoldrick.

Liverpool: James; Burrows, Harkness, Nicol, Marsh, Whelan, Rosenthal (McManaman, 64), Hutchison, Rush, Barnes, Walters.

Referee: L Dilkes (Mossley).

Date: 23 March 1993  
Opposition: Crystal Palace  
Competition: League

Times	Guardian	British Soccer Wk	23 March 1993

## BRITISH SOCCER WEEK

### Sinner Souness faces FA rap

Liverpool manager Graeme Souness will be reported to the Football Association after allegedly swearing at a linesman at Selhurst Park.

Referee Roger Dilkes asked Souness to leave the bench during the 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace and afterwards the official said: "My senior linesman reported to me that Mr Souness had persisted in using abusive language to him, and I requested therefore that he left the vicinity of the trainers' bench.

Dilkes said: "This will be the subject of a report to the Football Association."

Souness refused to discuss whether he might be suspended - although he was happy to talk about the incidents which upset him.

They included a disallowed 'goal' by Ian Rush which would have put Liverpool 2-0 ahead, and an alleged push on Liverpool goalkeeper David James at the corner from which Chris Armstrong equalised.

He said: "We thought the goalkeeper was being pushed at every corner, including the goal. He saw it his way, I saw it the other. He calls the shots. All we can do is go back on the bus thinking what might have been. As for the Rush 'goal', he said it was clear Rush was going for goal, not intending to pass to a player in an offside position. Referees have said time and time again they would like to get together with managers. If I can't ask a linesman about an incident in which I thought there was a push, that's not very good."

Crystal Palace manager Steve Coppell said: "We are pleased to get a point. We are on the edge, but looking up rather than looking down."

Chris Armstrong's 78th minute equaliser gave Palace that badly needed draw just when it seemed the points were bound for Anfield. There was plenty of drama on the pitch as well as on the sidelines. In the ninth minute, Palace goalkeeper Nigel Martyn made a brilliant double save to deny first Mark Walters then Ronnie Rosenthal.

Walters burst through and lashed a shot which Martyn somehow managed to parry, then recovered to turn away Rosenthal's follow up.

After that, Palace came more into the match and, on 18 minutes, Simon Rodger crossed from the left for Chris Coleman to put in a header which David James tipped over.

Palace kept up the pressure and Rodger shot just wide from a good position.

Four minutes into the second half the game exploded into life when Ian Rush gave Liverpool the lead with a typically precise strike.

John Barnes passed inside from the left to Ronnie Whelan, who threaded the ball forward to Rush on the edge of the box. He made space for himself and planted a fine shot over Martyn into the top left-hand corner.

Two minutes later, he had the ball in the net again but that effort was disallowed because another player had strayed offside.

As Palace strove to get on terms, they left gaps which Liverpool were eager to exploit. A long-ball out of defence found substitute Steve McManaman, who races through and produced a firm shot which Martyn saved but could not hold. Rush uncharacteristically completely miskicked his follow up attempt.

Palace were grateful - and they made the most of that miss on 78 minutes when a corner from the right was flicked on by Andy Thorn and Armstrong lashed the ball home at the far post.