

Date: 23 September 2012
 Opposition: Manchester United
 Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	MEN



23 September
2012

THE TIMES

Spotlight turns to Halsey after Shelvey red card

Liverpool 1 Gerrard 46
 Manchester United 2 Rafael 51, Van Persie 81 (pen)
 Referee M Halsey Attendance 44,263

There was, after all, a football match to be played at Anfield yesterday. After the emotional build-up, the heartfelt pleas to supporters -- and to at least one player - the floral tributes, the three powerful mosaics and the release of 96 balloons, Mark Halsey, the referee, blew his whistle and no doubt prayed that the rest of the afternoon would go equally to plan. But it could not. It was Liverpool versus Manchester United, a fixture that, in terms of intensity both on and off the pitch, has few rivals in world football. There would be big decisions to make in an atmosphere where it can be difficult to hear yourself think.

Nearly two hours later, Halsey left the pitch to the sound of jeers, the pantomime villain on a day when Liverpool had 96 extra reasons to lust for victory over United. Halsey had sent off Jonjo Shelvey, the Liverpool midfielder, in the first half and then, with the game in the balance, awarded United a controversial penalty, converted by Robin van Persie with nine minutes left.

Halsey will have more relaxing days at the office. By today's rules, he was right to send off Shelvey for a dangerous lunge at Jonny Evans in the 39th minute, but the better question was whether, as Brendan Rodgers felt, Evans should also have been shown the red card for the way he contested the challenge. As for the penalty, as Antonio Valencia fell with Glen Johnson closing in on him from behind, it was soft, but far from clear cut. The result was undoubtedly harsh on Liverpool. Even Sir Alex Ferguson admitted that United had been "poor", with Liverpool the better team even after the red card. United were also poor in victory away to Southampton and, at times, in their 3-2 victory over Fulham. But then the point is that Ferguson's team are good at doing what is necessary to win football matches -- and Liverpool have not been for some time.

This was Liverpool's fifth Barclays Premier League match without a victory under Rodgers, but at least the new manager can justifiably point to progress being made in terms of performance. The concern would be that it is taking time to cure the malaise that long pre-dated his arrival. Liverpool have barely had a consistent run in three years; in 2012 they have won just two out of 12 league games at Anfield and five out of 24 overall.

Before the Shelvey red card, Liverpool did everything their new manager asks of them. With United looking strangely subdued, the home team made much the stronger start, with Joe Allen measured in possession and Raheem Sterling again to the fore, but they lack a truly penetrative player in their front three, let alone one who can be relied upon to take up goalscoring positions.

Then came the red card. Shelvey tackled Ryan Giggs on the halfway line and then, as the ball ran away from him, jumped into his challenge with Evans, who came off worse. Halsey showed the red card and Shelvey, on his way off the pitch, remonstrated with Ferguson, seemingly about how Rio Ferdinand had encouraged Halsey to show the card. Liverpool were undeterred, even after their line-up was further disrupted by the loss of Fabio Borini to injury at half-time.

Within a minute of the restart Suso, Borini's Spanish replacement, was involved in a move that ended with the impressive Glen Johnson tricking his way into the area, leading to a tackle from Paul Scholes. The ball was controlled on the chest by Gerrard and the Liverpool captain struck a left-foot shot past Anders Lindegaard from 18 yards. Gerrard's celebrations were emotional. He pointed to the heavens -- a gesture, it seemed, to all of the 96 who died at Hillsborough, but perhaps above all to Jon-Paul Gilhooley, his cousin, who was the youngest of the victims of the tragedy on April 15, 1989.

But the Gerrard goal woke United from their slumber. Scholes, a half-time substitute for the ineffective Nani, was prominently involved in a move that saw him sweep the ball out to Rafael Da Silva on the right-hand side. Rafael sought out Valencia and then Shinji Kagawa's layoff sent the ball the back to Rafael, who steadied himself and curled a wonderful shot in off the far post.

For a time, United seemed to be making their one-man advantage count, with Scholes pulling the strings, but the pendulum swung back to Liverpool. Luis Suarez had a penalty appeal rejected following a challenge by Evans, but the forward is always far more dangerous when he focuses on playing the game than trying to referee it. On the hour he tested Lindegaard with a fierce shot from distance.

Soon after he set up Suso for a shot that the goalkeeper deflected.

Even a man short, Liverpool seemed to be building towards a crescendo, but their good work was undone when Daniel Agger erred in his casual flick from Suso's pass. As Valencia seized on the loose ball, Agger and Johnson collided with each other. Agger stayed down as Johnson recovered to catch up with Valencia, but seemed to clip him as the winger slowed down. Penalty, said Halsey.

Little had been seen of Van Persie all afternoon, but the spotlight on the United forward grew in the four-minute delay as Agger underwent treatment and was eventually carried off. Finally, Van Persie stepped up and struck his shot to the goalkeeper's left and although Pepe Reina got both hands to the ball he could not keep it out. United were 2-1 up with nine minutes to go.

That seemed to knock the stuffing out of Liverpool. There was a header wide from Martin Kelly, but by now United had found the resilience that is needed to win at a place like Anfield -- or at least was needed yesterday. The challenge for Rodgers is to make it a fortress again.

the guardian

Angry Rodgers hits out at referee on day of emotion and controversy
 Liverpool (0) 1 Gerrard 46

Manchester United (0) 2 Da Silva 51, Van Persie 81pen

The Kop stirred one more time to sing Brendan Rodgers's name but the final tribute of an emotional, absorbing and controversial Anfield afternoon was motivated by sympathy, not acclaim, for the Liverpool manager. He is without a win after five league games in charge and after Manchester United's first victory here in five years, luckless too.

Sir Alex Ferguson received the points and his team the benefit of every contentious decision as Robin van Persie's late penalty, United's first successful effort from the spot in four this season, applied gloss to their mediocre display. Ferguson was also labelled a "grass" by Jonjo Shelvey for an unseen role in the midfielder's decisive first-half dismissal, the one major call from the referee Mark Halsey over which Liverpool could have no complaint. Not that it prevented Rodgers from trying.

"If Jonjo gets sent off then Jonny Evans has to be sent off as well," the Liverpool manager said. Both players had gone two-footed into a 50-50 challenge shortly before the interval but it has to be considered "careless, reckless or using excessive force" for a referee to show red and only Shelvey was adjudged guilty on that score.

"It was a tackle that both players had to go for but the Liverpool player can't be sent off and the Manchester United player stay on," he added. "It was very, very harsh and that's how it was throughout the game. There were a number of poor decisions that cost us."

Rodgers's frustration was understandable. Liverpool were the dominant force with 11 men, took a deserved lead with 10 but on the penalty award that ultimately gave United victory and perhaps an Evans challenge on Luis Suarez inside the United area, his grievance had legitimacy. He also had to contend with the loss of Fabio Borini, Daniel Agger and Martin Kelly to injury, the Italian forward and Danish defender potentially seriously.

"The best team lost," Rodgers added. Even Ferguson conceded: "A win's a win, so we've got to be pleased with the result, but not the performance."

The tribute to the victims of Hillsborough and their families had been impeccably observed by everyone inside Anfield before the kick-off, Suarez shook hands with Patrice Evra and the focus of the pre-match concern passed without incident. Which made it all the more ridiculous that the controversy should erupt from a Liverpool player with his team in the ascendancy.

Rodgers's team dominated the first half thanks in the main to the prodigious pressing and work-rate of Steven Gerrard and Joe Allen in central midfield, Suarez up front and an intelligent display on the right by the 17-year-old Raheem Sterling. By contrast, United were slow to the ball and sloppy in possession, with Ryan Giggs and Michael Carrick anonymous and Nani a liability out on the left. Anders Lindegaard, selected ahead of David de Gea behind a visiting defence missing the injured Nemanja Vidic, made the game's first save from Suarez's angled shot across goal and only instinctive reactions from Rafael da Silva and Carrick prevented Borini and Gerrard converting on the follow-up.

The pattern hardly changed until United, with Paul Scholes added to midfield, eventually ground down Liverpool's 10 men. Gerrard escaped his marker to turn Shelvey's short corner into the side-netting via a rare touch from Van Persie and despite creating few clear-cut openings, the home side were in control. Then Shelvey helped United where they needed it most by weakening Liverpool's midfield with a dangerous challenge on Evans. He left the field with a heated exchange and an accusatory finger at Ferguson. "I don't think he went for the ball," the United manager said. "The boy's gone in really dangerously and I don't think there's any other decision the referee could have given. He was trying to blame me, I suppose. Once he looks at it he can apologise if he likes."

An apology of sorts did arrive from Shelvey's Twitter account. He wrote: "I apologise to the fans for getting sent off but no way was I pulling out of that tackle in a game of that importance. I'm sorry." He added: "I have also apologised to Sir Alex, just where I come from people don't grass people up to get someone sent off."

Liverpool pressed on with 10 men and it was no less than they deserved when the excellent Gerrard put them ahead a minute after the restart. United failed to clear a left-wing cross from the substitute Suso and the captain capitalised to chest and volley into the bottom corner. Gerrard, who lost a cousin at Hillsborough, pointed to the sky in celebration but the lead lasted only five minutes before Antonio Valencia and Shinji Kagawa combined for Da Silva to curl an exquisite left-foot shot in off the far post.

Halsey ignored Liverpool penalty appeals after challenges by Evans and Scholes on Suarez and Sterling respectively, but awarded United a soft one when Glen Johnson was adjudged to have caught Valencia. Liverpool's converted left-back did not play the ball as Valencia dithered in the area, but contact was minimal. Despite Jose Reina's best efforts and following a lengthy delay as Agger was carried off with a suspected medial knee ligament injury, Van Persie succeeded where he, Javier Hernandez and Nani had all failed this season, and ended United's misery from the penalty spot. Rodgers's misfortune, by contrast, continues.

Man of the match Steven Gerrard (Liverpool)

Date: 23 September 2012
 Opposition: Manchester United
 Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	MEN



23 September
2012

The Mail

A SPOT OF BOTHER; Rodgers is riled by referee on an emotional day
 LIVERPOOL 1 MAN UTD 2

THERE were moments to savour. There was the poignancy of Steven Gerrard pointing to the heavens, to his 10-year-old cousin and the 95 other victims of Hillsborough, as he celebrated his goal in front of the Kop.

There were the tributes to the Hillsborough families before kick-off, and the applause from Manchester United fans at the conclusion of You'll Never Walk Alone. There was the sight of Luis Suarez and Patrice Evra shaking hands. Not to mention the first sighting of Kenny Dalglish at Anfield since his dismissal in the summer. Dalglish understands as well as anyone that never is football more important than life or death.

A mindless minority forgot that, trading in the insults this game was supposed to bring to an end. After the final whistle, as the stadium began to empty, United fans -- claiming they were provoked by two Liverpool supporters -- were also heard singing sickening chants.

But at Anfield yesterday there was also a football match, and within the context of football, in its sporting isolation, there was anger and bitterness, drama and cries of injustice, and what remained an entertaining game.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers felt his team were unfortunate. In his eyes Mark Halsey was no more justified in dismissing Jonjo Shelvey after 39 minutes than he was in awarding United what proved a decisive penalty for what he considered the softest of challenges by Glen Johnson.

Liverpool's manager was right about one thing. The better team lost, the hosts playing the superior football even after Shelvey's red card.

United were lacklustre; lacking in energy as well as inspiration. But was Halsey right to send off Shelvey? Yes. And was it a penalty? Yes again.

In fairness, Luis Suarez should have had a penalty too and Rodgers had a point when he said Jonny Evans was also reckless in the challenge with Shelvey.

But Evans did not appear to have lost control in the manner Shelvey clearly had, the Liverpool midfielder's finger-wagging attack on Sir Alex Ferguson further evidence of that.

When the frustration and anger has subsided, Rodgers will also have to concede that his team are reflecting on a third defeat in five Barclays Premier League games because of that failure to replace Andy Carroll before the transfer window closed. This encounter was crying out for a centre forward to partner Suarez, and the absence of such an individual will undermine Liverpool's efforts until Rodgers can address the issue.

He should remain encouraged by some of the football his team played, and by the maturity displayed by Raheem Sterling when he was the third youngest player in history -- behind Duncan Edwards and Lee Sharpe -- to appear in this fixture.

For the first 45 minutes Liverpool dominated, with Suarez and Gerrard going desperately close to scoring. Gerrard was excellent here yesterday. But when Shelvey launched himself two-footed at a 50/50 ball, he caught Evans with his right boot to leave the United defender writhing in agony.

Halsey saw it immediately as a straight red, clearly concluding that while Evans also went in with studs showing he was both in control and in no way endangering his opponent. A tough one to argue, perhaps, but Evans did make cleaner contact with the ball, with the side of his right foot, and his left foot was nowhere near Shelvey.

While Evans clutched his leg in pain, Shelvey turned first on Rio Ferdinand and then Ferguson; that attack sparked, seemingly, by the feeling that the United manager had in some way influenced Halsey. He revealed as much in one or two foolish tweets after the match.

Ferguson smiled in response before replacing Nani with Paul Scholes at the break, but his side conceded the opening goal inside the first minute of the second half. It was a delightful finish from Gerrard, controlling Johnson's deflected ball on his chest before beating Anders Lindegaard with a marvellous volley.

United responded, Rafael da Silva levelling within five minutes with a terrific curling left-foot effort that beat Pepe Reina via the inside of a post.

Still, Liverpool remained in control, with Suarez more than deserving of a penalty when he was caught on the foot in the box by Evans. But a spot-kick was not given and that may have had something to do with the fact Suarez made much more of it than he needed to. He has a history of histrionics and he paid for it here yesterday. It nevertheless made what followed in the 76th minute all the more painful for the hosts.

On Friday Ferguson complained that only once in nearly 26 years had his side been awarded a penalty at Anfield. But when Johnson lost possession to Antonio Valencia, he chased the United winger and foolishly fouled him in the penalty area, first by clipping Valencia's heel and then by lunging in from behind when he had no hope of winning the ball.

United had missed their previous three penalties, and Reina almost saved this effort from an otherwise ineffective Robin van Persie. But the ball reached its target and a Liverpool side which actually ended the game with nine men -- thanks to an injury to Martin Kelly -- had no answer. It meant Gerrard's goal amounted to nothing, even if it did remain one of the many positives on a day when two clubs went to every effort to do things properly.

The Daily Telegraph

Ruthless United make Liverpool pay for mistakes

Liverpool 1

Gerrard 46

Manchester United 2

Rafael 51, Van Persie 81 pen Att: 44,263

Brendan Rodgers' side were left languishing in the bottom three, still without a league victory, after defeat to their bitter rivals and a historically bad league position needs changing quickly by Liverpool's new manager.

The solemnity of the pre-match ceremonies gave way to the Kop's fury at the officials on the final whistle. You would expect nothing less when Sir Alex Ferguson leaves Anfield clutching three points, especially when there is a perception of one-sidedness in the key decisions.

The refereeing of Mark Halsey was the prime focus after he dismissed Jonjo Shelvey after 39 minutes and awarded a penalty, duly dispatched by Robin van Persie nine minutes from time.

Petulance shall not be denied its day when United visit Anfield. The mini-break ushered in when Sir Bobby Charlton gifted a bouquet to Ian Rush was over once Gerry Marsden stopped singing. The hostility associated with meetings between the clubs was duly restored.

After a prolonged period in which United were pitifully poor and Liverpool monopolised possession, Shelvey thrust his boot on to the shin of Jonny Evans and Halsey reduced Liverpool to 10 men.

Perplexingly, Shelvey was granted a standing ovation and felt justified in giving a verbal volley to Ferguson as he departed. He later apologised.

Shelvey has been fortunate in several games this season, needlessly diving in with tackles that have added ferocity as both feet leave the ground. He has been punished lightly for worse offences than yesterday's. The only debate was whether Evans should have received a red card too for his own arguably reckless challenge. Van Persie was fortunate to escape punishment for a similar tackle on Suso in the second half.

Liverpool's prospects looked grim when down to 10 men, but their response belied their league placing. At such occasions, you can expect to witness numerous symbolic gestures, so when Steven Gerrard volleyed Liverpool ahead a minute after the break, the afternoon's most enduring image seemed to have arrived.

Liverpool's captain was a bereaved relative following Hillsborough. There could have been no more fitting goalscorer, but the opening goal provoked United into their first meaningful spell of pressure. The influence of Van Persie, Ryan Giggs and Michael Carrick had been peripheral. For Nani and Shinji Kagawa, both substituted, it was negligible.

Ferguson sent on Paul Scholes at half-time to repel the domination of Gerrard and Joe Allen, but the equaliser arrived from a surprising source.

Rafael da Silva's sweet left-footer after 51 minutes clipped the inside of a post, leaving Pepe Reina a helpless observer. It did not instantly create a momentum shift as Luis Suarez twice went close, encouraging Anders Lindegaard to prove his right to be United's new first choice.

Raheem Sterling and Spanish teenager Suso were leading Liverpool's Youth Cup charge two years ago, but they took the threat to the visitors as Rodgers refused to allow their inexperience to compromise his belief in their quality.

Whether their inclusion is out of courage or necessity - probably both - there is always a price to be paid from expecting so much, so soon of teenagers, who will make mistakes in the most punishing glare.

It was Suso's wayward pass leaving Daniel Agger trying to trick his way out of trouble, colliding with Glen Johnson and enabling Antonio Valencia to make the 40-yard dash into Liverpool's penalty box, which led to the winner. Valencia may have tripped over himself as much as feeling a push from Johnson, but for all the wrath directed at Halsey, Liverpool's complicity in their own downfall could not be ignored.

It seems Liverpool have to work much harder to score than their opponents, who are consistently benefiting from basic errors.

For Rodgers, there was again much to admire beyond the result, but he needs to banish hard-luck tales. When it is suggested he needs time, it should not be stated flippantly as a few months, or even a season, but for as long as it takes to build a side full of his own signings. Allen, for example, already looks the heir apparent when Gerrard gives up the captain's armband.

The gap between Liverpool and United, however, is more than the 10 points that separate them a mere five games into the campaign.

United again underlined their capacity to succeed at the most daunting of venues when several gears below full pelt. Where Liverpool possess some eloquence across the pitch, United have ruthlessness and the ability to find goals from any position. That is why Ferguson departed Merseyside having extended United's run as the most successful away team at Anfield in Premier League history.

Rodgers, after the club's worst start in 101 years, needs to find a winning formula to ensure United fans' relegation taunts are quickly banished.

Date: 23 September 2012
 Opposition: Manchester United
 Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	MEN



23 September
2012

THE INDEPENDENT

Van Persie keeps his cool on day of tension

The best you could say about an occasion yesterday when the most bitter rivals in English football met on a day so heavy with significance for the people of Liverpool, was that it could have been a lot worse. That was about as much as anyone could have hoped for. The tension was there all day, from the Manchester United fans singing their own songs during the playing of "You'll Never Walk Alone" to the two-footed tackle from Jonjo Shelvey that earned him a red card and precipitated his touchline ruck with Sir Alex Ferguson. There are many elements to Liverpool v United that are utterly compelling but it would be fair to say that both sides went right up to the limits of what was decent.

Off the pitch there was a confrontation between Liverpool and United supporters at the end of the game when United aired their "Always the victim", "Murderers" and "Justice for Heysel" chants. They claim none refer directly to the Hillsborough disaster but these songs are undoubtedly provocative. Two Liverpool supporters were alleged to have made aeroplane gestures - a reference to the Munich disaster - to provoke them. It was unedifying and unpleasant on both sides.

The game itself was fairly low on quality but absolutely packed with incident. That it ended with the usually measured Brendan Rodgers (right) giving a withering verdict on the performance of referee Mark Halsey was a clear sign that this was no ordinary game, on no ordinary day. As for the atmosphere between the fans during the game, it was strained but fell the right side of the line. Technically speaking no-one had specifically asked United fans not to sing through "You'll Never Walk Alone". It should also be noted that at least the away end was full for the pre-match tribute to the victims of Hillsborough. Around the 12th minute, the United fans also chanted "Where's your famous Munich song?" to the home support which was the moment that it could have descended into something much worse, but thankfully the peace held.

Once Sir Bobby Charlton had presented a bouquet of flowers to Ian Rush on the pitch, and Ryan Giggs and Steven Gerrard released 96 balloons in memory of the victims of Hillsborough, a football match broke out. Giggs was made United captain for the day in the absence of the injured Nemanja Vidic, instead of his usual deputy Patrice Evra whom Ferguson recognised would have been a bad choice for obvious reasons. Evra and Luis Suarez did, however, shake hands before the game, as promised. Liverpool looked sharp; United started poorly. In the first half, Steven Gerrard, Raheem Sterling and Joe Allen were excellent.

Gerrard and Allen controlled the game while Sterling, at 17 the youngest Liverpool player to start in the history of this fixture, looked dangerous. By contrast, Luis Nani, United's worst performer, misplaced passes and was substituted for Paul Scholes at half-time. The game turned for the first time with Shelvey's sending off which, as with much else in this match, was not as clear-cut as it might first have appeared. His lunge on 37 minutes ticked all the boxes for the red-card criteria of being reckless and using excessive force. However, Jonny Evans, with whom Shelvey made contact, also went in two-footed and when Rodgers pointed out later that Evans deserved an equal punishment it was hard to disagree. Shelvey pointed and swore at Ferguson as he left the pitch, a reaction it seemed to Ferguson having chided the home crowd for applauding the player off. Shelvey's attempt at a Twitter apology afterwards was so laughably half-hearted he later thought better of it and deleted it. Rio Ferdinand was United's best player, a cool head on a stormy day, but even he could have done better for Liverpool's goal. A cross from the substitute Jesus "Suso" Fernandez dropped to Gerrard in space, who chested it down and shot past Anders Lindegaard.

Gerrard's glance and gesture to the sky in his celebration can only have been in tribute to his cousin Jon-Paul Gilhooley, of the 96 to die at Hillsborough. With just 10 men, however, Liverpool were under pressure. Rafael da Silva scored a fine equaliser five minutes later, a left-footed shot which clipped the inside of Pepe Reina's post and dropped in. Then it was a tale of two penalties. The first, on 57 minutes, was not given by referee Halsey even though replays showed that Suarez's heel had been clipped by Evans. The penalty that Antonio Valencia won against Glen Johnson was equally marginal, albeit the right decision. There had been contact between the two players after a collision between Johnson and Daniel Agger had allowed Valencia to run at goal. Johnson caught him up but also caught Valencia as the defender tried to get around him. It was United's first penalty at Anfield since 1999. Robin van Persie put the ball firmly to the left of Reina, who guessed correctly but could not keep it out and from there it was always a difficult task for Liverpool. Agger came off to be replaced by Jamie Carragher - his chat with Ferguson on the touchline was a rare outbreak of friendliness - and with all three substitutes used Liverpool finished with nine men when Martin Kelly was injured later. Fabio Borini, substituted at half-time, may also have a serious injury. "Going down, going down" was the United chant to a club now 18th after five games and still without a win. The Kop responded by singing Rodgers' name and he looked like he appreciated it.

The most damaging exchange between the two sets of supporters took place when both teams were off the pitch and the vast majority of the home fans had left. Neither was it broadcast live. A kind of peace had held out, although it was always best to expect the very minimum in that respect when it comes to a rivalry as toxic as this one.

DAILY MIRROR

RVP makes Reds pay the penalty for sending off

Determined when the questions were asked. Fortunate in the key decisions. Above all, clinical in the two moments that mattered.

And while this was an act of footballing larceny, an utterly undeserved victory from a game in which they were distinctly second best, Sir Alex Ferguson and his men will not care a jot.

On an afternoon where, thankfully, the controversy was on the Anfield pitch, rather than in the stands, United's enduring virtues helped steal three points. And theft it was, even though Jonjo Shelvey's first-half red card should have given them a springboard to dominate.

Instead, slapdash and insipid, deservedly trailing when the man who epitomises the spirit of Liverpool, skipper Steven Gerrard, put Brendan Rodgers' side ahead, United dragged themselves back on level terms with a stunner from Rafael.

Then, when a catalogue of blunders ended with Glenn Johnson clipping Antonio Valencia's heels, Robin Van Persie ensured United's first penalty at Anfield since 1999 ended a run of three spot-kick misses by the Old Trafford side, despite Pepe Reina getting both hands to the ball.

In truth, the two shots which found the back of Reina's net were the only times when United even looked like scoring.

Liverpool, by contrast, even when they lost Shelvey to a reckless lunge on Jonny Evans, had most of the ball, virtually all of the chances and the threat - and ended up with nothing to show for it.

That is what happens when luck is against you, Anfield's sense of injustice - directed mainly at referee Mark Halsey although too many idiots think jeering Patrice Evra remains justified - exacerbated by worries over Daniel Agger's knee ligament injury.

Rodgers, though, feared the consequences of Liverpool's transfer deadline wobble over Clint Dempsey might be felt and five games bringing just four goals and two points signal the lack of potency in his squad. The Liverpool boss paid tribute to both sets of supporters but was less impressed by the referee's performance.

This was a game Liverpool should have won. Driven on by Gerrard, with Luiz Suarez a fizz-ball of energy, Raheem Sterling putting Evra under pressure and far more zest and thrust, the home side dominated, despite Shelvey's foolishness. But until Gerrard struck, 45 seconds after the restart, Anders Lindegaard had not really been forced into enough work. Rio Ferdinand was immaculate at the heart of the United rearguard, offering food for thought for the watching Roy Hodgson. Indeed, the key moment of the first period came in the middle of the park, as Shelvey left the ground to go crashing into Evans, catching the Irishman, who was in for the injured Nemanja Vidic.

Evans was no saint, having gone for the ball with both feet, but Halsey identified Shelvey as the miscreant, the Liverpool midfielder's verbal blast at Ferguson as he made his way to the tunnel, blaming the United boss for his dismissal, evidence of a player who had lost his internal compass.

Lindegaard saved a Suarez free-kick but straight after the interval Liverpool went in front.

Suso, on for injured Fabio Borini, crossed and while Ferdinand cleared to Johnson, Paul Scholes - who replaced the awful Nani at the break - could only prod across his own goal where Gerrard collected on his chest to finish left-footed.

Within five minutes United were level. Rafael stayed up after finding Valencia, whose cross was chested down by Shinji Kagawa for the Brazilian right-back to curl home superbly with his left foot.

Liverpool, despite being a man short, responded and Evans got lucky when he caught Suarez after the Uruguayan beat him to Sterling's pass into the box. It should have been a penalty.

Then Lindegaard pulled off important stops to foil Suarez down to his right and also Suso's rising effort before Scholes began to take advantage of home team's tiredness. Even so, the winner was self-inflicted, Agger's attempted drag-back seeing Valencia speed clear from halfway as the Dane collided with Johnson, who got up to run 50 yards and then catch the United winger with a foot - and hands in the back.

Van Persie waited fully five minutes until Agger was eventually carted off before claiming his fifth goal in his new colours and while Martin Kelly - whose knee injury late on meant Liverpool finished with nine men - nodded wide, United ended in command.

Harsh, yes. But that is what football is. And United, once again, had shown they can win despite themselves. What Rodgers would give for that.

Date: 23 September 2012
 Opposition: Manchester United
 Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	MEN



23 September
2012



LIVERPOOL'S wait for a first Premier League win of the season goes on after losing 2-1 to Manchester United on an emotional and controversial afternoon at Anfield. Hopes that this day would be remembered for what happened on the pitch were realised as touching tributes to the Hillsborough victims and their families were respected. However, there was immense frustration for the Reds as they outplayed United for long periods and ended up with nothing. Brendan Rodgers' side were up against it after Jonjo Shelvey was sent off for a two-footed challenge on Jonny Evans before half-time. The 10 men showed great spirit and grabbed the lead early in the second half courtesy of Steven Gerrard's volley in front of the Kop. But they couldn't hold on and United made their numerical advantage tell. First, Rafael curled home an equaliser and Robin Van Persie got the winner from the penalty spot. Liverpool fans were left fuming with referee Mark Halsey as all the big decisions went against the hosts. Having dismissed Shelvey, the official then turned down a number of appeals for a spot-kick before handing United one which proved to be pivotal. There were poignant scenes before kick-off as both clubs paid tribute to the Hillsborough victims and their families whose 23-year fight for the truth was vindicated by the recent independent panel report. Both teams came out wearing training tops with '96' on the back, while United legend Bobby Charlton presented flowers to Kop icon Ian Rush. Captains Gerrard and Ryan Giggs then released 96 balloons and during the rendition of You'll Never Walk Alone mosaics covered three side of the stadium. 'The Truth' was marked out in the Kop, 'Justice' in the Centenary Stand and '96' in the Anfield Road end. Fears that the game would be marred by sick chants about the disaster were dispelled as most of United's travelling support joined in with the applause. There was also no issue with the pre-match pleasantries as Luis Suarez shook Patrice Evra's hand. Rodgers kept faith with the same line up who had started the 1-1 draw at Sunderland eight days earlier. Teenage winger Raheem Sterling became the third youngest player ever to start in this fixture after United duo Duncan Edwards and Lee Sharpe. Liverpool started brightly as they dominated possession and pinned United back. Inside seven minutes Sterling picked out Suarez whose cross-shot was parried by keeper Anders Lindegaard. Rafael nodded it away and Evans was able to hack it clear before Gerrard could pounce. Shelvey then picked out Gerrard with a drilled low corner. The skipper had pulled away from his marker and met it sweetly but his low drive crashed into the side netting. Gerrard continued to shine as he stamped his authority on the contest and kept the Reds on the offensive. Fabio Borini should have done better when he failed to pick Gerrard out in the box and then midway through the half the hosts had appeals for a penalty turned down by Mark Halsey. As he tried to latch on to Gerrard's enticing cross, Daniel Agger appeared to be pulled back by Evans but the referee dismissed his protests. With Agger nullifying the threat of Van Persie, Pepe Reina was rarely troubled during the opening 45 minutes. Ryan Giggs went close from the edge of the box early on but the Reds keeper didn't have a save to make. Liverpool's momentum was dented by the sending off of Shelvey seven minutes before half-time. The midfielder went in two-footed on Evans and despite making contact with the ball, the red card that followed was inevitable. Shelvey further blotted his copybook by throwing abuse in the direction of Ferguson as he walked towards the tunnel. Replays showed that Evans was fortunate not to be punished himself having also gone in with both feet. Suarez went close just before half-time with a 30-yard free-kick which Lindegaard parried to safety. Rodgers introduced Suso for Borini at the start of the second half as the young Spaniard made his Premier League debut. United also made a change as Paul Scholes replaced Nani. Despite being a man down, Liverpool broke the deadlock within seconds of the restart. Suso's cross was only cleared as far as Glen Johnson who charged into the penalty area. Scholes nicked the ball away from him but only succeeded in finding Gerrard, who chested the ball down and volleyed into the bottom corner. Gerrard pointed up to the heavens in tribute to the 96 as he slid to the ground to celebrate in front of the jubilant Kop. However, the Reds' joy lasted just five minutes. Antonio Valencia and Shinji Kagawa combined to tee up Rafael who gave Reina no chance with a curler into the far corner. Rodgers' side responded positively but the home fans' frustration grew with Halsey grew as howls for a penalty were ignored after Suarez went flying in the box after a tackle from Evans. Just past the hour mark Suarez was thwarted by a fine save from Lindegaard who did well to keep out his deflected 20-yarder. Suarez continued to cause United plenty of problems and after one mazy run he found Suso whose fierce drive was tipped over. Jordan Henderson replaced Sterling as the Reds still looked the more likely to find a winner. However, with 14 minutes to go they were caught out defensively and paid the price. Valencia beat both Johnson and Agger in a race for a loose ball on halfway and raced goalwards. Johnson got back to make a tackle but clumsily sent him sprawling and Halsey pointed to the spot. To add to the Reds' problems Agger was hurt after colliding with Johnson and had lengthy treatment on a leg injury before being stretchered off. Jamie Carragher came off the bench. Reina guessed right but couldn't keep out Van Persie's spot-kick. Kelly could have claimed Liverpool a point but he headed wide. The full-back was forced off with a knee injury late on,

leaving the Reds with only nine men as United held on for their first league win at Anfield since 2007.



Red card doesn't have desired effect for LFC

ON the day when a giant mosaic spelt out the message at an emotional Anfield, it was perhaps inevitable the brandishing of a card should prove most telling. Having stated he didn't have to tell Liverpool supporters how to behave against Manchester United, perhaps Brendan Rodgers should have instead had a word in the ear of Jonjo Shelvey. The youngster's needless red card changed the course of yesterday's clash between the bitter North West rivals and leaves Rodgers still seeking his first Premier League win as Liverpool manager. Shelvey was dismissed for an unwise lunge at Jonny Evans six minutes before the end of a first half dominated by a Liverpool side determined to produce a performance befitting the occasion, as Anfield paid tribute to the Hillsborough victims in their first home game following the shocking revelations of the independent report into the disaster. This wasn't the day for such controversy. Nor was it the day for Shelvey to jab an accusing finger at United manager Sir Alex Ferguson on his way down the tunnel. But the smirk on Ferguson's face as Shelvey disappeared from view was confirmation his own pre-match comments had produced the desired effect. Speaking on Friday, Ferguson bemoaned the fact United are rarely given penalties at Anfield and are too often on the wrong end of red cards on their visits. It was curiously inevitable, then, that their winner should come from a spot-kick, harshly awarded by referee Mark Halsey but efficiently despatched by Robin van Persie eight minutes from time. Liverpool deserved better. The more impressive team even when down to 10 men, Rodgers' men shrugged off their numerical disadvantage to forge ahead seconds after the interval through Steven Gerrard only to be pegged back within five minutes by Rafael da Silva's classy finish. Yet the harsh reality is Liverpool lost. They remain in the bottom three. They have now only won six of their last 23 home league games. They have taken just 25 points from their last 27 Premier League outings. Throw in injuries to Fabio Borini, Daniel Agger and Martin Kelly, and the worry lines already being carved into Rodgers' forehead will deepen further. At least there were signs the supporters are beginning to warm to the Northern Irishman, the Kop chanting his name for the first time in response to taunts from the United end of "Going down". Yesterday, though, wasn't just about football. The game had been preceded by a magnificently-orchestrated tribute to the Hillsborough victims in Liverpool's first home game since the independent findings into the disaster revealed the cover-up and smear campaign against 96 supporters who died in 1989. Both teams walked out in tracksuits with the number '96' emblazoned on the back, after which Bobby Charlton presented a bouquet of flowers to Ian Rush to be placed on the Hillsborough memorial. With Nemanja Vidic rested – presumably to avoid the inconvenience of being sent off as the Serbian so often is in this fixture – the captain's armband for United was passed to Ryan Giggs and not usual deputy Patrice Evra. It was possibly a diplomatic decision by Ferguson in the wake of the last season's race row with Luis Suarez, although thankfully the pre-match handshake between the pair passed off without incident. Giggs joined Gerrard in releasing 96 red balloons before three sides of Anfield unveiled a mosaic with the words 'Justice', 'The Truth' and '96' before a poignant rendition of 'You'll Never Walk Alone' completed the commemoration. Liverpool began the match in determined fashion, Suarez causing panic in the United defence early on and later floating a shot wide, while Gerrard struck the side-netting after Shelvey's set-piece corner routine. But their efforts were undermined by Shelvey's 39th-minute indiscretion. The midfielder and United centre-back Evans both launched themselves two-footed at a loose ball. But, with Shelvey's the more forceful and less controlled challenge, referee Halsey was only ever going to show the red card to one man. In truth, Shelvey's was a sending-off that had been coming for weeks. The youngster – who went from hero to zero following his two-goal cameo at Young Boys in Berne on Thursday – remains a rough diamond, and such tackles are yet to be smoothed from his game. The dismissal initially made no difference to the pattern of the match with Liverpool gaining a merited breakthrough a minute after the break. A left-wing cross from Suso – an impressive Premier League debutant for the stricken Borini – was only cleared by Rio Ferdinand as far as Glen Johnson, whose chip forward was knocked sideways by Paul Scholes where Gerrard controlled the ball on his chest then smashed a left-foot volley beyond Anders Lindegaard. It was Gerrard's seventh goal for Liverpool against United; only Dick Forshaw has scored more. United, though, equalised five minutes later, Shinji Kagawa chesting an Antonio Valencia cross into the path of Rafael who curled in off Pepe Reina's far post with his left foot.

Date: 23 September 2012
 Opposition: Manchester United
 Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	MEN



23 September
2012

Suarez, denied a penalty after being clipped by Evans, then smashed a low drive that solicited a good save from Lindegaard, who also turned over an ambitious Suso shot.
 But Liverpool's efforts were in vain when, in the 81st minute, van Persie beat Reina from the spot after referee Halsey contentiously adjudged Johnson to have fouled Valencia as the United winger sought to capitalise on an earlier mix-up between the right-back and Agger.
 Liverpool got everything right off the pitch yesterday. A pity, then, that the same could not be said for everyone on it.



Manchester United emerged victorious against Liverpool on an emotional and controversial day at Anfield.
 The game, preceded by tributes to the 96 who lost their lives at Hillsborough and the handshake that did happen between Patrice Evra and Luis Suarez, was highly charged throughout but in the end Robin van Persie's penalty proved decisive. Liverpool were enjoying the better of the first half until Jonjo Shelvey was sent off after a clash with Jonny Evans shortly before the break.
 Replays showed both players went into a 50-50 challenge two-footed, but Shelvey's boot was higher and he made contact with Evans.
 But it was Liverpool who went ahead just a minute into the second half when Steven Gerrard took advantage of space in the box to volley in on the turn. United hit back shortly after and with some style, Rafael finding the net with a curling left-foot shot off the post.
 And United's winner came from the penalty spot after Glen Johnson was adjudged to have fouled Antonio Valencia.
 Van Persie scored despite Pepe Reina getting a touch - the first spot-kick success in four attempts this season for the Reds. It was United's first win in six visits to Anfield.
 In the end it was something of a relief the talking points were all generated on the pitch as Liverpool marked their first home match since the publication of the Hillsborough Independent Panel's report which exonerated fans in relation to the 1989 disaster.
 Suarez and Evra shook hands in a show of unity before the game - the Liverpool forward had refused to shake the United defender's hand in the league meeting between the sides at Old Trafford in February, having previously been found guilty of racially abusing Evra in the corresponding fixture at Anfield last season. Thankfully there were none of the distasteful chants which have marred this fixture for years, although that did not mean there was not an edge to the game. Evra was overlooked for the captaincy - some say diplomatically - in the absence of Nemanja Vidic so it was Ryan Giggs who released 96 red balloons with Gerrard prior to kick-off.
 The result left Liverpool rooted in the bottom three as their worst start to a campaign for a century continues whereas United maintained their usual progress moving up to second.
 Once Giggs had flashed an early shot wide the momentum was all with the hosts as a Suarez cross-shot was stopped by Anders Lindegaard and headed away by Jonny Evans under pressure from Fabio Borini.
 Gerrard drove a low effort from Shelvey's corner into the side-netting and Suarez looped a right-footed shot wide before a match which, possibly because of the all the pre-match commemorations, had lacked the usual hallmarks of a north-west derby ignited.
 Shelvey robbed Giggs in midfield but as the ball broke free he launched himself at Evans and the inevitable outcome was a red card.
 The 20-year-old midfielder, who scored twice in Thursday's Europa League victory at Young Boys, departed down the tunnel having exchanged heated words with Sir Alex Ferguson.
 Even with a numerical disadvantage Liverpool continued to pressurise United and Suarez drew Lindegaard into a low saw from his free-kick.
 The visitors would have been pleased to reach the interval with their goal intact but it took just 50 seconds after the restart for that to change.
 Second-half substitute Suso, making his Premier League debut three days after his first-team bow in Switzerland, saw his cross half-cleared to Glen Johnson.
 A tackle from Paul Scholes, on for Nani at half-time, succeeded only in diverting the ball towards Gerrard who volleyed home left-footed in front of the Kop.
 The Reds captain, whose 10-year-old cousin Jon-Paul Gilhooley was the youngest victim of the Hillsborough disaster, whirled away pointing both arms to the sky in celebration and remembrance.
 It was short-lived, however, as within five minutes United were level when Shinji Kagawa laid the ball off for Rafael to brilliantly curl left-footed over Jose Reina and in off the far post.
 Rodgers' determination not to just shut up shop and settle for a draw was reflected in the approach of his team who made light of the fact they were a man down with Suso having a shot tipped over by Lindegaard and Suarez continuing to trouble the visitors' defence.
 But as the match entered the final 20 minutes United began to take more control, although their winner came from their opponents giving away possession on the halfway line.
 Daniel Agger and Johnson collided to allow Antonio Valencia to race 50 yards into the area and although Johnson got back he could only bring down the Ecuador international.
 Van Persie drilled home - although Reina went the right way and almost made the stop.

Date: 23 September 2012
 Opposition: Manchester United
 Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	MEN



23 September
2012



90:00+7:18 Full time The referee ends the match.
 90:00+6:57 The ball is crossed by Steven Gerrard, save by Anders Lindegaard.
 90:00+5:24 Danny Welbeck fouled by Jesus Fernandez Saez, the ref awards a free kick. Paul Scholes takes the free kick.
 90:00+4:44 Javier Hernandez takes a shot. Save made by Jose Reina.
 90:00+2:43 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Martin Kelly by Ryan Giggs. Jose Reina takes the free kick.
 90:00+1:48 Unfair challenge on Jonathan Evans by Jordan Henderson results in a free kick. Jonathan Evans restarts play with the free kick.
 90:00+1:23 Jesus Fernandez Saez challenges Michael Carrick unfairly and gives away a free kick. Antonio Valencia takes the free kick.
 89:30 Ryan Giggs takes a short corner.
 89:20 The ball is swung over by Patrice Evra.
 88:16 Patrice Evra takes the direct free kick.
 88:16 Substitution Substitution Rafael Da Silva goes off and Danny Welbeck comes on.
 88:16 Martin Kelly gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Jonathan Evans.
 85:26 Free kick awarded for a foul by Luis Suarez on Rio Ferdinand. Anders Lindegaard takes the direct free kick.
 83:52 Corner taken by Jesus Fernandez Saez from the left by-line played to the near post, clearance made by Robin van Persie.
 83:52 Booking Robin van Persie receives a caution.
 83:24 Glen Johnson delivers the ball, clearance by Rio Ferdinand.
 82:33 Glen Johnson delivers the ball, Martin Kelly has a headed effort at goal from close in which goes wide right of the goal.
 81:19 Antonio Valencia crosses the ball, clearance made by Steven Gerrard.
 80:11 Substitution Substitution Javier Hernandez joins the action as a substitute, replacing Shinji Kagawa.
 80:11 Assist by Antonio Valencia.
 80:11 Goal scored Goal - Robin van Persie - Liverpool 1 - 2 Man Utd Robin van Persie scores a power penalty. Liverpool 1-2 Man Utd.
 76:33 Substitution Substitution Jamie Carragher is brought on as a substitute for Daniel Agger.
 76:33 Booking Jose Reina receives a yellow card.
 75:43 Glen Johnson challenges Antonio Valencia unfairly and gives away a Penalty.
 75:09 A cross is delivered by Martin Kelly, Rio Ferdinand manages to make a clearance.
 73:02 Foul by Michael Carrick on Joe Allen, free kick awarded. The free kick is delivered right-footed by Steven Gerrard from left wing, save by Anders Lindegaard.
 68:58 A cross is delivered by Luis Suarez.
 64:49 Substitution Substitution Raheem Sterling goes off and Jordan Henderson comes on.
 64:49 Jesus Fernandez Saez takes the chance to get an effort at goal. Save by Anders Lindegaard. Steven Gerrard takes a corner.
 64:17 The official flags Ryan Giggs offside. Free kick taken by Daniel Agger.
 63:02 The ball is swung over by Michael Carrick, Robin van Persie produces a header from inside the area that goes over the bar.
 62:04 The ball is swung over by Michael Carrick, Martin Kelly makes a clearance. Outswinging corner taken from the left by-line by Ryan Giggs, Glen Johnson manages to make a clearance. The ball is swung over by Rio Ferdinand, clearance made by Raheem Sterling.
 60:56 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Save made by Anders Lindegaard.
 58:46 Patrice Evra crosses the ball, clearance by Glen Johnson.
 57:40 Martin Skrtel takes the free kick.
 57:40 Booking The referee cautions Paul Scholes for unsporting behaviour.
 57:35 Unfair challenge on Raheem Sterling by Paul Scholes results in a free kick.
 56:09 Glen Johnson produces a cross, clearance by Patrice Evra.
 54:56 Foul by Daniel Agger on Robin van Persie, free kick awarded. Paul Scholes restarts play with the free kick.
 53:53 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Save made by Anders Lindegaard.
 53:40 The ball is delivered by Raheem Sterling, Rio Ferdinand manages to make a clearance.
 52:21 Inswinging corner taken left-footed by Robin van Persie from the right by-line to the near post, Headed effort from deep inside the penalty area by Antonio Valencia goes harmlessly over the crossbar.
 50:29 Shinji Kagawa provided the assist for the goal.
 50:29 Goal scored Goal - Rafael Da Silva - Liverpool 1 - 1 Man Utd Rafael Da Silva scores a goal from deep inside the penalty box to the top left corner of the goal. Liverpool 1-1 Man Utd.
 50:28 Centre by Antonio Valencia.
 49:47 Robin van Persie crosses the ball, clearance by Glen Johnson.
 49:10 Shinji Kagawa takes a shot. Blocked by Martin Skrtel.
 48:52 Patrice Evra sends in a cross, Glen Johnson manages to make a clearance.
 47:15 Antonio Valencia concedes a free kick for a foul on Steven Gerrard. Joe Allen restarts play with the free kick.
 45:49 Assist on the goal came from Glen Johnson.
 45:49 Goal scored Goal - Steven Gerrard - Liverpool 1 - 0 Man Utd Goal scored by Steven Gerrard from deep inside the penalty box to the bottom right corner of the goal. Liverpool 1-0 Man Utd.
 45:43 Jesus Fernandez Saez delivers the ball, Rio Ferdinand makes a clearance.
 45:01 The referee blows his whistle to start the second half.
 45:01 Substitution Substitution Fabio Borini leaves the field to be replaced by Jesus Fernandez Saez.
 45:01 Substitution Substitution Paul Scholes on for Luis Nani.
 45:00+2:12 Half time The whistle is blown to end the first half.
 45:00+1:56 The ball is swung over by Martin Kelly, clearance made by Jonathan Evans.
 44:58 The ball is sent over by Fabio Borini, Patrice Evra makes a clearance. Outswinging

corner taken right-footed by Steven Gerrard, Headed effort from inside the area by Daniel Agger misses to the left of the target.
 44:01 Rafael Da Silva crosses the ball.
 43:02 Michael Carrick takes a shot. Blocked by Martin Skrtel.
 42:48 The ball is crossed by Luis Nani, clearance made by Daniel Agger.
 40:18 Rio Ferdinand concedes a free kick for a foul on Luis Suarez. Luis Suarez has a direct shot on goal from the free kick, save made by Anders Lindegaard.
 40:18 Rio Ferdinand gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Luis Suarez. Luis Suarez has a direct shot on goal from the free kick, save by Anders Lindegaard.
 38:15 Direct free kick taken by Michael Carrick.
 38:15 Dismissal Dismissal Jonjo Shelvey sent from the field by the ref for serious foul play.
 38:06 Jonathan Evans fouled by Jonjo Shelvey, the ref awards a free kick.
 37:27 Daniel Agger fouled by Antonio Valencia, the ref awards a free kick. Jonjo Shelvey takes the free kick.
 36:44 Martin Kelly produces a cross, Jonathan Evans makes a clearance. Raheem Sterling takes a shot. Jonathan Evans gets a block in.
 35:45 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Shinji Kagawa by Steven Gerrard. Direct free kick taken by Rafael Da Silva.
 35:22 Martin Kelly sends in a cross, Rio Ferdinand manages to make a clearance.
 33:27 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Blocked by Rio Ferdinand. Inswinging corner taken from the left by-line by Steven Gerrard.
 31:38 Patrice Evra concedes a free kick for a foul on Raheem Sterling. Steven Gerrard sends in a cross, Headed effort from inside the box by Luis Suarez misses to the right of the target.
 29:53 Patrice Evra produces a cross, clearance made by Martin Skrtel.
 28:08 Joe Allen concedes a free kick for a foul on Shinji Kagawa. Rio Ferdinand takes the direct free kick.
 26:39 Luis Suarez produces a right-footed shot from just outside the box that misses to the right of the net.
 24:43 Unfair challenge on Shinji Kagawa by Martin Kelly results in a free kick. Shot comes in from Luis Nani from the free kick.
 20:11 The ball is swung over by Steven Gerrard, save by Anders Lindegaard.
 19:26 Centre by Martin Kelly, clearance by Rafael Da Silva. Corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the left by-line played to the near post, clearance made by Robin van Persie.
 18:59 Martin Kelly sends in a cross, Jonathan Evans makes a clearance.
 14:23 Jonjo Shelvey gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Rafael Da Silva. Rio Ferdinand restarts play with the free kick.
 13:11 Fabio Borini crosses the ball, clearance made by Rio Ferdinand.
 10:52 Free kick awarded for a foul by Fabio Borini on Shinji Kagawa. Rio Ferdinand restarts play with the free kick.
 7:57 Raheem Sterling delivers the ball, Rafael Da Silva manages to make a clearance. Short corner taken by Jonjo Shelvey from the right by-line, Effort from deep inside the area by Steven Gerrard misses to the right of the goal.
 6:56 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Jonathan Evans manages to make a clearance.
 6:18 Ryan Giggs produces a left-footed shot from just outside the box that misses to the right of the target.
 4:49 Corner crossed in by Steven Gerrard, clearance by Rafael Da Silva.
 2:02 Patrice Evra crosses the ball, Daniel Agger manages to make a clearance.
 0:40 Free kick awarded for a foul by Daniel Agger on Robin van Persie. Free kick taken by Ryan Giggs.
 0:00 The game kicks-off.