

Date: 2 December 2017

Opposition: Brighton & Hove Albion

Competition: League

BBC	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
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THE TIMES

Klopp finds formula for goals without a poacher

Brighton 1 Murray 51 (pen)

Liverpool 5 Can 30, Firmino 31, 48, Coutinho 87, Dunk (og) 89

Referee G Scott Attendance 30,634

While there has been plenty of discussion about Liverpool's problems in defence this season, few could deny their attacking threat. If they are to emerge as serious challengers to Manchester City this season, it will be from an attack that looks all the more effective for its lack of focus on a single striker.

No Liverpool player has scored 15 goals since 2013-14, when Luis Suarez scored 31 in all competitions. They might be lacking an out-and-out striker in the mould of the Uruguayan now, but the goals can come from many sources.

Mohamed Salah is top scorer with 12 this season, but he is not the only goal threat. Ten players have scored this season, with regular contributions from Roberto Firmino, who scored two in their drubbing of Brighton & Hove Albion on Saturday, Philippe Coutinho and Sadio Mane.

They fit well with the free-flowing attacking intentions of Jurgen Klopp, the Liverpool manager. Brighton tried to stifle them early on at the Amex Stadium by sitting back, but whenever they were given space Liverpool threatened to overrun them.

"I played here when Luis Suarez was here together with Daniel Sturridge and Raheem Sterling and they were banging the goals in, so I think Liverpool always has that kind of talent up front, prolific goalscorers and strikers who can make the difference," Simon Mignolet, the Liverpool goalkeeper, said.

"That's nice to have. We like to play in an attacking way, even if we are away from home, that doesn't matter, we won't change the plan. Let's hope the boys can keep doing what they are showing in every individual game. They have lots of speed, individual quality and, more important, a goal threat.

"It's different, of course. Luis was more a real goalscorer waiting for his chance where now we have players who play together creating the chances and sharing the goals, which is nice because the opponent can't really set up to defend one player, they have to defend a few boys now and because of that they give each other the space they need.

"The forwards are as important in defence as they are in attack. We need everybody to put pressure on the opponent. It starts from the top and it's very pleasing to see these boys put in a shift to give us that stability when we lose the ball. They are the first ones to press up high and we then have to follow as a team."

It was Emre Can, the German midfielder moonlighting as a centre back, who gave Liverpool the breakthrough, heading in from a corner after half an hour. Within 90 seconds, Firmino had doubled the lead, forcing Brighton to go on the attack in the second half. Within 14 seconds of Mignolet making a point-blank save from Glenn Murray, Firmino had finished off a sweeping move for Liverpool's third. While Murray then pulled one back from the penalty spot, after Jordan Henderson was penalised for the softest of pushes, Coutinho rubbed Brighton's noses in it late on, rolling one free kick under the defensive wall and then seeing his shot turned into the net by Lewis Dunk's head. "I don't like it too much after a game like this to be so over the moon," Klopp said.

"Roberto has scored twice but what he did around these goals is what excites me most. In all contacts, pretty much, he won the ball. Last year, some people said we didn't have a plan against busparking teams and now we score five, we score three, we do things like this. It's development.

"I'm happy about the performance, of course, but I don't think it was world class or something like this. It was just doing the job, come on and let's carry on."

Certainly Liverpool are now on a decent run of form, just six weeks after a humbling 4-1 defeat by Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley.

"We used [the Tottenham loss] for striking back," Klopp said. "We blamed ourselves after that game. We didn't say they were that strong. This game was our mistake. "The 7-0 five days before at Maribor was one of the best games I saw -- we were brilliant that night. We took the wrong information of this 7-0. Since then, thank God, we have learnt a little bit."

Chris Hughton, the Brighton manager, accepted that his side, who had not conceded more than twice in any of their 14 league games before Saturday, struggled to contain Liverpool. "We made too many mistakes," Hughton said.

"The top six teams are the top six for a reason and that is because they have the best players. If their best players turn up, it is difficult to do anything about it.

"It will be a tough few days. We've had a good few weekends when there is that nice feel after a win or a draw. We've lost this season but this is our first big one." Klopp gave credit to the club's analysts for spotting that Brighton's defensive wall always jumps at free kicks, allowing Coutinho to slide a shot under them. He did, however, insist that the plan had not been practised. "At our training ground, the wall has wheels on so can't jump," Klopp said.

RATINGS Brighton & Hove Albion (4-5-1): M Ryan 5 -- Bruno 6 (sub: E Schelotto 77min), S Duffy 5, L Dunk 4, G Bong 6 -- A Knockaert 6 (sub: S March 70, 5), P Gross 6, D Stephens 5, D Propper 6, I Brown 7 (sub: J Izquierdo 70, 5) -- G Murray 5. Substitutes not used T Krul, B Kayal, T Hemed, C Goldson. Booked Bruno. Liverpool (5-2-2-1): S Mignolet 7 -- T Alexander-Arnold 6, E Can 6, D Lovren 5, G Wijnaldum 6, A Robertson 7 -- J Henderson 6 (sub: M Grujic 90), J Milner 7 -- M Salah 7 (sub: A Oxlade-Chamberlain 79), P Coutinho 8 -- R Firmino 8 (sub: D Solanke 89). Substitutes not used L Karius, D Sturridge, R Klavan, S Mane.

the guardian

Roberto Firmino on target twice as Liverpool fire five past Brighton
Having to improvise a new look did not stop Liverpool from parading their customary attacking brio on the Sussex coast and where Brighton have never had it so bad -- at least at the Amex Stadium. They moved in six years ago and their current manager, Chris Hughton, declared [Liverpool](#) to be the best team they have faced this season -- which is high praise considering that the only other visitors to win here were Manchester City.

The endorsement seemed justified because Liverpool were scintillating going forward, with Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Philippe Coutinho exceptional as Jürgen Klopp's team brought their goal tally to 15 from their last four away matches.

Yet Klopp was not quite as impressed as Hughton. "Results-wise it looks like we're flying but we're not," said the German, who bemoaned a 10-minute spell in the second half during which his team conceded a goal and risked losing control of the match.

The frequency of such periods is, perhaps, the chief difference between them and Manchester City. This time, at least, there were mitigating factors.

Joël Matip's injury and Ragnar Klavan's illness forced Klopp into a new look formation in which Emre Can and Georgino Wijnaldum flanked Dejan Lovren in a three-man defence.

With Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andy Robertson playing as wing-backs, Liverpool's backline had an avant-garde look. But the shape was mostly anecdotal as Liverpool were fluid and devastating when in possession, which was most of the time.

Brighton found it quite the brain-teaser. They were stumped by the visitors' speed and movement, especially in the first half.

Salah fired off the first shot after less than 30 seconds, signalling the fusillade that was to come.

Salah and Firmino both went close again before Brighton exposed any uncertainty in Liverpool's rejigged defence. That was in the 17th minute, but Glenn Murray miscued after Can and Lovren failed to cut out a cross by Izzy Brown. It was the last glimpse that the home side would get of Liverpool's net before the match was put beyond them by two goals in 79 seconds.

On the half-hour, Can sent a powerful header into the net from a corner by Coutinho. Then Liverpool doubled their lead with a breakneck counterattack, Salah leading the charge before flipping the ball wide to Coutinho, whose low pass from the left was turned in by Firmino.

With Sadio Mané resting on the bench in advance of Wednesday's decisive Champions League tie at home to Spartak Moscow, Coutinho was Liverpool's ringmaster, tormenting Brighton with the sort of flourishes that prompted Barcelona try to sign him in the summer. Yet Liverpool's habit of frittering away leads means opponents can always hope for a comeback.

Brighton evidently still believed it was possible when they emerged after half-time, and their faith would have been rewarded within two minutes if not for a brilliant save by Simon Mignolet. Brown created the chance by sneaking into the space behind Alexander-Arnold, but Mignolet saved Murray's close-range volley with his feet.

Before Brighton knew it, they were three goals down, Liverpool racing up the other end of the pitch for Firmino to finish emphatically after being served by Salah.

Three minutes later, however, Brighton narrowed the gap. This time it was Liverpool who did not grasp what was happening. The referee, Graham Scott, awarded the home team a penalty for an offence he saw as the ball was floated in from a corner. Liverpool's defenders looked bemused, but Murray asked no questions and converted from the penalty spot.

Liverpool did not disintegrate. They blew Brighton to pieces. Coutinho crowned his regal performance with a goal of craft and slyness.

Anticipating that Brighton's players would jump, the Brazilian drilled a 20-yard free-kick under the wall and into the net.

"Credit to the analysts," said Klopp, explaining that Liverpool's backroom staff had tipped off Coutinho about the behaviour of Brighton's wall. "But you still have to have the skill to do it," added the manager in praise of the Brazilian, who scored a similar goal against West Ham United last year.

Hughton described the dilemma facing opposing teams when Coutinho is standing over a free-kick. "If you don't jump, he whips it into the top corner," he said. "You have to give the credit to the player."

Lewis Dunk would have liked Coutinho to be credited with Liverpool's fifth goal, too, otherwise the record must identify the Brighton defender as the culprit, as he inadvertently diverted the Brazilian midfielder's shot into his own goal in the 89th minute.

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The Mail

Fab four flattening teams who park the bus
BRIGHTON 1 Murray 51 pen LIVERPOOL Can 30, Firmino 31, 48, 5 Coutinho 87,
Dunk 89 og

AFTER watching Brighton disappear under his big red steamroller on Saturday, Jurgen Klopp turned his attention to buses and the things people used to say about his side.

It was interesting, he said, that folk would criticise Liverpool last season for their failure to break down the lesser sides, the teams who would hold firm on the edge of their own area and repeatedly cost his team points. Having slapped five past Brighton, 72 hours after putting three on Stoke, Klopp evidently felt it was time to revisit the subject.

'Last year, a few people said we didn't have a plan against bus-parking teams and now we score five, we score three, we do things like this,' he said. 'It's development.' It remains to be seen how far that development will extend -- at this point last season, they were actually a place higher up the table in third and marginally better on wins and goals scored.

But while the Liverpool wagon went off road last winter, this time round they look far more durable, not merely able to work their way around parked buses, but quite capable of shunting them off the road altogether.

When Chris Hughton was asked if Liverpool were the best side his team had faced this season, he said: 'Yes.' And that having played Manchester City already. When he was asked if they could compete for the title, Hughton replied: 'Liverpool are certainly good enough. Manchester City are extraordinary at the moment, but we all know things can be different in a month or two if they pick up injuries.

Can Liverpool continue to push? They certainly have the quality to do so.' While that may be a polite response to a loaded question, the specific areas of Liverpool's quality are extremely easy to identify. The defence has stopped conceding, even though it is still a concern, but it is the attack that offers so many possibilities.

The forward line is not necessarily as relentlessly effective as City's but it is quite possibly the best of the rest in terms of its pace and diversity. Take Saturday, for instance, in which Roberto Firmino scored twice, Philippe Coutinho got one and made three and Mo Salah was excellent on one of the rare occasions when he hasn't netted.

As a unit, they are an incredible blend of flair, pace and finishing, a full package lacking only in height. In all competitions, Salah has 17 goals and four assists, Firmino has 11 and five, Coutinho six of each.

They could get away with leaving Sadio Mane (five goals, five assists) on the bench, but as a collective it truly is a Fab Four. Goalkeeper Simon Mignolet went as far as to suggest that the attack is even more unpredictable now than it was when Luis Suarez led the line. 'Liverpool has always had that kind of talent up front, prolific goalscorers and strikers who can make the difference,' he said.

'But Luis was more like a real scorer waiting for his chance whereas now we have players who play together, are creating chances and sharing the goals. 'The opponent can't really set up to defend one player. They have to defend a few now and because of that they (offer them) the space they need.' With 16 points from their past six games, and 19 goals, the results are devastating in ways only Manchester City can relate to.

The Daily Telegraph

Hughton turns on sloppy Brighton after Klopp clash

For Chris Hughton, this was the most debilitating of afternoons. Along with a record 30,634 crowd in the Amex, the Brighton manager had just watched his side be taken apart by a magnificent Liverpool, bristling with counter-attacking menace.

His gathering dismay was apparent at the final whistle when he had delivered a sharp rebuke to his Liverpool counterpart, Jurgen Klopp, seemingly unhappy with the German's characteristically ebullient celebrations, which he felt verged towards the disrespectful.

But, by the time he made his way into the press room, the direction of his unhappiness had changed. His displeasure, he said, was all with his own team. Because what made the defeat all the more disheartening was he had seen it coming. He had worked all week on the training ground preparing his team how to counter precisely the menace Liverpool had so ruthlessly delivered. "The top six are the top six for a reason," he said. "It's because they have the best players. And when their best players turn up as they did today, the only way you can hope to stay in the game is to be at the top of your own game. And we were nowhere near it. That's as poor as we've been in terms of possession. We weren't anywhere near the level we should be."

While he is acutely aware survival in the Premier League will depend more on results in matches like their next against Huddersfield, what worried Hughton was the effect a drubbing like this might have on collective morale.

"This is the first bad defeat we've had, so we'll see," he said. "It's a difficult one at the moment. You don't want to dwell on such a defeat. But we'll have to go over it because the players will have to learn from this."

For Klopp, things were altogether more positive. This was as a clinical demonstration of what a potent force Liverpool's front three can be. Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and in particular Philippe Coutinho kept up a relentless barrage of pace, at times seemingly pinning the previously resolute Brighton defence to the back of the Amex grandstands. This was the sort of counter-attacking football the German loves. But, maybe after Hughton's chastising, he was in no mood to talk up his side.

"I like all these players, that is why they are here," he said of his spring-heeled forwards. "But after a game like this, I don't like to be so over the moon. I'm happy about the performance today, of course. But I don't think it was world class or anything like this. It was just doing the job, come on let's carry on."

It was doing the job, all right. Scoring twice from set-pieces and three times from high-velocity breakaways, this was "Kloppball" at its most exhilarating. But what pleased him more was his defence held firm, despite being largely constructed of sticking plaster.

With unexpected last-minute injuries to Joel Matip and Ragnar Klavan, and Joe Gomez succumbing to illness, Klopp was shorn of centrebacks, obliged to play Emre Can and Georginio Wijnaldum in a hastily assembled back three. Plus, in Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andrew Robertson at wing-back, he must have feared Brighton seizing the opportunity. But, with Can in imperious form, this looked a defence of some vintage.

"He needs to do that," Klopp said of Can. "We don't have anyone else. He enjoyed it today, it was like, wow, interesting. We had 20 minutes in training, it wasn't perfect but the boys were ready to cope. I'm happy with that."

And when the back-line was breached, Simon Mignolet produced a stunning save to deny Glenn Murray what looked a certain goal.

But whatever Klopp's enthusiasm for his defence, this was a game that belonged to his forwards. Particularly Coutinho.

"I think that showed you why Liverpool were so keen to keep hold of him," said Hughton of the much-coveted Brazilian.

And he was right. On this sort of showing - his every touch freighted with threat - there are few No10s to match him.

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Klopp: We've proven our ability to beat lesser teams
 Jurgen Klopp believes Liverpool have proven their ability to beat "bus-parking teams" after Saturday's 5-1 rout of Brighton and Hove Albion.
 The Reds were subject to repeated criticism last season for their failure to overcome the league's 'lesser' teams, with the side notably coming undone against Swansea and Hull at the turn of the year.
 Such struggles have become a thing of the past, though, with Liverpool comfortably seeing off the likes of Stoke, Southampton, West Ham, Huddersfield and now Brighton in recent months.
 Klopp described this as "development" in the wake of victory at the Amex Stadium but remained reluctant to shower his players with too much praise.
 "Last year, a few [of your] colleagues said we didn't have a plan against bus-parking teams -- however people said it -- and now we score five, we score three, we do things like this," he said. "It's development."
 "I'm happy about the performance, of course, but I don't think it was world class or something like this. It was just doing the job, come on and let's carry on."
 He added: "I would be lying if I said I didn't think 'yay'.
 "When we get 3-1 it was not really insecure but it's not that cannot happen because three weeks ago, two weeks ago, it happened. It needs a little bit and then we don't have that in our mind completely."
 After watching his side dismantled by their north-west visitors, Brighton manager Chris Hughton insisted Liverpool "certainly have the quality" to push for the title -- regardless of how slim the odds may be.
 "Liverpool are certainly good enough," he said. "Manchester City are extraordinary at the moment in terms of the results they are getting and the way they are playing, but we all know in this game that what is now can be different in a month or two months' time if they pick up injuries.
 "Can Liverpool continue to push? They certainly have the quality to do so."
 Hughton was less forthcoming in his praise for his own team, though. "Where we can be a good side at keeping possession, I think that is as poor as we have been for a while in possession.
 "The players will have to learn from it. We weren't anywhere near our levels today and against a Liverpool that can happen."



MORE BITE THAN SUAREZ; For Reds, attack is the best form of defence
BRIGHTON 1
 Murray 51
LIVERPOOL 5
 Can 30, Firmino 31, 48, Coutinho 87, Dunk 89 og
JURGEN KLOPP claimed last summer that there weren't five centre-backs better than the ones he already had at Liverpool.
 If he had said the same about his attacking options there would have been a lot less sniggering.
 In the ongoing debate about whether Klopp has actually improved the Anfield side in his two years in charge, it is his attack that provides the case for the defence.
 When he was appointed in October 2015 Klopp inherited a squad still adjusting to life after losing Raheem Sterling 12 months on from the departure of Luis Suarez. Daniel Sturridge, Divock Origi and Philippe Coutinho were on the books, along with Roberto Firmino, Christian Benteke and Danny Ings, who were settling in after arriving at Anfield just months before Klopp did.
 But the German has stamped his own mark on Liverpool's front-line by moving on Benteke permanently and Origi temporarily, while injuries have cruelly limited Ings's impact.
 And having brought in Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah, Klopp has now formed a frightening group of attackers to rival the best this league has to offer.
 If it is not Salah scoring, Firmino and Coutinho can get the job done, as they did against Brighton.
 If one of them is having an off-day in front of goal, they can still contribute to the cause by turning creator, as Salah did against Brighton.
 And, at Brighton, Klopp had the small matter of Sturridge and Mane in reserve. The quintet have four more goals combined - 42 - at this stage of the season than Suarez, Sturridge, Sterling and Coutinho managed in 2013-14.
 Liverpool also have more goals as a team after 23 games in all competitions this time round.
 Klopp's comments about his defensive options came to mind when Liverpool's team to face Brighton was revealed.
 The absences of Joel Matip and Joe Gomez, plus doubts about Ragnar Klavan's fitness, forced Klopp to deploy Emre Can and Georginio Wijnaldum - for the first time in his career - as emergency centre-backs.
 - c Boss Chris Hughton admitted Brighton thought "that's a bonus" when they saw Liverpool were missing their regular centre-halves.
 HB"twr But his side barely had a chance to exploit the situation. Such is the attacking threat Liverpool pose, Brighton had too much to worry about at the other end. And despite adopting a more defensive approach to try and contain Klopp's men, Brighton still found themselves on the end of their biggest hiding of the season.
 Klopp said: "I really like these players - that's why they are here. They are all different, they are all good.
 "Last year, a few people said we didn't have a plan against teams who park the bus yet now we score five. It's development."
 After Can headed in a Coutinho corner, Firmino finished off two devastating counter-attacks, also involving Salah and Coutinho, to extend Liverpool's lead to 3-0 and it was pretty much game over.
 Glenn Murray pulled a goal back from the spot to make it 3-1 before Coutinho's clever free-kick, whipped underneath the jumping Brighton wall (left), and Lewis Dunk's own goal made it 5-1.
STAT IS AMAZING BRIGHTON Ryan 6, Bruno 6 (Schelotto 76, 5), Duffy 6, Dunk 6, Bong 6, Knockaert 4 (March 69, 5), Propper 5, Stephens 5, Brown 8 (Izquierdo 69, 6), Gross 5, Murray 6 **LIVERPOOL** Mignolet 8, Can 7, Lovren 7, Wijnaldum 6, Alexander-Arnold 7, Milner 7, Henderson 5 (Grujic 90), Robertson 6, Salah 7 (Oxlade-Chamberlain 78, 5), Firmino 8 (Solanke 87), Coutinho 9

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Jürgen Klopp doesn't need defenders when Coutinho & Firmino are on song Centre-backs really are optional when you boast this kind of blistering firepower. Liverpool made light of their defensive crisis as they [maintained their thrilling resurgence](#) on the South Coast. No Joel Matip, no Ragnar Klavan, no Joe Gomez, no problem. [Brighton were put to the sword](#) on their own patch as they felt the full force of [Jurgen Klopp's](#) jet-heeled attack. If November was the [Mohamed Salah](#) show, this time the Reds danced to a Samba beat.

On an afternoon when Sadio Mane put his feet up, it was the Brazilian double act of [Roberto Firmino](#) and [Philippe Coutinho](#) who ran riot.

After Emre Can's thumping header, Firmino finished off two scintillating counter-attacks to kill off the dogged Seagulls. The hosts got the sympathy vote from hapless referee Graham Scott with the penalty which enabled Glenn Murray to reduce the deficit from the spot. But Liverpool finished with a flourish as Coutinho marked his finest performance of the season with a moment of real genius.

As Brighton's wall jumped in an attempt to block his free-kick, [he nonchalantly rolled it under](#) them. The little magician then had the final word, completing the rout as his late strike was turned into his own net by Lewis Dunk.

Liverpool have proved they can win without Coutinho this season but here was a reminder of why the owners fought so hard to keep him when Barcelona refused to take no for an answer last summer. Brighton only conceded three goals in the whole of November but they were left chasing shadows as Coutinho got out his box of tricks and tormented them. They couldn't lay a glove on him. Regardless of what riches the Catalans offer in January, it would be ridiculous for Liverpool to even consider doing business midway through the season. His value is only to climb ahead of next summer's World Cup. The Reds haven't packed this kind of punch going forward since their title challenge of 2013/14. Remarkably, they have won their last three away Premier League matches by a combined score of 12-2. Since the abject defeat to Spurs in October, Liverpool have won six and drawn two of their eight matches in all competitions, scoring 25 and conceding just six. They have taken 16 points out of a possible 18 to re-ignite their top-four challenge.

That's all the more impressive considering Klopp's policy of rotating in order to cope with a gruelling schedule. There were six changes following the midweek win at Stoke and Kopites will have spent the opening exchanges at the Amex Stadium rubbing their eyes in disbelief. With Matip injured, Gomez ill and Klavan still recovering from a virus, Dejan Lovren was the only centre-back left standing.

It was clear from the team sheet that Emre Can would be pressed into duty alongside him, but the element of surprise arrived with the sight of fellow midfielder Gini Wijnaldum joining them in a makeshift three-man backline.

Can hadn't started a game at centre-back since Brendan Rodgers' reign, while Wijnaldum hadn't played there in his entire career.

It wasn't something that Liverpool had worked on at Melwood, it was simply a case of needs must. To his credit, the Dutchman settled after a tough start and coped well with the cards he was dealt. Can and Wijnaldum were helped by another highly encouraging performance from Dejan Lovren, who has battled back well from his personal nightmare at Wembley. With Liverpool down to the bare bones defensively, Klopp needed the Croatian to be a leader and he didn't disappoint.

The Reds got away with having such a makeshift backline on this occasion, but to find themselves in such a position underlined the folly of not buying another centre-back last summer. Whether they can convince Southampton to sell them Virgil van Dijk or not, it's an area of the squad which simply must be addressed in January. Thankfully, Klavan and Gomez should both be back available for the crunch Champions League clash with Spartak Moscow on Wednesday.

Brighton went into the contest with the sixth best defensive record in the top-flight and for half an hour they made life difficult for the Reds.

Klopp's men dominated possession and territory but struggled to find a way through the mass of striped shirts in front of them. Patience was required. Coutinho's cross deflected into the path of Salah early on but the angle was tight and Mathew Ryan made the block. Firmino nodded Coutinho's corner over before narrowly failing to convert a quality delivery from Trent Alexander-Arnold. The teenager shone down the right with Andy Robertson, making his first appearance for three months, justifying his inclusion on the other flank. Unsurprisingly given the personnel on duty, Liverpool creaked at times defensively. Wijnaldum's sloppy pass played them into trouble but he quickly atoned for that error, doing enough to put off Murray after the lone frontman had latched on to Izzy Brown's cross.

Klopp cut an increasingly agitated figure on the touchline but his mood was transformed as the Reds raised the bar and struck twice in the space of 80 seconds. Can broke the deadlock as he climbed highest to power home a header from Coutinho's corner. It was his first Premier League goal of the season.

The second was a beauty as Firmino laid it off to Salah close to halfway and Liverpool burst forward in numbers.

Salah picked out Coutinho, who crossed perfectly for Firmino to convert from close range. Three minutes after the break it was 3-0. Mignolet did brilliantly to thwart Murray and after Lovren hacked clear, the Reds countered again in breathtaking fashion. Coutinho and Firmino combined to find Salah. The Egyptian intelligently teed up Firmino, who smashed it past Ryan. As half the team celebrated with the Brazilian, the rest raced to embrace Mignolet for his crucial save.

With Salah taking all the plaudits, Firmino's contribution has gone under the radar somewhat. With 11 goals, he's only one behind his tally for the whole of last season. His work ethic is so key to Liverpool's success and he's also chipped in with five assists. Briefly, Liverpool wobbled. Jordan Henderson was hardly adjudged to have shoved Shane Duffy and Murray netted from the spot.

Memories of Seville were suddenly vivid and the home fans sensed that all was not lost. But this time there was no panic. Alexander-Arnold produced a goal-saving block to deny substitute Jose Izquierdo as the Reds dealt with a mini revival before hitting them with a Coutinho inspired show of force.

With the visit of Spartak followed by the Merseyside derby, it's a huge week ahead for Liverpool. Klopp's great entertainers have momentum on their side.

MATCH FACTS

Brighton: Ryan, Bruno (Schelotto 76), Duffy, Dunk, Bong, Knockaert (March 69), Stephens, Propper, Brown (Izquierdo 69), Gross, Murray.

Not used: Krul, Kayal, Hemed, Goldson.

Liverpool: Mignolet, Alexander-Arnold, Lovren, Can, Robertson, Henderson (Grujic 90), Wijnaldum, Milner, Salah (Oxlade-Chamberlain 79), Coutinho, Firmino (Solanke 88). Not used: Karius, Klavan, Mane, Sturridge.

Referee: Graham Scott Attendance: 30,634.

Goals: Can 30, Firmino 31, Firmino 48, Murray 51, Coutinho 87, Dunk OG 89.

Bookings: Bruno Man of the match: Philippe Coutinho. Oozed class throughout.

The Argus

Liverpool thrashing exposes rotation problem for Chris Hughton

Albion 1, Liverpool 5

Albion still have a healthy cushion over the Premier League's bottom three.

That is just as well, because a hectic period of challenging fixtures is exposing an awkward situation for [Chris Hughton](#). How does he rest some of his key players?

Central defenders [Lewis Dunk](#) and [Shane Duffy](#) have been mainstays, a remark which also applies to central midfielders [Dale Stephens](#) and [Davy Propper](#).

Influential No.10 [Pascal Gross](#) has started all 15 games as well, veteran captain [Bruno](#) has missed only one match. The difficulty is potential deputies, such as [Connor Goldson](#), [Uwe Huenemeier](#), [Beram Kayal](#), [Steve Sidwell](#) and [Ezequiel Schelotto](#), are either injured, have been injured or seen so little meaningful game time that it would be illogical to suddenly throw them in.

It is one thing playing three games in a week in the Championship, another at the highest level where the concentration levels required and quality of the opposition are much greater. Albion's third big game in eight days, after going so close at Manchester United and sharing the spoils with fierce rivals Crystal Palace, caught up with them. It is no coincidence that the excellent performance at Old Trafford followed a two-week break and five days recovery from the home draw against Stoke. Hughton, reflecting on Albion's biggest defeat ever at the Amex, said: "We had the highs of United at the weekend, a tough game here against Palace, and whether that had a little bit of effect - they certainly looked more energetic than we did. "I thought we looked a little bit flat at times and, where we can be a good side in keeping possession of the ball, I thought that's as poor as we have been for a while in possession." The biggest sides have the biggest and best squads, so rotation was not a problem for Jürgen Klopp. He made six changes from the midweek win at Stoke, some by choice, others enforced.

Liverpool's suspect defence had a makeshift feel, with Joe Gomez and Joel Matip missing through illness and injury, and Emre Can dropping back from midfield. In that respect it was a good time to be facing them but they arrived in prolific, unbeaten form and Klopp's attacking options are frightening.

He could leave Sadio Mane and Daniel Sturridge on the bench and still field a front three of Mo Salah, Philippe Coutinho (above) and Roberto Firmino, who combined to provide the second and third goals with slick breakaways.

The first required no breathtaking attacking play. Coutinho's corner was headed into the roof of the net by Can, rising between Shane Duffy and [Glenn Murray](#). Until then, in the opening half-hour, Hughton's game plan was working. Liverpool had dominated the ball without particularly threatening and the best chance had been spurned by Murray, scooping high and wide on the turn from close in from [Izzy Brown](#)'s low cross. To concede in such routine fashion was infuriating for Hughton. He knew to have a chance Albion needed to score first.

Within 79 seconds the deficit had doubled, Firmino starting and finishing a move involving Salah and Coutinho. Against the top sides, possession is bound to be limited. You have to make the most of the ball when you have it and take any opportunities on offer. Albion did neither.

Murray should have halved the arrears early in the second half with a close range volley from another pinpoint left-wing cross from Brown, which Simon Mignolet saved with his legs. Seconds later the ball was in the back of Albion's net for the third time, Coutinho linking with Salah to set up Firmino again.

Charitable refereeing by Graham Scott enabled Murray (above) to pull a goal back from the spot, his fifth in seven games, for the slightest of pushes by Jordan Henderson on Duffy from a corner. Liverpool relinquished a 3-0 lead at Sevilla in the Champions League. They might have got nerved if the swivelling Murray had hit the target when well-placed or the impressive Brown's replacement, [Jose Izquierdo](#), not been foiled inside the box by a fine block by Trent Alexander-Arnold. Instead the outstanding Coutinho, a magician with the ball at his feet, turned the scoreline from respectable to punishing.

He cutely drove a free-kick from the edge of the area under Albion's jumping defensive wall, then had a shot headed into his own net by Dunk.

Date: 2 December 2017

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The unfortunate Dunk is now one own goal away from equalling former Liverpool defender Martin Skrtel's Premier League record of four in a season in 2013-14 after also scoring at the wrong end against both Manchester clubs.

"For a team that didn't perform anywhere near our levels, we had three excellent chances, two from Glenn and one from Izkierdo, and didn't put any of them away. "The players will have to learn from it. If you are not anywhere near your levels, particularly against a side like Liverpool, it (a thrashing) can happen."

At least the ever-presents now have a full week to regroup and prepare for a trip to Huddersfield, managed by Klopp's close friend David Wagner, which will have considerably more relevance in the context of the overall mission to stay up.



Firmino and Coutinho inspire crushing win

The gap to the league leaders Manchester City remains daunting, but Liverpool are beginning to assert themselves among the chasing pack. A comprehensive victory, capped by two goals from Roberto Firmino, moved Jurgen Klopp's side back into the top four and provided a telling reminder of the attacking strengths that are key to their ambitions this season.

Firmino's double, together from Emre Can, Philippe Coutinho and Lewis Dunk's own-goal, took the Reds' tally to 25 goals in their last eight games. With the defence showing signs of improvement, Klopp's side are in a fine run of form that has now brought 16 points from their last 18 games.

The outcome of this game was never in doubt and while Glenn Murray's penalty gave Albion hope at 3-1, there was little prospect of Chris Hughton's side avoiding defeat and two late goals -- a Coutinho free-kick and Dunk's unfortunate header -- added gloss to the scoreline. This was a game for the promoted side to forget as they continue in their bid to establish themselves in the Premier League.

Klopp made six changes to the side that won 3-0 at Stoke City midweek. That game marked the first time the Reds have kept a clean sheet away from home in the Premier League this season but the manager was forced to make changes to his back-four with Joel Matip injured and Joe Gomez. With Ragnar Klavan not fit enough to start, Klopp fielded a makeshift back-line with Emre Can pressed into the unfamiliar role of centre-back.

In-form Mohamed Salah lined up alongside Coutinho and Firmino in a three-pronged attack and it was the Liverpool forwards who saw much more of the ball in the opening moments as Klopp's side immediately pressed forward. Salah was quick to move onto a loose ball but was denied by a good save from Brighton keeper Mat Ryan and Firmino should have done better when he headed over from Coutinho's corner.

As dominant as Liverpool were, however, their build-up play lacked urgency and their tendency to play the ball across the pitch in front of the Brighton defence did little to unsettle the home side.

And Albion offered Liverpool a reminder they could take nothing for granted when they created a good opening in the 16th minute that might have produced an opening goal for Murray but for the late intervention of Georginio Wijnaldum. The Brighton striker took too long to control Izzy Brown's left wing cross, allowing the Liverpool midfielder to challenge.

That marked the start of an improved passage of play by the home side that came to an abrupt halt in the 30th minute when Liverpool's aerial threat led to the opening goal. Coutinho's right wing corner was clipped towards the edge of the six-yard area where Can out-jumped Murray to head past Ryan.

Then sixty seconds later, Liverpool were fully in control as they demonstrated their attacking strength. Salah led a break, driving at a backpedalling Brighton defence before playing the ball out to his left where Coutinho was advancing into the area. The Brazilian delivered a low cross towards the far post where Firmino, his international team-mate, arrived to slot home.

A difficult task suddenly appeared even more daunting for Brighton who desperately needed to gain a foothold in the game. It looked as though their moment had come two minutes into the second half when Brown again found space on the left and delivered a cross that Murray met on the volley just six yards out, only to direct his effort against Simon Mignolet's legs.

If that was frustrating for Hughton, worse was to come with Liverpool breaking immediately, with Salah reaching the Albion area before laying off for Firmino who finished well past Ryan.

Brighton responded quickly, clawing their way back into the game three minutes later when Murray scored from the penalty spot after Jordan Henderson pushed Duffy as the defender attempted to meet Pascal Gross's corner.

Liverpool, though, were too strong and Coutinho killed off the game with a clever 87th minute free-kick under the wall before firing in the shot Dunk diverted past Ryan a minute later.

The Sunday Telegraph

Brilliant Coutinho gives Brighton a 'harsh lesson'

Brighton and Hove Albion 1 Murray 51 pen

Liverpool 5 Can 30, Firmino 31, 48, Coutinho 87, Dunk 89 og Att: 40,644

Anyone with cash to spare ahead of the World Cup would be advised to invest some in Brazil. Frankly, any team with Philippe Coutinho in it has a chance. Or, at least, any team with Coutinho in the sort of dazzling, Barcelonatempting form he showed here. Liverpool's No10 was majestic on the South Coast, involved in all five of Liverpool's goals as his side eviscerated an unusually brittle Brighton. With serious business on the horizon in the shape of Spartak Moscow in the Champions League on Wednesday and the Merseyside derby next weekend, he delivered precisely the sort of outing to have Jurgen Klopp purring.

"It is important it was good," the Liverpool manager said. "We need the points. We want to stay as close as possible to the teams in front. We need to win, I'm happy about that." It was a particularly satisfactory afternoon given that Klopp was obliged to mend his defence. With Joel Matip and Ragnar Klavan injured and Joe Gomez sick, he drafted two midfielders - Emre Can and Georginio Wijnaldum - into an emergency back three.

But if Liverpool had an exploitable weakness at the back, the depressing news for a record crowd at the Amex Stadium was that Brighton lacked the resources to cut them open. That was evident as early as 15 minutes into the game. Izzy Brown, the Chelsea loanee, skipped past Trent Alexander-Arnold and fizzed over a telling cross. It landed at Glenn Murray's feet on the penalty spot, but the veteran forward spooned his shot high, wide and not particularly handsome. It was the kind of chance you sensed needed to be taken.

Under Chris Hughton's stewardship, Brighton are unquestionably well organised, spirited, wholehearted. But what they lack is what Liverpool have in abundance, a class evident every time the ball was fed to their electricheeled front three. While the home crowd groaned in frustration at every misplaced Brighton pass, from the moment Coutinho first received the ball there was a sense he would do something useful with it. When he arced a beautiful crossfield ball to Alexander-Arnold, for instance, it deserved more than the full-back's spooned cross.

It was only a matter of time before Liverpool's superiority produced a return. And after half an hour, a corner swung in from the right by Coutinho found Can evading his marker to thump home a header. Hughton had barely stopped raging at his dozing defence when, just 79 seconds later, Liverpool struck again.

It was the kind of goal that Klopp would take to a desert island, his ideal Liverpool breakaway. Mohamed Salah, a jinking, darting source of continual panic in the Brighton defence, tore down the middle. With the Brighton back four on their heels, he pushed the ball wide to Coutinho, whose invitation of a cross found Roberto Firmino, and he passed the ball deftly into the net.

This was typical of Coutinho's afternoon. Everything he did came loaded with threat. One dribble, switching the ball quickly between his feet before being hauled down by a Brighton defender, was a thing of beauty.

It was not that Brighton did not try. As the second half began, they pressed and probed. Brown, who was having a fine afternoon, crossed with almost Coutinho precision. Murray met it perfectly. But his shot was brilliantly saved by Simon Mignolet, making his 150th Premier League appearance.

And even as Hughton held his head in his hands in his technical area, the ball bounced away into Liverpool possession. Coutinho (who else) eased forward, finding the accelerating Salah, who barrelled onwards before passing to Firmino to slot away his second. Twenty seconds from jeopardy to celebration: Kloppball to perfection. That might have been the end for Brighton. But, to their credit, they pressed on. Brown earned a corner from which, during a push-me-pullyou in the box, referee Graham Scott deemed Jordan Henderson to have fouled Shane Duffy. Murray, given immediate opportunity to atone for his miss, converted the penalty. The problem for the home side was that Liverpool, and Coutinho in particular, did not appear sated. And the more Brighton pushed forward, the more the danger of counter-attacks lurked. Even as Hughton sent on fresh legs in the shape of Solly March and Jose Izquierdo, Coutinho was working every opportunity. And he cunningly deployed a free-kick (won, naturally by him) from the edge of the area, grasscutting it under the Brighton wall past a statuesque Matt Ryan into the net. It was a goal Klopp said came courtesy of his analysis department, who had noted the Brighton wall's leaping habit.

Hughton, though, was dismissive of such a notion. "The moment you don't jump Coutinho whips one in the corner," he said. "Praise the player." If that was a goal born on a computer screen, a minute later the Brazilian demonstrated his improvisational prowess, darting unopposed from the halfway line before firing in a shot that Lewis Dunk diverted past Ryan.

"They gave us a harsh lesson and we have to learn from it," was Hughton's view. It was harsh indeed. Though perhaps the harshest truth was that, with Coutinho in this sort of form, Liverpool were in a different league altogether. Brighton and Hove Albion (4-4-1-1) Ryan 5; Bruno 5 (Schelotto 76), Dunk 5, Duffy 6, Bong 6; Knockaert 6 (March 69), Propper 5, Stephens 6, Brown 7 (Izkierdo 69); Gross 5; Murray 5. Subs Krul, Kayal, Hemed, Goldson. Booked (Bruno). Liverpool (3-4-3) Mignolet 7; Can 7, Lovren 6, Wijnaldum 6; Alexander-Arnold 6, Milner 6, Henderson 6 (Grujic 89), Robertson 6; Coutinho 9, Firmino 7 (Solanke 87), Salah 7 (Oxlade-Chamberlain 79). Subs Karius, Sturridge, Klavan, Mane Referee G Scott (Oxfordshire).

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TheObserver

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Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp says his side still have "really hard work" in front of them despite continuing their phenomenal goalscoring away from home by hitting five at Brighton.

The Reds moved into the top four of the Premier League for the first time since August after making it 15 goals in their past four away games in all competitions with a comfortable victory at the Amex Stadium.

"It looks like we are flying," said Klopp after Liverpool's fifth win in six league games.

"Unfortunately it's not like that, we have to work really hard.

"We need results. In our calmer moments we are a really good team, but we need to carry on.

"I'm much more interested in the next game. We need the points - we want to stay as close as possible to the teams in front of us."

'Liverpool gave us a harsh lesson'

Emre Can powered a header beyond Mat Ryan from Philippe Coutinho's corner after half an hour and the Reds doubled their lead 79 seconds later following a sumptuous move.

Mohamed Salah drove at the Brighton defence and picked out Coutinho, who slid a left-footed cross to the back post for Roberto Firmino to finish efficiently.

Brazil striker Firmino made it 3-0 after Salah's brilliant assist before Glenn Murray, who had already missed two great chances, beat Simon Mignolet with a penalty following Jordan Henderson's foul on Shane Duffy.

Brighton had chances to make it more nervy for Liverpool with a second goal, but Coutinho eased any concerns about a repeat of [Sevilla's comeback from 3-0 down](#) in the Champions League by scoring with a cute low free-kick then enticing Brighton defender Lewis Dunk to head into his own net.

"The biggest disappointment is that you have to stay in the game," said Seagulls boss Chris Hughton.

"They were always going to have more possession, but after 30 minutes we had had the best chance - and then within two minutes we were 2-0 down.

"You have got to have a level of performance to have a chance. I thought they were very good and gave us a harsh lesson, but we were also below the levels we have set this season."

Klopp's side move above Arsenal, who lost 3-1 at home to Manchester United, while Brighton drop to 11th in the table.

Reds overcome defensive changes

This was another masterclass in the art of scoring by the Reds, but despite conceding a goal, it was also a triumph at the other end of the pitch.

Klopp was without several defenders. Joe Gomez (virus) and Joel Matip (injured) were unavailable, Alberto Moreno was rested and Ragnar Klavan (ill) only on the bench - meaning the German fielded an unfamiliar back line in terms of both formation and personnel.

Liverpool lined up with three centre-backs - and one of those was Georginio Wijnaldum, whose reputation was forged as a No.10 in the Netherlands and who had been [brought to Anfield](#) in July 2016 to score goals from midfield.

Klopp also selected midfielder Can as the right-sided centre-back and handed Scotland left-back Andy Robertson his first Premier League start since 16 September.

So it was perhaps inevitable that Liverpool wouldn't be rock solid at the back but fortunately for them, other than his penalty kick, Murray was profligate when the re-jigged defence permitted the home side chances.

"We had big problems line-up wise," added Klopp. "But for this game today the formation fitted really well."

Dunk scores third own goal of the season

Brighton [frustrated Manchester United](#) for more than an hour at Old Trafford last week before Dunk's unfortunate own goal proved the difference between the sides.

This time, the Seagulls were well on their way to defeat when the defender's header into his own net made it 5-1 in the 89th minute.

Dunk also put past his own keeper on the opening weekend of the season [against Manchester City](#), and is now one own goal away from equalling ex-Reds defender Martin Skrtel's record of four in a single Premier League season - which the Slovakia centre-half achieved in 2013-14.

After the game, Brighton boss Chris Hughton described Liverpool as the best offensive side his side had faced since Pep Guardiola's City.

But his team helped their opponents to victory. In addition to Dunk's gift, the wall for Coutinho's goal failed miserably to do its job, Can out-jumped a static home defence for his first league goal of the season and they were hopelessly caught on the counter attack for Firmino's second goal.

Brighton had not conceded more than two goals in a game before this match and their response to this emphatic defeat will be one of their biggest tests of character since winning promotion to the Premier League.

54 changes - and the wins keep coming

Klopp made a further six changes to his side following the [3-0 win at Stoke City](#) on Wednesday.

Liverpool have made a total of 54 changes to their starting line-up this season in 15 Premier League games - more than any other side.

Their fifth win in six top-flight games was achieved without Senegal winger Sadio Mane or England striker Daniel Sturridge making it onto the pitch from the bench, and with England midfielder Adam Lallana not available after his long lay-off. Klopp is likely to rotate his squad again for the Champions League game with Spartak Moscow next Wednesday as well as in the Merseyside derby at Anfield on 10 December.

At the moment, it doesn't seem to matter which of his attacking players he fields away from home - lots of goals and positive results seem to follow.

Man of the match - Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool)

Liverpool are unbeaten in six Premier League games, winning five of them, and they are just so quick and have everything in that front three. Mo Salah, Roberto Firmino and Philippe Coutinho just have so much pace and they also had Sadio Mane on the bench.

They are one of the best counter-attacking teams I have seen in Europe. This was a real eye-opener for Brighton.

26 not out for Firmino - the stats

Since his Premier League debut in August 2015, Roberto Firmino has netted 26 goals in the competition, more than any other Liverpool player.

Brighton have gone five home leagues games without a win (D4 L1) for the first time since April 2015.

Liverpool have won three consecutive away league games after enjoying just one victory in the previous five on the road.

Glenn Murray has netted five goals in his last seven league appearances for the Seagulls after drawing a blank in each of the six before that.

Mohamed Salah has played a part in 15 goals in his first 15 Premier League games for Liverpool - more than any other player for the club (12 goals, 3 assists).

What's next?

Brighton have a week to recover from this result - they go to Huddersfield next Saturday (15:00 GMT). Liverpool are in Champions League action in midweek as the Reds seek to confirm a place in the knockout stage for the first time since 2008-09 when they host Spartak Moscow (19:45 GMT) on Wednesday.

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Match ends, Brighton and Hove Albion 1, Liverpool 5.
90'+5' Second Half ends, Brighton and Hove Albion 1, Liverpool 5.
90'+4' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
90'+4' Foul by Shane Duffy (Brighton and Hove Albion.
90'+1' Foul by Dominic Solanke (Liverpool.
90'+1' Shane Duffy (Brighton and Hove Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.
90' Substitution, Liverpool. Marko Grujic replaces Jordan Henderson.
89' Own Goal by Lewis Dunk, Brighton and Hove Albion. Brighton and Hove Albion 1, Liverpool 5.
89' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.
88' Substitution, Liverpool. Dominic Solanke replaces Roberto Firmino.
87' Goal! Brighton and Hove Albion 1, Liverpool 4. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool from a free kick with a right footed shot to the bottom left corner.
86' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
86' Foul by Davy Pröpper (Brighton and Hove Albion.
84' Attempt blocked. José Izquierdo (Brighton and Hove Albion right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.
82' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.
82' Gaëtan Bong (Brighton and Hove Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.
80' Substitution, Liverpool. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain replaces Mohamed Salah.
77' Substitution, Brighton and Hove Albion. Ezequiel Schelotto replaces Bruno.
75' Delay over. They are ready to continue.
73' Delay in match Emre Can (Liverpool because of an injury.
73' Attempt missed. Glenn Murray (Brighton and Hove Albion right footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Shane Duffy with a headed pass following a set piece situation.
72' Hand ball by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.
70' Substitution, Brighton and Hove Albion. Solly March replaces Anthony Knockaert.
70' Substitution, Brighton and Hove Albion. José Izquierdo replaces Isaiah Brown.
69' Attempt missed. Dale Stephens (Brighton and Hove Albion left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right following a set piece situation.
68' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.
68' Isaiah Brown (Brighton and Hove Albion wins a free kick on the left wing.
67' Offside, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino tries a through ball, but Philippe Coutinho is caught offside.
66' Foul by Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool.
66' Glenn Murray (Brighton and Hove Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.
66' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.
65' Attempt saved. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
62' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle and long range on the left is too high from a direct free kick.
61' Bruno (Brighton and Hove Albion is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
61' Andrew Robertson (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
61' Foul by Bruno (Brighton and Hove Albion.
57' Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
57' Foul by Lewis Dunk (Brighton and Hove Albion.
56' Corner, Brighton and Hove Albion. Conceded by Andrew Robertson.
54' Mohamed Salah (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
54' Foul by Lewis Dunk (Brighton and Hove Albion.
51' Goal! Brighton and Hove Albion 1, Liverpool 3. Glenn Murray (Brighton and Hove Albion converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the top right corner.
51' Penalty conceded by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool after a foul in the penalty area.
51' Penalty Brighton and Hove Albion. Shane Duffy draws a foul in the penalty area.
50' Corner, Brighton and Hove Albion. Conceded by Emre Can.
48' Goal! Brighton and Hove Albion 0, Liverpool 3. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Mohamed Salah following a fast break.
48' Attempt saved. Glenn Murray (Brighton and Hove Albion right footed shot from very close range is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Isaiah Brown with a cross.
Second Half begins Brighton and Hove Albion 0, Liverpool 2.
45'+2' First Half ends, Brighton and Hove Albion 0, Liverpool 2.
42' Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by James Milner.
42' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
42' Foul by Dale Stephens (Brighton and Hove Albion.
37' Offside, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho tries a through ball, but Mohamed Salah is caught offside.
31' Goal! Brighton and Hove Albion 0, Liverpool 2. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho following a fast break.
30' Goal! Brighton and Hove Albion 0, Liverpool 1. Emre Can (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the high centre of the goal. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a corner.
30' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Dale Stephens.
23' Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
23' Foul by Glenn Murray (Brighton and Hove Albion.
17' Attempt missed. Glenn Murray (Brighton and Hove Albion left footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Isaiah Brown with a cross.
15' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
15' Foul by Pascal Groß (Brighton and Hove Albion.
5' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from very close range is too high. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a corner.

4' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Dale Stephens.
4' Attempt blocked. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is blocked.
2' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.
2' Anthony Knockaert (Brighton and Hove Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.
1' Attempt missed. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Trent Alexander-Arnold.
First Half begins.
Lineups are announced and players are warming up.