

Date: 24 August 2015

Opposition: Arsenal

Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Standard
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24 August 2015

## THE TIMES

Cech shines but offside call is costly for Arsenal

This is one of those scorelines that Jose Mourinho likes to describe as "fake". Rarely, even in the Barclays Premier League, will you see a game so anarchically open, yet somehow this ended with the scoresheet blank thanks to a combination of high-class goalkeeping and a lack of killer instinct on both sides.

For the first 45 minutes of an extraordinary game, Arsenal, through a combination of their own kamikaze defending and their opponents' enterprising forward play, were clinging on for dear life, grateful that Liverpool hit the woodwork twice and Petr Cech made superb saves to deny Christian Benteke and Philippe Coutinho.

The second half was an entirely different story, with Arsenal dominant, but somehow, to widespread bemusement, it ended goalless.

Brendan Rodgers will perhaps be the happier manager -- and not just because of the relief that came when a linesman incorrectly flagged offside when Aaron Ramsey put the ball in the Liverpoolnet early on. After two somewhat fortuitous 1-0 wins, this was a show of genuine spirit and attacking quality from Rodgers' team, even if they ended up grateful that Simon Mignolet kept them in the game when Arsenal turned the screw in the second half.

As incisive as much of Liverpool's attacking play was, with Coutinho the foremost of four players breaking from midfield in support of Benteke, Arsenal's lack of competence in defence was staggering. It was not just the way that they were being opened up by Liverpool's clever movement. It was the astonishing regularity with which they were conceding possession deep in their half of the pitch.

Liverpool should take some credit for that, with James Milner leading a return to the pressing game that worked so well for them two seasons ago, but really Arsenal were playing into their opponents' hands. Chambers, in particular, was having a torrid time. This was the first time Arsenal had started a Premier League without either Laurent Koscielny or Per Mertesacker in central defence since April 2012, sidelined by a back problem and illness respectively. In their place were Chambers, 20, and Gabriel, 24. Benteke must have been rubbing his hands with glee when the teamsheets landed. Benteke threatened inside the first two minutes, scuffing a shot wide after Emre Can dribbled into the penalty area. A minute later, Milner sent Benteke down the inside-right channel. This time the forward pulled the ball back into the path of Coutinho, whose first-time shot bounced back off the crossbar. For all of five minutes Arsenal got their act together and began to expose the defensive frailties in the opposition ranks.

Nacho Monreal was given the space in which to cross from the lefthand side and picked out Alexis Sanchez, who, attacking the ball inside the six-yard box, really should have hit the target. Milner and Martin Skrtel got in each other's way and almost let Sanchez in. In the ninth minute, Santi Cazorla split the Liverpool defence with an exquisite pass from which Ramsey found the net, only for the linesman to flag for offside -- wrongly, since Ramsey was played onside by Skrtel. The remainder of the first half followed a regular pattern: Arsenal would control possession for a period and then do something silly. A case in point was in the 14th minute, when Chambers was far too casual in trying to pick out Francis Coquelin, allowing Coutinho to intercept. Coquelin made a brilliant, if desperate, tackle, only for Cazorla to run straight into Milner, whose shot was deflected wide by Monreal. Milner was enjoying himself, racing on to another Coutinho pass midway through the first half. His first shot was blocked by Gabriel, his second scrambled wide at the near post by an increasingly overworked Cech. Liverpool really should have made their superiority tell in the period lead-ing up to half-time. First of all Coutinho ran clear, from Can's header, but allowed Gabriel to race back and dispossess him.

Then Coutinho combined with Roberto Firmino, whose cross found Benteke unmarked in the penalty area. The forward's shot lacked conviction, but it was still a wonderful save from Cech, diving low to his left. An even better one followed in the final minute of the first half as the goalkeeper pushed Coutinho's shot on to the post after the Brazilian, cutting in from the left, had beaten Bellerin with an audacious piece of skill. The half-time whistle brought blessed relief for Arsenal, giving them a chance to find their focus and, at the same time, breaking Liverpool's momentum. Chambers and Gabriel at last began to look more composed and, with Coquelin and Cazorla getting hold of things in midfield, they now looked the more dangerous team. For all their possession, little had been seen of Arsenal as an attacking force since the early stages, but now some of their fluency returned. Arsenal were at their best when they played one-touch football at speed. Mesut Ozil, Cazorla and Olivier Giroud combined to set up Sanchez, whose shot struck the near post. Twice they worked their way into crossing positions from the left-hand side, but on neither occasion could Giroud turn the ball in. This was one of those nights when the small margins conspire to show Giroud's limitations, even if it took a superb save from Mignolet to deny him after some fine work between Ozil, Bellerin and Ramsey.

That was Giroud's last chance before he made way for Theo Walcott. Suddenly the game opened up again, Coutinho testing Cech again before Ramsey sent Mignolet diving to his left. Benteke thought he should have had a penalty, when he was held by Gabriel, but then got away with one when he caught Chambers with a raised arm. It was that kind of a game, a ding-dong that could have gone either way but which somehow ended up goalless.

At the end of it, Cech and Mignolet traded compliments as well as shirts. Both had earned their team a point. Both will be as mystified as anyone that the scoreline ended up as it did.

## the guardian

Arsenal thank Petr Cech and Liverpool a linesman in goalless chaos

This was Arsenal at their most bewildering. They were startlingly poor for so long Liverpool will have to consider this result a source of regret. Arsène Wenger's men demonstrated some familiar flaws before shaking their heads clear and cannot expect to win the league by playing so chaotically. Yet they could also claim, legitimately, they would have won but for a trigger-happy linesman. It was a perplexing, error-strewn match, full of missed chances and misplaced passes, and neither team can be fully satisfied with the outcome.

For Liverpool there were so many opportunities inside the first half they really ought to have punished Wenger's team for being so vulnerable. Petr Cech made amends in those moments for his errors against West Ham on the opening weekend and, ultimately, his goalkeeping was the key factor during the spells when Arsenal looked as if they might lose their opening two league games at home for the first time since 1949.

On the flipside a case can also be made that Arsenal, for all their shortcomings, could conceivably have pulled off a perplexing and eccentric victory. They will reflect on the first-half goal that was wrongly disallowed for Aaron Ramsey, as well as the chance Olivier Giroud aimed too close to Simon Mignolet during their late onslaught, and it finished, almost implausibly, with their first clean sheet of the season. As goalless draws go, it was wild and entertaining but maybe not such a bad result for Arsenal given how fragile they look, with Laurent Koscielny suffering a back injury and Per Mertesacker having a virus.

Arsenal had not started a Premier League game with both their regular centre-halves missing for 1,225 days and perhaps it was inevitable there would be times when their new-look defence looked susceptible. Even so, it must have been alarming for Wenger to see how dishevelled they were in the first half, when Calum Chambers was a danger to his own team. Chambers passed the ball straight to Philippe Coutinho, inside Arsenal's penalty area, at one point and there were plenty of other moments when the home side looked raw and accident-prone.

It was rare to see any side, let alone one with title credentials, give the ball away so frequently inside their own half and, even allowing for their absentees, their supporters must have found it jarring to see their lack of organisation, carelessness in defence and tendency to make life difficult for themselves. Wenger admitted later he was "always tempted" to take off Chambers at half-time.

His team did, though, take much better care of the ball in the second half, when their opponents operated on the counterattack rather than flooding forward as they had done earlier. Liverpool, with James Milner excelling, still looked dangerous on the break but Arsenal at least reminded everyone in that period they were supposed to be the home side. Alexis Sánchez struck the outside of the post and it needed a brilliant saving tackle from Martin Skrtel to prevent the substitute Theo Walcott going clear on goal in the final exchanges.

Liverpool were pinned back and it was all in stark contrast to the first half when, for Chambers, it was a personal ordeal. Coutinho had struck the crossbar inside the opening three minutes. Another peach of a shot from the Brazilian came off the post, via Cech's fingertips, and only Francis Coquelin's saving tackle denied Coutinho after the early Chambers mistake. The pressure on Arsenal's goal was almost relentless and yet, for all Liverpool's superiority, Wenger was entitled to think the game would have taken a different pattern had the linesman Simon Bennett not ruled out what was, in reality, a perfectly legitimate and brilliantly executed goal.

At this level it was a wretched piece of officiating. Ramsey was in line with Liverpool's defence and the through-ball from Santi Cazorla was weighted to perfection. Ramsey beat Mignolet with a low shot and Liverpool, for a second consecutive week, were the grateful recipients of an inaccurate offside decision. Reprieved, Liverpool returned to the business of exploring the holes in Arsenal's defence. Christian Benteke had his best game for his new club but Liverpool must have been hugely exasperated not to make their first-half superiority count. For that Arsenal were indebted to Cech and, in particular, one moment when he kept out Benteke with the kind of save that only the elite goalkeepers can pull off. Héctor Bellerín had given the ball away this time. Roberto Firmino crossed from the left and Benteke was inside the six-yard area when he drew back his foot. Cech's reflexes and anticipation were staggering. His left hand jutted out and that touch was enough to take the ball away from the goal.

The pressure on Liverpool's goal was considerable during the final stages but Skrtel held firm and there were impressive performances from their new full-backs, Nathaniel Clyne and Joe Gomez. Mignolet has re-established himself as a fine goalkeeper and a chaotic game was unable to find a goal.

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## The Mail

IT'S CECH THE saviour; Veteran keeper foils Benteke to earn point for fragile Gunners

ARSENAL 0 LIVERPOOL 0

IT is three games and no goals conceded now for Liverpool. What was it Brendan Rodgers said about defence being easy? Except this was no rearguard action.

Three points here would not have flattered Liverpool, even though Arsenal had them under the cosh in the second half and had a perfectly good goal by Aaron Ramsey disallowed in the first. Liverpool had dominated the opening 45 minutes and, if they failed to maintain that momentum, it was only because Arsenal came out with renewed vigour having no doubt seen Arsene Wenger's less professorial side in the home dressing-room at half-time.

The eventual champions may be elsewhere, but five into four doesn't go -- and five into three even less so if English clubs do not buck up their ideas in Europe -- so at least one elite team is going to miss out on the Champions League again next season. So this was a strong performance all round from Liverpool.

They were a significant attacking force early on and then resilient in the later stages as Wenger introduced fresher, quicker legs in the form of Theo Walcott and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain. For a team that many tipped to be the first crisis club of the season, seven points from nine, including visits to Stoke and Arsenal, is a positive start. Liverpool were clinging on by the end but that was to be expected. Having lost their first home game of the season to West Ham, Arsenal were always going to throw the kitchen sink at it here.

That they came so close to defeat -- Liverpool hitting the woodwork twice and Petr Cech making a superb save from Christian Benteke -- was a worrying sign, even with a makeshift defence. It was August 1949 when Arsenal last lost their first two home games of the league season. Wenger wasn't even born until a couple of months later. Before the game, with captain Jordan Henderson and Adam Lallana missing from midfield, and Jordon Ibe considered in need of a rest, some inside the travelling party would have gladly shaken hands on a 0-0 draw. Looking at the shakiness of Arsenal's defence, come half-time 5-1 might have been a likelier outcome. Arsenal were all over the place. They had some good chances early on -- and were unfortunate to have Ramsey's goal erroneously disallowed in the ninth minute -- but after that they fell apart. To be fair, the pessimists in the Liverpool camp were not to know that Arsenal's two first-choice centrehalves, Laurent Koscielny and Per Mertesacker, would be ruled out prior to the game; or that Calum Chambers had seemingly forgotten how to defend since leaving Southampton. These factors combined to create 45 minutes of mayhem. Liverpool hit the bar, a post, were kept out by at least one wonderful save from Cech and several last-ditch tackles, one of which should have resulted in a booking, or worse. Chambers and his partner Gabriel had never played together in a competitive fixture before, but that was no excuse. They have both been at the club long enough to adjust to Arsenal's style of play, and the speed of elite Premier League forwards. By the end, Gabriel had found his feet, however.

Not so Chambers, who was by turn bullied and beaten by Benteke, at one stage contriving to lose a challenge in the air before being nutmegged on the flat. It really wasn't his night. AND not Liverpool's in the first-half, considering their weight of chances. Rodgers' team announced their intentions after three minutes when a fine run by Emre Can ended with a pass to Benteke and a shot just wide. A minute later, Benteke found space on the right and his cross was lashed towards goal by Philippe Coutinho, striking the underside of the bar and somehow staying out with Cech beaten. There then came a brief spell in which Arsenal could have taken the lead. Alexis Sanchez came close with a header from a Nacho Monreal cross then Martin Skrtel and James Milner got into a terrible tangle trying to clear before Sanchez poked the ball wide.

The next chance should have been the opening goal, Ramsey played outside by at least one Liverpool defender, and possibly two, when he sped through to poke the ball past Simon Mignolet. Linesman Simon Bennett raised his flag for offside, an atrocious decision considering the benefit of doubt should go to the attacking player. After that it was Liverpool, Liverpool and more Liverpool all the way to half-time, Arsenal's uncertainty clear from the 15th minute when Chambers struck a simple pass out from the back to Coutinho, who was clear on goal but rendered off balance at the vital moment by pressure from Francis Coquelin. There was less to admire about Coquelin's challenge on Benteke in similar circumstances eight minutes later. He didn't appear to get any of the ball but referee Michael Oliver didn't see a foul. If he had, given the lack of defensive cover, the Frenchman could have been in trouble. It was Gabriel's turn to intervene in the 25th minute after a fabulous ball to Milner from Coutinho, and the defender was needed again nine minutes later, when first Can then Benteke won headers and Coutinho sped on goal only to collapse under the pressure of Gabriel's challenge. In the 39th minute, new signing Roberto Firmino -- starting his first game -- hit a pass across the face of Arsenal's goal that was met by Benteke at the far post yet somehow kept out by Cech. Some of the 10 points he is meant to be saving them this season right there, perhaps? From the resulting corner Cech had to be no less alert, saving a low shot by Firmino with his feet, late and unsighted. From the final attack of the half Coutinho left Hector Bellerin bedazzled from a wide position before curling a shot which struck the far post. Arsenal came out after half-time with greater attacking momentum, but it is hard to see how they can sustain a season as title contenders if what lies beneath the first pool of players is as vulnerable as this.

## The Daily Telegraph

Cech and Mignolet take plaudits as Arsenal frustration grows

Arsenal 0

Liverpool 0

Att: 60,080

Somehow this match remained goalless. That somehow owed much - almost everything in fact - to the brilliance of Petr Cech in the Arsenal goal in the first half. However, an errant linesman's flag denied the home side, and then Liverpool's Simon Mignolet produced an outstanding save later on.

No goals then but defences were not on top. They were nowhere to be seen at times. Goalkeepers were tough with Cech, having cost Arsenal a point against West Ham United on the opening day, earning his team one here. Ten to 15 points a season is John Terry's estimation of Cech's worth and here was the first instalment. This Cech was cashed.

Liverpool remain unbeaten, with a solid seven points, and gained a third clean sheet of a campaign in which they are showing a refund resolve while Arsenal are yet to score at home and suffered from a growing sense of frustration. They are also, already, five points off the top of the table.

Sensing the uncertainty at the heart of an Arsenal defence shorn of its regular first-choice partnership with Per Mertesacker ill and Laurent Koscielny out with a damaged back, Liverpool flew forward.

James Milner, captain in the absence of the injured Jordan Henderson, found Christian Benteke, who was allowed to run free down the left. The striker pulled the ball back to Philippe Coutinho, whose powerful first-time shot slammed back off the crossbar and bounced clear.

It provoked Arsenal. Soon afterwards it was the Liverpool defence that was unconvincing as Alexis Sanchez headed over, then won the ball back more than once to push a shot through that was gathered by Mignolet.

Then Arsenal had the ball in the net with Aaron Ramsey running onto Santi Cazorla's astute pass to beat the Liverpool goalkeeper - only for the effort to, wrongly, be ruled out for offside by assistant referee Simon Bennett.

Just as Arsenal appeared to be taking a grip their defence was again exposed as they failed to clear. Benteke hunted down Calum Chambers, unsteady alongside Gabriel, who was panicked into a weak pass straight to Coutinho. He was challenged and eventually the ball ran to Cazorla, who lost possession and Milner's shot was deflected wide. From the corner a goal-bound header was cleared. It was open; it was entertaining; it was all over the place with, for Arsenal, Francis Coquelin working hard to protect a defence that appeared shell-shocked by Benteke's presence. Again Liverpool forced their way through with Coutinho's reverse picking out Milner, who was denied by Cech.

Time and again Benteke panicked Arsenal. Neither Chambers nor Gabriel was taking responsibility - Chambers, in particular, seemed frozen with fear of the Belgian international, who was again able to claim possession, turn and run forcefully towards goal. Chambers desperately needed to be stronger and to get some help from Gabriel.

Liverpool simply needed to keep finding Benteke and did just that as he flicked the ball on to Emre Can, who helped it on to Coutinho, who was suddenly bearing down on goal only for Gabriel to ease him off the ball for another corner.

Liverpool were undeniably on top and needed to make that supremacy count with Lucas Leiva, recalled in midfield despite his apparent imminent departure, dominant in midfield.

The chance came. Robert Firmino, on his first start for Liverpool, crossed low and there was Benteke inside the six-yard area only for Cech to produce an incredible reaction save to deny him. Even so Benteke should have scored with Cech, again, denying Liverpool from the corner as he turned away Firmino's angled drive.

Cech excelled again. As did Coutinho. The Brazilian's footwork was brilliant as he bamboozled Hector Bellerin and then curled a fierce right-foot shot that appeared destined to beat Cech, who dived full length to brush his fingertips against the ball and turn it around the post.

Half-time afforded Arsenal the opportunity to regroup, reassess and reorganise - and call a time-out - even if it was a surprise to see Chambers re-emerge. Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, must have considered a change, especially as, although his team were more competitive after the interval, his stand-in centre-half still struggled.

Eventually they created a chance with Olivier Giroud's snap shot de-flected over. Arsenal gained a series of corners and it was Liverpool's turn to be penned in their own half, reduced to breakaways, regretting those missed chances as the ball came back at them too quickly.

Finally Sanchez was put through with Cazorla picking out Giroud, who did well to stretch and divert the ball into the Chilean's path. Sanchez was drawn wide but managed to turn in a shot that struck the near post and rebounded wide.

Coutinho still carried that threat and Liverpool broke away with Cech then holding on to his low shot but Arsenal had now managed to gain the momentum with Ramsey attempting to pick out Giroud who, narrowly, failed to connect.

The pressure grew further with Mignolet saving brilliantly as he pushed away Giroud's close-range effort after the ball ran through to him as Arsenal forced Liverpool back deep into their area. Did Dejan Lovren pull back Giroud? Cech again reacted to deny Coutinho before, at the other end, Mignolet just held on to Ramsey's shot and Skrtel threw himself to divert a cross wide. Just.

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## THE INDEPENDENT

### Arsenal left frustrated after stalemate at the Emirates

As a man who spent the summer no doubt reliving the horrors of his team's six-goal demolition at the Britannia Stadium in May, it will surely be enough for now for Brendan Rodgers that Liverpool have not conceded a goal three games into a season that he desperately needed to start well.

It took Stoke just 30 minutes to score those first three goals on 24 May, but Rodgers' rebuilt side - much more conservative in the game's defining periods - have now come through one of the most exacting tests that the Premier League has to offer. Liverpool dominated the first half but, when Rodgers realised the tide was turning against him after the break, he fought his attacking instincts and made three substitutions to consolidate the draw.

For Arsene Wenger, there was pure frustration. His team were outplayed in the first half but had a perfectly good goal from Aaron Ramsey disallowed.

In the second half, they encircled Liverpool and were just missing the decisive touch in front of goal in the face of a heroic performance in defence from Martin Skrtel and Dejan Lovren. A pity for them that it looks like there will be no convincing Karim Benzema to change his mind and leave Real Madrid.

It is one point from two home games for Arsenal and there was a familiar regret around the ground as the breakthrough did not come.

They were kept in the game by Petr Cech before the break and there were times when Alexis Sanchez looked like he might win it on his own in the second half.

Wenger made the kind of substitutions that were designed to win the game, bringing on Theo Walcott and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, but they could not break Liverpool down. The first half was Liverpool's although, for all their dominance, they were the beneficiary of the kind of bad decision that will recur in the mind of referees' chief Mike Riley every time he thinks of the weekend's appointments. It was simply an offside decision called wrongly by linesman Simon Bennett in the eighth minute and the kind of foul-up that lets the whole show down. It was a beautiful ball by Santi Cazorla to bisect the Liverpool defence followed by a good run and finish from Ramsey, who was clearly level when the pass was released. No excuses for getting it wrong and immediately the game felt out of kilter. As for Arsenal, that was as good as it got in the first half. They had already seen the brilliant Philippe Coutinho's shot strike the bar on three minutes and there was precious little respite after that.

Without both Per Mertesacker, who was unwell, and the injured Laurent Koscielny, it was always a stretch to imagine that Gabriel and Calum Chambers would be up to it. Against one of the best attacking performances of the season so far, it was a wonder they got to half-time without conceding.

That was a consequence of a major performance from Cech, who was having one of those evenings when he got to everything.

There was a back-post save from Christian Benteke when Rodgers already had his arms in the air to celebrate. There was a fingertip touch to a hit from Coutinho on the left that did enough to take the ball on to the post.

In the meantime, the Liverpool No 10 was moving the ball about in directions that Hector Bellerin was unfamiliar with. The young Spanish right-back has rarely looked quite so out of his depth. With Lucas Leiva, soon to depart on loan to Besiktas, in midfield for the first time and Emre Can as the playmaker, this was a fine performance from Liverpool. They consistently found space on both wings and Benteke's directness offered a nice contrast to the intricate build-up play.

The disallowed goal aside, it was hard for Arsenal to get out of their own half and put some pressure on Liverpool. They had none of those sustained periods of possession around the opposition box that can build up momentum and pressure. Sanchez turned James Milner once in midfield with a brilliant change of pace and direction but he had otherwise been quiet. That changed after half-time when Sanchez moved front and centre for an Arsenal side that was no longer prepared to be dominated. Wenger resisted the temptation to make an immediate change and his team benefited from that. Sanchez set the standard with a couple of those scampering chases of possessions he specialises in. Arsenal were much more like Arsenal, encamped on the perimeter of the Liverpool area and determined to inflict death by high-intensity passing. Rodgers called upon Jordan Ibe around the hour to give Roberto Firmino a breather. In fact, there were a few in Rodgers' side who looked like the pace of the first half had taken it out of them.

Coutinho had all but disappeared on the left wing and Benteke did not dominate the two Arsenal centre-halves anything like he had in the first half. Milner partook of an energy snack when play stopped for the introduction of Walcott.

But Liverpool hung in there and defended in the moments when the pressure grew. There was an excellent Simon Mignolet save from Olivier Giroud on 69 minutes. The home crowd had been calling for Walcott for a short time before that and he came on in place of Giroud, who had missed enough half-chances to make up Wenger's mind that it was time for a switch. Giroud's best moment was a flick into the path of Sanchez from Cazorla's pass on the hour and the Chilean forward hit the outside of the post. Rodgers ignored attacking options such as Danny Ings and Divock Origi and instead reinforced his side with a league debut for midfielder Jordan Rossiter, sporting the kind of haircut Steven Gerrard had around the millennium, and then finally replaced Coutinho with Alberto Moreno. That was the indication, were any needed, that the point would do nicely for them. In defence of their embattled manager it has suited them very well indeed.

## DAILY MIRROR

### Stuttering Arsenal already off the pace as Liverpool show signs of progress

It was breathless, brilliant and yet somehow it finished goalless.

We can pick holes in both teams as to why Arsenal will not win the title and Liverpool might struggle to finish in the top four.

But for sheer entertainment value, it must go down as one of the most memorable goalless draws which really should have finished 4-4.

The reason it didn't is a tribute to both keepers as Petr Cech single-handedly defied Liverpool with a string of incredible first half saves.

Then Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet worked wonders in the second half when the momentum swung Arsenal's way.

But this result is more rewarding for Liverpool than for Arsenal who have made a stuttering start.

The visitors should have been out of sight at half time and then Olivier Giroud and Alexis Sanchez could have won it for Arsenal in the second half.

Arsenal have fired in the most shots this season with 61 and scored the joint-fewest goals and one of those was an own goal. Giroud has just managed one goal in his last ten games and Arsenal have failed to score in five of their last six games at the Emirates.

The statistics are pretty damning and tell their own story for Arsenal's failings this season but in Cech they have at least solved one problem even if last night highlighted a few more.

Chelsea captain John Terry claimed Cech would be worth between 12 to 15 points before his former team mate left to Arsenal. That's one in the bank already.

Cech deserves a medal not just for his saves but for also playing behind one of the most chaotic defence displays in recent memory. And for an Arsene Wenger team, that is saying something.

Per Mertesacker was out ill and Laurent Koscielny had a bad back so in came Brazilian centre half Gabriel and rookie Calum Chambers. Sadly for Chambers, he endured a nightmare first half while Gabriel was magnificent amid the madness.

Arsenal looked all over the place from the word go when Liverpool's chief architect, Philippe Coutinho, crashed a third-minute shot against the underside of the bar.

But Arsenal should have gone ahead after nine minutes when Aaron Ramsey was flagged offside after putting the ball in the net. TV replays suggested that Liverpool defender Martin Skrtel played him onside.

If that drove Arsene Wenger to distraction, then his team's defending would have driven him round the bend.

Chambers gave the ball away at will, it was Keystone Cops at times as even Santi Cazorla got in on the act as Liverpool were presented with chance after chance as James Milner, Nathaniel Clyne and Roberto Firmino went close.

Liverpool will still be wondering how they did not score after 39 minutes when Firmino's cross found Christian Benteke and somehow - and no one still knows how - Cech deflected his point-blank shot round the post.

On the stroke of half time, Coutinho's cross shot was pushed on to the post by Cech as Arsenal survived and hung on for dear life in the face of incredible pressure.

Wenger did redress the balance after half time, stiffening up the midfield as Cazorla dropped deeper to support Francis Coquelin and Arsenal had far more play.

Cazorla and Giroud combined to set up Sanchez who hit the post after 59 minutes before Giroud scuffed a shot on the turn to allow Simon Mignolet to make a fine save. Mignolet then defied Ramsey and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

Liverpool still pressed on the break but neither side could apply the winning touch to a thrilling game.

Ultimately, Liverpool will be happier with the point and they have more reason to be optimistic than Arsenal whose stuttering start has already left them off the pace.

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### Reds combine class and guts to achieve perfect platform for campaign ahead

This was the night that proved there is real substance to Liverpool's revival. Having unconvincingly seen off the challenge of Stoke and Bournemouth, Brendan Rodgers' side passed their first truly significant test of the campaign with flying colours against Arsenal in the capital. A solid start to the campaign is now a mightily impressive one with seven points out of nine providing the perfect platform to launch a top-four push. The memories of that dismal spring are slowly being banished. There was relief, frustration and pride in equal measure among the 3,000-strong travelling Kop after the Reds walked away from a pulsating contest with a share of the spoils. How Liverpool didn't break the deadlock during a hopelessly one-sided first half will remain a mystery.

For the best part of 45 minutes they dominated proceedings but twice Philippe Coutinho was thwarted by the woodwork and Petr Cech produced a stunning save to deny Christian Benteke. Yet in the second half the contest was transformed. From being firmly in the ascendancy, suddenly the Reds were under the cosh. Reds dug deep to repel Wenger's men in second period

Faced with that kind of onslaught at the Emirates back in April they crumbled, with the Gunners inflicting a deeply damaging 4-1 hiding. But Rodgers' class of 2015/16 are made of sterner stuff. Rather than buckle, they dug in and repelled the advances of Arsene Wenger's men. Alexis Sanchez hit the post and Simon Mignolet came to the rescue at key moments but Liverpool deserved their point. Stand-in captain James Milner was outstanding – he led the way and others followed. A third successive clean sheet was reward for the efforts of Martin Skrtel and Dejan Lovren, whose partnership is starting to blossom. With full-backs Nathaniel Clyne and Joe Gomez also shining, Liverpool now boast the kind of defensive resilience not previously witnessed in Rodgers' three years at the helm. A night packed full of positives didn't end there with the Reds functioning so much better as an attacking force. The understanding between Coutinho and Benteke is growing, while Roberto Firmino showed his creative spark on his full debut before fading. Breathless opening period as both sides show attacking intent Having only taken five points out of a possible 24 against the top four last season, this was an important psychological step forward for the Reds. They have proved they belong in this company. Old Trafford next month should hold no fears. With Jordan Henderson (foot) and Adam Lallana (quad) ruled out, Rodgers made three changes with Jordan Ibe relegated to bench duty. Firmino got the nod to start, while there were also recalls for Lucas Leiva and Emre Can.

It has been some turnaround for Lucas, starting at the Emirates having not even made the bench against either Stoke or Bournemouth. The experienced Brazilian, landed a lifeline after injury to Henderson, delivered the kind of assured display which underlined why it would be foolish to sell him before next week's transfer deadline. The opening stages were breathless as both sides surged forward with menacing intent. Benteke blazed wide from Emre Can's pass before Milner released the big frontman down the right channel. His pull back found Coutinho, whose rasping strike rattled the underside of the bar and stayed out. Arsenal responded to that scare. Somehow the pint-sized Alexis Sanchez was gifted a free header from Nacho Monreal's cross but he nodded over. The gifted Chilean attacker then stole in after Skrtel and Milner dallied but his toe poke was kept out by Mignolet.

The Emirates erupted soon after when Aaron Ramsey coolly tucked away Santi Cazorla's incisive pass but his celebrations were curtailed by the offside flag. Replays showed that the decision was marginal. For the rest of the first half Liverpool were relentless – combining the kind of tireless work ethic and attacking verve that were their calling cards two seasons ago. Of course this is a very different line up with the Reds not shy to go long these days and utilise the aerial prowess of Benteke. Rodgers had warned Arsenal that "unpredictability" was Liverpool's biggest weapon this term and they showed that during an increasingly one-sided first half. Benteke caused plenty of problems for the hosts' makeshift central defensive duo of Gabriel and Calum Chambers.

The Belgium international showcased the different elements to his game – one minute bursting in behind the Gunners' backline, the next soaring high to win a flick on. Benteke raced on to Coutinho's back-heel but the angle was tight and Cech kept it out. Coutinho provides most of the magic Liverpool's high pressing unsettled the Gunners who repeatedly coughed up possession. Coutinho pounced on a sloppy pass but before he could pull the trigger Francis Coquelin slid in to deny him.

Frustration among the locals continued to grow as the Reds turned the screw. Most of the magic came from the boots of Coutinho but just as important to their grip on proceedings was the infectious energy and industry of Milner. Clyne also excelled on the right with Gomez on the other flank showing composure way beyond his years. Lovren kept Olivier Giroud firmly under wraps and Lucas provided the shield, reading danger and dealing with it as he snapped into tackles. Coutinho flourished in the pockets of space in front of the overworked Arsenal back four and he expertly picked out the run of Milner. Gabriel came across to make the block and from the follow-up Milner's effort was forced behind by Cech.

Seven minutes before the break Liverpool should have led. Firmino's low cross put it on a plate for Benteke but somehow Cech clawed it wide.

Interval wrecked Liverpool's momentum

The travelling Kop roared their approval but the breakthrough they craved continued to elude them. Firmino's strike was kept out by the legs of Cech and then Coutinho skipped past Hector Bellerin and saw his right-footer tipped on to the post. Liverpool needed half-time like a hole in the head. The interval wrecked their momentum and predictably Arsenal improved considerably.

Cazorla and Giroud combined to tee up Sanchez, who fired against the outside of the post. Ibe came on for the tiring Firmino but Liverpool remained firmly on the defensive. Mignolet stuck out his right palm to thwart Giroud before the keeper clung on to Ramsey's curler. With 15 minutes to go Rodgers handed a second senior appearance to Academy graduate Jordan Rossiter – 11 months after his debut against Middlesbrough. Lucas departed with the sound of thunderous applause from the away end ringing in his ears.

Both sides could have won it late on with Coutinho's strike beaten away by Cech before Mignolet clung on to Ramsey's deflected drive and Skrtel almost put through his own net. Deep into stoppage time substitute Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain was denied by Mignolet's sprawling save as the Reds hung on. Classy in the first half, gutsy in the second half, there was much to admire.

Liverpool are on the rise. MATCH FACTS

Arsenal (4-2-3-1): Cech, Bellerin, Gabriel, Chambers, Monreal, Coquelin (Oxlade-Chamberlain 82), Cazorla, Ramsey, Ozil, Sanchez, Giroud (Walcott 73)

Not used: Ospina, Debuchy, Gibbs, Arteta, Flamini.

Liverpool (4-1-4-1): Mignolet, Clyne, Skrtel, Lovren, Gomez, Lucas (Rossiter 75), Firmino (Ibe 62), Milner, Can, Coutinho (Moreno 88), Benteke.

Not used: Bogdan, Sakho, Ings, Origi.

Referee: Michael Oliver Attendance: 60,080 Bookings: Skrtel, Gabriel, Can, Mignolet, Gomez, Man of the match: James Milner. A towering performance from Liverpool's stand-in captain.

## EveningStandard.

### Gunners draw another blank at home and fall five points off Premier League pacesetters

Arsenal fell further behind early Premier League pacesetters Manchester City after playing out an entertaining 0-0 draw with Liverpool at Emirates Stadium. The Gunners are still searching for their first home win of the campaign - having lost 2-0 to West Ham on the opening day - and could easily have suffered a similar fate here had the visitors taken any of several excellent first-half chances.

They were indebted to £10million summer signing Petr Cech, who made up for a poor League debut against the Hammers with a string of fine saves as Liverpool twice struck the woodwork in the opening 45 minutes.

In a game characterised by some chaotic defending yet fine goalkeeping, Arsenal rallied after the interval and hit the post through Alexis Sanchez but were left to rue two dropped points, leaving them five behind City while Liverpool's 100 per cent start to the season also came to an end.

Both sides made changes from their previous outing but Arsenal looked destabilised by losing Per Mertesacker to illness and Laurent Koscielny to a back injury. Calum Chambers and Gabriel deputised at the heart of the Gunners' defence but they struggled to contain a Liverpool side boasting a first start for £29million summer signing Roberto Firmino with Emre Can and Lucas Leiva in central midfield, replacing injured duo Jordan Henderson and Adam Lallana.

Liverpool hit the bar with three minutes on the clock. Christian Benteke bent his run to stay onside and found a square pass to Philippe Coutinho, who struck a clever, curling effort which cannoned back off the crossbar.

Arsenal responded in an open start through Nacho Monreal, who foraged down the left flank before delivering a cross that Sanchez headed over the bar after mistiming his jump once bursting in front of Joe Gomez.

The home side should have taken the lead in the eight minute when Santi Cazorla freed Aaron Ramsey in the inside left channel and he converted smartly at Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet's near post only to be flagged offside.

However, replays showed Ramsey was clearly played onside by defender Martin Skrtel. Arsenal's defending gradually unravellled from this point on. Chambers gifted the ball straight to Coutinho on the edge of the box only for Francis Coquelin to rob the Brazilian with a brilliant lunging tackle. The ball broke to Cazorla but instead of clearing the danger, he lost out to James Milner, whose shot was deflected behind for a corner. Milner was denied by Cech midway through the first half as Arsenal continued to undermine their performance with errant passing. Chambers lost the ball to Coutinho, who fed Gomez and Benteke looked for all the world as though he would convert the full-back's dangerous cross from six yards out but Cech made a superb one-handed save to deny him.

From the resulting corner, Firmino tested Cech again and the 33-year-old made another marvellous save just before the interval, tipping Coutinho's curling effort onto the post. The game became much scrappier after the interval but Arsenal could have taken the lead on the hour mark. Cazorla fed Olivier Giroud in the box and the Frenchman's brilliant layoff found the onrushing Sanchez, who slashed across the ball with his left foot from close range and struck halfway up Mignolet's right-hand post.

Date: 24 August 2015

Opposition: Arsenal

Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Standard
Independent	Mail	BBC

24 August 2015

Giroud might then have broken the deadlock himself after collecting Ramsey's pass and hooking a left foot shot at goal from 12 yards that Mignolet did well to claw away.

Ramsey then curled a fine effort from the edge of the box which Mignolet caught at full stretch and although Arsenal had by now reduced Liverpool to sporadic counter-attacks, manager Arsene Wenger introduced Theo Walcott for Giroud with 17 minutes to give the Gunners a different attacking threat.

Liverpool retained a threat, though, and Cech was required to beat out Coutinho's tinging effort inside the final ten minutes.

Ramsey's deflected shot had Mignolet scrambling before Skrtel turned substitute Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's dangerous cross desperately close to his own goal. Mignolet thwarted Oxlade-Chamberlain from distance in stoppage-time and ultimately Arsenal could not find a way through.



Liverpool maintained their unbeaten start to the Premier League season as they played out a thrilling goalless draw with Arsenal at Emirates Stadium.

In a game littered with chances, brilliant goalkeeping and defensive mistakes, it was almost beyond belief that neither side could carve out a victory and deliver an early psychological blow among the contenders at the top of the table.

Liverpool dominated the first half but found Petr Cech in magnificent form as the former Chelsea goalkeeper saved miraculously from Christian Benteke and turned Philippe Coutinho's shot on to a post. Coutinho also struck the bar in the third minute - and while Arsenal's opportunities were few, they were furious that Aaron Ramsey's early strike was ruled out for offside. Arsenal regrouped and dominated much of the second half, Alexis Sanchez hitting the post and Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet producing a fine reflex save from Olivier Giroud.

The Reds will be delighted with a third successive clean sheet on the back of victories against Stoke City and Bournemouth, while Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger will be equally pleased by the character shown by his side after a difficult first half. When Arsenal bought Cech for £10m from Chelsea in June, the instant wisdom was that his presence alone could be worth an extra 10 points to the Gunners. Time will tell, but this was the night when the 33-year-old showed just how important a signing he could be as the Gunners try finally to mount a serious Premier League title challenge.

Cech was castigated to an exaggerated degree after a poor debut in the home defeat by West Ham, but he was magnificent here when Liverpool laid siege to his goal in the first half.

He spread himself brilliantly to turn away Benteke's close-range effort when it seemed certain the Belgium striker would score, then showed he still retains the old athleticism to stretch and tip Coutinho's curling shot against an upright.

If any Arsenal fans harboured doubts about his purchase, this was a display to dispel them. When Liverpool almost won the title in 2014, it was spearheaded by the superb attacking triumvirate of Luis Suarez, Daniel Sturridge and Raheem Sterling. Liverpool floundered last season with Suarez at Barcelona, Sturridge injured and Sterling disaffected and out of sorts before his £49m move to Manchester City. While there can be no comparisons with that trio, there are so many signs of promise in the understanding already established between Coutinho and £32.5m summer signing Benteke.

Coutinho's darting runs and fast footwork are dangerous on their own while also looking for an outlet in Benteke, whose easy movement shows he is so much more than a big target man.

They have shown Liverpool can offer a different type of threat this season - and manager Brendan Rodgers will face an intriguing conundrum when Sturridge finally declares himself fit.

Top four is more realistic for both and they don't look like threatening Manchester City on this very early evidence.

Liverpool, however, will be delighted at maintaining their recovery from the trauma of last season, with a third successive clean sheet and more signs that confidence is slowly returning.

#### Man of the match: Petr Cech

#### Post-match reaction:

#### Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger:

"We scored a regular goal that was disallowed, I don't believe I can do something about it. At the end of the day, the referee cancelled out a regular goal. Like it or don't like it, it is a fact.

"We had chances, but we couldn't finish them off. When you play at home and don't win, people always find problems.

"It is not the result or the complete performance, but we came back in the second half."

#### Arsenal keeper Petr Cech:

"It is a shame we couldn't snatch the three points, but the game was so crazy - 0-0 we can take. First half, we scored a goal and it was ruled out for offside. That could have changed the game.

"We could have won the game, we could have been losing after the first half."

#### Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers:

"I thought we were very good. First half, Petr Cech was the man of the match.

"Second half, we were always a threat going forward. The players worked ever so hard."

#### The stats you need to know

This game was the first time both Mertesacker and Koscielny have missed a Premier League game for Arsenal since April 2012 versus Wigan

Liverpool are the fifth team to start a Premier League game with three or more Brazilians in their XI, after Middlesbrough, Arsenal, Man City and Chelsea

Cech kept only one clean sheet in his final nine Premier League appearances against Liverpool for Chelsea

Liverpool's possession figure of 34% is the lowest they have recorded in the top flight under Rodgers

Arsenal have failed to score in five of their last six Premier League home games

Arsenal have failed to score in their opening two league home games for the first time since August 1979

Date: 24 August 2015

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Guardian	Mirror	Standard		
Independent	Mail	BBC		



Full time Match ends, Arsenal 0, Liverpool 0.

90:00+4:03 Full time Second Half ends, Arsenal 0, Liverpool 0.

90:00+3:55 Attempt missed. Gabriel Paulista (Arsenal header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Mesut Özil with a cross following a corner.

90:00+3:28 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.

90:00+3:24 Attempt saved. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Theo Walcott.

90:00+0:23 Calum Chambers (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.

90:00+0:23 Foul by Jordon Ibe (Liverpool).

87:01 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Alberto Moreno replaces Philippe Coutinho.

85:21 Attempt missed. Santiago Cazorla (Arsenal right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right.

85:19 Attempt missed. Mesut Özil (Arsenal right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Santiago Cazorla.

84:36 Booking Simon Mignolet (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

84:00 Attempt missed. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left following a corner.

83:31 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

82:37 Attempt saved. Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Santiago Cazorla.

81:32 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Arsenal. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain replaces Francis Coquelin.

80:53 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Joseph Gomez.

78:42 Booking Joseph Gomez (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

78:37 Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal wins a free kick on the right wing.

78:37 Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool).

77:49 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Calum Chambers.

77:26 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Francis Coquelin.

75:19 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Jordan Rossiter replaces Lucas Leiva.

73:42 Hand ball by Emre Can (Liverpool).

72:28 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Arsenal. Theo Walcott replaces Olivier Giroud.

72:05 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is too high.

71:34 Attempt saved. Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Olivier Giroud.

70:22 Attempt saved. James Milner (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Emre Can.

69:08 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Nathaniel Clyne.

69:01 Attempt saved. Olivier Giroud (Arsenal left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Aaron Ramsey.

67:32 Attempt blocked. Olivier Giroud (Arsenal left footed shot from the left side of the six yard box is blocked. Assisted by Nacho Monreal.

65:56 Booking Emre Can (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

65:46 Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.

65:46 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).

64:41 Booking Gabriel Paulista (Arsenal is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

64:39 Foul by Gabriel Paulista (Arsenal).

64:39 Christian Benteke (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

63:49 Mesut Özil (Arsenal wins a free kick on the left wing.

63:49 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).

63:37 Attempt blocked. Héctor Bellerín (Arsenal right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.

63:35 Attempt blocked. Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alexis Sánchez with a cross.

62:24 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Jordon Ibe replaces Roberto Firmino.

61:54 Alexis Sánchez (Arsenal wins a free kick on the left wing.

61:54 Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool).

61:30 Attempt missed. Francis Coquelin (Arsenal left footed shot from outside the box misses to the left following a set piece situation.

60:54 Booking Martin Skrtel (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

60:47 Alexis Sánchez (Arsenal wins a free kick on the left wing.

60:47 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).

60:22 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.

59:31 Alexis Sánchez (Arsenal hits the left post with a left footed shot from the centre of the box. Assisted by Olivier Giroud.

56:49 Attempt missed. Olivier Giroud (Arsenal left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Alexis Sánchez.

52:57 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by James Milner.

52:09 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

52:08 Attempt blocked. Olivier Giroud (Arsenal right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alexis Sánchez.

49:08 Attempt missed. Santiago Cazorla (Arsenal left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Mesut Özil.

48:25 Francis Coquelin (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.

48:25 Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool).

45:00 Second Half begins Arsenal 0, Liverpool 0.

45:00+1:02 Half time First Half ends, Arsenal 0, Liverpool 0.

44:40 Offside, Arsenal. Mesut Özil tries a through ball, but Aaron Ramsey is caught offside.

44:04 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Christian Benteke with a headed pass.

41:21 Offside, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside.

40:23 Mesut Özil (Arsenal wins a free kick on the right wing.

40:23 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).

39:19 Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by James Milner following a corner.

38:54 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Petr Cech.

38:52 Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner.

38:15 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Petr Cech.

38:14 Attempt saved. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from very close range is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a cross.

36:06 Offside, Arsenal. Aaron Ramsey tries a through ball, but Olivier Giroud is caught offside.

33:35 Offside, Liverpool. James Milner tries a through ball, but Emre Can is caught offside.

32:50 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Gabriel Paulista.

30:17 Offside, Arsenal. Nacho Monreal tries a through ball, but Alexis Sánchez is caught offside.

27:03 Héctor Bellerín (Arsenal wins a free kick on the right wing.

27:03 Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool).

25:53 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Gabriel Paulista.

25:52 Attempt blocked. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

24:58 Alexis Sánchez (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.

24:58 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool).

24:01 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Petr Cech.

23:59 Attempt saved. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom left corner.

20:54 Foul by Olivier Giroud (Arsenal).

20:54 Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

20:29 Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.

20:29 Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool).

19:02 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Joseph Gomez.

18:18 Nacho Monreal (Arsenal wins a free kick on the left wing.

18:18 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).

17:20 Attempt saved. Olivier Giroud (Arsenal header from the centre of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Mesut Özil with a cross.

16:56 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.

15:50 Offside, Liverpool. Martin Skrtel tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside.

14:50 Attempt blocked. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner with a cross.

14:34 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

14:15 Delay in match Francis Coquelin (Arsenal because of an injury.

13:46 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Nacho Monreal.

13:43 Attempt blocked. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

10:34 Attempt blocked. Alexis Sánchez (Arsenal right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Santiago Cazorla.

8:54 Attempt saved. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

7:52 Offside, Arsenal. Santiago Cazorla tries a through ball, but Aaron Ramsey is caught offside.

6:42 Offside, Arsenal. Mesut Özil tries a through ball, but Alexis Sánchez is caught offside.

4:48 Attempt missed. Alexis Sánchez (Arsenal header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Nacho Monreal with a cross.

2:24 Offside, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino tries a through ball, but Emre Can is caught offside.

2:18 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool hits the bar with a right footed shot from the centre of the box. Assisted by Christian Benteke.

1:36 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Emre Can.

0:00 First Half begins.

0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.