

Date: 22 October 2011
 Opposition: Norwich City
 Competition: League

Sunday Times	Times	Guardian	Telegraph
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22 October
2011

THE TIMES

Finishing touch eludes Liverpool

Liverpool 1
 Bellamy 45+1
 Norwich City 1
 Holt 60

Referee: P Walton Attendance: 44,931

How far should we value creativity without productivity? Specifically, how much blame do Liverpool deserve for failing to convert their chances on Saturday and how much praise do they merit for creating so many opportunities in the first place? Liverpool had 29 attempts on goal against Norwich City and would have scored a few but for slapdash finishing, outstanding goalkeeping from John Ruddy, a little misfortune and some questionable refereeing.

The urge to criticise comes because it is the fourth time this season that Liverpool could argue that they took less than they deserved. If Manchester United's Barclays Premier League title last season was partly founded on days when they got more than they merited, Liverpool's quest for a place in the top four is being undermined by the opposite.

They have lost to Stoke City and drawn with Sunderland and United. Add in Saturday and Dalglish's side have three points from four fixtures that could have brought 12. It is a large sample at such an early stage but the Liverpool manager still attributes it to happenstance.

"As soon as our luck changes, we'll be all right," he said. "And that's all it is. I think we've been brilliant in creating the chances. So we'll look at the positive. The finishing side, obviously we've got to add to it when you look at the facts and figures, and reflect on what we've actually done and what we've actually created."

Jose Enrique, the defender, was more critical. "We respect Norwich and they played well, but against a team like that we have to win if we want to be in the Champions League and we have lost a lot of points like that this season," he said. Given that Liverpool held the lead through Craig Bellamy's deflected goal against his former club in first-half stoppage time, the failure to keep a clean sheet proved as damaging as the inability to enhance the scoreline.

That Norwich should find the net was surprising given Liverpool's dominance, but not in the context of a season in which Liverpool have played 11 games in all competitions and prevented the opposition from scoring only twice. On Saturday they began with no defensive midfield player and a back five in which only the goalkeeper and left back inspire untrammelled confidence.

Liverpool's continued progress under Dalglish would seem to rely heavily on his attacking players learning to be more lethal - becoming more efficient, to borrow a term from Arsene Wenger's lexicon, whether it is through luck, skill or self-belief.

No wonder Dalglish was keen to defend the "integrity" of Luis Suarez after the fallout from the draw with Manchester United a week earlier. Behind the Scot's staunch support of his player is the fear that his key striker could be rendered far less productive if he does not win free kicks because referees think he is an habitual diver.

Whatever the outcome of Suarez's immediate concern, the FA investigation into his alleged racism, the worry for Liverpool is that he is burdened with a reputation that will be hard to dislodge. Of course, the 24-year-old hardly descended on Merseyside via the moral high ground, having been responsible in last year's World Cup finals for one of the most flagrant acts of cheating in the tournament's recent history, one that ultimately put Uruguay into the semi-finals at Ghana's expense.

Still, Peter Walton's decision not to award him a free kick and send off Marc Tierney late in the game when the Norwich defender tripped Suarez as he was set to run clear on goal was a worrying sign. That was not the referee's only dubious decision as he gave a free kick against Charlie Adam when it seemed that the Liverpool midfielder player had been felled inside the box by Leon Barnett.

Norwich deserved a point for their industry and organisation, and grabbed an equaliser through the head of Grant Holt, a substitute, after an hour. Pepe Reina then saved another goalbound header by Holt, while the "Ruddy for England" bandwagon gained more horsepower in injury time when the goalkeeper made a superb stop from Suarez.

Given that Andy Carroll came off the bench and flashed a header wide, this was a day when a [pounds sterling]35 million England striker was outshone by a former tyre-fitter who rose from non-League and cost Norwich [pounds sterling]400,000 from Shrewsbury Town.

None of the Norwich starting XI had Premier League experience before this season. "They are not lower-league players now," Paul Lambert, the Norwich manager, said. "They were two years ago but they are not now. They have to sustain that, though, and not take anything for granted because football has a habit of coming back and biting you."

Lambert's side are eighth in the table, but he is right: on October 16 last year, newly promoted West Bromwich Albion drew 2-2 at Old Trafford to go sixth. By February 6, West Brom were seventeenth and Roberto Di Matteo was out of a job. You never know how your luck might turn. Reason for Norwich to treat the future with caution and wring as much pleasure as possible from days such as this.

Their progress under Dalglish would seem to rely heavily on his attack learning to be more lethal Ratings LIVERPOOL 4-4-2 J M Reina 6 G Johnson 5 J Carragher 5 M Skrtel 5 J Enrique 5 S Downing 6 C Adam 6 S Gerrard 6 C Bellamy 7 D Kuyt 6 L Suarez 7 Substitutes: J Henderson 6 (for Bellamy, 69min), A Carroll (for Downing, 80), D Agger (for Kuyt, 89). Not used: J Flanagan, M Rodriguez, A Doni, J Spearing. Next: West Bromwich Albion (a). NORWICH 4-4-1-1 J Ruddy 8 K Naughton 6 L Barnett 5 R Martin 6 M Tierney 0 5 A Pilkington 6 B Johnson 6 D Fox 5 E Bennett 5 W Whoolahan 6 S Morison 6 Substitutes: G Holt 7 (for Bennett, 57min), A Crofts (for Pilkington, 89). Not used: R de Laet, A Surman, S Jackson, A Wilbraham, D Rudd. Next: Blackburn Rovers (h).

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theguardian

Luckless Liverpool rue the rise of Ruddy: Liverpool 1 Bellamy 45
 Norwich City 1 Holt 60

Screams from the front row of the directors' box told of a torturous finale for Delia Smith and the **Norwich** board. Then, once Andy Carroll headed wide from six yards and John Ruddy foiled Luis Suarez once again, came euphoric release and handshakes with the **Liverpool** supporters whose eardrums she had assaulted. One year ago Blackpool were the new entertainers accepting the congratulations of Anfield. **Norwich** may not have emulated their success but nor do they look on course to repeat their ultimate failure.

Kenny Dalglish spoke of a familiar hard-luck story for **Liverpool** and he had a point. His side created 29 attempts on goal, struck the woodwork three times and Suarez endured the kind of game that shows even the finest strikers are not immune from despair. Yet if fortune favoured Paul Lambert's team, which is questionable as **Liverpool's** goal owed plenty to a deflection, then it was earned. Ruddy was inspired. Bradley Johnson and the outstanding Wes Hoolahan formed a midfield axis reminiscent of Blackpool's heartbeat of David Vaughan and Charlie Adam last season. The relentless movement of Suarez and Dirk Kuyt may have stretched the **Norwich** defence, as that pairing can do to most, but a combination of strength, spirit, luck and quality kept it together. Most impressive, however, was **Norwich's** composure and adventure in possession throughout, traits that did their manager no harm during his European Cup- and title-winning days at Borussia Dortmund and Celtic.

"There is a belief in this group," said Lambert. "We have a team of very good players. They were lower-league players but they are earning the right to play in this league. They've got ability, that's for sure. There is an awful long way to go but if they stay humble and keep their desire then these lads will hopefully make names for themselves."

Few epitomise the rise better than Grant Holt and Ruddy. Lambert responded to Craig Bellamy's first league goal for **Liverpool** since his return, converted after Suarez had beaten Russell Martin to a long ball and via a deflection off Marc Tierney, with a bolder second-half display and the introduction of the former non-league striker. Three minutes after his arrival, Holt beat Jamie Carragher, Glen Johnson and Jose Reina to provide a true centre-forward's header to Anthony Pilkington's perfect cross, and **Norwich** had the reward they had threatened at both Stamford Bridge and Old Trafford.

"I've never played at Anfield before and it was an incredibly special moment to score a goal like that," said the former Workington, Halifax and Barrow striker. Ruddy twice denied Suarez superbly, leaving Lambert to press the England credentials of a goalkeeper who made just one substitute appearance in five years at Everton. The first permanent, first-team spell of his career is paying clear dividends but only added to the frustration for Dalglish.

Seven days previously a 1-1 draw at home against a team managed by a European Cup-winning Scot - Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United - was seen as a mark of progress. Not this one. Anfield was bewildered by its team's profligacy and the manager's substitutions, with both wide men, the dangerous Bellamy and the disappointing Stewart Downing withdrawn before Carroll appeared with 10 minutes remaining, sufficient time to add his name to a catalogue of misses.

The **Liverpool** manager reflected: "We've got to be careful we don't get into the habit of saying we are playing well but we've got a point. We've got to start finishing teams off. The reason why we didn't get three points was in our own hands."

Man of the match John Ruddy:

Wes Hoolahan was influential in central midfield but the City goalkeeper was instrumental in preserving the point

Best moment The fingertip save in stoppage time that thwarted Luis Suarez

The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool face up to a familiar failing

Liverpool 1
 Bellamy 45
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There is a seemingly immovable obstacle to Liverpool's path to the golden future they crave. It is that darn inconvenient, unconvincing present.

If only a few flicks of the credit card could safely generate an instantly functioning, tactically pure team, they would ensure those of modest means such as Norwich - just like Sunderland earlier this season, and countless others for the last two decades - did not escape Anfield with a point.

'Divine right' syndrome infiltrated the Kop long before the trophy drought but it is surprising how results like this provoke a sense of violation.

Not, it must be said, at the behest of the manager, Kenny Dalglish, whose sermons on treating all mid-table newcomers as equals can be recited word perfectly every week, but from a broader football community which should be well acquainted with Liverpool's enduring fallibility over the past 20 years.

Liverpool have undergone multiple reconstructions over the years, but there is always a flaw, pecking away at those perennial lofty ambitions.

For years the club have been too negative and overly cautious, squandering home points by inviting pressure. This was a reversal where they paid for their sense of adventure.

The audacious approach prompted applause for 20 minutes when Liverpool should have been three up, and cries of tactical naivety with Norwich chasing a winner with 20 to go. Had Liverpool claimed more than Craig Bellamy's strike in first-half injury time, the least they deserved from their 29 chances, the perceptions would be altered.

Jose Enrique, one of the more successful recent additions, joined an eminent list of Liverpool players, stretching back to their last title in 1990, bemoaning the club's failure to "win these type of games".

"We respect Norwich and they played well, but against a team like that we have to win if we want to be in the Champions League and we have lost a lot of points like that this season," Enrique said. "I hope in the future we will not look back and need these points."

Luck was a factor when Luis Suarez twice hit the woodwork and was regularly denied by goalkeeper John Ruddy, but Paul Lambert's side were courageous and calm, particularly during a frantic finale when their poise under pressure ensured a point that was wholly deserved.

Grant Holt's second-half header rewarded their ability to match Liverpool's passing game, and there were times that the visitors were more comfortable in possession than their increasingly panic-stricken hosts.

"What is really pleasing, is we got some rewards for our efforts here," Holt said. "We played really well at Old Trafford and at Stamford Bridge and came away with nothing, so to come away with a point is a big thing for us."

Aside from the excitable Norwich contingent (chef and joint majority shareholder Delia Smith daintily squeaked "Holy cow" when her side drew level), the most satisfied spectator in the directors' box was Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp, who surely left Anfield convinced Spurs look better equipped than Liverpool to reclaim top-four status.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Suarez doesn't dive, says Enrique as frustration reigns for Liverpool
 For the second successive weekend, Luis Suarez's manager and team-mates gathered round their striker to defend his reputation. Against Manchester United it was Patrice Evra's accusations of racism that had stung; here was the suggestion that the Uruguayan, however talented, dives when it suits him.

When he was at Ajax, Suarez gained a reputation for conning referees. However, in a game where he struck the post twice during a contest in which Liverpool aimed 29 shots at John Ruddy's goal, it was Peter Walton's belief that Suarez dived when seemingly brought down by Marc Tierney that lingered.

Kenny Dalglish said that those who questioned Suarez's integrity were those whose own integrity was not beyond question. They were words seemingly aimed at Old Trafford and backed up by the Liverpool left back, Jose Enrique.

"The truth is that it should have been a red card for their centre-back because he kicked Luis, I have seen the video of it," said Enrique, referring to the fact that Tierney had already been booked. "Alex Ferguson defended his team because we played them last week and that is normal. Luis is a really dangerous player and a really nice guy. He doesn't dive. Some Manchester United players go into the swimming pool. We defend our players; they defend theirs. That is normal."

Suarez played fabulously against a Norwich side that displayed guts and no little ability, although but for the brilliance of a goalkeeper who was once on Everton's books, they would surely have been swept away. Norwich may have played better in defeat at Stamford Bridge and Old Trafford but it was not lost on anyone at Anfield that Chelsea and Manchester United had each collected three points.

There were similarities to the opening game of the season where Sunderland somehow clung on in a first half that should have seen them crushed and forced a draw. "Against a team like Norwich we have to win if we want to be in the Champions League next season," said Jose Enrique, who is part of a defence that is yet to keep a clean sheet at home so far this season.

"The best teams in this league would win against teams like that - even though we respect them. At home we have to win. It is harder away but we have lost two points. I hope in the future we will not look back and need those points."

Ruddy, whose surname is a gift to any headline writer, will look back on this game and recall it forever.

"I have really fond memories of Liverpool," he said afterwards. "It is an unbelievable city and I really enjoyed my time up here. To come here, put in a performance like that and come away with a point is great. Hopefully, in a few months' time we will go one better at Goodison." However, Dixie Dean was playing the last time Everton managed 29 shots in a single afternoon.

LIVERPOOL 1-1 NORWICH

Scorers: Liverpool Bellamy 45. Norwich City Holt 60.

Substitutes: Liverpool Henderson 5 (Bellamy, 69), Carroll (Downing, 80), Agger (Kuyt, 90). Norwich Holt 8 (Bennett, 57), Crofts (Pilkington, 90).

Booked: Norwich Tierney.

Man of the match Ruddy.

Match rating 7/10.

Possession: Liverpool 56% Norwich 44%.

Attempts on target: Liverpool 15 Norwich 10.

Referee P Walton (Northamptonshire). Attendance 44,931.

DAILY MIRROR

TAKEN FOR GRANTED; But Dalglish reckons change in luck will help put his side back on track

PREMIER LEAGUE: LIVERPOOL 1 NORWICH 1

THE visiting Norwich fans summed it up best, with a gleeful chant towards the Kop that went: "You lost this game 1-1".

That's what it felt like for Liverpool. After the remarkable high of a rousing display against Manchester United, they were brought down to earth with a terrific crash by their perennial Achilles' heel against the smaller clubs.

It is tempting to put this result down as a simple and unfortunate visit to Ruddy hell, as boss Kenny Dalglish attempted to afterwards, when he claimed his side would have won comfortably but for the heroics of the visiting keeper.

As good as John Ruddy was though, and as much as Liverpool hit the woodwork on three separate occasions and had enough chances to have won four matches, there is surely more to it than simple bad luck, because this kind of low after a massive high is all too familiar at Anfield.

Dalglish (above) begged to differ though. "Norwich went to Chelsea, played really well and were unlucky," he said.

"They went to Manchester United two weeks ago and were unlucky to come away with no points. Maybe they got the luck today.

"I just keep waiting for our luck to change. As soon as it does we will be alright."

But even though Liverpool played far better than their two rivals against Norwich, even though they deserved to win against them, where United and Chelsea probably didn't, they only picked up a point, where the other two got all three.

And if history tells us anything, then it is you must win your home games against the so-called lesser teams if you are to hold any title aspirations. In so many of the seasons over the past two decades, Liverpool have failed to do that (below, Saturday's Mirror Football).

Dalglish's side created chance after chance for an hour but then the almost inevitable tension set in.

It is a fact recognised by the Liverpool left-back Jose Enrique, who admitted games like these need to be won if his side are to be taken seriously.

"We respect Norwich and they played well, but against a team like that we have to win if we want to be in the Champions League and we have lost a lot of points like that this season," he said.

"We have lost two points. I hope in the future we will not look back and need these points."

Liverpool squandered umpteen chances early on with Martin Skrtel hitting the bar and Luis Suarez a post.

But they finally took the lead on the stroke of half-time when Craig Bellamy's low shot deflected off Marc Tierney into the corner of the net (which was probably the only way outstanding keeper Ruddy was going to be beaten).

Norwich levelled after an hour when Anthony Pilkington's searching cross found Grant Holt, who rose above Jamie Carragher and Pepe Reina to head home. A superb goal and not bad for a striker who has come through the divisions.

Five minutes later, Holt could have put City in front but this time his header was turned away by Reina.

Afterwards, the former Workington, Barrow, Halifax, Rochdale and Shrewsbury (amongst others) striker conceded his thrill at scoring on such hallowed turf.

"I've never played at Anfield before, and of course it was an incredibly special moment to come here and score a goal like that," Holt said.

"It's what it's all about - when you are a forward you are sent on to do a job and get the goal, so it was a great feeling for me to deliver, especially at the Kop end.

"It's a special place, Anfield. These are the grounds you want to score at. I've scored here now, I've scored at Stamford Bridge, and it means a lot to me.

"But for the club, it doesn't really matter if it's Anfield or anywhere else, we are here to score goals to win matches and to get points to stay in the Premier League.

"The manager has instilled a belief in us that we can win games, even at places like this. We kept committing forward, even after we had drawn level, because we have that belief."

Despite Holt's heroics, Liverpool had two chances to snatch victory late on. First Suarez - who could have had a hat-trick - fired his shot straight at Ruddy.

Then, in injury-time, a cross from Steven Gerrard (left) found Andy Carroll six yards out. But the former Newcastle hitman headed well wide. Liverpool's day in a nutshell.

LIVERPOOL: Reina 6, Johnson 6, Carragher 7, Skrtel 6, Enrique 7, Downing 6, Gerrard 7, Adam 6, Bellamy 8 (Henderson 69, 6), Kuyt 7 (Agger 90), Suarez 7.

Goal: Bellamy 45 NORWICH: Ruddy 7, Naughton 7, Barnett 7, Martin 6, Tierney 6?, Bennett 6 (Holt 56, 7), Fox 6, Johnson 7, Pilkington 6, Hoolahan 7, Morison 8.

Goal: Holt 60 REF: Peter Walton Att: 44,931

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Liverpool FC 1 Norwich City 1 - James Pearce sees LFC struggle to make their superiority tell

OLD habits die hard for Liverpool FC at Anfield.

Much has changed for the better since the turn of the year but the failure to put away inferior opposition remains a recurring theme.

Liverpool's recent past is littered with examples of them following up a heart-warming display against title contenders by carelessly tossing away points against teams with no loftier targets than survival. Now they have another one to add to the list.

For the second successive weekend Kenny Dalglish's men couldn't hold on to a lead on home soil. But whereas against Manchester United a share of the spoils was celebrated as a mark of progress, this time the mood was one of dejection.

Norwich City deserve great credit. They defended heroically and never abandoned the slick passing game which secured their return to the top flight on the back of successive promotions.

But Paul Lambert's newly promoted side should have made the long journey home with only plaudits rather than a point to show for their efforts. The Reds had a massive 25 attempts on goal. Their domination should have ensured it was over as a contest inside the opening 20 minutes.

However, this new-look Liverpool side are sadly lacking in one vital ingredient - a ruthless streak.

Prior to Saturday missed chances had already cost them points against Sunderland, Stoke and United. And it's becoming a problem.

Dalglish bemoaned his side's bad luck and unquestionably little went for them.

The woodwork came to Norwich's rescue on three occasions and the visitors benefited from some wretched decisions by referee Peter Walton.

But Liverpool need to look at themselves.

They aren't sharp enough in the final third and a poor return of 12 goals from their nine Premier League games underlines that.

Combine that with the fact they are struggling to keep clean sheets and it's an unpalatable cocktail which threatens to derail hopes of Champions League qualification.

The Reds are hardly lacking when it comes to attacking intent. This was a team including Luis Suarez, Dirk Kuyt, Craig Bellamy, Stewart Downing, Charlie Adam and Steven Gerrard.

Throw in the fact that full-backs Jose Enrique and Glen Johnson both love to get forward and it was no surprise that the home side carved out a succession of glorious opportunities. But quality from outside the penalty box wasn't matched by what went on inside it.

Once again Suarez was the centre of attention. The Uruguayan terrorised Norwich's rearguard throughout and should have walked away with the match ball.

His finishing let him down but it would be churlish to criticise the striker as he made most of those openings for himself with his dazzling feet and turn of pace. The fear is that some of the mud being unfairly thrown in Suarez's direction is starting to stick.

Suarez will never be universally popular because he's so good. Opponents will always try to unsettle the Premier League's most talented centre-forward.

They will continue to drag up past crimes and use them as a stick to beat him with, while glossing over his sensational impact on England's top flight.

Of course Alex Ferguson only speaks out against those he views as a threat so in a way his accusation of diving was a back-handed compliment. But the danger is his bitter ramblings, which conveniently ignore the theatrics performed by his own players, become ingrained in officials' minds.

The United manager will certainly have had a chuckle to himself on Saturday night as Suarez received no protection whatsoever from referee Walton. But then that smirk would have been wiped away by events at Old Trafford yesterday.

A host of decisions went against Suarez with the worst coming 10 minutes from time when he was scythed down by Marc Tierney when through on goal. Suarez, who was frequently manhandled, had good reason to feel aggrieved. It was a night which had started in buoyant mood as Liverpool celebrated a notable victory off the pitch.

MP Steve Rotheram received a standing ovation from supporters before kick-off in tribute to the emotional speech he gave in the House of Commons to help ensure government documents relating to Hillsborough are finally released.

The Kop displayed a 'JFT96' mosaic and chants of 'Justice for the 96' rung out from a capacity crowd optimistic that after 22 years of lies and cover-ups the truth is now in sight.

The highly-charged atmosphere seemed to energise the Reds who tore the Canaries to shreds.

Inside two minutes Martin Skrtel rattled the bar with a header from Adam's corner and then Suarez blazed wide with only John Ruddy to beat.

Bellamy repaid the faith shown in him by Dalglish and was a constant thorn in Norwich's side down the left.

The Welshman teed up Suarez whose effort was brilliantly turned on to the post by Ruddy.

Downing, who struggled to impose himself in the same kind of manner, wastefully lashed the rebound wide.

Having somehow survived the early onslaught Norwich grew in confidence and Pepe Reina was called upon to thwart Wes Hoolahan and Steve Morison.

The breakthrough Liverpool craved belatedly arrived in first half stoppage time. Jose Enrique's long pass caused panic and Bellamy pounced against his old club, bursting into the box and finding the bottom corner. It was the ideal platform for the Reds to build on but in the second half they were sloppy.

Suarez saw his deflected shot strike the post but Liverpool weren't in control and it was little surprise when substitute Grant Holt rose to head home an equaliser. There were accusing glances in the direction of Reina who came for a cross he had no chance of getting.

The Spaniard atoned for that soon after with a stunning reflex save to deny Holt a second before Liverpool's late flourish.

The Reds lay siege to Norwich's box but the outstanding Ruddy simply refused to be beaten.

The ex-Everton stopper saved his best for last when he somehow kept out Suarez's goal-bound volley deep into stoppage time.

Just seconds prior to that substitute Andy Carroll should have secured victory but inexplicably headed Gerrard's pinpoint cross agonisingly wide.

Two points were carelessly spurned and the true cost of those misses won't be known until May.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): Reina, Johnson, Carragher, Skrtel, Enrique, Downing (Carroll 80), Gerrard, Adam, Bellamy (Henderson 69), Kuyt (Agger 90), Suarez. Not used: Doni, Maxi, Spearing, Flanagan.

NORWICH (4-5-1): Ruddy, Naughton, Barnett, Martin, Tierney, Bennett (Holt 57), Fox, Johnson, Pilkington (Crofts 90), Hoolahan, Morison. Not used: Rudd, Jackson, Surman, Wilbraham, De Laet.

GOALS: Bellamy 45; Holt 60

CARDS: Booked - Tierney

REFEREE: Peter Walton (Northamptonshire)

ATTENDANCE: 44,931



Striker Grant Holt came off the bench to score with a stunning header and earn Norwich City a point from a pulsating Premier League contest at Anfield.

Holt, left out of the starting line-up once again, marked his 100th appearance for the Canaries by heading powerfully home from Anthony Pilkington's cross to equalise on the hour, just four minutes after coming on for Elliott Bennett.

Liverpool had taken the lead in first-half stoppage time through ex-Canary Craig Bellamy and they struck the woodwork three times as Paul Lambert's men rode their luck at times.

Holt might even have had a second when Pepe Reina kept out another powerful header five minutes later, but in the end City were grateful to a stunning save by goalkeeper John Ruddy from a Luis Suarez volley in the fifth minute of stoppage time for guaranteeing a point from a match played at times at bewildering pace. After the disappointments at Chelsea and Manchester United, City had earned their reward for another battling display against one of the top flight's big guns. City boss Paul Lambert was able to name an unchanged eleven for the fifth game in a row, and kept the same seven substitutes named for the 3-1 win over Swansea a week earlier.

Defender Zak Whitbread missed out on a return to his old club, still sidelined by the hamstring injury he suffered in the 3-1 defeat at Chelsea eight weeks ago.

Whitbread and injured colleague James Vaughan were watching the game from the directors' box.

Liverpool boss Kenny Dalglish was without suspended Brazilian midfielder Lucas Leiva after he collected five bookings, with ex-Canary Craig Bellamy a surprise inclusion in the starting line-up. Glen Johnson, fit again after a hamstring injury, replaced Martin Kelly at right-back.


Striker Andy Carroll and midfielder Jordan Henderson, costing more than £50m between them, were among the substitutes.

Immediately before kick-off, fans at the Kop End displayed cards demanding "Justice for the 96" in the continuing fight on behalf of the victims of the Hillsborough disaster of 1989, and a wall of noise greeted the kick-off with the Reds attacking the Kop goal.

Liverpool pressed down the right and Bradley Johnson was forced to concede the first corner after just two minutes, from which Skrtel came close to giving the hosts the lead, meeting the kick with an angled header that rattled the crossbar. In the fifth minute, Suarez looked certain to open the scoring as he wriggled his way into the City penalty area but with only Ruddy to beat, fired wide.

As Liverpool maintained their lively start, Barnett cut out a cross from Glen Johnson after the full-back made good headway down the right.

A brilliant save by Ruddy kept the Canaries on terms in the 11th minute when Bellamy broke down the left and Suarez met his cross with a first-time effort that the 'keeper palmed on to the post with his left hand, Downing blasting the rebound wide when he should have done better.

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After a neat turn by Adam, Suarez tried to float an effort over Ruddy from just outside the penalty area, but cleared the bar.

It was one-way traffic in the opening 15 minutes, but Downing, operating on the right, overhit a cross that was aimed for Suarez and City breathed again.

Hoolahan produced City's first shot at goal and his first-time effort was parried, not all that convincingly, by Reina before Liverpool cleared. Suarez hooked a shot wide as the hosts returned to the attack.

The Canaries began to settle and a move of 14 passes produced their first corner after 21 minutes when Carragher headed clear from Bennett's cross under pressure from Pilkington. Fox took the corner from the left and Morison met it with a powerful header but Reina was right behind it. A smart interception by Bennett gave him a shooting opportunity on the edge of the Liverpool area and though his first effort was blocked, he followed up with a second attempt that again forced Reina into action. The pace of the game in the opening half-hour had been unrelenting, with the ball zipping from end to end and man to man like a pinball machine. Tierney was shown the first yellow card for upending Downing on the right-hand corner of the penalty area. Downing's free-kick was blocked, as was his follow-up shot, with Adam getting a third attempt on goal, floating his shot just over with the outside of his right boot. Russell Martin was in the right place at the right time when he cut out a Suarez cross at the near post after Ruddy had slid out but failed to gather the ball cleanly. Suarez got his head to another Downing centre but his effort was comfortably gathered by Ruddy.

An ambitious shot from Bellamy sailed into the crowd three minutes before the interval. City forced another corner when Hoolahan's cross was deflected out, but Fox's kick was overhit, sailing over Morison's head as he challenged Carragher. One minute of stoppage time was added at the end of the half – one minute too many for City as Bellamy gave the hosts the lead.

Just a few seconds remained when Russell Martin tangled with Suarez as they challenged for a long ball from Reina and as Martin slipped to the ground, Bellamy was left with a run on goal and his sidefoot effort deflected off Tierney on its way past Ruddy.

• Half-time: Liverpool 1, Norwich City 0

Within 90 seconds of the restart, Reina was brought into action, diving to keep out Pilkington's shot after Morison had done well to control Ruddy's long ball forward. Kuyt got in a glancing header from a cross from Downing as Liverpool broke but it lacked power and direction, and then Downing caught Tierney with a late challenge that left the full-back on the floor.

A brilliant turn by Suarez almost provided Liverpool's second goal after 50 minutes but Russell Martin just got a toe in to divert the Uruguayan's shot on to the post, the third time City had been spared by the woodwork.

Gerrard fired straight at Ruddy in the next attack and, with 56 minutes gone, Lambert made the first change, replacing Bennett with Holt, making his 100th senior appearance for City. Bellamy's header was saved by Ruddy and as City pressed again, Hoolahan set up Fox for a long-range shot that Reina was safely behind. But, in Boy's Own fashion on his 100th appearance, Holt delivered the equaliser within minutes of taking the field.

On the hour, Pilkington swung in the perfect cross from the right and Holt met it with a bullet-like header that gave Reina no chance. It was his second goal of the season and his 55th for the club. It was almost 2-1 to City five minutes later thanks to the Pilkington-Holt combination. Pilkington swung in the cross from the left this time and Holt's header was goalbound until Reina stuck out his right hand to palm it away. Suarez could so easily have restored Liverpool's lead as he broke free again but Ruddy, not entirely convincingly, managed to parry his effort.

Liverpool made a change with just over 20 minutes left as Henderson replaced goalscorer Bellamy. Hoolahan was just off target from 20 yards after Morison set up the chance as City continued to adopt a positive approach.

Ruddy turned another Suarez effort across goal as the home side switched to the attack again then, with 10 minutes to go, Liverpool made a second change with Carroll replacing Downing. There was mayhem in the Norwich area as Kuyt burst forward and Suarez poked another shot just wide, but the flag was up for offside. Pilkington had a shot deflected wide for a corner after Morison tried to set him up on the edge of the penalty area. With five minutes left the home crowd were baying for a penalty when Barnett challenged Adam on the corner of the penalty area, but the City man seemed to get the ball and referee Walton gave the free-kick Norwich's way. In the final minute, Kuyt made way for Agger and there was a momentary panic for City when Ruddy let a cross through his fingers, leaving Barnett to clear for a corner.

Crofts replaced Pilkington and in a truly dramatic finale, Carroll headed inches wide with a free header from Gerrard's cross, and Ruddy made a stunning save from a Suarez volley to preserve a point for the Canaries.

• Result: Liverpool 1, Norwich City 1

• Liverpool: Reina; Glen Johnson, Carragher, Skrtel, Jose Enrique; Downing (Carroll, 80), Adam, Gerrard, Bellamy (Henderson, 69); Kuyt (Agger, 90), Suarez. Subs (not used): Doni, Flanagan, Spearing, Maxi Rodriguez.

• Norwich City: Ruddy; Naughton, Barnett, Russell Martin, Tierney; Bennett (Holt, 56), Fox, Bradley Johnson, Pilkington (Crofts, 90); Hoolahan; Morison. Subs (not used): Rudd, De Laet, Surman, Jackson, Wilbraham.

• Referee: Peter Walton (Northamptonshire)

• Attendance: 44,931

• Goals: Liverpool: Bellamy (45). City: Holt (60)

• Bookings: City: Tierney (34)

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Norwich put Holt to Anfield charge as Carroll counts cost

Delia Smith, Norwich City's owner, once wrote a book called One is Fun. For those taking the not-always obvious road back from Merseyside to Norfolk, this one point would have contained many more emotions than just fun. There would have been relief that they had survived an assault that had seen Liverpool aim 29 shots at John Ruddy's goal and strike the frame of it three times. There would have been pride that a side that had gone through two divisions in as many seasons had shown the resilience to ride out the storm and fight back.

As a game it might have reminded the Norwich manager, Paul Lambert, of one of his finest moments as a footballer when he was part of a Borussia Dortmund side that overcame Manchester United in a European Cup semi-final which saw Sir Alex Ferguson's forward line squander an array of chances. Right up until almost the last attack of the night that saw Ruddy save astonishingly from Luis Suarez, who might have had at least a hat-trick, it appeared Liverpool would win through. "It is a huge, huge point. Nobody gave us an earthly, here," said Lambert, who added that although they had lost at Old Trafford and Stamford Bridge earlier in the season, they had proved they could compete. And that is what would have stung Liverpool as the Anfield floodlights were extinguished over Stanley Park. Kenny Dalglish's side had played better than Chelsea or Manchester United and they had come away with less.

"What do we take from this game?" said the Liverpool manager, when asked for the positives of the evening. "A point." It was a game that turned on many things, not least Pepe Reina's instinctive save from a second header by Grant Holt (pictured) that might have given Norwich victory. Dalglish was angered not just by Peter Walton's refusal to award a penalty for what at first appeared a shoulder charge on Charlie Adam by Leon Barnett but by the referee's assumption that Suarez had dived when it seemed he had been hooked back by Marc Tierney. At Ajax, Suarez had something of a reputation as a diver and following the allegations of racism levelled at him by Patrice Evra after the 1-1 draw with Manchester United, Dalglish was anxious to defend his striker.

"I think the problem is - and I will say something but not add to it - that there are people who question his integrity," he remarked, aiming his comments squarely at Old Trafford. "It is their integrity that needs questioning, not his. I think he is a fantastic footballer and we have 100 per cent faith in Luis Suarez and the way he conducts himself." Whether Dalglish has total faith in Andy Carroll is another matter. The man upon whom he had spent [pounds sterling]35 million did not play at all against Manchester United and here came off the bench 10 minutes from the end to send a header from the six-yard line horribly wide.

It paled beside the header that turned what should have been a routine fixture into the stuff of headlines. Anthony Pilkington, hugging the right touchline, produced a perfect cross that Holt rose above Jamie Carragher and Glen Johnson to head home. It was the kind Alan Shearer would have wanted to claim for himself. This was similar to the opening game of the season, two months ago, when Liverpool had seized Sunderland by the throat and then let them go. That they had to wait until first-half stoppage time to take the lead through Craig Bellamy was one of the evening's less predictable features.

In the first half Norwich had chosen to defend the Kop, who were soon seeing an awful lot of red shirts flooding towards them. The assault began almost immediately with Martin Skrtel, driving to the edge of the six-yard box and sending a header from Adam's corner thundering against the crossbar.

For Liverpool almost everything good revolved around Suarez. Marking him was Leon Barnett, who came through a torrid encounter with his reputation and faculties largely intact. First the Uruguayan spun Barnett around and the whole stadium was on the edge of rising for the goal when the shot careered into the advertising hoardings. Nobody, not even Paolo Maldini, could have done much to have prevented what might have been one of the goals of the season.

It began with a long, high diagonal ball from Adam to Bellamy. He sprinted down the right flank and pulled back a cross that Suarez met low on the volley. Ruddy, who had spent several years on Everton's books, saved brilliantly with one glove, pushing the ball on to the post. All this before 15 minutes were up.

Early in the second half, Suarez swept past a wrong-footed Barnett once more and drove his shot firmly on to the foot of the post. Again, it would have been a perfect goal but for the fact it did not finish in the net.

Then, as quickly as it had blown up, Liverpool's storm abated and just as Lambert was putting the final touches to his team-talk, everything came unstuck as Bellamy pursued a long ball, took it into the area with his trademark short, quick steps and saw his shot deflect off Tierney's boot and finish in the net.

This was his first goal since returning to Liverpool and there is a tradition that you do not celebrate goals against your former clubs but Bellamy has had so many that it scarcely matters. He was ecstatic.

Liverpool (4-4-2): Reina; Johnson, Carragher, Skrtel, Enrique; Bellamy (Henderson, 69), Gerrard, Adam, Downing (Carroll, 80); Suarez, Kuyt (Agger, 90).

Norwich City: (4-5-1) Ruddy; Naughton, Barnett, Martin, Tierney; Bennett (Holt, 57), Fox, Hoolahan, Johnson, Pilkington (Crofts, 90); Morison.

Referee: Peter Walton. Man of the match: Ruddy (Norwich) Match rating: 7/10

Date: 22 October 2011
 Opposition: Norwich City
 Competition: League

Sunday Times	Times	Guardian	Telegraph
Mail on Sunday	Independent	Mirror	Echo
Observer	Sun Independent	Sunday Mirror	Sun Telegraph



22 October
2011



KENNY'S HOLT JOLT; Grant gets the nod to send Dalglish's men into shock at Anfield
LIVERPOOL 1 Bellamy 45+1
NORWICH 1 Holt 60
SUBSTITUTE Grant Holt silenced the Kop with a second-half equaliser as Norwich continued to show that they are a side to grace the top division. Paul Lambert's men were second best for long periods and fell behind to Craig Bellamy's strike just before half-time. But Holt was the Canaries' saviour just five minutes after coming off the bench. Liverpool were looking to build on a three-game unbeaten run - and a performance in the draw against Manchester United last week that proved Kenny Dalglish's team can compete with the best. Before kick-off fans on the Kop held up cards to produce a mosaic that read 'JFT 96' to signify victory in the battle to have Home Office documents concerning the Hillsborough tragedy made public. It was a poignant moment - and the home side opened with a passionate salvo that could have left Norwich fighting a losing battle inside 11 minutes. Within two minutes, Martin Skrtel met Steven Gerrard's near-post corner with a header that rattled the crossbar. Then Luis Suarez controlled Jose Enrique's throw in and with a swivel of his hips turned to leave Leon Barnett, Kyle Naughton and Bradley Johnson in his wake. But with Anfield preparing to celebrate one of the goals of the season, the Uruguayan shot wide - and got a rollicking off Craig Bellamy. Bellamy created Liverpool's next chance, taking Charlie Adam's crossfield pass well on his chest and crossing for Suarez to poke an instinctive shot goalwards, only for goalkeeper John Ruddy to push the ball against the post. It was a storming start by the Reds, although they were given a reminder that Norwich are at their best when playing on the front foot after Wes Hoolahan fired in an angled shot that Pepe Reina beat away with unease. "Paul Lambert's side were living dangerously again, though, when the livewire Suarez turned brilliantly, only to drag his shot wide. City responded with a period of neat passing football. And from David Fox's corner, Steve Morison leapt well at the far post only to bullet his header straight at Reina. Norwich, knowing that a win would take them level on points with Liverpool, were belatedly starting to ease into the pass-and-move style that has made them a welcome addition to the top flight. But Liverpool went ahead in first-half injury time when Bellamy scored his first goal since returning to the club. The Welshman, who started his career with Norwich, took full advantage when Russell Martin slipped as he tried to prevent Suarez racing on to Enrique's long punt. Bellamy did the rest with a shot that bounced in off Marc Tierney before sliding in front of the Kop to celebrate. The visitors started the second half well, with Anthony Pilkington striking a low drive that forced Reina into a save. But bums were off seats again when Suarez produced another moment of magic to smuggle himself past Leon Barnett only to see his toepoked effort ricochet off Martin and come back off the post. Lambert sent on Grant Holt for Elliott Bennett and within minutes the striker had hauled City level. Hoolahan found Pilkington in space down the right and when he crossed, Holt's movement was too much for Glen Johnson and he rose above Carragher and Reina to head into the top corner. Five minutes later, Grant should have scored again. Pilkington's cross from the left found the striker lurking unmarked at the far post but this time he headed too close to Reina. Liverpool seemed to be unravelling, although Suarez did send another chance straight at Ruddy. Dalglish sent on Andy Carroll in a desperate bid to force a winner, but the frustration only grew inside Anfield as City held on for the draw.
MULLOCK'S VERDICT
 This was another two points squandered by Liverpool - and it could cost them come the end of the season. Norwich were worth their share of the spoils as they fought their way back into the contest. Killer stat Liverpool have failed to keep a clean sheet in each of their last six PL home games. 0

The Sunday Telegraph

Norwich punish Liverpool's profligacy

Liverpool 1
 Bellamy 45
 Norwich 1
 Holt 60 Att: 44,931

The frustration ran deep at Anfield as this game drew to a close. If this side is to compete for the title, or even qualify for the Champions League, they know they need to put away teams at home. Having taken the lead, through Craig Bellamy, and hitting the woodwork three times, they looked like a team in control. Norwich had other ideas. At times they were overrun, with Luis Suarez causing mayhem. They are made of resilient stuff, though, and kept patiently putting together their moves when they could. With an hour played, their commitment brought an equaliser, thanks to substitute Grant Holt. Considering not a single member of Norwich's first XI played in the Premier League last season, they showed admirable composure. Dalglish was bold in his selection, playing Kuyt and Suarez up front with Stewart Downing cutting in from the right and Craig Bellamy scampering down the left. Sure enough, Liverpool started quickly, running towards the Kop. Before two minutes had been played Martin Skrtel sent a thumping header against the bar from Charlie Adam's corner and three minutes later Suarez turned Leon Barnett but could not get his shot on target. Norwich had no time to gather their composure. Bellamy darted down the left and played a low pass across the box, perfect for Suarez. The Uruguayan, using the pace of the ball, side-footed towards goal but John Ruddy, the Norwich goalkeeper, flung himself First strike: Craig Bellamy celebrates scoring the opening goal for Liverpool to his left and diverted it against the post. Downing, following up, hooked the ball wide. Having survived those early attacks, Norwich began to pull themselves together and realised there would be space to exploit. Steve Morison's flick gave Wes Hoolahan a sight of goal; Pepe Reina dealt with it. Liverpool swiftly reasserted themselves. Suarez had two decent chances, first put in by Glen Johnson and then by a cute, chipped Gerrard pass. Ruddy had to smother a Dirk Kuyt effort near the byline and Barnett had to make several key interceptions. The momentum was building and just when Norwich thought they had made it to half-time, Bellamy struck. Jose Enrique played a ball from deep on the left and Suarez got on the wrong side of Russell Martin. The pair tangled but referee Peter Walton played advantage. The ball hit Martin and dropped for Bellamy who sprinted into the box. He delayed his shot and when he finally did strike it, the ball ricocheted off Marc Tierney and into the net. Liverpool resumed with intent and had soon hit the woodwork for a third time. Suarez spun towards goal and shifted past Barnett but his effort deflected off Martin and on to the post. Norwich were in danger of losing any handle on this game. Paul Lambert decided to change things, taking off the speedy Elliott Bennett and replacing him with the bulk of centre-forward Grant Holt. It proved inspired. With an hour played - five minutes after Holt's entrance - they equalised. Anthony Pilkington found space on the right and sent in a curving cross that tempted Reina off his line. Holt timed his jump perfectly to get above Jamie Carragher and head into the abandoned net. Having looked in control, Liverpool were now panicky. The ball was too easily given away and on 65 minutes they nearly went behind. Again the home defence look vulnerable from the wide ball and Holt, unmarked, was given a free header at the far post. Reina's reactions saved Liverpool. Every time Suarez got the ball he looked dangerous and he was again denied by Ruddy when, having shaken off Barnett he could not squeeze the ball home. Time was running out for Liverpool, though, and it was Dalglish's turn to change things, although replacing the dangerous Bellamy with Jordan Henderson was a surprise. Downing switched to the left and Kuyt went wide right, with Henderson and Gerrard encouraged to attack. In their hurry to get forward Liverpool were misplacing passes and making poor decisions. They did, though, have a great chance to retake the lead when Barnett slipped - something that happened a lot to the Norwich players - and Suarez was in. Instinctively he tried to shoot across Ruddy when Gerrard was well-placed in the middle. Liverpool ramped up the intensity, with Andy Carroll replacing Downing. Kyle Naughton's mistake let Kuyt in and he went for the shot when, again, the pass was probably the better option. Adam then showed a turn of pace to beat two men on the left, nearly drawing Barnett into conceding a penalty. It carried on into stoppage time. First Carroll headed wide from Gerrard's cross and then Suarez was again denied by the superb Ruddy, the Norwich goalkeeper pushing his volley wide.

Date: 22 October 2011
 Opposition: Norwich City
 Competition: League

Sunday Times	Times	Guardian	Telegraph
Mail on Sunday	Independent	Mirror	Echo
Observer	Sun Independent	Sunday Mirror	Sun Telegraph



22 October
2011

Norwich battle back

NORWICH'S previous goal at Anfield was historic, the last to be struck in front of the old Kop before it was demolished to become all-seater. Jeremy Goss was the scorer and to the noisy fans in the away section and a beaming Delia in the directors box, Grant Holt is nearly as much a Canaries icon. Holt, the tyre fitter who grafted his way from the Unibond Premier to the Premier League, has come to represent his club's Cinderella story. Even Paul Lambert, in unguarded moments, is known to drop the dourness and praise him.

Here, with the kind of meaty, muscular header that has served him well from AFC Barrow, to Workington, and of course going up the divisions with Norwich, Holt won his club their best result since returning to the Premier League. It was a coup, also, for his manager. Lambert, 1-0 down at Anfield, with Luis Suarez rampant (if not in scoring form), might have gone for damage limitation had he a different mindset.

But Lambert, since he began re-energising his club in League One, has been positive and his response was to replace a midfielder, Elliott Bennett, with a second striker, and a talisman.

On bounded Holt. Three minutes later, from Anthony Pilkington's cross at the end of a sweeping counterattack, there he was, planting the ball into Liverpool's net for 1-1. It ended that way, somehow. Holt connected magnificently with a header again but Reina saved this time and in the final minutes Liverpool's pursuit of a winner was fierce. Suarez, volleying a Charlie Adam free kick, was foiled by John Ruddy's brilliant tip-over and Andy Carroll, from five yards, nodded Steven Gerrard's cross wide. Carroll was also a substitute. The thought that the target man Norwich introduced, [pounds sterling]34.6m cheaper, would have converted the chance, was inescapable.

Watching from the directors' box was Harry Redknapp and it was the kind of fixture that will be key to whether Liverpool can beat Tottenham for a place in the top four. Last season, Liverpool lost four of their six games against promoted clubs. Kenny Dalglish went for Norwich, fielding two wingers, an incorrigibly attacking full-back in Glen Johnson and Steven Gerrard and Charlie Adam - a midfield without a holding player.

His most successful stroke looked likely to be the choice of Dirk Kuyt, not Carroll, to partner Suarez. Carroll is a deluxe version of the kind of foe Russell Martin and Leon Barnett faced in the lower leagues, whereas a Kuyt/Suarez partnership was mobile, elusive, technical - and world-class in terms of football intelligence. Kuyt's timing and Suarez's ability to find spaces pulled Norwich's back four into uncomfortable shapes.

It was testimony to the discipline instilled by Lambert that the visiting defenders were able to keep getting back in position and, through their focus, competitiveness and a series of saving tackles and blocks, protect Ruddy's goal until first-half stoppage time.

Fortune was also required to delay Craig Bellamy's opener. Just 117 seconds had passed before Ruddy's bar was left shuddering by a Martin Skrtel header from Adam's corner and Ruddy's timbers proved useful once again when Suarez, sidefooting Bellamy's cut-back on the half-volley, forced tremendous work from the Norwich keeper, who palmed the ball against a post.

A breathtaking swivel, in the fifth minute, took Suarez between Leon Barnett and Kyle Naughton to produce a one-on-one with Ruddy but Suarez, with the outside of his foot, shot wide. He went close again with a hooked first-time shot from a Johnson pass.

Inevitably, when Liverpool finally led, Suarez was involved. Luis Enrique hit a long pass up the left and, waiting for its arrival, Suarez and Martin tussled and Martin went down. Peter Walton, the referee, seemed to indicate he would have given the foul Suarez's way and was playing advantage. Bellamy beat Naughton to the loose ball, got into the box and his shot beat Ruddy and went in off Marc Tierney's foot.

Liverpool needed the goal, for Norwich had dispelled most of their discomfort and were claiming an increasing share of the game. Wes Hoolahan, from Steve Morison's flick, smacked a powerful shot at Pepe Reina in the 15th minute, Morison tested Reina with a header, and either side of halftime the sparky Pilkington threatened from the edge of the area. Suarez - and woodwork - figured again when the Uruguayan nutmegged Barnett but Martin, alert, covered brilliantly and got a foot in the way to divert the striker's goalbound shot against a post.

On a different day, Suarez would have scored three but a different player might have fashioned a winning goal for Liverpool from the position he found himself in when he seized possession after Barnett's slip and tried to score from a tight angle. A simple square ball would have given the breaking Gerrard a tap-in. Gerrard held his head, frustrated, and as full-time sounded 15 minutes later his anguish only grew.

Liverpool: Reina 6, Johnson 6, Jose Enrique 5, Carragher 7, Skrtel 6, Gerrard 6, Downing 5 (Carroll 80min), Adam 6, Suarez 7, Kuyt 6 (Agger 90+1min), Bellamy 7 (Henderson 69min)

Norwich: Ruddy 8, R Martin 6, Barnett 6, Tierney 6, Naughton 5, Johnson 6, Pilkington 7 (Crofts 90+2min), Hoolahan 8, Fox 6, Bennett 5 (Holt 57min, 8), Morison 6

BELLAMY RETURNS TO HAUNT FIRST CLUB

Craig Bellamy is loved and hated by football fans, although Norwich supporters might be torn about their feelings for one of their favourite sons after he made them the victims of his first league goal since returning to Liverpool.

Bellamy, inset, spent four years at Carrow Road, going from a trainee to an international. They sold him to Coventry for [pounds sterling]6.5m. His transfer fees have totalled almost [pounds sterling]50m.

Liverpool boss Kenny Dalglish has waited a long time to beat Norwich - and the wait goes on. He has not won in his past six Premier League matches against the Norfolk club as a manager, since Blackburn's 7-1 victory in October 1992.

Liverpool's recent record against promoted sides is not good. Last season they lost four of the six they played.

Norwich's last win at Anfield came in April 1994. It was the last match at the ground before the Kop was demolished to make way for an all-seater stand.

LIVERPOOL 1

Bellamy 45+1

NORWICH 1

Holt 60

Star man: Wes Hoolahan (Norwich)

Yellow card: Norwich: Tierney

Referee: P Walton

Attendance: 44,931

Date: 22 October 2011
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22 October
2011

The Mail

Grant puts a halt to the Liverpool celebrations

LIVERPOOL 1

Bellamy (45)

NORWICH 1

Holt (60)

LIVERPOOL'S season is one of fits and starts. Just as they build a run of results, they suffer a setback.

Despite [pounds sterling]100million of investment in the past year, a return to the Champions League remains a possibility rather than a probability.

Yesterday evening they had ample possession and chances. Indeed even in the dying seconds, Andy Carroll headed wide from close range and John Ruddy made an outstanding save to deny Luis Suarez.

Liverpool should have won but their inability to finish off weaker opposition allowed Norwich to earn a commendable point.

Though Liverpool were dominant in the first half, they were never convincing.

They started brightly, when Suarez executed a great fifth-minute turn on Leon Barnett but shot just wide.

Then Craig Bellamy dashed down the left and his pullback was swept goalwards by Suarez, who was denied by an excellent Ruddy tip on to a post.

Norwich had looked a dysfunctional unit in the opening exchanges. Yet, as they gathered their poise, they gained a foothold in the game.

Barnett made some crucial interventions, notably one superbly timed tackle on Suarez, and Norwich began to demonstrate the football that had so surprised Manchester United at Old Trafford. Wes Hoolahan impressed with his ability to double up as defensive midfielder and support striker with a phenomenal work rate.

One sequence of play in the first half had Norwich fans roaring 'ole' as they passed around Liverpool, culminating in Anthony Pilkington almost heading in as Glen Johnson cleared. Pepe Reina saved smartly from Steve Morison's header from the resulting corner.

However, those attacking moments were rare as Liverpool pressed on. Norwich's defensive lines looked as though they might hold out at least until half time until a calamitous sequence of events in the final seconds of added time undid their good work.

A hopeful ball from Jose Enrique for Suarez ended with Russell Martin falling as he grappled with the Uruguayan and presenting the ball to Bellamy, whose shot still needed a deflection off Marc Tierney to beat Ruddy.

Liverpool received a warning against complacency early in the second half as Pilkington forced a save from Reina from 20 yards.

But Suarez again brought The Kop to their feet on 52 minutes, bringing the ball down exquisitely and shimmying past Barnett, only for Martin to deflect his shot on to a post.

Grant Holt was sent on after 57 minutes as Norwich manager Paul Lambert sought to gain something from the game.

But Bellamy, booed by fans of his former club, went close on 57 minutes, his header from Stewart Downing's cross being saved by Ruddy.

Holt would have his moment when a lax Liverpool midfield allowed the ball to be worked to Pilkington, who had time and space to deliver a decent cross.

Like a centre forward of old -- John Toshack in front of The Kop sprung to mind -- Holt outjumped both centre halves and Reina to head home.

It was a glorious moment for Norwich, with owner Delia Smith leading the excited celebrations from the directors' box. But it was a poor goal for Liverpool to concede.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-1-1): Reina; Johnson, Carragher, Skrtel, Enrique; Downing (Carroll 80min), Adam, Gerrard, Bellamy (Henderson 69); Kuyt (Agger 90); Suarez. Subs (not used): Doni, Maxi, Spearing, Flanagan.

NORWICH (4-4-1-1): Ruddy; Naughton, Barnett, R Martin, Tierney; Bennett (Holt 57), Fox, Johnson, Pilkington (Crofts 90); Hoolahan; Morison. Subs (not used): Rudd, Jackson, Surman, Wilbraham, De Laet. Booked: Tierney.

Referee: P Walton.

Uruguayan had an off day, while the more limited Norwich striker made the most of what little came his way.

"We're not just a hard-working side, we have some top players," Paul Lambert, the Norwich manager, said. "I thought Suarez's last chance was going in but John Ruddy came up with a world-class save. I hear England are looking at him, they could certainly do a lot worse." Kenny Dalglish thought his side deserved three points on the balance of play, but accepted they had not converted enough opportunities.

"When there's only one goal in it you are always liable to get caught," the Liverpool manager said. "I'm disappointed, but we'll play a lot worse than that."

Liverpool could have been two goals up within five minutes. Martin Skrtel rattled Ruddy's bar with a header, then when Suarez easily rounded Leon Barnett to leave himself a clear chance, the Kop gasped in anticipation only for the striker to miss the target. When Craig Bellamy set up Suarez again Ruddy managed to tip his sidefooted effort on to a post, before Stewart Downing squandered the rebound.

Liverpool were playing with more urgency and penetration, with not only Bellamy but Glen Johnson restored to the side, and it appeared only a matter of time before Norwich were broken down, though before Suarez fired wide with his third clear chance Wes Hoolahan did manage to bring a save from Pepe Reina.

After surviving the initial rush, Norwich began to play themselves into the game and hold their own in midfield. Reina had to be alert to hold a far-post header from Steve Morison after David Fox's corner. Then Elliott Bennett dispossessed Jose Enrique on the edge of the area but could get his shot away. By the halfway point of the first half the Norwich fans felt sufficiently emboldened to ask where the famous Anfield atmosphere was. Another 10 minutes and they were making comparisons with libraries, and they had a point.

By the interval it was debatable whether Liverpool deserved to take a lead, though they ended up with one courtesy of a couple of Norwich blunders. Russell Martin was so busy trying to keep Suarez in check as Liverpool played a long ball forward from the back that he inadvertently knocked the ball into Bellamy's path.

The much travelled striker was not about to pass up the opportunity to score against his first club but his shot was helped into the net by a deflection from Marc Tierney that took Ruddy out of the equation.

Norwich began the second half promisingly, Anthony Pilkington bringing a diving save from Reina, but were lucky not to get further behind when Suarez demonstrated his movement and ability to make something out of nothing.

Turning and skipping away from a bemused Barnett for the second time Suarez made space for a shot, and though he flicked the ball past Ruddy, Martin's outstretched leg appeared from nowhere to divert the effort on to an upright and out. Suarez looked as if an entire season's luck had deserted him in a single afternoon, though his misses never appeared likely to be costly until Norwich pulled themselves back into the game on the hour.

Lambert made an attacking gamble by sending on Holt and within three minutes he headed them level. Hoolahan spread the ball right and from Pilkington's perfect, hanging cross, Holt arrived at a gallop to beat Jamie Carragher, Johnson and Reina and thump home a header. Holt had an equally inviting chance three minutes later, from a Pilkington cross from the left, but Reina stayed on his line and beat the ball away.

Only then did Dalglish call on Carroll, puzzling some home fans by cutting another of his supply lines when Downing was asked to make way. As Bellamy had already been replaced by Jordan Henderson it meant Carroll had to operate without natural wingers on either flank. He managed little of note, missing his one opportunity, a close-range header from a Steven Gerrard cross in added time.

Suarez missed a couple more chances, Barnett recovered some kudos with a great tackle on Charlie Adam, and Norwich escaped with a point, though only after heroics from Ruddy to keep out Suarez's volley in the dying seconds.

Despite an FA request not to discuss the two players involved while an investigation into last week's accusations of alleged racism takes place, Dalglish again chose to offer unequivocal backing. "There are people questioning Luis Suarez's integrity, it's their integrity that needs questioning," he said. "On the pitch he is exemplary, and we have complete faith in him and the way he conducts himself."

LIVERPOOL

Reina; Johnson, Carragher, Skrtel, Jose Enrique; Downing (Carroll 80), Gerrard, Adam, Bellamy (Henderson 69); Kuyt (Agger 90), Suarez

Subs not used Doni, Flanagan, Rodriguez, Spearing

NORWICH

Ruddy; Naughton, R Martin, Barnett, Tierney (Booked); Johnson; Bennett (Holt 57), Fox, Hoolahan, Pilkington (Crofts 90); Morison Subs not used Rudd, De Laet, Surman, Jackson, Wilbraham

Anfield 44,931

Game rating 7/10

Referee Peter Walton