

Date: 22 October 2015  
 Opposition: Rubin Kazan  
 Competition: Europa League

Times	Telegraph	Echo	22 October 2015
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# THE TIMES

Klopp's first chapter at Anfield is a familiar tale

Liverpool 1 Can 37 Rubin Kazan 1 Devic 15

Jürgen Klopp had warned that it could be like this. "I hope that no one is waiting for 3-0 after four minutes and is disappointed," he had said before his first game at Anfield as Liverpool's manager. The potential for anticlimax was there for all to see and so it transpired as ten-man Rubin Kazan held Liverpool to a 1-1 draw. For all the excitement provoked by his arrival, the size of the job that Klopp has taken on has been made instantly apparent. Klopp had walked on to the pitch 45 minutes before kick-off with the sound of She Loves You by the Beatles blaring over the Anfield tannoy. Klopp-mania instantly went to a new level with banners unfurled on the Kop in tribute to the man that the Liverpool supporters have instantly pinned so much hope on. Their faith went unrewarded last night but this was not to be unexpected. For all Klopp's insistence that he does not require magic dust to transform the Liverpool team he has inherited, they are in need of more than a little inspiration. Had it not been for the dismissal of Oleg Kuzmin, the Kazan captain, in the 36th minute, Klopp might have suffered defeat in his first home game. As it was, Emre Can ensured that his compatriot remains unbeaten after two games in charge, with an equalising goal that allowed Liverpool to lay an unsuccessful second-half siege to the visiting team's goal. The difficulty of the job that Klopp has taken on is now abundantly clear, although with Liverpool's owners, Fenway Sports Group, in attendance this may be no bad thing before the January transfer window. The type of brilliant goal that Anfield had hoped for to mark Klopp's arrival was duly delivered after 15 minutes, but it was not Liverpool who provided it. Kazan, 12th in the Russian Premier League having lost four of their past seven league matches, had not been expected to provide stiff opposition, but they took the lead with a style that belied their recent form as Marko Devic showed wonderful chest control to cushion Kuzmin's cross-field pass before beating Simon Mignolet with a stabbed half-volley into the goal at the Kop end. Nathaniel Clyne, who had been at fault for the previous goal that Liverpool had conceded in this competition against Sion, had again been found wanting, caught out of position and unable to get back goalside as a result of Devic's superior strength. It was such defensive errors that had done much to ensure that Brendan Rodgers' reign had unravelled and it provided another reminder, if needed, that it will take more than a change of manager to correct all of Liverpool's problems. The administering of a dose of reality did not lessen Liverpool's new-found commitment to relentless pressing and a feverish desire to get forward at breakneck speed. The problem, though, another that predates Klopp's arrival, is that Liverpool's finishing far too often lacks the precision to go with their approach play. The nearest they came to scoring during the first half was a Can shot from outside the penalty area that crashed into the side-netting. After that, the closer they got to goal, the less accurate they became. Adam Lallana, suddenly a whirling dervish of a player, struck one effort wide, then headed Philippe Coutinho's free kick on to the roof of the net. Divock Origi attempted to wrap his right foot around Clyne's low cross but miscued. Coutinho screwed a shot across goal and Lallana had another attempt held easily by Sergey Ryzhikov, the Kazan goalkeeper. In keeping with their overall display to that point, the effort was there but the quality to make it count was lacking. At that stage, the excitement sparked by Klopp's first game at Anfield threatened to fall flat and it could have done so had Mignolet not managed to divert a goalbound effort from Blagoy Georgiev over the crossbar. If that was a turning point, it was dwarfed in significance by what followed as Kuzmin felled Can and was handed a second yellow card, having picked up a booking for a dangerous tackle on Alberto Moreno. The punishment did not end there for Kazan, as no sooner had Kuzmin left the pitch than the visiting team had conceded an equaliser from the resultant free kick. It was a routine goal as Can finished from close range, taking advantage of Origi's header across the six-yard box that turned Coutinho's dead-ball delivery into a clear opportunity for his team-mate, but what it meant to Klopp was clear as he charged away from the dugout and punched the air in ferocious delight. Manager, team and crowd had the moment they had wanted but, having got the goal, Liverpool's next challenge was to secure the win required to get Klopp off to a positive start in front of his adoring public. At a numerical disadvantage, Kazan's ambition at the start of the second half was as clear as it was understandable as the Russian team looked to hold on to what they had. The risk of such an approach was also apparent, though, and none more so than when Clyne got around the back of their defence, only to hesitate at the crucial moment and the chance to pick out either Lallana or Origi was wasted. Coutinho then ended a jinking run with a low shot that was deflected wide as Liverpool's attacking threat grew still further. With Kazan looking increasingly vulnerable, Klopp attempted to force the issue, bringing on Christian Benteke for Coutinho in a clear sign that Liverpool were about to go more direct. Christian Benteke's arrival immediately caused panic with Magomed Ozdoyev volleying just over his own crossbar, before the Liverpool substitute had a close-range header blocked after enterprising approach play from the impressive Moreno. Benteke then wasted a chance to put Liverpool in front when he volleyed over from Clyne's cross, a miss that could charitably be put down to rust after a month-long absence caused by hamstring trouble. The forward found his range shortly afterwards, arcing a shot around Sergey Ryzhkov, only for the ball to strike a post before rebounding to safety. That proved to be Liverpool's last good opportunity as Klopp's first night in front of the Kop fell flat.

Liverpool (4-3-2-1): S Mignolet -- N Clyne, M Skrtel, M Sakho, A Moreno -- J Milner, J Allen (sub: L Leiva, 45min), E Can -- A Lallana, P Coutinho (sub: C Benteke, 63) -- D Origi (sub: R Firmino, 74). Substitutes not used: A Bogdan, K Toure, J Ibe, C Randall. Booked: Skrtel, Allen.

Rubin Kazan (4-2-3-1): S Ryzhikov -- O Kuzmin, S Kverkvelia, R Kambolov, E Nabiullin -- M Ozdoyev, B Georgiev -- M Kanunnikov, C Eduardo (sub: I Portnyagin, 64), G Karadeniz (sub: V Dyadyun, 81) -- M Devic (sub: G Cotugno, 45). Substitutes not used: A Haghighi, M Lemos, D Bilyaletdinov, I Akhmetov. Booked: Kuzmin. Sent off: Kuzmin. Referee: R Schorzenhofer (Austria).

## the guardian

Liverpool and Jürgen Klopp frustrated by draw against 10-man Rubin Kazan

It was a good night on Merseyside for Germans – Jürgen Klopp received a rousing welcome and Emre Can scored Liverpool's only goal – yet at the end of the evening the result and the performance remained stubbornly the same. A disappointing 1-1 home draw with FC Sion of Switzerland was one of the reasons the Brendan Rodgers era came to a close. Considering Liverpool were playing against 10 men for more than 50 minutes following the dismissal of one of Rubin Kazan's defenders, this was not quite the fresh start the club was looking for. The Jürgen Klopp Revolution – copyright a few thousand scarves and T-shirts on sale outside Anfield – began with a selection of fairly naff German Europop tunes as the sharp-suited new manager took the field before kick-off to watch his players go through a slightly altered warm-up.

Perhaps the stadium announcer needs to update his heavy metal collection, although the reception from the Kop was a warm one, right down to the assortment of banners relaying various positive messages beneath iconic artwork involving club caps and spectacles. Far From Normal, read one, while another referenced The Monkees and Klopp's initial plea to supporters: Then I Saw His Face, Now I'm A Believer. Wigan Athletic actually had that idea first, and look where they are now, but Liverpool went ahead and played the record anyway. By the time a full-throated You'll Never Walk Alone had been rendered it was becoming necessary to remind oneself that the purpose of the evening was a football match and not an evangelist meeting, yet once the game started there was an undeniable zip and purpose about the home side that the crowd was all too happy to applaud. The hitherto languid Can took up where he left off at White Hart Lane and charged about the pitch as if he had been personally tasked with bullying the visitors into making mistakes, while Adam Lallana again played like a man worried he might have only half an hour or so to show what he could do. Broadly speaking, the high-energy pressing worked, in that Rubin Kazan were never allowed any time to settle on the ball, much less set up attacks, though it worked for only 15 minutes. Perhaps suspecting Liverpool were rushing around a little too frantically for their own good, the visitors took an early lead with a goal that demonstrated that good sides do not need a great deal of time on the ball to get results. All it took was a well-timed run into the area by Marko Devic, an accurate ball forward from Oleg Kuzmin in the centre circle to find him, and the manner in which the striker held off Nathaniel Clyne's challenge while controlling the ball on his chest before beating Simon Mignolet was skill of the sort Anfield must have enjoyed in spite of itself.

Liverpool attempted to hit back immediately, with Lallana first shooting wide then heading narrowly over from Alberto Moreno's free-kick, then Divock Origi was unable to score when Clyne's cross reached him in front of goal. Philippe Coutinho was presented with the ball by a defensive mistake but did not get his shot away decisively enough and eventually missed the target, and for all the home side's efforts it was the Russians who came closest to scoring before their numbers were reduced, Georgiev bringing a fingertip save from Mignolet when unmarked near the penalty spot.

The game changed 10 minutes from the interval when Liverpool got lucky, or conversely when Kuzmin of the away side grew stupid. Already cautioned for a foul on Moreno, the right-back dragged down Can blatantly and unnecessarily and collected a second yellow from the Austrian referee.

**Gegenpressing** will obviously work that bit better when facing 10 men for more than half the game, although in the event Liverpool rubbed salt into Kazan's wounds by equalising directly from the free-kick. Coutinho angled the ball in, Origi headed it down across goal and Can was on hand to hook the ball over the line from close range. As countless managers down the years would confirm, all the tactics in the world can still be confounded by a bit of luck. Liverpool could even have ended the first half in front had not another Coutinho shot rolled inches wide.

Rubin Kazan withdrew their main striker at half-time and settled for damage limitation, a prospect made more remote when Klopp sent on Christian Benteke for the last half hour. Liverpool had made several second-half chances before then but contrived to miss them all, with Coutinho and Can the most conspicuous offenders. Benteke's first chance came 15 minutes from time when he volleyed rather wastefully over from Clyne's cross, and by that time Klopp had decided to bring Roberto Firmino into the action as well.

Benteke then hit a post from Lallana's pass as the visitors began to ride their luck, but though the traffic was all one way the 10 men held out. While pressing may be Klopp's priority, the new manager also needs to take a look at Liverpool's creativity when in possession.

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# The Mail

KLOPP FLOPS ON BIG NIGHT; Liverpool manager can't find quick fix as Rubin hold firm

IT ALWAYS helps for a manager to get an early sight of what he faces at his new club. The culture, the strengths, the fixes, the flaws. It's fair to say his Anfield unveiling gave Jurgen Klopp a most thorough briefing on what ails Liverpool. The matchday programme, with his cover image parodying the iconic Barack Obama 'Hope' poster, neatly encapsulated the enormous expectation. Yet Liverpool's failure to overcome a Rubin Kazan team reduced to 10 men after 36 minutes confirmed the size of the task ahead. No matter Klopp's stardust, this remains a side who have lost their manager, their best players and their status of 18 months past, and as a consequence lack conviction. Liverpool had more than 30 shots at goal, but 80 per cent were off target.

Rubin's opportunities were limited but contained greater threat. The best save of the night came from Simon Mignolet and, while Russian ambition diminished greatly with the dismissal of captain Oleg Kuzmin, a late corner produced a header that could have snatched the game. Klopp is learning about Liverpool all the time, and one of last night's lessons concerned his new club's penchant for taking a good player from Southampton and, somehow, diminishing him; Dejan Lovren, Adam Lallana and, in this case, Nathaniel Clyne.

Last season, Clyne was the outstanding right back in the Premier League. It earned him promotion to the England squad, and quite probably the team in France next summer. Here, he was made to look inept by the simplest of tests for Rubin's goal. It was a good diagonal ball from Kuzmin, but nothing a well-positioned defender should not have been able to deal with. Unfortunately, Clyne was anything but. The wrong side of Marko Devic, he was turned easily before the Ukrainian striker directed a great volley into the corner, leaving Mignolet helpless. Welcome to Liverpool, saviour. To his credit, Klopp is still at the stage where he is all about positivity. If he was in any way unnerved by what he had just seen, he did not let it show. Much arm-waving followed, which amateurs in sign language interpreted to mean, 'We go again'. And Liverpool did. They had plenty of the ball and applied pressure, but little that found a way through. Goalkeeper Sergei Ryzhikov put in a shift, but without heroics. The nearest Liverpool came to a winner was an 80th minute shot from substitute Christian Benteke that hit a post, after good work from Lallana. They had the best of the game, but it was very easy to forget they were up against 10 men.

Still, Anfield remains a special place on European nights, the biggest problem being that little special has happened in Europe around these parts for some time. Long term, Klopp may be the man to change that.

The demands he makes of his team -- run hard, close down, harry -- are what domestic audiences like to see. Klopp clapped furiously each time his players earned a tiny second-ball victory and in time, one imagines, it will become second nature to graft this way. FOR now, they need reminders. In the first half, Divock Origi found himself with the ball near Rubin's penalty area after a counter attack. He was desperate for support. So was Klopp. He looked at the bulk of his midfielders still passing through third gear. Momentarily, the encouragement stopped and a glower took over. One imagines that won't happen again after today's post-match debrief. He looks as if he doesn't waste much time repeating himself. Still, smart in his winter coat, Klopp looked at home here, and the locals tried their best to welcome him. The man in charge of the pre-match music did his bit. Kraftwerk's Trans-Europe Express filled the night air, as did Heroes sung in German by David Bowie, Sie Liebt Dich by The Beatles (She Loves You, a relic from their Hamburg days) and, more dubiously, The Ramones' Blitzkrieg Bop. Banners had been prepared, the best of which summed up Anfield's view of their new man. 'Far from normal', it read. Yet, often, Liverpool were. Normal, ordinary, unexceptional. They had chances, but little that stood out. A run and shot wide by Emre Can after eight minutes. Another from Lallana after 17, Philippe Coutinho after 32 and Lallana again a minute later. When Clyne got down the right on the overlap, Origi could not convert at the near post, and a flat free-kick from Coutinho was headed over by Lallana.

Rubin's chances were more telling. In the 34th minute, left back Elmir Nabiullin got past Clyne and whipped in a great cross which Blagoy Georgiev met on the volley, forcing a superb save from Mignolet. Another lesson there for Klopp: early on, he may need his goalkeeper more than is healthy. Shoring up the midfield with the introduction of Lucas for Joe Allen at half-time suggests he is not slow on the uptake. Still if Klopp is charged with turning back the clock to better days at Anfield, he has made a start already. It was January 2009 when the club last drew four games on the trot but, between them, Klopp and his predecessor Brendan Rodgers have now replicated that. BACK then, however, Liverpool had Fernando Torres to end stalemates. There is no-one of his calibre here and, while Benteke was a handful, he could not provide the necessary breakthrough, given 27 minutes to win the game. Another revelation there perhaps, about the need for players to stay switched-on. Klopp had wanted to introduce Benteke three minutes earlier, but the striker looked to have left an item of apparel in the dressing room. As he disappeared down the tunnel to make amends, Klopp shot his bench a look that suggested a sternly worded memo at least this morning. So, no quick solutions. Having gone behind, Liverpool only drew level while Kazan were reorganising after the dismissal of Kuzmin. The Russians were a goal up when their captain committed a clumsy and poorly judged foul on Can. Having already been booked for a reckless challenge on Alberto Moreno, he left Austrian

referee Robert Schorngenhofer little option but to show a red card.

From the resulting free-kick, Liverpool equalised. Coutinho crossed from the left, Origi met the ball at the far post, heading it across goal for Can to force over the line from close range. The momentum should have been with Liverpool from there, but scant else of note occurred. Coutinho had the odd pop and many corners were forced. None came to much. Klopp is making Liverpool harder to beat and that is stage one in the construction of any team. For this to be an Obama moment for Liverpool, however, better has to come. As the game fizzled out, Klopp stood, hands deep in the pockets of his sharp new outerwear. If only the team looked as good as he did.

## The Daily Telegraph

Klopp's Anfield welcome party ends in frustration

Liverpool 1 Can 37 RubinKazan 1 Devic 15

There was a communion of Klopp and the Kop but this was not quite the spiritual gathering that Liverpool had hoped for. There is, as Jurgen Klopp has warned, work to be done. A lot of work. The new manager had cautioned against the Messianic impulse by stating he could not walk on water. But he had hoped to surf the wave of Mersey optimism. Against 10 men for much of this Europa League tie it was not the full-throttle, emotional football that the fans wanted to lap up and the new man wanted to deliver. It ended in frustration, a third draw in this group for Liverpool leaving Klopp in search of a first victory.

Suited, booted Klopp commanded the centre-circle before kick-off. He surveyed his own team. He surveyed the opposition. It gave the immediate impression of ownership. Of belonging; of charisma. And of focus. A focus that was also there in his team selection which, given its strength, reflected that this was a competition he would be taking seriously.

He will also have known that ending a first home game in triumph was a necessity given the desire his arrival has unleashed.

There were more banners in the crowd, some directed at the new manager with 'I'm a Believer' emblazoned on them, and certainly more scarves.

They were directed in hope but also in expectation. And the Kop was in great voice as You'll Never Walk Alone rang out.

But there was catch. Rubin may have qualified for this competition by default, after finishing fifth in the Russian league and being installed after Dynamo Moscow were ruled out for breaching Financial Fair Play, but there was a statistic that will have caused a pang of concern. They have lost just two of their last 21 games.

It showed. Liverpool did not lack intent. But neither did Rubin. Emre Can skimmed the side-netting with a low shot but then the midfielder was caught out as he hurtled into a challenge and was rounded by Oleg Kuzmin, who then clipped a cross that was chested down by Marko Devic. The striker held off Nathaniel Clyne and deftly flicked the ball with the outside of his right foot to beat Simon Mignolet. Rubin were ahead. Anfield was stunned; near silent.

Liverpool summoned a response. A chance fell to Divock Origi, with Clyne's low ball cannoning off his shins, and an Adam Lallana header looped onto the roof of the net before Philippe Coutinho seized on a loose pass, ran at the defence but could only drag his shot back across goal and wide. His quick feet created another opening but he fired straight at goalkeeper Sergei Ryzhikov.

Not that Rubin sat back. An opportunity opened up for Magomed Ozdоеv and, soon after, the Liverpool defence was again at fault, allowing Blagoy Georgiev time to bring the ball down and loft a shot that Mignolet superbly clawed away.

By now that euphoria had subsided. Instead there was an edge, but it was the wrong kind of edge. Until, wildly, it switched. Kuzmin, already cautioned, received a second booking and a red card for blocking off Can.

Down to 10-men Rubin immediately conceded. From the ensuing free-kick, Origi met Coutinho's delivery, heading back across goal for Can to lunge and force the ball over the line. Klopp's celebration was almost primal as he spun, fist-pumped and roared at the supporters behind him. The dynamic was back with him. And, he hoped, with his team. They had pressed and harried but with little real sense of control; of possession and rhythm and it was no surprise to see Joe Allen withdrawn at half-time with Lucas Leiva introduced. The change was cheered. Hopefully more for the appearance of Lucas, although, in truth, it probably reflected on how much Allen had struggled. Liverpool, in truth, were lacking in incision. There was no question over work-rate and intent in a 4-3-3 formation, with Klopp constantly demanding his team push forward.

Three times shots from distance were charged down, Coutinho went close with two others efforts, as Liverpool became overeager before Clyne did wonderfully well to break inside the area, running onto Lallana's flick but hesitated, unsure whether to cross or shoot, and the ball was bundled away for a corner.

Rubin were pressed back; entrenched. The pressure mounted further with the introduction of Christian Benteke - whose chance quickly came with Clyne crossing to leave the striker with time and space. He elected to volley - it appeared prime for a header - and sent the ball high over the bar.

If he was wasteful then he was soon unfortunate as the impressive Lallana teed him up for Benteke to stroke the ball back across goal only for it to strike the inside of the post and bounce out. Ryzhikov turned away Lallana's powerful drive, Benteke steered another effort over. By now it was simply frantic, and in a rare foray, Rubin won a corner. Substitute Igor Portnyagin met it, unmarked, but headed wide. It ended in a draw. With that moment it could have been worse.

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## THE INDEPENDENT

### Stubborn Russians hold on to spoil Jurgen Klopp's Anfield bow

It was supposed to be the night when the noise cascaded from the Kop as if a biblical storm had penetrated the north face of the Eiger; the night, indeed, when Jürgen Klopp was offered before Anfield as Liverpool's manager, with a crushing victory naturally following.

John W Henry, Liverpool's primary owner, was in attendance, along with the chairman, Tom Werner. The stadium's public address system played a mix of love songs and thrash metal, the latter being the type Klopp would really appreciate. There was even a new scoreboard in the corner of the Centenary Stand, perhaps marking the new era in some way.

And then the football started and with that the truth was exposed. Liverpool could not beat the 12th best side out of 16 in the Russian league, one that was reduced to 10 men for 55 minutes of the contest. It indicates there is so much work for Klopp to do.

Almost a year on from the night when his predecessor Brendan Rodgers fielded a weakened team in the Santiago Bernabeu for a Champions League match, losing narrowly to Real Madrid, Klopp went all out for victory here, leaving only Lucas Leiva out from the side that drew at Tottenham at the weekend.

Klopp had warned the crowd that they should not expect Liverpool to be 4-0 up after three minutes and reasoned that they should not be disappointed if they weren't.

Falling behind was certainly not on the agenda, though, and when it happened, it was largely because of Martin Skrtel, who was too impulsive when meeting a tackle near halfway, surrendering a free-kick.

He then misjudged the flight of a cross from the right-back Oleg Kuzmin, affording Marko Devic the space to release a beautifully struck finish using the outside of his right foot.

Klopp has emphasised frequently since becoming Liverpool's manager that he will require some luck if success is to be realised.

Kuzmin was soon correctly sent off for two bookable offences but the timing of his red card was fortunate, in that Kazan did not have time to organise properly from the corresponding free-kick, with Emre Can ramming in the equaliser from Divock Origi's headed knock-down.

Klopp celebrated the goal by turning to those behind him in the Main Stand, baring his teeth. Further releases of such emotion will have to wait for another occasion.

**Man of the match** Karadeniz (Rubin Kazan).

**Match rating** 5/10.

**Referee** R Schörgenhofer (Austria).

**Attendance** 42,951.

## DAILY Mirror

Reds frustrated by ten-man Russians in Jurgen Klopp's first home game  
[Jurgen Klopp](#) was charismatic, photogenic, energetic and often downright manic as he frequently burst out of his technical area on his first night in front of the Kop.

But touchline willpower alone could not lift this [Liverpool](#) team above the ordinary.

A laboured Europa League draw against ten-man Rubin Kazan hardly felt like love at first sight, as the Anfield faithful finally clapped eyes on their hipster Messiah. Klopp was full of glass-half-full optimism afterwards – even declaring himself 98 per cent happy.

But if he does end up leading his new club towards their golden sky, they'll remember this as an indication of just how far he had to travel.

On his opening night at the old theatre, Klopp celebrated wildly when fellow German Emre Can netted the first Liverpool goal of his managerial reign – an equaliser directly after Oleg Kuzmin had been sent off to leave the Russians short-handed for 55 minutes.

[But as principal owner John W Henry made a rare visit](#), hoping to attend a house-warming party for his popular appointee, Liverpool rained 35 shots down on the Russians' goal, yet lacked the craft and guile to break down modest opposition. The Kloppites sang of 'poetry in motion' but while the motion is frenetic under the German, the poetry is sadly lacking at present.

Klopp had stepped out on to the Anfield turf half an hour before kick-off with a German version of 'She Loves You' blaring out of the PA system. The place was less than a quarter-full but the new gaffer was greeted rapturously.

Sharp-suited rather than shell-suited, he stood alone for some time, gazed at the Kop, breathed it all in. Like a tourist at a cathedral.

Anyone who visited Borussia Dortmund's Westfalenstadion during Klopp's heyday will tell you that he is capable of bringing these places to life, of stimulating a pulse in concrete.

His image was everywhere – on T-shirts and scarves, in Barack Obama campaign-poster pop-art style on the front of the programme, on a terrace banner declaring 'I saw his face – now I'm a believer'.

It was one of those nights when You'll Never Walk Alone truly reverberated .... and then, the crash-bang-wallop sensation of gravity taking effect.

The realisation that Liverpool are currently a Thursday night Europa League team, stacked with many average footballers, and with several of their better ones on the sick list.

Klopp brought in [Joe Allen](#), often seen as Brendan Rodgers' pet, for Lucas, his only change from the 0-0 draw at Tottenham.

There was plenty of Klopp's trademark workaholic about Liverpool early on, with Adam Lallana appearing to have had a German rocket inserted up his backside.

But on 15 minutes, the Russians went in front – a well-flighted centre from Kuzmin found Marko Devic, who held off Clyne, chested down and finished cutely with the outside of his boot.

And Kazan almost doubled their lead when Blagoy Georgiev forced a flying tip-over from Simon Mignolet.

Suddenly, though, the tide turned. Kuzmin dragged down Can to earn his second yellow card after just 36 minutes. Philippe Coutinho swung the resulting free-kick over from the left, Divock Origi headed down at the back stick and an unmanned Can slid in to score.

Klopp delivered a powerful upper-cut to the air and, with the depleted visitors limiting their ambitions, Liverpool attacked in waves.

Coutinho, in particular, peppered the goal at the Kop end before he made way for the fit-again Christian Benteke just after the hour.

Benteke volleyed over from a Clyne cross and then drilled against the inside of the post ten minutes from time.

But in the dying minutes, Georgiev passed up a sitter, heading wide from corner, when he should have wrecked Klopp's big night good and proper.

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Reds frustrated by 10-man Russians  
 Liverpool failed to find a way past a resolute Rubin Kazan as Jurgen Klopp endured a night of frustration in his first home match as Reds manager. Emre Can's goal and Oleg Kuzmin's sending-off at the end of the first period had transformed a frustrating half for Liverpool.

The Reds poured on the pressure in the second half, and the returning Christian Benteke went closest to a winner with 10 minutes remaining when striking the post with a low shot, but the Reds couldn't take advantage of their extra man and ended up registering a third successive 1-1 Europa League draw.

Marko Devic had put the visitors into the lead against the run of play on 15 minutes, brilliantly chesting down a long pass from Kazan right-back Kuzmin and firing past Simon Mignolet.

But ultimately Liverpool couldn't take advantage of a Kuzmin moment of madness on 37 minutes.

The Rubin Kazan captain had already been booked when Can motored past him, the 34-year-old opted to haul the German down and gave the referee no option but to show him a second yellow card.

Can bundled in from the free-kick after Divock Origi's knockdown and the Reds were level.

Lucas replaced Joe Allen in the heart of Liverpool's midfield at half-time and although the Reds controlled the second half, they were often frustrated as a lack of quality in the final third continued to let them down.

Benteke made his return from a hamstring injury with just under half an hour remaining when replacing Philippe Coutinho, and he missed a great chance to put the Reds ahead with just under 20 minutes remaining, volleying Nathaniel Clyne's cross over the bar.

Liverpool's other big-money summer addition, Roberto Firmino, also returned from an enforced absence by replacing Origi in the final quarter, the young Belgian having once again suffered a frustrating night in front of goal.

But ultimately it was another night of frustration for the Reds in the Europa League as Kazan held out to earn a point.

**LIVERPOOL:** Mignolet, Clyne, Skrtel, Sakho, Moreno, Can, Allen (Lucas 45), Milner, Lallana, Coutinho (Benteke 63), Origi (Firmino 74). Subs: Bogdan, Toure, Benteke, Lucas, Ibe, Randall. **GOAL:** Can (37). **BOOKINGS:** Skrtel, Allen.

**RUBIN KAZAN:** Ryzhikov, Kuzmin, Nabiullin, Kverkvelia, Carlos Eduardo (Portnyagin 63), Devic, Ozdoev, Gokdeniz Karadeniz (Dyadyun 81), Georgiev, Kambolov, Kanunnikov. Subs: Haghighi, Lemos, Portnyagin, Bilyaletdinov, Cotugno, Dyadyun, Akhmetov. **GOAL:** Devic (18). **BOOKING:** Kuzmin. **SENDING-OFF:** Kuzmin (second bookable offence).

**REFEREE:** Robert Schorzenhofer.

**ATT:** 42,951.

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22 October  
2015



Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp endured a frustrating first game at Anfield as the Reds were held to a draw by 10-man Rubin Kazan in the Europa League. The visitors took the lead through Marko Devic's stunning half-volley but had captain Oleg Kuzmin sent off for a second yellow card soon after. Liverpool responded as Emre Can stabbed in following a free-kick. Substitute Christian Benetke hit the post late on as Liverpool were held to a third successive Group B draw.

Despite pressing late on, it was ultimately a difficult evening for Klopp and Liverpool as they struggled to break down their Russian opponents for large periods of the match.

The result leaves Liverpool second in their group on three points, four behind leaders FC Sion.

King of the Kop, but work to do

The arrival of Klopp has been greeted with excitement by Liverpool fans since he was confirmed as successor to Brendan Rodgers.

The 48-year-old's first appearance in a Liverpool dugout was at [Tottenham](#) last weekend but Thursday marked his first competitive appearance at Anfield.

In his programme notes, Klopp praised the "special atmosphere" the fans created, and they certainly extended a warm welcome for the German. Stall traders sold scarves outside the ground boasting "the Klopp revolution", while fans waited eagerly for autographs and a photo with their new manager. It was not only the fans who were keen to witness Klopp's first game in charge, with the club's owners having flown in for the game.

Klopp's appearance from the tunnel just before kick-off was met with rapturous applause, but any excitement about a new era gave way to frustration as Liverpool's familiar failings this season were once again on show.

Any signs of encouragement?

Under Klopp, Dortmund reached the Champions League final in 2012-13 and climbed from 110th to 13th in the Uefa rankings.

Liverpool fans will hope he can have a similar impact at the Reds. They are currently ranked 54th in Europe, sandwiched between FC Genk and APOEL. Europa League success is perhaps not the supporters' priority, but they will welcome improved displays in the competition after disappointing draws against [Bordeaux](#) and [FC Sion](#) this season.

Liverpool's early endeavour against Rubin Kazan was encouraging as they played quick, one-touch football and attacked at pace.

However, when Rubin took the lead, albeit against the run of play, Liverpool - along with the home fans' enthusiasm - faded.

Kuzmin's sending-off - he was shown a second yellow card for stopping Can - and Can's subsequent equaliser lifted Anfield again.

Liverpool, though, failed to build on that.

Despite a late flurry as Rubin Kazan's players retreated further into their own half to protect the point, the hosts lacked the creativity to score a winner.

Man of the match: Emre Can

'Not a masterclass'

Klopp felt Liverpool had their moments, but accepted the sending off made it more difficult for his side.

"It was a very interesting game, a big challenge because of the quality of Rubin," he said.

"Sometimes it is a big advantage against 10 men, most of the time they stop playing football and defend in a compact block.

"It was not a masterclass but it was not the worst day in my life."

Klopp was appreciative of the reception the Liverpool fans gave him, adding: "It was one of the best moments for me.

"I felt everything positive and then I concentrated on the game."

What next for Liverpool?

It is another home game for Klopp as Liverpool entertain Southampton on Sunday. Their next Europa League game is at Rubin Kazan on 5 November.

The stats you need to know

Liverpool are winless in their last eight group stage matches in Europa League or Champions League (DS L3), drawing each of the last five.

The Reds had 35 shots in this match (including blocks), Rubin Kazan had five.

Liverpool have kept just one clean sheet in seven games at Anfield this season (v Bournemouth in August).

Rubin Kazan have received a red card in two of their three Europa League group stage matches this season (also v Bordeaux)



Full time Match ends, Liverpool 1, Rubin Kazan 1.  
 90:00+4:11 Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 1, Rubin Kazan 1.

90:00+3:19 Attempt missed. Lucas Leiva (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left.

90:00+2:46 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

90:00+2:46 Foul by Igor Portnyagin (Rubin Kazan.

90:00+1:36 Attempt missed. Martin Skrtel (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by James Milner with a cross following a corner.

90:00+1:20 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ruslan Kambolov.

90:00+1:16 Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.

89:50 Corner, Rubin Kazan. Conceded by Emre Can.

89:22 Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.

89:22 Elmir Nabiullin (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick in the attacking half.

87:32 Attempt saved. Christian Benetke (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a cross.

87:03 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

87:03 Foul by Guillermo Cotugno (Rubin Kazan.

86:00 Attempt missed. Igor Portnyagin (Rubin Kazan header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Magomed Ozdoev with a cross following a corner.

85:36 Corner, Rubin Kazan. Conceded by Mamadou Sakho.

85:13 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.

85:13 Maksim Kanunnikov (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick in the defensive half.

84:26 Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left following a corner.

83:52 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Saba Kverkvelia.

83:14 Attempt missed. Christian Benetke (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is too high following a corner.

82:49 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Maksim Kanunnikov.

81:50 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Maksim Kanunnikov.

81:48 Attempt blocked. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

81:29 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Magomed Ozdoev.

80:52 Attempt saved. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.

80:30 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Rubin Kazan. Vladimir Dyadyun replaces Gökdeniz Karadeniz.

79:54 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ruslan Kambolov.

79:53 Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

79:47 Christian Benetke (Liverpool hits the right post with a right footed shot from the left side of the box. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

75:02 Attempt saved. Emre Can (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal.

73:23 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino replaces Divock Origi.

73:02 Attempt missed. Christian Benetke (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne with a cross.

69:44 Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

69:44 Foul by Maksim Kanunnikov (Rubin Kazan.

69:15 Foul by Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool.

69:15 Igor Portnyagin (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick in the attacking half.

68:28 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool.

68:28 Saba Kverkvelia (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick in the defensive half.

67:55 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Igor Portnyagin.

67:53 Attempt missed. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by James Milner following a corner.

67:25 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Elmir Nabiullin.

67:24 Attempt blocked. Christian Benetke (Liverpool with an attempt from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a cross.

66:28 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Magomed Ozdoev.

65:09 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.

65:09 Igor Portnyagin (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick on the right wing.

64:23 Attempt blocked. Christian Benetke (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

63:23 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Rubin Kazan. Igor Portnyagin replaces Carlos Eduardo.

62:50 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Christian Benetke replaces Philippe Coutinho.

62:30 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.

62:30 Gökdeniz Karadeniz (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick in the defensive half.

60:53 Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne following a corner.

60:43 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Guillermo Cotugno.

60:42 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner.

59:25 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

59:25 Foul by Blagoy Georgiev (Rubin Kazan.

58:19 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right from a direct free kick.

57:07 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

57:07 Foul by Gökdeniz Karadeniz (Rubin Kazan.

55:15 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Gökdeniz Karadeniz.

54:43 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

<b>Date: 22 October 2015</b> <b>Opposition: Rubin Kazan</b> <b>Competition: Europa League</b>	Times	Telegraph	Echo	22 October 2015
	Guardian	Mirror	BBC	
	Independent	Mail		
<p>54:35 Attempt blocked. Lucas Leiva (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Adam Lallana.</p> <p>53:33 Hand ball by Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool).</p> <p>52:17 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).</p> <p>52:17 Carlos Eduardo (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p> <p>51:33 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p> <p>51:33 Foul by Guillermo Cotugno (Rubin Kazan).</p> <p>50:41 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Blagoy Georgiev.</p> <p>50:40 Attempt blocked. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.</p> <p>47:00 Attempt blocked. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.</p> <p>46:20 Attempt missed. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Mamadou Sakho with a headed pass following a corner.</p> <p>45:54 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ruslan Kambolov.</p> <p>45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 1, Rubin Kazan 1.</p> <p>45:00Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva replaces Joe Allen.</p> <p>45:00Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Rubin Kazan. Guillermo Cotugno replaces Marko Devic.</p> <p>45:00+1:11Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 1, Rubin Kazan 1.</p> <p>45:00+1:06 Attempt blocked. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.</p> <p>45:00+0:33 Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p> <p>45:00+0:33 Foul by Marko Devic (Rubin Kazan).</p> <p>42:54 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Divock Origi.</p> <p>42:00 Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p> <p>42:00 Foul by Marko Devic (Rubin Kazan).</p> <p>41:42 Delay over. They are ready to continue.</p> <p>41:03 Delay in match Blagoy Georgiev (Rubin Kazan because of an injury.</p> <p>40:43Booking Joe Allen (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.</p> <p>40:39 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool).</p> <p>40:39 Blagoy Georgiev (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p> <p>38:57 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).</p> <p>38:57 Elmir Nabiullin (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p> <p>36:40Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 1, Rubin Kazan 1. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from very close range to the bottom left corner following a set piece situation.</p> <p>36:36 Attempt missed. Divock Origi (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a set piece situation.</p> <p>35:39Dismissal DismissalSecond yellow card to Oleg Kuzmin (Rubin Kazan for a bad foul.</p> <p>35:36 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.</p> <p>35:36 Foul by Oleg Kuzmin (Rubin Kazan).</p> <p>34:22Booking Martin Skrtel (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.</p> <p>34:19 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).</p> <p>34:19 Marko Devic (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick on the left wing.</p> <p>32:48 Corner, Rubin Kazan. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.</p> <p>32:45 Attempt saved. Blagoy Georgiev (Rubin Kazan left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Gökdeniz Karadeniz with a cross.</p> <p>32:08 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).</p> <p>32:08 Carlos Eduardo (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick on the right wing.</p> <p>31:36 Attempt saved. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by James Milner.</p> <p>31:14 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Adam Lallana.</p> <p>28:50 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool).</p> <p>28:50 Carlos Eduardo (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p> <p>27:20 Attempt saved. Magomed Ozdoev (Rubin Kazan right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Oleg Kuzmin.</p> <p>26:30 Martin Skrtel (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p> <p>26:30 Foul by Marko Devic (Rubin Kazan).</p> <p>25:13 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Blagoy Georgiev.</p> <p>22:24 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right.</p> <p>21:12 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).</p> <p>21:12 Elmir Nabiullin (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p> <p>19:36 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).</p> <p>19:36 Marko Devic (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick in the attacking half.</p> <p>19:00 Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool header from the left side of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a set piece situation.</p> <p>18:16Booking Oleg Kuzmin (Rubin Kazan is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.</p> <p>18:14 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.</p> <p>18:14 Foul by Oleg Kuzmin (Rubin Kazan).</p> <p>16:56 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left.</p> <p>16:14 Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.</p> <p>14:39Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 0, Rubin Kazan 1. Marko Devic (Rubin Kazan right footed shot from the centre of the box to the top right corner. Assisted by Oleg Kuzmin with a through ball.</p> <p>13:55 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).</p> <p>13:55 Magomed Ozdoev (Rubin Kazan wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p> <p>9:50 Attempt missed. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho following a fast break.</p> <p>9:08 Attempt blocked. Oleg Kuzmin (Rubin Kazan right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.</p>				

7:54 Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.

7:06 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Elmir Nabiullin.

5:27 Offside, Liverpool. Martin Skrtel tries a through ball, but Divock Origi is caught offside.

2:42 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

2:42 Foul by Oleg Kuzmin (Rubin Kazan).

0:00 First Half begins.

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